

Defence Exams 2021 GK Tornado PDF (Capsule)

- Dental: Manipal College of Dental Sciences, Udupi
- Law: NLSUI, Bengaluru
- Research Institutions: IISc Bangalore

5. NITI Aayog to launch report on 'Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India'

Key highlights:

- Report comprises a set of recommendations on various aspects of urban planning
- India is home to 11% of total global urban population and by 2027, India will surpass China as the most populous country.
- Report suggested focus on 'Healthy City for All' by 2030 and 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.

6. UK's Department of International Trade report

- As per the report, India is likely to become the third largest importer in the world by 2050 with 5.9% share of global imports, following China and United States.
- At present, India occupies eighth largest importing countries place.

7. World Bank Group to discontinue publication of 'Doing Business' rankings

- The decision was taken by Board of Executive Directors, World Bank Group management after data irregularities on Doing Business 2018 and 2020 were reported.

- World Bank would be working on a new approach to assessing the business and investment climate.

8. Rabobank 2021 Global Dairy Top 20 Report

- Amul has dropped two places to rank 18th in Rabobank's 2021 Global Top 20 Dairy Companies list with annual turnover of \$5.3 billion. Amul was placed at 16th spot in 2020.
- French-based dairy company Lactalis has topped the list with turnover of US \$23.0 billion, followed by Nestle.
- Rabobank's Global Dairy Top 20 Report is released annually to rank the dairy industry upon their sales data and financial statements

9. Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People 2021 List

- PM Narendra Modi has been named in 2021 Time Magazine's 100 most influential people list, for the fifth time since coming in power in 2014
- List has 6 categories: Icons, Pioneers, Artists, Leaders, Titans, and Innovators
- It also includes Mamata Banerjee and Adar Poonawalla.

10. Times World University Rankings 2022

- **Top performers:** University of Oxford, followed by the California Institute of Technology and Harvard University.
- **India:** No Indian university is in the top 200, IISc Bengaluru continues to be the highest-ranked Indian institution in the top 350. IIT Ropar and IIT Indore, are in the top 600. A record 71 institutes from India have qualified for this year's rankings.

August 2021

1. Safe Cities Index 2021

- Released by: **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**
- The report is released biennially.

- **Top performers:** Copenhagen (Denmark) is followed by Toronto, Singapore, Sydney and Tokyo



- **India:** New Delhi is placed at 48th position with a score of 56.1, while Mumbai is at 50th place with score of 54.4.
- **Worst performer:** Yangon with a score of 39.5.

2. First edition of North-Eastern Region District SDG Index 2021-22

- Released by: **NITI Aayog and Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region**
- The index is launched with technical support from UNDP
- **NER District SDG Index and Dashboard: Baseline Report 2021-22** utilised 84 indicators which cover 15 of the Global Goals across 50 targets.
- It measures the performance of the districts of the eight States of the North-eastern Region on the SDGs.

3. Global Crypto Adoption Index 2021

- Released by: **Chainalysis.**
- **India:** India has ranked 2nd among 154 nations
- The index showed that worldwide crypto adoption grew over 881% in the last year.
- **Top performers:** Vietnam topped the index, followed by India, Pakistan, and Ukraine
- US and China's ranking was eighth and thirteenth

4. 'Life Freedom Index 2021' report

- **Released by:** HDFC Life along with NielsenIQ across 14 cities.
- Life Freedom Index is made up of 4 indices: **Financial Awareness Index, Financial Planning Index, Financial Sufficiency and Adequacy Index, and Financial Liberty Index.**
- The scores are based on responses in 6 metros (Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai), four Tier-I cities (Kochi, Indore, Ludhiana, Bhubaneswar) and four Tier-II cities.

5. HouseFresh report

- **Ghaziabad** was the second most polluted city in the world in 2020 with average air quality index (AQI) of 2.5 particulate matter (PM) in

106.6µg/m³ according to a report prepared by HouseFresh.

- **Most polluted country:** Bangladesh was followed by Pakistan, India and Mongolia.
- **China's Hotan** was the most polluted city and **Bangladesh's Manikganj** was ranked as the third most polluted city of the world.

6. Financial Inclusion Index

- Released by: **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**
- It is a comprehensive index incorporating details of banking, investments, insurance, postal, pension sector in consultation with Government and regulators.
- It comprises of three broad parameters: **Access (35%), Usage (45%), and Quality (20%)** with 97 indicators.
- FI-Index will be published annually in **July** every year

7. Global Youth Development Index

- Released by: **Commonwealth Secretariat in London**
- **India:** India has been ranked 122nd among 181 countries.
- Triennial rankings of youth development measure the extent to which young people are engaged to contribute beneficially in their societies, policies and tools.
- **Top nations:** Singapore, Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark
- **Worst nation:** Chad

8. 60th annual Public Enterprises Survey 2019-20

- Released by: **Dept of Public Enterprises (DPE), Ministry of Finance**
- 2021 is the 60th edition of the survey on the performance of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).
- **It divides CPSEs into 5 sectors:** Agriculture, Mining & Exploration, Manufacturing, Processing & Generation, Services, and Enterprises Under Construction
- Total Paid-up Capital in all CPSEs: **Rs 3,10,737 crore.**



- Total Financial Investment in all CPSEs: **Rs 21,58,877 crore.**
- Capital Employed in all CPSEs: **Rs 31,16,455 crore.**

9. 'The Startup Ecosystem Podcast - The Covid-19 Innovation Report 2021'

- **Released by:** Health Innovation Exchange (HIE) and StartupBlink
- It includes the rankings of 100 cities and 40 countries, dividing it into the sub-categories (such as innovations in Prevention, Treatment and Diagnostics) in each location.
- US leads global coronavirus innovation efforts, followed by Israel, Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, and UK.

10. Report on Power Distribution Sector

- **Released by:** NITI Aayog, along with RMI and RMI India
- Report is titled as **Turning Around the Power Distribution Sector.**
- As per the report, most power distribution companies (discoms) in India incur losses every year with total losses as high as Rs 90,000 crore in FY 2021.
- Due to these accumulated losses, discoms are unable to pay generators on time, make investments required to ensure high-quality

power, or prepare for greater use of variable renewable energy.

11. Fortune Global 500 ranking for 2021

- **Indian Companies in the list:** Reliance Industries (155th rank), SBI (205), Indian Oil (212), ONGC (243), Rajesh Exports (348), Tata Motors (357), Bharat Petroleum (394)
- **Top Global Companies:** Walmart (US), State Grid (China), Amazon.com (US), China National Petroleum (China), Sinopec (China), Apple (US), CVS Health (US), UnitedHealth Group (US), Toyota Motor (Japan) and Volkswagen (Germany)

12. Sixth Assessment Report titled Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science

- Released by: **United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**
- Reports says Weather and climate events are becoming more severe and frequent because of climate change.
- We are already edging closer to a 1.5 degrees Celsius warmer world, and every day emissions rise the prospects for averting the worst impacts of climate change become dimmer.
- Report says, if greenhouse gas emissions are halved by 2030 and net zero by 2050, global warming can be stopped.

July -2021

1. Global Tobacco Epidemic 2021

- Released by: **WHO**
- It shows the progress made by countries in tobacco control since 2008 and presents data on electronic nicotine delivery systems, such as 'e-cigarettes' for the first time.
- More than 5.3 billion people with 69% of the world's population are covered by at least one MPOWER policy measure at the highest level.

2. World Trade Organisation (WTO) report on trends in world agricultural trade

- **India:** India has been placed among the top 10 list of the countries exporting agricultural produce in 2019, according to WTO report on trends in world agricultural trade in recent 25 years.
- Last such WTO report was released in 1995, in which India was not in top 10.
- India has outclassed New Zealand to be ranked at 9th spot.
- India's share in the global Agri-exports was recorded to be 3.10%, with a sizable share in the export of rice, cotton, soya beans and meat.
- Top Three Nations in the List: **European Union (EU), US and Brazil**



3. State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021 Report

- Released by: **UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO).**
- Number of hungry people in 2020 in the World is between 720 and 811 and in Asia is 418 million (More than half of world hunger population)
- Nearly 2.37 billion people did not have access to adequate food in 2020, an increase of 320 million people over 2019.

4. NewsOnAir Radio Live-stream Global Rankings r

- NewsOnAir Top Countries (Rest of world):** US, Fiji, Australia, UK, Canada. Kuwait and Germany are new entrants, while France and New Zealand are no more in top 10.
- NewsOnAir Global Top 10 streams:** VividhBharati National, FM Gold Delhi, FM Rainbow Delhi, AIR Malayalam and AIR Chennai Rainbow

5. Status of Leopards, Co-predators and Megaherbivores-2018 report

- Released by: **Union Environment Ministry**
- As per the report, India's official leopard count has increased 63 per cent from 2014-2018. There were 12,852 leopards in the country in 2018 (7,910 in 2014).
- Largest number of leopards have been estimated in Madhya Pradesh (3,421) followed by Karnataka (1,783) and Maharashtra (1,690).

6. World Drug Report 2021

- Released by: **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**
- Around 275 million people used drugs globally in the last year and over 36 million people suffered from drug use disorders.
- Rise in the use of cannabis during the pandemic has been reported by most countries.

- Latest global estimates about 5.5% of the population between 15 and 64 years have used drugs at least once in the past year.

7. A future for all - the need for human-wildlife coexistence

- Released by: **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP).**
- Conflict between humans and animals is one of the main threats to the long-term survival of some of the world's most iconic species.
- Global wildlife populations have fallen an average of 68 per cent since 1970.
- Indian scenario:** Over 500 elephants were killed between 2014-2015 and 2018-2019, mostly due to human-elephant conflict. During the same period, 2,361 people were killed as a result of conflict with elephants. India will be most-affected by human-wildlife conflict.

8. Financial Stability Report (FSR)

- Released by: **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**
- It is published biannually reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)**
- As per the report, banking sector NPAs May Rise To 9.8% By March 2022.
- Gross NPA ratio for banking sector could rise to **9.8% by Mar 2022** under a baseline, as compared with **7.48% in Mar 2021.**

9. Trafficking in Persons report 2021

- Released by: **US State Department**
- Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in an increase in vulnerability to human trafficking and interrupted existing anti-traffic efforts.
- While India did not meet the minimum standards to eliminate trafficking, government was making significant efforts, although these were inadequate, especially when it came to bonded labour

10. 2021 Global Skills Report (GSR)



- **Released by:** Coursera.
- **India:** India ranks 67th globally in data skills, India's digital skill proficiency stood at 38 percent. Globally, India ranks 55th in skills and 66th in technology and data science. Cloud computing is India's strongest technology skill with 83% proficiency.
- **In Asia,** India ranks 16, below Singapore and Japan, but above Thailand and the Philippines.

11. India Energy Outlook 2021

- Released by: **International Energy Agency (IEA)**
- As per the report, India's natural gas consumption to rise 4.5% in 2021, while global demand will rebound by 3.6% in 2021.

June

1. Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021

- Published by: **Startup Blink**
- **India's rank:** India stands at the 20th spot in 2021. India was at 17th spot in 2019 and at 23rd place in 2020.
- **Top performer:** US, UK, Israel, Canada and Germany.
- India currently has 43 of its cities listed in the top 1000 of the index globally, with Bengaluru (10th), New Delhi (14th) and Mumbai (20th) in the top 20.

2. Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2020

- Published by: **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**
- **India's rank:** India is ranked 10th in GCI 2020. India secured the fourth position in the Asia Pacific region.
- **Top performer:** US, Saudi Arabia, and Estonia.

3. Growth engines of innovation: How Asia Pacific's technology hubs are reshaping regional real estate report

- Published by: **Colliers India**
- Top Performer: **Beijing, Shanghai, Bengaluru, Shenzhen and Singapore.**
- It closely analyses how the growth in the tech sector is affecting change in the region's property markets.

- By 2024, the global gas demand is forecast to be up 7% from 2019's pre-Covid levels.

12. Nature Index 2021 Materials Science

- **Jawaharlal Nehru Centre For Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru** is ranked 23rd globally among universities and institutions as part of its '50 Rising Institutions' list.
- Top performer: Shanghai Jiao Tong University, University of Texas Austin (fourth), the University of Berkley (12th) and University of Cambridge (27th).

4. Sustainable Development Report 2021: The Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Published by: **Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).**
- **India's rank:** India has been placed at 120th with a score of 60.1 out of 165 countries.
- **Top performer:** Finland, Sweden and Denmark.
- The report presents data on countries' performance against the SDGs. It includes the sixth edition of the global SDG Index and Dashboards.

5. Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021

- Published by: **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)** in partnership **Economist Intelligence Unit.**
- It ranks **163 independent states and territories** according to their level of peacefulness.
- **India's Rank:** India is ranked 135th rank. India was ranked 139 in GPI 2020.
- **Top rankers:** Iceland, followed by New Zealand, Denmark, Portugal, and Slovenia.
- **Worst Ranked:** Afghanistan.

6. World Giving Index 2021

- Published by: **Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)**



- **India's Rank:** India is ranked as the 14th most charitable country in the world as per World Giving Index 2021 (WGI). India was ranked 82nd in World Giving Index 2020
- **World Giving Index** was first produced in 2010.
- **Top performers:** Indonesia, followed by Kenya, Nigeria, Myanmar and Myanmar.
- **Worst performer:** Japan.

7. World Competitiveness Index 2021

- Published by: **Institute for Management Development (IMD).**
- WCI was first published in 1989.
- India's rank: **India maintained 43rd rank in World Competitiveness Index.**
- **Top Global Performers:** Switzerland, followed by Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and Singapore.

8. Global Skills Report 2021

- Published by: **Coursera.**
- **India's rank:** India ranks 67th globally, with 38 per cent proficiency, with mid-rankings in each domain, 55th in business and 66th in both technology and data science.
- **Top performer:** Switzerland, followed by Luxembourg and Austria.

9. Global Home Price Index

- Published by: **Knight Frank**
- **India's rank:** India has moved down 12 spots to 55th position in Q1 2021 against 43rd rank in Q1 2020.
- The Index tracks the movement in mainstream residential prices across 56 countries and territories worldwide using official statistics.
- **Top performers:** Turkey, followed by New Zealand and Luxembourg.

10. All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20 report

- **Published by:** Department of Higher Education, Education Minister

- The report provides key performance indicators on the current status of Higher education in the country.
- Total Enrolment in Higher Education stands at 3.85 crore in 2019-20.
- Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) increased by a minuscule 0.8% in 2019-20.

11. Global Liveability Index 2021

- **Published by:** Economist Intelligence Unit
- **Top performers:** Auckland (New Zealand), Osaka (Japan), Adelaide (Australia).
- **Worst performers:** Damascus (Syria), Lagos (Nigeria), Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea).
- The index takes into account more than 30 qualitative and quantitative factors across 5 broad categories: stability (25%), healthcare (20%), culture and environment (25%), education (10%), and infrastructure (20%).

12. Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2020 released

- The rankings are for world's top 1,000 universities that has 21 Indian higher education institutions.
- **IIT Bombay** is ranked 172nd rank in 2020 from 152nd last year, followed by **Indian Institute of Science Bangalore** (185th rank from 184th rank), and **IIT Delhi** (193rd from 182nd in 2019).
- **Top performers:** Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US topped the list followed by Stanford and Harvard.

13. Times Higher Education Asia university rankings 2021

- IISc Bangalore is ranked 37th, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar is placed at 55th rank and IIT Indore at 78th rank among the top 100 universities.
- Tsinghua University, China has gained the first position in the Asia university rankings 2021, followed by China's Peking University. University of Hong Kong is at fourth rank.

14. SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020-21



- Published by: **NITI Aayog**
- It was introduced in **2018**.
- It covers 16 Goals on 115 quantitative indicators for monitoring progress on the SDGs in India
- **Top performers:** Kerala has topped the index, followed by Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu
- **Worst performer state:** Bihar.
- Chandigarh maintained its top spot among UTs, followed by Delhi.

15. State of India's Environment Report 2021

May

1. Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index' (RECAI)

- Published by: **EY (Ernst & Young)**
- **India's rank:** India has moved up to third spot in 57th Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI).
- Installed solar capacity in India grew nearly 12% to 39GW in financial year 2020-21 and is expected to grow significantly with generation from solar PV forecast to exceed coal before 2040.
- **Top performers:** US topped the index, followed by China, India, UK and France.

2. Global Prime Residential Index

- Published by: **Knight Frank**
- It tracks the movement in prime residential prices in local currency across over 46 cities worldwide.
- **Top Performers:** Shenzhen, followed by Shanghai, Guangzhou, Vancouver.
- **Indian cities:** New Delhi has been ranked 32nd, Mumbai is ranked 36th and Bengaluru is ranked 40th.
- **Weakest Performer:** New York (46th)

3. Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat

- **Published by:** NITI Aayog in association with Mastercard.
- The report identifies challenges in accelerating digital financial inclusion in India and provides

- **India's rank:** India is ranked 117 with 61.9 score out of 100 on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as per State of India's Environment Report 2021
- SDGs was adopted as a part of 2030 agenda by all United Nations member states in 2015
- The report also revealed that India's rank was 115 in 2020 and dropped by two places due to challenges like hunger, food security, gender equality, etc.
- India ranks below Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh.

recommendations for making digital services accessible to its 1.3 billion citizens.

4. Insurance-technology market in Asia-Pacific report

- Published by: **S&P Global Market Intelligence data**
- India is the second largest insurance-technology market in Asia-Pacific and accounted for 35% of the USD 3.66 billion insurtech-focused venture capital invested in the region.
- Top performer: China.

5. Migration and Development Brief report

- Released by: **World Bank**.
- India was the largest recipient of remittances in 2020 and has been the largest recipient of remittances since 2008.
- Remittance received by India in 2020 was over USD 83 billion, which is a drop of 0.2% from 2019 (USD 83.3 billion).
- **Top recipient countries for remittances inflows in current USD:** India, China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt.
- **Largest remittance-sending country in 2020:** United States, followed by UAE, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Germany, and China.

6. 'State of Healthcare in India' report

- **Published by:** Elara Technologies-owned online realty firm Housing.com.



- The report shows showing 69% of hospital beds in India are concentrated in urban areas.
- Pune is the most equipped city in India, followed by Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Kolkata.
- Delhi-NCR was ranked the lowest in the list.

7. Govt approves release of PGI 2019-20 for States and UT

- Union Education Minister has approved the release of Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2019-20 for States and Union Territories of India.
- PGI has 70 parameters to catalyse transformational change to ensure that the school education system is robust at every level.
- Punjab, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Kerala occupy the highest grade (Grade A++) for 2019-20.
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Puducherry, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have improved overall PGI score by 10%, i.e., 100 or more points.

8. Report on ethanol blending in India 2020 to 2025 released

- 'Report of the Expert Committee on Road Map for ethanol blending in India 2020-2025' has been released.
- Jointly organised by: Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- Theme of the report is 'promotion of biofuels for better environment'.

9. Pey Jal Survekshan

- Launched by: **Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.**
- It is a drinking water survey launched in 10 cities under Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban).
- As part of the survey, data will also be collected on wastewater management and condition of water bodies in the cities.
- Initially, the survey is being launched as a pilot in Agra, Badlapur, Bhubaneswar, Churu, Kochi, Madurai, Patiala, Rohtak, Surat and Tumkur.

April

1. Chandler Good Government Index 2021

- **Developed by:** Chandler Institute of Governance (Singapore)
- **India's rank:** India has been placed at 49th rank among 104 nations in Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI) 2021
- **Top performers:** Finland has topped the index, followed by Switzerland, Singapore, Netherlands, Denmark
- **Worst performers:** Venezuela is ranked 104 (last)

2. Global Energy Transition Index 2020

- Published by: **World Economic Forum (WEF)** in collaboration with **Accenture.**
- **India's rank:** India has been placed at 87th position among 115 countries.
- **Top performers:** Sweden has topped the index, followed by Norway, Denmark, Switzerland, and Austria.
- **Worst performer:** Zimbabwe

3. World Press Freedom Index 2021

- **Published by:** 'Reporters Without Borders (RSF)'
- **India's rank:** India has been ranked 142nd among 180 countries in World Press Freedom Index 2021. India was at 142nd rank in 2020 as well.
- **Top performers:** Norway has retained its top spot for 5th year followed by Finland and Denmark.
- **Worst performers:** Eritrea is at the bottom of the index at 180th place and China is placed at 177th.

4. State of World Population, 2021 report

- Published by: **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).**
- The report is titled as 'My Body is My Own'
- This is the first time a UN report has focused on bodily autonomy, defined as the power and agency to make choices about your body
- Nearly half the women from 57 developing countries do not have the right to make decisions regarding their bodies, including using



contraception, seeking healthcare or even on their sexuality.

5. Inclusive Internet Index 2021

- **Published by:** Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), in partnership with Facebook.
- **India's rank:** India has been ranked at 49th globally, among 120 nations and shares its rank with Thailand.
- Index score was based on 4 parameters: Availability, Affordability, Relevance and Readiness categories.
- **Top performers:** Sweden, followed by United States, Spain, Australia, and Hong Kong.

6. Global Gender Gap index 2021

- Published by: **World Economic Forum.**
- India's rank: India has been ranked 140 among 156 countries in Global Gender Gap index 2021. India was ranked 112th among 153 countries in 2020
- India emerged as the third-worst performing country in South Asia.
- Top performers: Iceland, followed by Finland, Norway, New Zealand, and Rwanda.
- Worst performer: Afghanistan

7. SIPRI Military Expenditure Database report

- Published by: **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**
- **India's rank:** India has retained 3rd place as biggest military spender in the world in 2020
- **Top five biggest spenders in 2020:** United States, China, India, Russia (\$61.7 billion) and United Kingdom (\$59.2 billion)

8. Govt launches All-India Survey of Migrant Workers and All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey

- Aim: To study the kind of employment-related migration undertaken by workers
- It will provide the details of working and living conditions faced by Migrant Workers and impact of COVID 19 on their world of work.
- It will also provide employment estimates for establishments employing ten or more workers as well as those with employing nine or less workers.

9. U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)

- This report designated 14 countries as countries of particular concern (CPCs) including India.
- The countries are designated as CPCs as their governments are engaged in or tolerate systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom.

Union Budget 2021-22

Union Budget 2021-22 has been laid out in both the houses of Parliament by Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. It is the first every digital Union Budget of India. We have come up with the detail information of Union Budget 2021-22. It has been prepared by 15th Finance Commission.

Pillars of Union Budget 2021-22

6 pillars of the Union Budget 2021-22:

1. Health and Wellbeing
2. Physical & Financial Capital, and Infrastructure
3. Inclusive Development for Aspirational India
4. Reinvigorating Human Capital

5. Innovation and R&D
6. Minimum Government and Maximum Governance

Lets dig deep inside the 6 pillars of Union Budget 2021-22:

1. Health and Wellbeing:

- **Total outlay:** Rs. 2,23,846 crores in BE 2021-22 as against Rs. 94,452 crores in BE 2020-21 that showed an increase of 137%.
- **Focus on strengthening three areas:** Preventive, Curative, and Wellbeing

Here are some steps being taken for improving health and wellbeing:



- **Vaccines:** Budget has total outlay of Rs 35,000 crore for vaccines for the year 2021-22.
 - Made-in-India Pneumococcal Vaccine to be rolled out across the country
- **Health Systems New Scheme: PM Aatma Nirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana (centrally sponsored scheme)** is to be launched with an outlay of Rs. 64,180 crores for over 6 years in addition to NHM. It includes National Institution for One Health; rural and urban Health and Wellness Centres, 4 regional National Institutes for Virology, etc
- Nutrition related **Mission Poshan 2.0** to be launched to strengthen nutritional content, delivery, outreach, and outcome.
 - Merging Supplementary Nutrition Programme and Poshan Abhiyan
 - Intensified strategy for nutritional outcomes across 112 Aspirational Districts
- **Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban)** to be launched with outlay of Rs. 2,87,000 crores over 5 years with tap connections to Urban Local Bodies and Liquid waste management in 500 AMRUT cities.
- **Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat 2.0:**
 - **Total Outlay:** Rs. 1,41,678 crores
 - Complete faecal sludge management and waste water treatment,
 - Reduction in single-use plastic, etc
- **Clean Air:**
 - **Total Outlay:** Rs 2,217 crores
- **Voluntary vehicle scrapping policy** to phase out old and unfit vehicles after 20 years in case of personal vehicles and after 15 years in case of commercial vehicles

2. Physical and Financial Capital and Infrastructure

- **Production Linked Incentive scheme (PLI):**
 - **Outlay:** Rs. 1.97 lakh crores in 5 years for PLI schemes in 13 Sectors
 - To create and nurture manufacturing global champions, cutting-edge technology and to provide jobs to the youth.
- **Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) scheme:** 7 MITRA to be established within 3 years enhancing competitiveness, attracting large

investments and boosting employment in this sector.

- **National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)** expanded to 7,400 projects with three thrust areas to increase funding for NIP:
 - **Creation of institutional structures** like Development Financial Institution (DFI)
 - **Big thrust on monetizing assets:** National Monetization Pipeline to be launched.
 - **Enhancing the share of capital expenditure:** Rs. 5.54 lakh crore capital expenditure in BE 2021-22, sharp increase of 34.5% over Rs. 4.12 lakh crore allocated in BE 2020-21.
- **Roads and Highways:**
 - **Total outlay:** Rs. 1,18,101 lakh crores
 - Under **Bharatmala Pariyojana**, more than 13,000 km length of roads worth Rs. 3.3 lakh crore awarded for construction.
 - Economic corridors being planned in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Assam, and other states.
- **Flagship Corridors/Expressways to be constructed**
 - Delhi-Mumbai Expressway
 - Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway
 - Kanpur-Lucknow Expressway
 - Delhi-Dehradun economic corridor
 - Raipur-Vishakhapatnam
 - Chennai-Salem corridor
 - Amritsar-Jamnagar
 - Delhi-Katra
- **Advanced Traffic management system** in all new 4 and 6-lane highways.
- **Railway**
 - **Total Outlay:** Rs. 1,10,055 crores.
 - **National Rail Plan for India (2030).**
 - **100% electrification of Broad-Gauge routes** to be completed by December 2023.
 - **Western and Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC)** to be commissioned by **June 2022.**
 - Aesthetically designed Vista Dome LHB coach on tourist routes for better travel
- **Urban:** Rs. 18,000 crores for a new scheme to augment public bus transport.



- Innovative PPP models to run more than 20,000 buses
 - **'MetroLite'** and **'MetroNeo'** technologies to provide metro rail systems at much lesser cost with similar experience in Tier-2 cities and peripheral areas of Tier-1 cities.
- **Power:** Consumers to have alternatives to choose Distribution Company for enhancing competitiveness.
 - Revamped, reforms-based and result-linked new power distribution sector scheme.
 - **National Hydrogen Energy Mission 2021-22** to be launched.
- **Ports, Shipping, Waterways:**
 - Rs. 2,000 crores for 7 projects to be offered in PPP-mode in FY21-22 for major ports.
- **Petroleum & Natural Gas:** Extension of Ujjwala Scheme to cover 1 crore more beneficiaries.
 - New gas pipeline project in J&K to be inaugurated.
 - Independent Gas Transport System Operator to be set up.
- **Financial Capital:** Following things are proposed under the budget:
 - Single Securities Markets Code to be evolved.
 - New permanent institutional framework to help in development of Bond market
 - Setting up system of Regulated Gold Exchanges
 - Develop an investor charter as a right of all financial investors.
 - Capital infusion of Rs. 1,000 crores to Solar Energy Corporation of India and Rs. 1,500 crores to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency
- **Increasing FDI in Insurance Sector** from 49% to 74% and allow foreign ownership and control with safeguards.
- Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd and Asset Management Company to be set up
- Recapitalization of PSBs with outlay of Rs. 20,000 crores
- **Deposit Insurance:** Amendments to DICGC Act, 1961. Minimum loan size eligible for debt recovery under SARFAESI Act, 2002 proposed to be reduced from Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh for NBFCs with minimum asset size of Rs. 100 crores
- **Company Matters:** Budget proposes to decriminalize Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Act, 2008.
 - Budget eases Compliance requirement of Small companies by revising their definition under Companies Act, 2013
 - Promoting start-ups and innovators by incentivizing the incorporation of One Person Companies (OPCs)
 - Introduction of alternate methods of debt resolution and special framework for MSMEs
 - Launch of data analytics, artificial intelligence, machine learning driven MCA21 Version 3.0 in 2021-22
- **Disinvestment and Strategic Sale:** Rs. 1,75,000 crore estimated receipts from disinvestment in 2020-21.
 - Strategic disinvestment of BPCL, Air India, Shipping Corporation of India, Container Corporation of India, IDBI Bank, BEML, Pawan Hans, Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd, etc
 - Other than IDBI, 2 Public Sector Banks and 1 General Insurance company to be privatized.
 - IPO of LIC in 2021-22
 - Special Purpose Vehicle and revised mechanism for timely closure of sick or loss making CPSEs
- **Government Financial Reforms:** Treasury Single Account (TSA) System for Autonomous Bodies to be extended for universal application.
 - 'Ease of Doing Business' for Cooperatives streamlined

3. Inclusive Development for Aspirational India

- **Agriculture:** Ensured MSP at minimum 1.5 times the cost of production across all commodities.
 - SWAMITVA Scheme to be extended to all States/UTs



- Agricultural credit target enhanced to Rs. 16.5 lakh crore in FY22
- Rural Infrastructure Development Fund to be enhanced to Rs. 40,000 crores
- 'Operation Green Scheme' to be extended to 22 perishable products
- 1,000 more mandis to be integrated with e-NAM
- **Fisheries:** Modern fishing harbours and fish landing centres to be developed. Multipurpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu to promote seaweed cultivation.
- **Migrant Workers and Labourers:**
 - One Nation One Ration Card scheme for beneficiaries to claim rations anywhere
 - Portal to collect information on unorganized labour force, migrant workers especially, to help formulate schemes
 - Implementation of 4 labour codes underway
 - Minimum wages and coverage under ESIC applicable for all categories of workers
- **Financial Inclusion:**
 - **Stand Up India Scheme for SCs, STs and women**, money requirement reduced to 15% and will also include loans for allied agricultural activities
 - Rs. 15,700 crore budget allocation to MSME Sector

4. Reinvigorating Human Capital

- **School:** 15,000 schools to be strengthened by implementing all NEP components.
 - 100 new Sainik Schools to be set up in partnership with NGOs/private schools/states
- **Higher Education:** Higher Education Commission of India to be set up as an umbrella body with 4 separate vehicles for standard-setting, accreditation, regulation, and funding. Central University to come up in Leh, Ladakh.
- **SC and ST Welfare:** 750 Eklavya model residential schools will be established in tribal areas. Revamped Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for welfare of SCs. Rs. 35,219 crore enhanced

Central Assistance for 6 years till 2025-2026 will be given.

- **Skilling:** Apprenticeship Act is proposed to be amend to enhance opportunities for youth.
 - Realignment of existing National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) towards post-education apprenticeship, graduates and diploma holders in Engineering training
 - Initiatives for partnership with other countries in skilling to be taken forward

5. Innovation and R&D:

- Rs. 1,500 crores proposed scheme to promote digital modes of payment.
- National Language Translation Mission (NTLM) to make governance-and-policy related knowledge formed.
- PSLV-CS51 to be launched by New Space India Limited (NSIL) carrying Brazil's Amazonia Satellite and some Indian satellites
- **Gaganyaan mission:**
 - 4 Indian astronauts being trained on Generic Space Flight aspects in Russia.
 - First unmanned launch is scheduled in December 2021.
- Rs. 4,000 crores for **Deep Ocean Mission survey exploration and conservation of deep sea biodiversity.**

6. Minimum Government, Maximum Governance:

- Reform measures for tribunals to ensure speedy justice.
- **National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill** introduced
- Conciliation Mechanism is proposed
- Rs. 3,768 crores has been allocated for first digital census in the history of India.

Fiscal Position



Item	Original BE 2020-21	RE 2020-21
Expenditure	₹30.42 lakh crore	₹34.50 lakh crore
Capital Expenditure	₹4.12 lakh crore	₹4.39 lakh crore
Fiscal Deficit (as % of GDP)	-	9.5%

- **Fiscal deficit in Budget Estimate (BE) 2021-2022** is estimated to be **6.8% of GDP**. The fiscal deficit in **Revised Estimate (RE) 2020-21** is pegged at **9.5% of GDP**.
- Amendment to FRBM Act proposed to achieve Fiscal Deficit target
- Contingency Fund of India is to be augmented from **Rs. 500 crores** to **Rs. 30,000 crores** through Finance Bill

Tax Proposals

1. Direct Taxes:

- Corporate tax rate slashed, making it lowest in the world
- Burden of taxation on small taxpayers eased by increasing rebates
- Return filers almost doubled to 6.48 crore in 2020 from 3.31 crore in 2014
- Faceless Assessment and Faceless Appeal introduced.
- **Senior Citizens:** Exemption from filing tax returns for people over 75 years of age
- **Reducing Disputes, Simplifying Settlement:** Time limit for re-opening cases reduced to 3 years from 6 years.
- **Dispute Resolution Committee** to be set up for taxable income up to Rs. 50 lakh and disputed income of Rs. 10 lakhs.
- **National Faceless Income Tax Appellate Tribunal Centre** to be established
- Relaxation to NRIs rules introduced.
- Limit of turnover for tax audit increased to Rs. 10 crores from Rs. 5 crores for entities carrying out 95% transactions digitally.
- Dividend payment to REIT/ InvIT exempt from TDS.

- Infrastructure Debt Funds made eligible to raise funds by issuing Zero Coupon Bonds
- Additional deduction of interest, up to Rs. 1.5 lakh, for affordable house extended for loans taken till March 2022
- Tax holiday for capital gains from incomes of aircraft leasing companies
- **Start-ups:** Eligibility for tax holiday claim for start-ups extended by one more year.

2. Indirect Taxes:

- **GST:**
 - Validated input tax statement
 - Enhancement of capacity of GSTN system
 - Use of deep analytics and AI to identify tax evaders
- **Custom Duty Rationalization:** Revised, distortion-free customs duty structure to be put in place from 1st October 2021.
- **Electronic Industry:** Duty on some parts of mobiles revised to 2.5% from 'nil' rate
- **Iron and Steel:** Customs duty reduced uniformly to 7.5%. Duty on steel scrap exempted up to 31st March, 2022. Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD) and Counter-Veiling Duty (CVD) revoked.
- **Textiles:** Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on caprolactam, nylon chips and nylon fiber & yarn reduced to 5%.
- **Renewable Energy:** Duty on solar invertors raised from 5% to 20%, and on solar lanterns from 5% to 15% to encourage domestic production.
- **Capital Equipment:** Tunnel boring machine to attract customs duty of 7.5%; and its parts a duty of 2.5%. Auto parts will have rate of 15%
- **MSME Products:** Exemption on import of duty-free items rationalized to incentivize exporters of garments, leather, and handicraft items. Customs duty on finished synthetic gem stones raised.
- **Agriculture Products:** Customs duty on cotton increased from nil to 10% and on raw silk and silk yarn from 10% to 15%.
- Turant Customs initiative, a Faceless, Paperless, and Contactless Customs measures are introduced.



Appointments

List of Cabinet Ministers of India 2021 and their Constituency

Prime Minister			
Shri Narendra Modi	Prime Minister and also in charge of: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; All important policy issues and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.	Varanasi(Uttar Pradesh)	
Cabinet Ministers			
Sr. No	Name of the Minister	Portfolio	Constituency
1	Shri Raj Nath Singh	Minister of Defence	Lucknow(Uttar Pradesh)
2	Shri Amit Shah	Minister of Home Affairs and Ministry of Cooperation	Gandhinagar(Gujarat)
3	Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Minister of Road Transport and Highways	
4	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman	Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs.	Rajya Sabha (Karnataka)
5	Shri Narendra Singh Tomar	Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Morena(Madhya Pradesh)

6	Kiren Rijiju	Minister of Law and Justice	Arunachal West(Arunachal Pradesh)
7	Shri Virendra Kumar	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.	Tikamgarh (Madhya Pradesh)
8	Dr. Subrahmanya m Jaishankar	Minister of External Affairs.	Rajya Sabha (Gujarat)
9	Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	Deogarh (Odisha)
10	Shri Arjun Munda	Minister of Tribal Affairs.	Khunti(Jharkhand)
11	Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani	Minister of Women and Child Development	Amethi(Uttar Pradesh)
12	Shri Mansukh Mandaviya	Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers	Palitana (Rajya Member from Gujarat)
13	Shri Bhupendra Yadav	Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Minister of Labour and Employment	Rajya Sabha member (Rajasthan)
14	Shri Piyush Goyal	Minister of Commerce and Industry; Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of Textiles	Rajya Sabha (Maharashtra)
15	Shri Narayan Tatu Rane	Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	Rajya Sabha Member
16	Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Minister of Minority Affairs.	Rajya Sabha (Jharkhand)
17	Shri Pralhad Joshi	Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal	Dharwad(Karnataka)



		and Minister of Mines.	
18	Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey	Minister of Heavy Industries	Chandauli(Uttar Pradesh)
19	Shri Giriraj Singh	Minister of Rural Development; and Minister of Panchayati Raj	Begusarai(Bihar)
20	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Minister of Jal Shakti.	Jodhpur(Rajasthan)
21	Shri Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Minister of AYUSH	
22	Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Minister of Civil Aviation	Rajya Sabha Member from Madhya Pradesh
23	Shri Ramchandra Prasad Singh	Minister of Steel	Rajya Sabha Member from Bihar
24	Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw	Minister of Railways; Minister of Communications; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology	Rajya Sabha Member from Odisha

25	Shri Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Minister of Food Processing Industries	Hajipur (Bihar)
26	Shri Raj Kumar Singh	Minister of Power; and Minister of New and Renewable Energy	Arrah (Bihar)
27	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs	Rajya Sabha (Uttar Pradesh)
28	Shri Parshottam Rupala	Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying	Rajya Sabha Member from Gujarat
29	Shri G. Kishan Reddy	Minister of Culture; Minister of Tourism; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region	Secunderabad (Telangana)
30	Shri Anurag Singh Thakur	Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports	Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh)

Summit and Conference

September 2021

1. National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi campaign 2021-22 has been virtually inaugurated

- Aim:** to review and assess the crop performance during the preceding crop season and fix crop-wise targets for Rabi season in consultation with State Govt, ensure supply of critical inputs and facilitate adoption of innovative technologies with view to enhance production and productivity of crops

2. Fifteenth East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting

- Theme of the meeting: **We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper.**
- Aim:** coordinating efforts of ASEAN countries in pursuing the goal of energy security and energy transition that will benefit the people of our region.



3. India to organize first-ever Global Buddhist Conference in November 2021

- It will be held in Nava Nalanda Mahavihara campus, Nalanda, Bihar on November 19 and 20, 2021
- 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**
- Conference will be conducted at Dharamsala, Gangtok, Sarnath, and Telangana in India and overseas in Cambodia, Japan, South Korea, and Thailand

4. PM Modi to attend Quad Summit

- QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) Leaders' Summit will be held at White House in Washington D.C.
- Quad nation: India, Japan, US and Australia.
- Aim: To deepen ties and increase cooperation in areas such as combatting COVID-19, addressing the climate crisis, partnering on emerging technologies and cyberspace and promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific

5. India and USA launches Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD)

- **Aim:** to strengthen India-US bilateral cooperation on climate and environment.
- CAFMD 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.

6. India-Africa Defence Dialogue

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will host Defence Ministers of African Nations in the next India-Africa Defence Dialogue on the sidelines of DefExpo at Gandhinagar, Gujarat in March 2022.

- First-ever India Africa Defence Ministers Conclave was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on February 6, 2020

7. PM Narendra Modi has virtually chaired 13th BRICS Summit.

- Theme of the Summit: **BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus**
- Apart from this, India has highlighted four priority areas:
 - reform of multilateral system
 - counter-terrorism cooperation
 - using digital and technological tools to achieve SDG,
 - enhancing people-to-people exchanges
- BRICS: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- Summit concluded with adoption of 'New Delhi Declaration'

8. POSHAN Abhiyaan- Sahi Poshan Desh Roshan webinar organised

- Organized by: Regional Outreach Bureau (ROB) and Press Information Bureau (PIB), Chandigarh and Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
- 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.

9. PM Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated Shikshak Parv-2021

- Theme: **Quality and Sustainable Schools: Learnings from Schools in India.**
- Organized by: **Ministry of Education**
- It will be held from September 7 to 17, 2021.
- **Aim:** encourage innovative practices to ensure not only continuity of education at all levels but to improve quality, inclusive practices and sustainability in the schools across the country as well.

10. Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 (PACS-21)



- It was held in Hawaii at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.
- Theme of PACS 21: **Enduring Cooperation towards Regional Stability**
- 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.

11. First India-Japan High Level Policy Dialogue held virtually

- It focuses on the issues like Air Pollution, Sustainable Technologies and Transports, Climate Change, Marine Litter, Fluorocarbons, COP 26, etc.
- Both nations agreed to further strengthen the bilateral cooperation on environment, and also to take forward the discussion on JCM.

12. BRICS Film Technology Symposium.

- 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 Symposium is to acknowledge the service sector.
- It will create opportunities for the working professionals in the field of film technology of all BRICS nations

13. PM address 6th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF)

- Organized in: **Vladivostok, Russia.**
- It highlighted the significance of health and pharma sectors as important areas of cooperation that have emerged during the pandemic.
- EEF was established by the decree of the President of the Russian Federation in 2015.

14. India to host G-20 summit in 2023

- India will hold G20 presidency from December 1, 2022 and will convene the G20 leaders' summit in 2023 for the first time.
- Piyush Goyal has been appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20 in 2023 (18th edition).
- 2021 edition of the G20 meet will be held in Rome, Italy and 2022 G20 meet will be held in Bali, Indonesia.

15. International Climate Summit (ICS)

- India is all set to host a key conference as part of **International Climate Summit (ICS) 2020-21** to build a dialogue for India's transition to clean energy.
- Policymakers, regulators, industry leaders, experts, and scientists from across the globe are going to be a part of the climate summit.

August 2021

1. First ever G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment

- Addressed by: **Union Minister of Women & Child Development, Smriti Irani.**
- Held at: **Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy.**
- It was held in mixed format (physical as well as virtual form).
- The discussion was based on two specific areas:
 - STEM, financial and digital literacy, environment and sustainability
 - Labour and economic empowerment and work-life balance

2. Two-day SVEEP Consultation Workshop

- Organized by: **Election Commission of India (ECI)**
- SVEEP: Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation
- Aim: To review State SVEEP Plans, conduct extensive deliberations on the important aspects of SVEEP and formulate a comprehensive strategy for the future elections.

3. MANTHAN 2021



- Launched by: **Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)** and **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**
- MANTHAN 2021 is a **36-hour online hackathon**
- It will be held from **28th November to 1st December 2021**
- It will help identify innovative concepts and technology solutions for addressing the security challenges of the 21st century faced by our intelligence agencies.

4. 11th Meeting of BRICS High Representatives Responsible for National Security,

- Host: **Ajit Doval** (National Security Advisor of India)
- India is the chair for 2021 BRICS summit.
- 15th BRICS Summit is scheduled to be held in September 2021.
- BRICS meeting of NSA provided a platform for the five countries to strengthen political security cooperation.
- IBSA: **India, Brazil and South Africa**

5. 'Forum for Decarbonizing Transport'

- Launch: **NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute (WRI), India**
- The forum is launched as part of **NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) project**
- **Aim:** bring down the peak level of GHG emissions (transport sector) in Asia (in line with a well below 2-degree pathway), resulting in problems like congestion and air pollution.
- NDC Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA 2020-2023) is a joint programme of seven organisations that will engage China, India, and Vietnam.

6. DRDO organises Virtual 2nd IEEE International Conference on range technology

- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Conference on Range Technology (ICORT-2021) organised
- Organised by: **Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur**
- The ICORT held biennially was first organised by ITR in 2019.

7. PM to chair UNSC High-Level Open Debate on 'Enhancing Maritime Security – A Case for International Cooperation'

- It is expected to be attended by several Heads of State & Government of member states of the United Nations Security Council and high-level briefers from the UN System and key Regional Organizations.
- Open Debate will focus on ways to effectively counter maritime crime and insecurity and strengthened coordination in the maritime domain.

8. 'My Handloom My Pride Expo' at Dilli Haat launched

- Organised by: **National Handloom Development Corporation** to celebrate the 7th National Handloom Day (August 7).
- The Expo will provide direct access to the Handloom weavers of various areas of India, to market their genuine Handloom products to consumers.

July 2021

1. Central & South Asia connectivity conference 2021

- Host: **Uzbekistan**
- Title: **'Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities'**
- Venue: **Tashkent**
- Delegates from over 40 countries and about 30 international organizations, and heads of think tanks participated in the conference

- Minister of External Affairs of India Dr. S. Jaishankar also participated in the conference
- India-Uzbekistan-Iran-Afghanistan Quadrilateral Working Group has been formed on the joint use of Chabahar port

2. G20 Environment Ministerial Meeting 2021

- Union Environment Minister of India, Bhupender Yadav has participated in the two-day G20 Environment Ministerial Meeting 2021 virtually,



along with Minister of State for Environment
Ashwini Choubey and senior officials.

- Host: **Naples, Italy.**

3. VP Venkaiah Naidu addresses World Universities Summit 2021

- Organised by: **O.P. Jindal Global University**
- Theme: **Universities of the Future: Building Institutional Resilience, Social Responsibility and Community Impact.**
- The summit witness 150+ thought leaders from 6 continents and 25+ Countries including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Columbia, Ecuador, France, Germany, etc

4. Aiming for Sustainable Habitat: New Initiatives in Building Energy Efficiency 2021

- Inaugurated by: Union Minister for Power and MNRE, **R K Singh** along with **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).**
- It will specify code compliance approaches with Eco Niwas Samhita 2021.
- The web-based platform 'The Handbook of Replicable Designs for Energy Efficient Residential Buildings' as a learning tool

5. 'SAMVEDAN 2021'

- Organized by: **IIT Madras & Sony India**
- SAMVEDAN stands Sensing Solutions for Bharat
- Aim: to encourage citizens to come up with solutions using IoT Sensor Board.
- It is based on the Sony Semiconductor Solutions Corporation's SPRESENSE™ Board, which participants can use for this challenge.
- Team with maximum of three members can register for the grand challenge, which will be held in three stages
- A total of 75 ideas will be selected for the quarter-finals, and among them, 25 best ideas will be chosen for the semi-finals.

6. 7th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

- Head: Admiral Karambir Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff
- Aim: To have an open discussion related to maritime security cooperation, regional maritime

issues and also promotes friendly relationships among the member states.

7. 6th BRICS Culture Ministers Meeting 2021

- Addressed by: Minister of State (IC) for Culture and Tourism, **Prahlad Singh Patel**
- Theme: **Bonding and Harmonizing Cultural Synergy.**

8. 17th World Congress for Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy

- Theme: **'Eliminating Cervical Cancer: Call for Action'.**

9. CoWin Global Conclave

- **Organised by:** Ministry of health and family welfare, Ministry of external affairs and the National Health Mission
- **Aim:** To offer CoWIN as a digital public good to the entire world to fight the coronavirus.

10. 16th Annual Conference on Road Development in India

- **Addressed by:** Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, **Nitin Gadkari**
- **Aim:** To discuss rising trends in roadways, with the major focus on import substitution, cost-effectiveness, pollution-free alternative fuel.

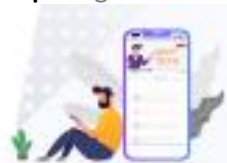
11. 21st India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation Session

- Released by: Union Minister Commerce & Industry, **Piyush Goyal.**
- **Aim:** To work jointly to promote SMEs as it is a major entity for economic growth and employment generation.

12. CII's 2nd 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Renewable Energy Manufacturing'

- **Launched by:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- **Aim:** To attain 450 GW of Renewable Energy capacity by 2030.

13. UN Food Systems Pre-Summit 2021



- Launched by: **UN and Italy in Rome, Italy**
- It will be held in September
- The Summit is convened as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.
- It will launch bold new actions to deliver progress on all 17 SDGs, each of which relies to some degree

June 2021

1. NATO Summit 2021

- **Venue:** Brussels, Belgium
- The summit brought together the leaders of all 30 Allied nations to strengthen political consultation, the resilience of society, reinforce defence and deterrence.
- The summit describes China as a security risk, along with from Russia and terrorism.
- NATO stands for North Atlantic Treaty Organization and is an intergovernmental military alliance. It consists of 30 countries from North America and Europe.

2. BRICS Two-day Green Hydrogen Summit 2021

- **Host:** NTPC Ltd (India)
- The event offers a platform to share their respective Green Hydrogen initiatives and views on how to take it to the next level in their own countries.
- Green hydrogen energy is vital for India to meet its Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) Targets and ensure regional and national energy security, access and availability.

3. Three-day virtual Conference of BRICS Network Universities

- **Host:** IIT Bombay
- **Theme:** electric mobility
- Over 100 students, researchers and faculty from BRICS Network Universities of the BRICS nations are expected to participate in the conference.
- BRICS Network University is a union of higher education institutions of the five BRICS member countries, formed with the objective of enhancing educational cooperation in general, and especially in the realm of research and innovation.

4. 42nd FAO Conference

- on healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems.
- Guided by five Action Tracks, the Summit will bring together key players from the worlds of science, business, policy, healthcare and academia, as well as farmers.

- **Addressed by:** Union Minister for Agriculture, Narendra Singh Tomar
- **Aim:** To support Sustainable Development through the agri-food systems for Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment, and a Better Life, with an aim that no one should be left behind.

5. India-Australia JWG Meeting on Cyber Security Cooperation

- **Head of the meet:** Paulomi Tripathi (India) and Rachel James (Australia)
- **Aim:** To enhance cooperation in the multilateral fora and assured each other to share data related to cybersecurity, legislation and national cyber strategies.

6. 5th BRICS Working Group Meet on HPC and ICT

- Head of the meet: **Sanjeev Kumar Varshney**
- Aim: To cooperate with each other to use HPC technologies for weather-climate-environment based applications.
- All five BRICS nation (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) participated.

7. G20 Education Ministers Meeting

- Sanjay Dhotre (MoS for Education and Electronics & IT) represented India
- Host nation: Italy
- Aim: To ensure continuity of quality education during the pandemic state of COVID-19.

8. Ministerial Level Thematic Forum for UN High Level Dialogue on Energy

- Aim: To promote implementation of the energy-related goals and targets of the 2030 agenda to attain sustainable development.



9. Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030 Summit

- Host: South Korea
- The summit seeks to position P4G as a delivery mechanism to build back better and greener in the coming decade.
- **Theme:** 'Inclusive Green Recovery Towards Carbon Neutrality'

10. International Education e-Conference

- Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhushan Harichandan has virtually inaugurated 2-day International Education e-Conference
- Theme: 'Holistic Education for Excellence in Life'.
- Organised by: Prajapita Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya.

11. Eighth conference of International Nitrogen Initiative (INI).

- Host: **Germany's Federal Environment Agency**
- It was attended by over 800 scientists and other stakeholders from over 60 countries.
- Aim: To stimulate an exchange among policymakers and other relevant stakeholders of results, ideas and visions to improve future holistic management of reactive nitrogen.
- The program is currently a sustained partner of Future Earth.
- **INI conference:** Set up in 2003 under sponsorship of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) and from the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP).

12. Global Yoga Conference 2021

- Organised by: 'Mokshayatan Yog Sansthan' along with Ministry of AYUSH and Indian Council for Cultural Relations on 7th International Day of Yoga (21st June 2021)

May 2021

1. India-UK virtual summit

- PM Narendra Modi and Boris Johnson (Prime Minister of UK) held Virtual Summit with adoption of ambitious 'Roadmap 2030' to pave the way for a deeper and stronger engagement over the next ten years.
- Enhanced Trade Partnership (ETP) was also launched that sets an ambitious target of more than doubling bilateral trade by 2030.

- Aim: To boost cooperation in Indo-Pacific strategic landscape, to have open and rule-based Indo-Pacific ties.

4. India-EU Leaders Meeting

- Initiated by: **Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU.**
- **Aim:** To resume negotiations for a balanced and comprehensive free trade deal and investment agreement.
- This is the first time that the EU hosted a meeting with India in the EU+27 format.

2. Fifth Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) session

- Head of the session: Rita Teaotia (Chairperson of FSSAI)
- Quality standards for 4 spices cloves, oregano, basil, and ginger was held during its fifth session
- CCSCH forwarded new standards to Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) for adoption at final step 8, as full -fledged Codex standards.

5. BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meet held virtually

- **Agenda of the meet:** Promoting Social Security Agreements amongst BRICS Nations, Formalization of labour markets, Participation of women in labour force and Gig and platform workers – Role in labour market.

3. First India-France-Australia Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Dialogue

- Attendant: S Jaishankar, Jean-Yves Le Drian and Senator Marise Payne.

6. Summit on Financing of African Economies 2021

- Aim: To plan financial resources to retrieve the African Economy which is severely affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



April 2021

1. World Immunisation and Logistics Summit 2021

- Initiative by: HOPE Consortium
- Objective: To enhance collaboration in the world's approach to tackle COVID-19 and ensure a healthier future for all.
- Hosted by: Abu Dhabi
- Acclaimed global healthcare and philanthropic leaders, decision-makers, experts and senior government officials participated to explore a unified global approach to fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. 17th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting held virtually

- Chaired by: Sri Lanka
- The meet endorsed BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity, BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate, BIMSTEC Startup Conclave 2021, etc

3. 2021 BRICS FMs and Governors Meeting

- Chairmanship: India
- Theme: **'BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus'**.

4. India-Netherlands Virtual Summit 2021

- **Aim:** Discuss trade, economy, water management, agriculture sector, science and technology, healthcare and space.
- Exchanged views on further expanding and diversifying the relationship in trade and economy, water management, agriculture sector, smart cities, science & technology, healthcare, and space.

5. 30th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change

- India side was represented by Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar
- **Aim:** To cooperate in the Chilean Presidency of COP 25 and the incoming United Kingdom Presidency of COP 26 for a successful outcome in Glasgow.

6. Sixth Raisina Dialogue inaugurated through video-conferencing

- Theme for 2021 conference: "#ViralWorld: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of Control
- Organised by: Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Observer Research Foundation.
- Raisina Dialogue: India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, organised annually since 2016.
- The event will have a total of 50 sessions.

7. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates 1st IAF Commanders' Conference 2021

- It will be held bi-annually to address the issues of IAF's operational capabilities in the times to come.
- It will address strategies and policies related to capabilities that would give IAF a significant edge over its adversaries.

8. 5th Global Forum on TB Vaccines

- It is the world's largest gathering of stakeholders striving to develop and deploy new vaccines to prevent Tuberculosis (TB).
- Organised by: Stop TB Partnership Working Group on New Vaccines in association with International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (TBVI)

9. Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2021

- **Venue:** Boao, south China's Hainan Province
- Theme: **A World in Change: Join Hands to Strengthen Global Governance and Advance Belt and Road Cooperation.**
- **Aim:** To strengthen mutual understanding in the post-pandemic era, create additional incentives for overall socio-economic growth and effective global governance.

10. PM Modi addresses two-day Leaders' Summit on Climate virtually

- Host: President of U.S.A. Joe Biden.
- Theme: Our Collective Sprint to 2030.
- 40 national leaders have been invited by Biden to attend this summit.
- It is being held in the run up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) that will take place in November 2021 in Glasgow.



Important Days

September 2021

Date	Day	Theme
September 1 to 7	National Nutrition Week	Feeding smart right from start
September 2	Coconut Day	
September 5	International Day of Charity	
September 5	National Teachers Day	
September 8	International Literacy Day	Literacy for a human-centred recovery: Narrowing the digital divide
September 14	Hindi Diwas	
September 15	International Day of Democracy	Strengthening democratic resilience in the face of future crises
September 16	World Ozone Day	Montreal Protocol – keeping us, our food and vaccines cool
September 17	World Patient Safety Day	Safe maternal and newborn care
September 21	International Day of Peace	Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world
September 21	World Alzheimer's Day	
September 22	World Rhino Day	
September 23	International Day of Sign Languages	We Sign For Human Rights
September 25	Antyodaya Diwas	
September 26	World Contraception Day	
Fourth Sunday of September	World Rivers Day	
September 27	World Tourism Day	Tourism for Inclusive Growth
September 28	World Rabies Day	
September 28	International Day for Universal Access to Information	
September 30	International Translation Day	

August -2021

Date	Day	Theme
1 August	World Lung Cancer Day	
1 August	Muslim Women's Rights Day	
1 to 7 August	World Breastfeeding Week 2021	Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility
6 August	Hiroshima Day (Anti-Nuclear Day/ Nagasaki Day)	
7 August	National Handloom Day	



8 August	Quit India Day (August Kranti Day)	
9 August	Nagasaki Day	
9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract
10 August	World Biofuel Day	Promotion of biofuels for a better environment
10 August	World Lion Day	
12 August	World Elephant Day	
12 August	International Youth Day	Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health
13 August	World Organ Donation Day	
19 August	World Humanitarian Day	#TheHumanRace: a global challenge for climate action in solidarity with people who need it the most
19 August	World Photography Day	
19 August to 25 August 2021	Sanskrit Week	
20 August	World Mosquito Day	Reaching the zero-malaria target
20 August	Akshay Urja Diwas (Renewable Energy Day)	
21 August	World Senior Citizen Day	
21 August	International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	
22 August	International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief	
22 August	World Sanskrit Day	
23 August	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	
23 to 27 August	World Water Week 2021	Building Resilience Faster
29 August	International Day against Nuclear Tests	
29 August	National Sports Day	
30 August	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances	
30 August	National Small Industry Day	
31 August	International Day for People of African Descent	

July

Date	Day	Theme
1 July	National Doctors' Day	Save The Saviours



1 July	Chartered Accountants Day	
1 July	National Postal Worker Day	
2 July	World UFO Day	
2 July	World Sports Journalists Day	
3 July	International Plastic Bag Free Day	
First Saturday in July (03 July 2021)	International Co-operative Day 2021	Rebuild Better Together
6 July	World Zoonoses Day	
7 July	World Chocolate Day	
10 July	National Fish Farmers' Day	
11 July	World Population Day	The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on fertility
12 July	World Malala Day	
15 July	World Youth Skills Day	Reimagining Youth Skills Post-Pandemic
17 July	World Day for International Justice/Day of International Criminal Justice or International Justice Day	A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy
17 July	World Emoji Day	
18 July	Nelson Mandela International Day	One Hand Can Feed Another
20 July	International Chess Day	Chess for Recovering Better
20 July	Science Exploration Day	
22 July	World Brain Day	Stop Multiple Sclerosis
23 July	National Broadcasting Day	
26 July	Kargil Vijay Diwas	
26 July	International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem	
27 July	CRPF Observes 83rd Raising Day	
28 July	World Hepatitis Day	Hepatitis Can't Wait
28 July	World Nature Conservation Day	
29 July	International Tiger Day	Their Survival is in our hands
30 July	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	VICTIMS' VOICES LEAD THE WAY
30 July	International Day of Friendship	

June 2021

Date	Day	Theme
3 June	World Bicycle Day	-
5 June	World Environment Day	Ecosystem Restoration
8 June	World Oceans Day	The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods
12 June	World Day Against Child Labour	Act Now, End Child Labour



13 June	International Albinism Awareness Day	Strength Beyond All Odds
14 June	World Blood Donors	Give blood and keep the world-beating
15 June	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	Access to Justice
17 June	World Day to Combat Desertification	Restoration. Land. Recovery.
20 June	World Refugee Day	Together we heal, learn and shine
21 June	International Day of Yoga	Yoga for wellness
23 June	United Nations Public Service Day	Innovating for a new era: Leveraging the role of technology for the future public service
25 June	Day of the Seafarer	Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future
26 June	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	Share Drug Facts to Save Lives
29 June	National Statistics Day	End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture (SDG 2)

May 2021

Date	Day	Theme
1 May	International Labour Day	--
2 May	World Laughter Day (First Sunday of May every year)	--
3 May	World Press Freedom Day	Information as a Public Good
4 May	World Asthma Day	Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions
5 May	World Hand Hygiene Day	Seconds Save Lives: Clean Your Hands
5 May	International Day of the Midwife	Follow the Data: Invest in Midwives
7 May	World Athletics Day	-
8 May	World Red Cross Day and Red Crescent Day	Unstoppable
11 May	National Technology Day	Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future
12 May	International Nurses Day	Nurses: A Voice to Lead- A Vision for Future Healthcare
15 May	International Day of Families	Families and New Technologies
16 May	National Dengue Day	--



17 May	World Hypertension Day	Measure your blood pressure accurately, control it, live longer
17 May	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	Accelerating Digital Transformation in challenging times
18 May	International Museum Day	The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine
20 May	World Bee Day	Bee Engaged: Build Back Better for Bees
20 May	World Metrology Day	Measurement for Health
21 May	National Anti -Terrorism Day	--
21 May	International Tea Day	--
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity	We are part of the solution
23 May	World Turtle Day	Turtles Rock!
25 May	World Thyroid Day	--
28 May	World Hunger Day	Access Ends Hunger
29 May	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers	The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security
29 May	International Everest day	-
29 May	World Digestive Health Day	Obesity: An Ongoing Pandemic
31 May	World No-Tobacco Day	Commit to quit

April 2021

Date	Day	Theme
2 April	World Autism Awareness Day	--
4 April	UN International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	Perseverance, Partnership, and Progress
5 April	International Day of Conscience	--
5 April	National Maritime Day	Sustainable Shipping beyond Covid-19
7 April	World Health Day	Building a fairer, healthier world
9 April	CRPF Valour Day (Shaurya Diwas)	--
10 April	World Homeopathy Day	Homeopathy- Roadmap for Integrative Medicine
11 April	National Safe Motherhood Day	--
11 April	World Parkinson's Day	--



14 April	National Fire Service Day	Maintenance of fire safety equipment is key to mitigate fire hazards
15 April	World Art Day	--
16 April	World Voice Day	One World Many Voices
17 April	World Haemophilia Day	Adapting to Change, sustaining care in a new world
18 April	World Heritage Day	Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures
19 April	World Liver Day	--
21 April	World Creativity and Innovation Day	--
21 April	National Civil Services Day	--
22 April	International Mother Earth Day	Restore Our Earth
22 April	International Girls in ICT Day	Connected Girls, Creating Brighter Futures
23 April	World Book and Copyright Day (International Day of Book or World Book Day)	--
24 April	National Panchayati Raj Day	--
24 April to 30 April	World Immunization Week	Vaccines bring us closer
25 April	World Malaria Day	Reaching the zero-malaria target
26 April	World Intellectual Property Day	Intellectual property and small businesses: Taking big ideas to market
28 April	Worker's Memorial Day	Health and Safety is fundamental workers right
28 April	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	Anticipate, prepare and respond to crises: Invest Now in Resilient Occupational Safety and Health Systems
29 April	International Dance Day	Purpose of dance

Important News – National (India)

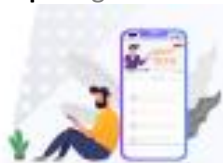
September (1 to 15th)

1. 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

2. **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.

3. **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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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**

8. **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.

9. 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).

10. 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

11. 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.
- 12. 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.
- 13. 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.
- 14. 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.).
- 15. 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.
- 16. 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.
- 17. 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
- 18. 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.

August -2021

- 1. Intel** has launched its new free initiative ‘AI for All’ in collaboration with CBSE and Ministry of Education to teach individuals the basics of artificial intelligence in India.
Note: It is a 4 hours self-paced program that anyone can attend for free. With this, Intel plans to educate more than 1 million individuals in 1 year. Free course is divided into two sections that would talk about artificial intelligence awareness and its applications.
- 2. Bhubaneswar** becomes the first city in India to achieve 100% vaccination of its people against COVID-19.
Note: Additionally, about 1 lakh migrant workers have also been administered first dose of COVID vaccine. Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation had set benchmarks for different categories of people to complete the vaccination process within the specific timelines by the 31st July 2021. Those vaccinated include about 9 lakh people of 18 years of age and above.



3. The central government will implement the Deep Ocean Mission at a total budget of over 4,077 crore rupees **five years**.
Note: All the components of the Mission will commence in 2021. A manned submersible to be developed carrying three people to a depth of six thousand metres in the ocean for exploration of deep-sea mineral resources and marine biodiversity.
4. **Sanjeev Singh** is the singer and composer of the theme song for the Indian Paralympic contingent 'Kar De Kamaal Tu'.
Note: The song is titled as Kar De Kamaal Tu. The singer and composer of the song is Sanjeev Singh (Divyang cricket player from Lucknow). Paralympic Games in Tokyo will begin from August 24, 2021 and 54 para-sportspersons across 9 sports disciplines will participate in the same from India.
5. As per the QS Best Student Cities 2022' ranking the rank of two Indian cities Mumbai and Bengaluru are **106th and 110th** respectively.
Note: While Mumbai lost 29 places, Bengaluru fell by 21 places in the ninth edition of the rankings brought out by global higher education analysts QS Quacquarelli Symonds. However, among the different metrics as part of the methodology, Mumbai gained 27 places in the 'Affordability' indicator to rank at 21st globally. On the other hand, despite losing three places in the same indicator, Bengaluru was placed seventh globally in the affordability metric.
6. The union government has approved the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Fast Track Special Courts till **31st March 2023**.
Note: 1,023 Fast Track Special Courts have been given get two-year extension. central share of outlay will be funded from Nirbhaya fund. This will provide speedy justice access to justice to victims of sexual crimes, quick justice to the hapless victims and declogging of ther judicial system.
7. The Union Cabinet has approved continuation of the Samagra Shiksha Scheme for school education for another **five years**.
Note: Provision of training of master trainers for Anganwadi workers, incinerator and sanitary pad vending machines in all girls' hostels, addition of new subjects instead of stream in existing senior secondary schools, holistic progress card for each learner, and upgrade of all Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas up to class 12 are among the initiatives in the revised scheme. Under 'Samagra Shiksha Scheme 2', financial outlay of Rs 2.94 trillion, which includes central share of Rs 1.85 trillion, has been made to implement the scheme.
8. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has signed MoU with

University of Agricultural Science (UAS), Bangalore to give boost agricultural and processed food products exports.

Note: Key areas of cooperation of MoU include developing technologies for advance alertness, efficient & precision farming for enhancing quality exports; diversifying the export basket, destinations and boost high-value Agri-exports. It will also help in strengthening forward and backward linkages, participations in international exhibitions and fairs, branding and marketing, establishment of market intelligence cell, developing traceability systems.

9. **TRIFED** in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs is going to set up an Atmanirbhar Bharat corner in 100 Indian Missions/ Embassies across the world.
Note: The corner will be an exclusive platform to promote GI tagged ,natural and organic tribal products abroad. Catalogues and brochures that showcase the richness and variety of tribal products have also been shared with the Missions and embassies for display at the corner. Among the missions and embassies contacted, 42 of them, from countries such as Jamaica, Ireland, Turkey, Kenya, Mongolia, Israel, Finland, France, and Canada, have reverted.
10. By **2031** India's nuclear power capacity is expected to reach 22,480 MegaWatts from the current 6,780 MegaWatts.
Note: Share of nuclear power in the total electricity generation in the country is about 3.1% in 2020-21. Govt has embarked on a large nuclear power capacity addition program to increase the share of nuclear power in electricity generation. There are presently 22 reactors with a total capacity of six thousand 780 MW in operation.
11. **Tuticorin Port** becomes the first major port in the country to introduce e-cars for its officers as part of the various efforts taken by the port to go green.
Note: It has inducted three Tata Xpres-T electric vehicles in the first phase. These cars have been supplied by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a Joint venture of Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), under Ministry of Power, on wet lease basis, for a period of 6 years. As part of 'Maritime India Vision 2030', the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is committed to leading the world in safe, sustainable and green maritime sector.
12. India's first National Heart Failure Biobank (NHFB) has been inaugurated in **Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST)** that would collect blood, biopsies, and clinical data as a guide to future therapies.
Note: The storage facilities include minus 20 to minus 80-degrees mechanical freezers and a liquid nitrogen



storage system which can store bio-samples at minus 140 degrees perpetually for years. Currently, there are facilities to store nearly 25,000 bio-samples. The bio-samples include the blood, serum, tissue samples obtained during open-heart surgery and peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and genomic DNA collected from heart failure patients. The biobank activity is supervised by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with a member from ICMR.

13. The prime minister Narendra Modi has launched the second edition of the government's free LPG connection scheme called Ujjwala scheme from **Uttar Pradesh**.
Note: Second edition of the scheme would be launched from poll-bound Uttar Pradesh. Launch of Ujjwala-2 scheme will be marked by handing over of one crore additional LPG connection by Prime Minister through video conferencing at Mahoba district in Uttar Pradesh. First version of the scheme was launched in 2016 from Uttar Pradesh ahead of 2017 Assembly elections.
14. **StartupBlink** has launched 'The Startup Ecosystem Podcast - The Covid-19 Innovation Report 2021' along with Health Innovation Exchange (HIEx) that includes the rankings of 100 cities and 40 countries.
Note: The report takes a deeper look into the sub-categories (such as innovations in Prevention, Treatment and Diagnostics) in each location. US leads global coronavirus innovation efforts, followed by Israel, Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, and UK.
15. In which year was the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana launched **2016** 2.0 version was relaunched in August 2021.
Note: During Ujjwala 1.0 launched in 2016, a target was set to provide Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) connections to five crore women members of below poverty line (BPL) households. Subsequently, the scheme was expanded in April 2018 to include women beneficiaries from seven more categories (SC/ST, PMAY, AAY, Most backward classes, tea garden, forest dwellers, Islands).
16. **Rs 11,000 crore** has been announced by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to invest in the recently launched National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEOP) to make India self-sufficient in cooking oils.
Note: This is to make India self-sufficient in cooking oils, including palm oil, as he stressed on reducing the dependence on imports. Rs 11,000 crore will be invested in the edible oil ecosystem. India is the world's biggest vegetable oil importer.
17. **122nd** is India's ranked in the 2020 Global Youth Development Index, which measures the status of young people in 181 countries around the world released by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Note: Singapore ranked top for the first time followed by Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark. Chad, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Niger finished at the bottom, respectively. The index ranks countries between 0.00 (lowest) and 1.00 (highest), according to the developments in youth education, employment, health, equality and inclusion, peace and security, and political and civic participation.

18. **Facebook** social media giant UNICEF India has launched a one-year joint initiative to end violence against children with a special focus on online safety.
Note: The partnership seeks to create a safe environment for children online and offline. It aims to improve children's resilience and capacity to access the digital world safely, increase awareness on violence against children and its impact on children, families and communities, as well as enhance the skills of communities and frontline workers to better prevent and respond to violence. The partnership will include a nationwide social media campaign and capacity building for 1,00,000 school-children on online safety, digital literacy and psychosocial support.
19. **Inclusive Internet for Digital India** is the theme of the first-ever 'India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF)' to be hosted by India in October 2021 to bring together representatives from various platforms to discuss internet policy issues.
Note: It will be held for 3 days from 20th to 22nd October 2021. Coordination committee of India Internet Governance 2021 features Anil Kumar Jain as Chairman, TV Ramchandran, Jaijeet Bhattacharya, Rajat Moona as Vice Chairman and 12 other members.
20. India has signed an agreement with **United States of America** on monsoon data analysis and cooperation to improve weather forecasts in the region.
Note: The agreement was signed by India's National Institute of Ocean Technology Director G A Ramadass and the US Assistant Administrator for Research and Acting Chief Scientist Craig McLean of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The agreement is a follow-up to the memorandum of understanding signed between the Ministry of Earth Sciences and NOAA last October for Technical Cooperation in Earth Observations and Earth Sciences.
21. Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, **Virendra Kumar** has launched PM-DAKSH' Portal and 'PM-DAKSH' Mobile App under the scheme PM-DAKSH Yojana to ease the access of skill development schemes by the target groups.
Note: The portal and app were developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), in collaboration with National e-Governance Division (NeGD). PM-DAKSH Yojana is the National Action Plan



- launched by the MoSJ&E in 2020-21 for skilling the target group.
- 22. Kaziranga National Park** in India to have been equipped with satellite phones, which are generally used by law-enforcing agencies.
Note: Satellite phones will give an edge to forest personnel over the poachers by boosting anti-poaching measures and during emergencies like floods. Public is barred from using satellite phones in India. For this, Assam State Disaster Management Authority had procured 10 satellite phones for Kaziranga at an estimated cost of ₹16 lakh.
- 23. In association with United Nations Industrial Development Organization**, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has launched a loan interest subvention scheme for innovative waste to energy biomethanation projects and business models.
Note: The industrial organic waste-to-energy biomethanation projects are generally capital intensive and financially sensitive to both operating costs, including waste availability, and revenue, particularly biogas yield and its utilisation scenario. The loan scheme provides financial assistance to beneficiaries to reduce the financial burden on account of interest on the loan component faced by such demonstration projects.
- 24. Indore** has been declared as the first 'water plus' city of India under the Swachh Survekshan 2021.
Note: Indore has been an example for the whole nation for its determination and dedication towards cleanliness. May it continue to bring glory to the state. Swachh Survekshan is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India launched as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- 25. According to notified Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021 July 1, 2022** prohibited manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of identified single-use plastic (SUP) items, including candy sticks, plates, cups and cutlery.
Note: The thickness of plastic carry bags will be increased from 50 microns to 75 microns from September 30, 2021, and to 120 microns from December 31, 2022, according to the notification dated August 12. This will also allow the plastic carry bags to be reused. Non-woven plastic carry bags should not be less than 60 gram per square metre (GSM) with effect from September 30, 2021.
- 26. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** announced 'Pradhan Mantri Gatishakti National Master Plan' with a total outlay of rupees **Rs. 100 lakh crores**.
Note: This plan will create employment opportunities for the country's youth and help in a holistic infrastructure growth. It will create jobs and new opportunities and bring in employment opportunities for the youth. "Gatishakti will help local manufacturers turn globally competitive and also develop possibilities of new future economic zones.
- 27. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** set a target of becoming 'energy independent' by **2047**.
Note: Delivering his Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort, he said India spends over Rs 12 lakh crore on energy imports every year. The roadmap for that is to increase usage of natural gas in the economy, setting up a network of CNG and piped natural gas network across the country, blending 20 per cent ethanol in petrol and electric mobility.
- 28. Jitendra Singh** has released 'IndiGau' chip, which is India's first Cattle Genomic Chip for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole etc.
Note: IndiGau chip has been developed by scientists of National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NAIB), Hyderabad. It will help in achieving the goal of conservation of our own breeds with better characters and help towards doubling farmers' income by 2022.
- 29. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has launched the brand and logo- 'SonChiraiya' - for marketing of Urban SHG products.
Note: DAY-NULM, under the aegis of MoHUA, has focussed on equipping the urban poor women with adequate skills and opportunities, and to enable them to promote sustainable micro enterprises. It mobilises women from urban poor households into SHGs and their federations to create a support system for these women. Over 5.7 lakh SHGs have been formed across various States/ UTs with almost 60 lakh members. Many of these SHGs are engaged in livelihood activities, producing goods such as handicrafts, textiles, toys, eatables and so on.
- 30. Ministry of Women and Child Development** has launched 2nd phase of SAMVAD (Support, Advocacy & Mental health interventions for children in Vulnerable circumstances And Distress).
Note: SAMVAD is a National Initiative for child protection, mental health and psychosocial care of children. The new initiative will begin work with Panchayati Raj systems to integrate child protection and mental health in aspirational districts across the country to facilitate awareness generation and improve service delivery at the grassroot level.
- 31. For the expedition of Siachen glacier**, the 'Operation Blue Freedom' has been launched from Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi on the 75th Independence Day.
Note: Operation Blue Freedom expedition comprise of a team of people with disabilities from across the



- country to reach Siachen Glacier to create a new World Record for the largest team of people with disabilities reaching the world's highest battlefield. The team of people with disabilities were trained by 'Team CLAW' (Team of Armed Forces veterans)
- 32. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** has launched an online portal titled as TAPAS (Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services) to provide free of cost filmed lectures/courses and e-study material in the field of social defence.
Note: Presently there are 5 courses under TAPAS: Drug (Substance) Abuse Prevention, Geriatric/Elderly Care, Care and Management of Dementia, Transgender Issues and on comprehensive course on Social Defence Issues. TAPAS is the initiative of National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- 33. Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated World's second-largest refurbished gene bank at National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Pusa, New Delhi.
Note: National Gene Bank was established in 1996 to preserve the seeds of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) for future generations and has the capacity to preserve about one million germplasm in the form of seeds. Presently it is protecting 4.52 lakh accessions, of which 2.7 lakh are Indian germplasm and the rest have been imported from other countries. NBPGR is meeting the need of in-situ and ex-situ germplasm conservation
- 34. All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS)** has become the 1st hospital of India to house a fire station inside the hospital premises to meet any emergency.
Note: AIIMS has collaborated with Delhi Fire Service (DFS). AIIMS will provide infrastructure for the fire station, while fire tender, equipment, and manpower will be managed by DFS.
- 35. Vice President, M Venkaiah Naidu** has laid foundation stone of Innovation and Development Centre of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) in **Bengaluru**.
Note: JNCASR Innovation and Development Centre: It will be developed into a facility where laboratory inventions will be taken forward for scale-up and technology transfer. Scientists will be provided with state-of-the-art processing and prototyping tools to enable translation of inventions.
- 36. Ghaziabad** has been named the second most polluted city in the world in 2020, as per HouseFresh report.
Note: Ghaziabad has been declared as the second most polluted city in the world in 2020, as per the report prepared by HouseFresh. As per the report, Bangladesh was the most polluted country in the world in 2020, followed by Pakistan, India and Mongolia.
- 37. India** ranked **2nd** in the 2021 Global Cryptocurrency Adoption Index released by blockchain data platform Chainalysis.
Note: India ranks second in terms of crypto adoption worldwide behind Vietnam, but ahead of countries such as the US, UK, and China, according to the 2021 Global Crypto Adoption Index by blockchain data platform Chainalysis. This comes even as worldwide crypto adoption grew by 880% between June 2020 and July 2021, according to the report.
- 38. India** ranked **26th** in the report titled "The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index" (CCRI) published in UNICEF.
Note: It ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks such as cyclones and heatwaves, as well as their vulnerability to those shocks based on their access to essential services. Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India are among four South Asian countries where children are at extremely high risk of the impacts of the climate crisis, with a ranking of 14th, 15th, 25th and 26th respectively.
- 39. According to the Cushman & Wakefield's 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index** India ranked **2nd** as the manufacturing destination across the world.
Note: The rising focus on India can be attributed to India's operating conditions and cost competitiveness. Also, the country's proven success in meeting outsourcing requirements has led to the increase in the ranking year on year.
- 40. The new geospatial planning portal 'Yuktdhara'** launched by the Government of India (GoI) that will help in facilitating new MGNREGA assets using remote sensing and geographic information system-based data.
Note: The portal was launched by Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh. This platform will serve as a repository of assets, Geotags created under various national rural development programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Act, (MGNREGA), Integrated Watershed Management Programme, Per Drop More Crop and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana along with field photographs.
- 41. Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Jal Shakti Prahlad Singh Patel** launched seven indigenous food products of **Manipur**.
Note: The food items include black rice laddoo, black rice fruit and nuts cookies, hot and spicy bhujia, kabok mixture, Manipuri casava barfi, bamboo shoot murabba and fig laddoo. These products were developed under the Incubation Lab project of Manipur Food Industries Corporation Limited (MFICL) in collaboration with TQS



- Global, Ghaziabad with a budget provision of Rs. 10 lakh.
- 42.** New Delhi has been placed at **48th** place in Safe Cities Index 2021, released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
Note: Mumbai is at 50th place with a score of 54.4. The Index was first released in 2015.
- 43.** **NITI Aayog** entity and World Resources Institute (WRI), India, jointly launched the 'Forum for Decarbonizing Transport' in India as part of the NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) project.
Note: The project aims at bringing down the peak level of GHG emissions (transport sector) in Asia (in line with a well below 2-degree pathway), resulting in problems like congestion and air pollution. India has a massive and diverse transport sector, which is also the third most CO₂ emitting sector.
- 44.** **SUJALAM** Campaign is a 100 days campaign has been launched by **Ministry of Jal Shakti** as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
Note: It will help manage grey water and prevent the clogging of water bodies. This campaign seeks to create more ODF Plus villages by undertaking waste water management across villages in India.
- 45.** The finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the fourth edition of the Public Sector Bank Reforms Agenda EASE- 4.0'. EASE-4 stands for Enhanced Access and Service Excellence Reform Agenda.
Note: The reforms agenda is focussed towards imbibing tech-enabled, simplified, and collaborative banking. The first edition of EASE 1.0 was launched in January 2018. EASE 4.0 aims to further the agenda of customer-centric digital transformation and deeply embed digital and data into PSBs' ways of working.
- 46.** **Ministry of textiles** has launched Samarth Scheme for Capacity Building in the sector to meet the skill gap in the industry.
Note: First batch in each 63 training centers benefitted 1,565 artisans and 2nd batch will also complete during August 2021 benefiting 1,421 artisans. Samarth Scheme is being implemented in association with State Govt agencies, sectoral organizations of Ministry of Textiles, Manufacturing Industry, Industry Associations and MSME Associations.
- 47.** **Ajit Doval** has virtually hosted the 11th Meeting of BRICS High Representatives Responsible for National Security, since India is the chair for 2021 BRICS summit.
Note: 15th BRICS Summit is scheduled to be held in September 2021. BRICS meeting of NSA provided a platform for the five countries to strengthen political security cooperation.
- 48.** In association with **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), New Delhi**, the Ministry of Textiles has launched an India size survey, titled **INDIAsize** to create an anthropometric database of measurements for Indians.
Note: This initiative was launched with the aim of introducing a new standardised size chart in ready-to-wear clothing sector in India. New sizing chart will comprise of a size identification number. It will be created by mapping, categorising and defining the body size and type.
- 49.** **NITI Aayog** and the US-based tech giant Cisco have launched the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).
Note: Titled 'WEP Nxt', this next phase of Niti Aayog's flagship platform will leverage Cisco's technology and experience working with India's start-up ecosystem to enable more women-owned businesses across the country, the statement added. The WEP is a first of its kind, unified access portal that brings together women from different parts of India to realise their entrepreneurial aspirations.
- 50.** Under chairmanship of **Sunil Sethi** govt has constituted Committee for doubling the production and quadrupling the exports of handlooms within three years.
Note: It will be headed by Chairman of Fashion Design Council of India, Sunil Sethi. This Committee will submit the final report within 45 days from the day of constitution.
- 51.** India's rank in the 2021 Global Cryptocurrency Adoption Index released by blockchain data platform Chainalysis - **2nd**.
Note: India ranks second in terms of crypto adoption worldwide behind Vietnam, but ahead of countries such as the US, UK, and China, according to the 2021 Global Crypto Adoption Index by blockchain data platform Chainalysis. This comes even as worldwide crypto adoption grew by 880% between June 2020 and July 2021, according to the report.
- 52.** Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal announced the setting up of a Skill Institute on Marine Studies at **Guwahati**.
Note: This Government declared 20 waterways as National Waterways in 2016. The ministry has initiated work on NW 2 (Brahmaputra) and NW 16 (Barak) as more waterways are considered for development. Such steps add towards the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to utilize the true and untapped potential of inland waterways for trade and transportation.
- 53.** Under chairmanship of **Ashish Shiradhonkar**, the central government has constituted a committee to



develop a technological platform streamlining the appeal filing process related to direct and indirect taxation matters.

Note: Ashish Shiradhonkar is heading the e-courts project in National Informatics Centre, to develop a technological platform streamlining the appeal filing

process related to direct and indirect taxation matters. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and M R Shah was informed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the committee will complete its work in three months and will have members from revenue department, CBDT and CBIT.

July 2021

1. India's rank in the Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021 by Startup Blink is **20th**.

Note: The country was in the 17th spot in 2019 and slid six spots down in 2020 and stood at 23. Like last year, the US, the UK, Israel, Canada and Germany are in the top five spots. The report has a score for each location, which is calculated as the sum of three parameters — quantity, quality and business environment.

2. In July 2021, flagship programme of government of India, **Digital India** has completed six years of its implementation.

Note: The vision of Digital India programme is to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched this ambitious programme on 1st July, 2015. The Digital India journey in the past 6 years has centred around empowerment, inclusion, and digital transformation. It has positively impacted all aspects of the lives of Indian citizens through Aadhaar, Direct Benefit Transfer, Common Services Centres, DigiLocker and mobile-based UMANG services.

3. From **Cochin** port the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways launched the maiden voyage under the Green Freight Corridor-2.

Note: MoS Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the first voyage under the service, which is operated by Mumbai-based Round the Coast Pvt Ltd. The newly launched service will connect Cochin with Beypore-Azhikkal and later Kollam ports in Kerala.

4. **NPCI** has curated the Financial Literacy Textbook for students of Class VI that was introduced by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) recently.

Note: The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has curated the book. This book will be used for a newly introduced elective subject 'Financial Literacy'. It will enable students to have an understanding of basic financial concepts at a preliminary stage of their education.

5. **Google** social media giant has published its first transparency report under the new Information Technology (IT) Rules 2021.

Note: It has published the report for April 2021. Google received a total of 27,762 complaints for the

month of April, and the number of removals stood at 59,350. The new IT rules require significant social media intermediaries (SSMIs) such as Google, Facebook, etc. to publish a monthly report on the action taken on user complaints that they have received.

6. The Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM) has signed an MoU with **Microsoft** for a strategic partnership to build an AI and emerging technologies Centre of Excellence at AJNIFM.

Note: The collaboration seeks to explore the role of cloud, AI and emerging technologies for transforming and shaping the future of public finance management in India. The Centre of Excellence will serve as a central body for research, AI scenario envisioning and tech led innovation. AJNIFM and Microsoft will jointly explore use cases of emerging technologies in finance and related areas, across central and state ministries and public sector enterprises.

7. The Central Government funded for setting up a new Vaccine Testing Laboratory in National Institute of Animal Biotechnology in **Hyderabad**.

Note: The funds have been sanctioned for the laboratory from PM- Cares Fund. It will be set up at National Institute of Animal Biotechnology in Hyderabad and will be under Department of Biotechnology. It is a big step towards development of Pharmacy sector in Hyderabad.

8. According to provisional statistics of 2020-21 released by the coal ministry, in FY 2020-21, **Chhattisgarh** registered highest coal production.

Note: According to the data released, India's total coal production registered a marginal decline of 2.02% to 716.084 million tonnes during the last fiscal year. The country had produced 730.874 million tonnes (MT) of coal in FY'20. Of the total production of 716.084 MT, 671.297 MT was non-coking coal and the remaining 44.787 MT was coking coal.

9. **NIPUN Bharat** project has been launched by the Ministry of Education to create an enabling environment to ensure universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy, so that every child



achieves the desired learning competencies by 2026-27.

Note: Aim: to create an enabling environment to ensure universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy, so that every child achieves the desired learning competencies by 2026-27. It will be implemented by the Department of School Education and Literacy and will be set up at National- State- District- Block- School level.

10. World's third-largest cricket stadium will come up in **Jaipur**.

Note: The stadium will be constructed in Chomp village on Jaipur-Delhi highway. It will be constructed in two phases and construction work for both phases will take 5-years to complete. Two largest stadium: Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera and Melbourne Cricket Stadium in Australia.

11. The Ministry of Tourism has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Yatra** to strengthen the country's hospitality and tourism industry.

Note: The primary objective of the MoU is to provide extensive visibility to accommodation units, which have self-certified themselves on SAATHI on the OTA platform. The MoU also outlines both parties to encourage units to register on NIDHI and thereby on SAATHI and encourage the local tourism industry with appropriate safeguards for curbing the spread of COVID-19.

12. The Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture located in **Bhubaneswar** that has developed Online Course Mobile App Matsya Setu, launched by the union minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Giriraj Singh.

Note: The app has been developed by the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar. It is being funded by the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad. The online course app aims to disseminate the latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to the aqua farmers of the country.

13. **Ministry of Co-operation** has been created by the Union Govt separately for the realizing the vision of 'Sahkar se Samridhhi'.

Note: This Ministry will provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country. It will help deepen co-operatives as a true people based movement reaching upto the grassroots. A co-operative based economic development model is very relevant where each member works with a spirit of responsibility.

14. CII has organized the first edition of the Indo Pacific Business Summit in partnership with External Affairs Ministry.

Note: The event saw participation from Ambassadors and High Commissioners of various countries across the Indo Pacific. Addressing the event, Secretary (East) in the External Affairs Ministry, Riva Ganguly Das spoke about promoting trade facilitation in the Indo-Pacific through improved cross border linkages and trade infrastructure.

15. ISRO has given its nod to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education to provide technical assistance for satellite TV classrooms in the country to bridge the learning gap due to COVID-induced lockdown.

Note: ISRO scientists appeared before the PSC for Education and made a detailed presentation about the proposed satellite TV classroom for students. **ISRO** emphasized that it is ready to provide satellite rights to states to start satellite **TV class rooms**.

16. Under the chairmanship **Puneet Dalmia** the govt has set up a 25-member a Development Council for Cement Industry that will suggest ways to eliminate waste, obtain maximum production, improve quality, reduce costs and promote standardization of products.

Note: The committee will suggest ways to eliminate waste, obtain maximum production, improve quality, reduce costs and promote standardization of products. It will also recommend measures for securing the full utilization of the installed capacity and for improving the working of the industry, particularly of the less efficient units. The council would also work for standardization of accounting and costing methods and practice.

17. **DRDO** has launched a regular MTech programme in Defence Technology in association with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to impart necessary theoretical and experimental knowledge, skill and aptitude in various defence technology areas.

Note: This MTech defence technology programme can be conducted at any AICTE affiliated institutes or universities, IITs, NITs or private engineering institutes. Institute of Defence Scientists and Technologists (IDST) will provide support to the institutes for conducting this programme, which can be conducted in online as well as offline formats.

18. **Bengaluru City Railway Station** has become the first railway station in India with a movable freshwater tunnel aquarium.

Note: The aquarium has been opened by the Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) in collaboration with the HNi Aquatic Kingdom, the report added. The aquarium is based on the concept of Amazon River and is one-of-its-kind, promising to be a visual treat and a passenger's delight.



19. The Union ministry of science & technology has set up a concentrated solar thermal (CST) based test rig facility in **Hyderabad**.

Note: The facility can help the solar industry test capability and performance of solar thermal components like solar receiver tubes, heat transfer fluids, and concentrating mirrors. The facility has been set up by the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology (DST).

20. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Delhi University** to establish a 'Bangabandhu Chair' as a tribute to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the first president of Bangladesh.

Note: An MoU was signed between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Delhi University in Dhaka on Monday to set up this Chair at Delhi University. Speaking on this occasion, the President of ICCR Vinay Sahasrabudde said that this chair was the celebration of the commonality of the world view between Indian and Bangladesh as both countries stand for peace, tranquility, equal respect for all belief systems and democracy. The initiative is the outcome of one of the understandings reached during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Bangladesh in March this year.

21. **NAFED** has signed MoU with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for strengthening export linkage of farmer cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organisation.

Note: It facilitates APEDA registered exporters getting assistance under all the government schemes implemented through NAFED. The MoU also envisages ensuring sustainability and growth of exports by Cooperatives

22. Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated India's first private Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Facility plant at **Nagpur, Maharashtra**.

Note: Emphasizing the importance of alternate biofuels for diversification of agriculture towards the energy and power sector, Gadkari stated that India is spending 8 Lakh Crore for the import of petrol, diesel & petroleum products. The Government has designed a policy which encourages development of cost effective pollution free and indigenous ethanol, bio CNG (Compressed Natural Gas), LNG and hydrogen fuels.

23. NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd will India's single largest solar park at **Rann of Kutch, Gujarat**.

Note: This will be India's largest solar park to be built by the largest power producer in the country. As a part of its green energy portfolio augmentation, NTPC Ltd, India's largest energy integrated company, aims to build 60 GW Renewable Energy Capacity by 2032. Currently, the state-owned power major has an installed capacity of 66 GW across 70 power projects with an additional 18 GW under construction.

24. Hyderabad based Startup incubator 'T-Hub' has launched a new program called 'AIC T-HUB Foundation' with **Atal Innovation Mission** with an aim to support deep tech startups in the field of life science & healthcare sector.

Note: The program is launched with an aim to support deep tech startups in the field of life science & healthcare sector. It is a 3-month long foundational course, which is conducted in collaboration with various Industrial and education organisations. A series of workshops will be conducted in the 3-months program, covering various sectors like – Financial Planning, Lead Generation, Value proposition, among others.

25. Union cabinet has approved the continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'National AYUSH Mission (NAM)' till **2026**.

Note: It will now be implemented from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026. Govt has allocated Rs. 4607.30 crore (Rs 3,000 crore as Central Share and Rs. 1607.30 crore as State Share) for the scheme to be invested for five years. NAM Mission was introduced in 2014 and is being implemented by Ministry of AYUSH to provide cost effective AYUSH Services.

26. **Manduadih Railway Station** has been renamed as **Banaras Railway Station** by the Northeastern railways (NER).

Note: NER has replaced the old signboard with the new one which read 'Banaras' in Hindi, Sanskrit, English, and Urdu. Code for the station with the new identity will now be 'BSBS,' starting from 12am today and will be reflected on all the tickets booked.

27. PM Modi inaugurated a five-star hotel built on the top of **Gandhinagar Railway Station**.

Note: The newly-built 318-room five-star hotel atop the redeveloped Gandhinagar Railway Station will be the first such hotel in India. The redevelopment of the Gandhinagar Railway Station and construction of the five-star hotel on top of the station started in January 2017 after Prime Minister Modi performed the ground-breaking. The redevelopment of Gandhinagar Railway Station has been completed at a cost of 71.5 crore rupees.

28. With **Ministry of Earth Sciences** the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has signed a Memorandum of



Understanding for mutual collaboration in the field of Polar Biology.

Note: Under the agreement, both organizations will work under one roof and work jointly to address relevant questions in Polar Biology. The centre point of collaboration between the 2 entities will be the biotechnological applications of polar microbes. The MoU was signed by Renu Swarup, Secretary of DBT & Dr. Madhavan Nair Rajeevan, Secretary of MoES.

29. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated International Cooperation and Convention Centre named as 'Rudraksh' in Varanasi, which has been constructed with financial assistance from **Japan**.

Note: The centre will provide opportunities for social and cultural interactions between people at the international convention centre. It is ideal for holding international conferences, exhibitions and music concerts and other events and the gallery is done up with murals depicting Varanasi's art, culture and music. As many as 108 Rudraksha have been installed at this convention centre and its roof is shaped like a Shiva Linga.

30. The Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MORTH) has signed pact with **University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia** to set up a Centre for Advanced Transportation Technology and Systems (CATTS) at its headquarter in Noida.

Note: CATTS will be a centre of excellence (CoE) to promote industries and startups from Australia and India in the transportation sector. It will also provide opportunities for innovation, research and development of advanced transport systems.

31. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **MapmyIndia** to enable the map services in "UMANG App" in order to ease the lives of citizens.

Note: After the integration of UMANG with MapmyIndia Maps, citizens will be able to find government facilities nearest to their location, such as mandis, blood banks, and much more, at the click of a button. They will also be able to see these on the most detailed and interactive street and village level maps of India, built by MapmyIndia.

32. **National Commission for Women (NCW)** has signed an MoU with Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) for gender sensitization of police personnel across India.

Note: Aim: to ensure gender sensitization of police personnel with respect to legislation and policies concerning women and bringing attitudinal and behavioral changes in police officers while dealing

with crimes against women. The training will be conducted for a duration of three-five days.

33. Google Cloud has launched its new cloud region in **Delhi-NCR** region of India.

Note: This is the second Google Cloud region in India after Mumbai and the 10th in Asia-Pacific. The need for a second cloud region in India stems from the enormous growth in demand for capacity building, disaster recovery solutions and low latency. Apart from Delhi-NCR region, there are existing 25 Google Cloud regions across the Americas, Europe and Asia-Pacific connected via Google's network.

34. Government has decided to set up 'Indian Institute of Heritage' in **NOIDA**.

Note: It is being set up as Deemed to be University by integrating Institute of Archaeology, School of Archival Studies under National Archives of India, New Delhi, National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property Lucknow, National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology (NMICHM) and Academic Wing of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Delhi.

35. **CII** has organized the second edition of Digital Conference & Exhibition 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat – Self-Reliance for Renewable Energy Manufacturing'.

Note: As a part of Conference a 15-day Digital Exhibition also initiated showcasing the latest from the Renewable Energy world. Union Minister Raj Kumar Singh announced that India will exceed its target of reducing carbon emission to 33% set by 2030 under the Paris agreement.

36. **IIT Kanpur** has partnered with Prasar Bharati to establish Centre of Excellence for Media and Broadcasting Technologies promoting NextGen broadcasting technology.

Note: Prasar Bharati has partnered with IIT Kanpur to establish Centre of Excellence for Media and Broadcasting Technologies promoting NextGen broadcasting technology. It will be cover Next Generation Broadcast Technology Trial, Automatic Speech Recognition for Speech Subtitling and Archival Content Retrieval through Audio and Text Query.

37. Indian Oil Corporation will set up India's first Green Hydrogen plant in **Mathura**.

Note: Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will set-up first 'green hydrogen' plant of India at Mathura to meet the growing demand for both oil and cleaner forms of energy. Green hydrogen production is the ultimate clean hydrogen resource and uses renewable energy to create hydrogen fuel.

38. **O.P. Jindal Global University** has organized World Universities Summit 2021.



Note: The O.P. Jindal Global University has organized the World Universities Summit 2021 (WUS 21), titled "Universities of the Future: Building Institutional Resilience, Social Responsibility and Community Impact' today". The event was inaugurated by the Vice-President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu. This summit has brought academicians and technical experts of more than 25 Countries onto a common platform.

39. Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying

(DAHD) has setup Dairy Investment Accelerator under its Investment Facilitation Cell.

Note: The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Government of India, with a view to provide dedicated focus towards promoting & facilitating investments in the Indian Dairy sector, has setup Dairy Investment Accelerator under its Investment Facilitation Cell. This Investment Accelerator is a cross functional team constituted to serve as the interface with investors.

40. Gwalior and Orchha cities have been selected by UNESCO under 'Historic Urban Landscape Project'.

Note: Development and management plan of these cities will be prepared by UNESCO, along with Government of India and Madhya Pradesh. Six cities of South Asia, including Ajmer and Varanasi in India are already involved in this project, which started in 2011.

41. APEDA institution has collaborated with Ladakh officials for giving boost to exports of agricultural produce.

Note: Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has collaborated with officials of Ladakh to frame a comprehensive plan for giving boost to exports of agricultural produce from Ladakh. The plan will enhance farmers' as well as entrepreneurs' income.

42. 9th is India's rank in the list of agricultural produce exporters in 2019.

Note: In 2019, Mexico and India, with 3.4% and 3.1% share in global agri exports, respectively, replaced Malaysia (7th) and New Zealand (9th) as the largest exporters, while the US, which topped the list in 1995 (22.2%), was overtaken by the European Union in 2019 (16.1%). The US's share fell to 13.8% in 2019. Brazil maintained its ranking as the third largest exporter, increasing its share from 4.8% in 1995 to 7.8% in 2019.

43. The Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map phase II (I-STEM phase II) project has been extended till 2026.

Note: Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM):

- National web portal for sharing R&D facilities and was formally launched in January 2020

- It is an initiative of Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Govt. of India (PSA, GOI) under the aegis of Prime Minister Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) mission.

44. In collaboration with IIT Bombay, the govt has decided to set up National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics for creating a world-class talent pool in India to cater to the Indian as well as global industry.

Note: It will be set up in collaboration with IIT, Bombay. Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute and Film and Television Institute of India run courses on Animation and VFX to support skilled manpower in the animation and VFX sector.

45. Dholavira has been inscribed as 40th UNESCO World Heritage Site of India with effect from July 27, 2021.

Note: The historic of 'Dholavira' was on the UNESCO's tentative list since 2014. Dholavira: a Harappan city' is one of the very few well preserved urban settlements in South Asia dating from the 3rd to mid-2nd millennium BCE. With this, India has entered the Super-40 club for World Heritage Site inscriptions.

46. Puri became first Indian city where people can avail high quality drinking water directly from the tap on 24-hour.

Note: Due to this, people will need not have to store or filter drinking water. No metropolitan city in India has such facility till now. Similar facilities are available only in cities like London, New York and Singapore. Puri would no more be burdened with 400 metric tonne of plastic waste. Water fountains have been developed at 400 locations in Puri.

47. Indore has been selected for International Clean Air Catalyst Programme.

Note: It will also help USAID to better understand local pollution sources and identify, test, accelerate, and scale solutions for cleaner, healthier air. It is a new flagship program that has been launched by The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and a global consortium of organizations, which will be led by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF).

48. Union Home Minister, Amit Shah inaugurated the much-awaited Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme at Sohra in Meghalaya.

Note: The Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme was conceptualised by the Meghalaya government and an amount of Rs. 24.08 cr was sanctioned by the DoNER ministry in 2019 under North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS). He also planted tree saplings in Sohra as part of the Sohra Afforestation Project of the Assam Rifles.



49. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in collaboration with **Border Security Force (BSF)** launched Project Bold with the primary aim of developing green cover in the Indian deserts of Rajasthan.

Note: KVIC along with the BSF planted 1000 bamboo saplings under Project Bold. The saplings were planted in Tanot village in Jaisalmer. Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, the chairman of KVIC, launched this first of a kind plantation program in the presence of Shri Surendra Panwar, Special DG of the BSF.

50. **Satpura Tiger Reserve** has won the 'Natwest Group Earth Heroes Award' in the Earth Guardian category for best management.

Note: About Satpura Tiger Reserve

- It is in Hoshangabad district and is spread over an area of 2130 square km.
- It is part of the Deccan Bio-Geographic Region.
- It is the oldest forest wealth of the country with 26 species of flora of Himalayan region and 42 species of Nilgiri forests
- It is also named as the Northern Ghats
- It accounts for 17% of India's tiger population and 12 per cent of tiger habitat.

51. **Fourteen Tigers Reserve** of India have received 'Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CATS)' accreditation for meeting a set of standards for effective conservation of big cats.

Note: CATS: Globally accepted conservation tool that sets best practices and standards to manage tigers and assessments to benchmark progress. It is being implemented across 125 sites in seven tiger range countries, including 94 in India. Implementation partner for CATS assessment in India: Global Tiger Forum (GTF), World Wildlife Fund India National Tiger Conservation Authority.

52. **Narendra Modi** has launched 'SAFAL initiative' for Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), on July 29, 2021, on the first anniversary of National Education Policy (NEP).

Note: SAFAL stands for Structured Assessment For Analysing Learning. SAFAL is a competency-based assessment programme for grades 3, 5 and 8 introduced by CBSE to assess the progress of foundational skills and basic learning outcomes among students. It will be conducted on a pilot basis in CBSE schools during the academic year 2021-22, in key curricular areas of Language, Mathematics, and EVS, Science.

53. **Bangalore International Airport Limited** has signed a ten-year partnership with the company IBM to set up the 'Airport in a Box' platform.

Note: The partnership is designed to help Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) improve its productivity, automate its information technology services, increase operational flexibility to handle future growth in passenger traffic and reduce costs.

June -2021

1. **NBT** will be the implementing agency of the Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors (YUVA) scheme launched to train young and budding authors below aged 30 years.
Note: Termed YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors), the Prime Minister's scheme seeks to mentor authors under the age of 30 and train them to promote reading, writing and book culture in the country, and project India and Indian writings globally. A consolidated scholarship of Rs50,000 per month for a period of six months per author will be paid under the YUVA Scheme.
2. NCPCR is work under administrative control of **Ministry of Women and Child Development** that has launched "Bal Swaraj", an online tracking portal for real-time tracking & monitoring of Children who lost both or either of their parents in COVID-19.
Note: "COVID-Care", a link under the Bal Swaraj portal, will enable officers in concerned departments to upload data about such children who are in need of care. "COVID-Care", a link under the Bal Swaraj portal, will

enable officers in concerned departments to upload data about such children who are in need of care. This digital monitoring procedure, will regulate the Financial spending of CWCs in various states/UTs.

3. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched **Seed Minikit programme** by distributing high yielding varieties of seeds of pulses and oilseeds to farmers.
Note: The mini-kits are being provided by the central agencies National Seeds Corporation (NCS), NAFED and Gujarat State Seeds Corporation and wholly-funded by the Centre through the National Food Security Mission. The Centre, in collaboration with states, has been implementing various activities to enhance production and productivity of pulses and oilseeds under the National Food Security Mission. The seed minikit programme is a major tool for introducing new varieties of seeds in fields and instrumental for increasing the seed replacement rate.
4. The central government has brought forward the target year for achieving 20 percent ethanol-blending with petrol by 2 years to **2023**.



- Note:** It was reported by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG). Currently, the govt directs the oil companies in all states and UTs (union territories) to sell ethanol blended petrol with a percentage of ethanol up to 20 percent as per the Bureau of Indian Standards specifications. In April 2021, Ethanol-blending in Petrol in India reached more than 7.2 percent for the First Time.
5. According to third edition of NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index 2020-21 rankings **Kerala** got the top spot in the ranking.
Note: At the other end of the scale, Bihar, Jharkhand and Assam were the worst performing States. However, all States showed some improvement from last year's scores, with Mizoram and Haryana seeing the biggest gains. Developed by a global consultative process on holistic development, the 17 SDGs have a 2030 deadline.
 6. **Chandigarh** adjudged as the top performer in the NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index 2020-21 rankings.
Note: Delhi and Puducherry got second and third spot respectively. Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu has been adjudged as the worst performer. The index was designed and developed by NITI Aayog in consultations with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the UN agencies led by United Nations in India, the States and Union Territories, and the key Union Ministries.
 7. SAGE project has been launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for **Elderly People**.
Note: The initiative was launched by Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot in the presence of MoS, MSJE, Shri Rattan Lal Kataria in New Delhi. Start-ups can apply for being a part of SAGE through a dedicated portal. The start-ups will be selected on the basis of innovative products and services, which they should be able to provide across sectors such as health, housing, care centres, apart from technological access linked to finances, food and wealth management, and legal guidance.
 8. Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Shri Narendra Singh Tomar virtually inaugurated the Indus Best Mega Food Park in **Chhattisgarh**.
Note: The Mega Food Park will ensure value addition, longer shelf life for farm produce, better price realization for farmers, excellent storage facility and will provide an alternate market for farmers in the region. The Park will also provide direct and indirect employment to about 5,000 persons and benefit about 25,000 farmers in the CPC and PPC catchment areas.
 9. The central government has decided to extend the validity period of the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) qualifying certificate from 7 years to **lifetime**.
Note: In 2020, the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) in its 50th meeting of the general body had approved the extension of the TET certificate validity from 7 years to a lifetime. The respective state governments/UTs will take necessary action to revalidate/issue fresh TET certificates to those candidates whose period of 7 years has already elapsed.
 10. Under the chairmanship of **Ajit Mishra** the Labour and Employment Ministry has constituted an expert group to provide technical inputs and recommendations on fixation of minimum wages and national floor for minimum wages.
Note: The expert group announced has been constituted for a period of three years and is chaired by Ajit Mishra, Director, Institute of Economic Growth. It includes Tarika Chakraborty, IIM Calcutta; Anushree Sinha, Senior Fellow, NCAER; Vibha Bhalla, Joint Secretary; H Srinivas, Director General, VVGNI as the members and DPS Negi, Senior Labour and Employment Advisor as the Member Secretary. This is the second expert committee on minimum wages formed by the government within the last two years.
 11. India ranked **117th** in the State of India's Environment Report 2021 on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Note: The State of India's Environment Report 2021 revealed that India's rank was 115 last year and dropped by two places primarily because major challenges like ending hunger and achieving food security (SDG 2). India ranks below four South Asian countries — Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, it said. The overall SDG score of India is 61.9 out of 100. According to the report Jharkhand and Bihar are the least prepared to meet the SDGs by 2030, which is the target year. While Jharkhand lags in five of the SDGs, Bihar lags in seven.
 12. In June 2021, India has been elected as a member of **Economic and Social Council** for three-year terms of 2022-24.
Note: India was elected to the 54-member ECOSOC, by the UNGA on June 7, 2021, in the Asia-Pacific States category, along with Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Oman. ECOSOC serves as the central platform for discussing international economic, social and environmental issues and formulating policy recommendations addressed to member states and the United Nations system.
 13. The NITI Aayog and **Piramal Foundation** have launched 'Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan' to



provide home-care support to asymptomatic covid-19 patients or patients with mild symptoms.

Note: The Foundation which has been working in 25 districts helping in COVID care to senior citizens since last year has now expanded its scope of work to 112 backward districts called 'Aspirational Districts'. Both entities unveiled 'Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan' which will be rolled out in these 112 districts to assist the district administrations in providing home-care support to patients who are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms.

- 14. Indian Institute of Science** ranked as Best Indian University in Times University Rankings 2021.

Note: India is third overall in terms of representation, behind Japan (116 universities) and Mainland China (91). While Indian Institute of Science (37th) remains the country's highest ranked university for the seventh year in a row, Indian Institute of Technology Ropar (55th) and Indian Institute of Technology Indore (78th) have also made it to the top 100 this year. Of the 49 Indian universities appearing in the rankings for at least a second consecutive year, 51% have maintained or improved on their 2020 rankings.

- 15.** According to the coveted QS World University Rankings 2022, **Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore** is the world's top research university as per the citations per faculty indicator.

Note: Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi remained the three universities from India to rank in the top-200 positions in the latest Rankings. As per the rankings, IIT Bombay for securing 177th position, IIT Delhi for securing 185th rank and IISc Bengaluru for securing 186th position in overall university rankings globally. The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, is the world's top research university as per the citations per faculty indicator, while the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, is ranked 41st in the category.

- 16. IIT Bombay** is India's top ranked institution for the fourth consecutive year at the QS World University Rankings 2022.

Note: Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi remained the three universities from India to rank in the top-200 positions in the latest Rankings. As per the rankings, IIT Bombay for securing 177th position, IIT Delhi for securing 185th rank and IISc Bengaluru for securing 186th position in overall university rankings globally. According to the 18th edition of the rankings, the India Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, is India's top ranked institution for the

fourth consecutive year at the QS World University Rankings 2022.

- 17.** According to the all-India survey on higher education (AISHE) 2019-20 released by the union education ministry the number of institutions of national importance have increased to **135**.

Note: Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' released the report of All India Survey on Higher Education 2019-20.

Key Highlights:

- There has been a growth of 11.4% in the student enrolment in five years.
- The rise in female enrolment in higher education during the period is 18.2%.
- Number of institutions of national importance have increased to 135 in 2020 from 75 in 2015.
- AISHE report is published by Ministry of Education since 2010-11.

- 18. Kiran Rijiju** has launched Central Athlete Injury Management System (CAIMS) for streamlining the sports medicine and rehabilitation support offered to the athletes for Olympics 2024 and beyond.

Note: It will start with support for athletes who are a part of Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) development group. It will have 4 structures: Athlete Wellness Cell, On-Field Sports Medicine Experts, National Resource Referral Teams, Central Core Team

- 19. Ministry of AYUSH** has launched 'Namaste Yoga' for the 7th International Day of Yoga (IDY) in a curtain raiser event.

Note: The event was organised by the Ministry of Ayush in association with the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga. The app has been designed as an information platform for the public. Its aim is to raise awareness about yoga and make it accessible for the larger community. IDY is observed on 21st June every year.

- 20.** India has signed an agreement with **Kuwait** to streamline the recruitment of Indian domestic workers.
- Note:** The MoU brings Indian workers in Kuwait within the ambit of a legal framework that streamlines their recruitment and provides them protection of law. It also introduces an employment contract to ensure the rights and obligations of employers and workers, and a mechanism for 24-hour assistance to workers. A joint committee will be created to carry out periodic reviews and follow up the implementation of the MoU.

- 21.** India ranked **67th** in the Coursera's Global Skills Report 2021.



- Note:** It exhibited a lag in digital skills development. with 38 per cent proficiency in each global skill domain. Globally, India has ranked 55 in business, and 66 in both technology and data science. On the Asian map, India is at rank 16, ahead of the Philippines and Thailand, but behind Singapore and Japan.
- 22. Narendra Modi** addressed the UN 'High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation & Drought'.
- Note:** He said that three million hectares of forest cover has been added in India over the last ten years. He listed steps taken by India to deal with the land degradation issue. He conveyed that India is on track to achieve its national commitment of Land degradation neutrality. He said India is also working towards restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.
- 23.** According to the World Giving Index 2021 report India's position as the most charitable country is **14th**.
- Note:** This year's survey highlights the impact of lockdowns on charitable giving. Indonesia remains in the first place, followed by Kenya. Four African nations now sit in the top 10 -- three of them (Nigeria, Ghana and Uganda) for the first time. Most of the western countries which are usually in the Top 10 have fallen far down the rankings.
- 24. Malaria No More** NGO has in collaboration with the India Meteorological Department & the ICMR is creating an India Interagency Expert Committee on Malaria and Climate (IEC) to explore and advance climate-based solutions for accelerating malaria elimination in India.
- Note:** Aim of the collaboration is to explore and advance climate-based solutions for accelerating malaria elimination in India. India has set a target to eliminate malaria by 2030.
- 25.** The central government has modified the 'Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in India Phase II' (FAME India Phase II) scheme. The FAME scheme is being administered by **Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises**.
- Note:** The FAME scheme was administered by the department of heavy industries (DHI). MoHI&PE has decided for the aggregation of electric three-wheelers and electric buses component of the scheme via state run Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), to bring down the cost of electric 3 Wheelers to that of ICE-3 Wheelers.
- 26.** In a major boost to exports of GI certified agricultural produce, a consignment of fibre and mineral rich Jalgaon banana has been exported to **UAE**.
- Note:** In 2016, Jalgaon Banana got GI certification which was registered with Nisargraja Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in Jalgaon. Country's banana export has been rising sharply because of adoption of farm practices as per the global standards. During 2020-21, India has exported banana worth of 1.91 lakh tonnes valued at 619 crore rupees.
- 27. Brunei** hosted the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus in that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh participated virtually.
- Note:** He hailed the Indian values of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah'. Minister called for a united fight against the pandemic. The ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) is a forum comprising 10 ASEAN member countries and 8 partner nations including India, China, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the United States.
- 28.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 5th edition of VivaTech, the largest digital and start-up events in Europe. The event is being held in **Peris** every year.
- Note:** The Prime Minister has been invited as a Guest of Honour. He said that India is adaptable and agile even in the middle of the pandemic. VivaTech is being held in Paris every year since 2016. It is jointly organized by Publicis Groupe, a prominent advertising and marketing conglomerate and Les Echos – a leading French media group.
- 29.** India ranked 43rd in the annual World Competitiveness Index 2021.
- Note:** The report was compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD). Top three nation in the 64-nation list are: 1. Switzerland; 2. Sweden; 3. Denmark. BRICS Nations rank order is China, India, Russia, Brazil and South Africa. India has maintained its position for the past three years.
- 30.** India ranked 135th in the latest 15th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021, released by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Sydney.
- Note:** Indian ranked 135th most peaceful country in the world. Iceland remains the most peaceful country while Afghanistan is the least peaceful country in the world for the fourth consecutive year. Bhutan ranked as the most peaceful nation in South Asia. New Zealand, Denmark, Portugal ranked 3rd, 4th, and 5th resp.
- 31.** India signed an MoU with **Bhutan** for developing cooperation between two countries in the area of the environment.
- Note:** The MoU was signed virtually by the Minister of Environment. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar from the Indian side and Minister of Foreign Affairs and



Chairperson of the National Environment Commission Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji from the Bhutanese side. The MoU will open new vistas of bilateral cooperation in the area of climate change, waste management etc.

32. Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) joins hand with **NCERT** for conducting programs across 350 functional EMRS schools across the country.
Note: Under this collaboration, 120 EMRS teachers and principals from 3 states completed **NISHTHA-National initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement Program** to build competencies among teachers and school principals and Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training.

33. Under the chairmanship of **Rajeev Jain** the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has constituted a committee to probe complaints of post-poll violence in West Bengal.
Note: The committee will be headed by NHRC member Rajeev Jain. Atif Rasheed, Rajulben L Desai, Pradip Panja, and Raju Mukherjee are other members. The committee has been entrusted with examining complaints received by NHRC or those that it may receive.

34. **N Venkatram** is the newly inducted member in the reconstituted Takeover Panel by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
Note: The panel looks into the applications seeking exemption from the mandatory open offer that an acquirer needs to make to minority shareholders. N Venkatram MD and CEO, Deloitte India as the new member of the Takeover Panel. The panel is chaired by N K Sodhi, the former chief justice of the high courts of Karnataka and Kerala.

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36. According to Ease of Living Index 2020 released by the Centre for Science and Environment, **Hyderabad** is the most livable city of India.
Note: According to the index, Bengaluru is the most livable city of India followed by Chennai, Shimla, Bhubaneshwar and Mumbai. Delhi, however, ranked as

the worst capital in the perception of citizens contacted for the survey. Four parameters viz. quality of life, economic ability, sustainability, and citizens' perceptions are used to determine the ease of living Index.

37. India has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Fiji** for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and allied sectors.
Note: Under the MoU, a Joint Working Group will be established to set down procedures and plan and recommend programs of cooperation towards achieving its aims. The Working Group will hold its meetings alternatively in India and Fiji once every two years. The MoU will remain valid for a period of five years from the date of its signing and any variation to its duration will be approved in writing by both Parties.
38. National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) has teamed up with **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)** to develop an exclusive green rating system for high-speed rail (HSR) stations in the country.
Note: This world's first green rating system will be formulated for facilitating environmental sustainability at the stations. The rating system will allow new HSR stations to deploy energy-efficient notions during design and construction.
39. The union cabinet has approved allocation of additional foodgrain to National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (Phase IV) till **November 30, 2021**.
Note: Under the scheme, the government will provide 5 kg foodgrains per person per month free of cost ration. It will cover 81.35 crore beneficiaries covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Priority Households including those covered under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). PMGKAY was launched to help poor fight against Covid-19.
40. **NTPC** has hosted the BRICS Green Hydrogen Summit.
Note: Green Hydrogen is one of the most popular and demanding fields in the current times and considered to be the next carrier of energy. Experts from BRICS countries participated to share their insights. Professional views on ways to develop Green Hydrogen energy sources.
41. India ranked **31st** out of 46 countries in the Reuters Institute Digital News Report, 2021 on levels of overall trust in news.
Note: Only 38% of the respondents from India said they trust news overall. Finland had the highest levels of overall trust in news (65%) while the U.S. had the lowest levels of trust (29%). The 10th edition of the report is based on an online survey of 46 media markets



to understand how news is consumed in different countries.

42. Under the chairmanship **Vandana Aggarwal** the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has constituted a committee to examine global best practices in ship financing and leasing.

Note: This Committee will also identify opportunities and devise a roadmap to enable such activities. The committee will be chaired by former Senior Economic Advisor, Vandana Aggarwal. India is strategically located on the world's shipping routes and has a large coastline of over seven thousand 500 kilometres.

43. **Odisha** state govt has partnered with UN World Food Programme (WFP) to improve household food and nutritional security by strengthening livelihood initiatives reaching thousands of state-supported Women's Self-Help Groups (WSHGs).

Note: This was done reaching thousands of state-supported Women's Self-Help Groups (WSHGs). The partnership for achieving nutritional security in Odisha focused on empowerment, livelihood and incomes of women.

44. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) announced a partnership with **WhatsApp** to launch the 'Digital Skill Champions Program' to train youth on digital skills, and make them employment ready.

Note: NSDC is an apex body to manage Central backed Skill India or the National Skills Development Mission of India campaign. Through this partnership, WhatsApp aims to enhance the digital skills of aspiring entrepreneurs and empower the youth of India to create a safe digital environment for all. As part of WhatsApp Digital Skills Academy, youth from Tier-III & Tier-IV cities will be trained on critical aspects of digital safety and online privacy.

45. The Government of Indian has extended the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME Phase II) till **2024**.

Note: It is an ambitious scheme to expedite the adoption of electric vehicles launched in April 1, 2019 for 3 yrs. The extension will help push EV sales especially in the two and three-wheeler segment in the coming years.

46. **Ravishankar Prasad** has launched the e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), 'itat e-dwar'.

Note: The newly developed e-filing portal would enable the parties to file their appeals, miscellaneous applications, documents, paper books, etc., electronically. It will enhance the accessibility, accountability and transparency in the day to day working of the ITAT.

47. The government has decided to extend the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana from 30th of June, 2021 to **31st of March, 2022**.

Note: The scheme was earlier open till 30 June 2021. The announcement was made by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during a press conference. This was one of the 8 relief measures announced by the FM.

48. As per the announcement made by the Finance Ministry, how many people will be facilitated with loan amount up to Rs 1.25 lakh under new credit guarantee scheme through micro finance institutions (MFIs) **25 lakh**.

Note: The announcement was made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as part of economic relief package provided to spur investment climate in the country affected by the Covid pandemic. As per the new scheme, guarantee will be provided to Scheduled Commercial Banks for loans to new or existing NBFC-MFIs or MFIs for on lending up to Rs 1.25 lakh to approximately 25 lakh small borrowers.

49. **IIM Kozhikode** has partnered with education platform Coursera to offer management courses to global learners _____.

Note: It has announced the launch of four certificate programmes in the fields of business, strategy, marketing, and product management. Each programme was designed as a six-to-eight-month-long graduate-level offering. Coursera is one of the largest online learning platforms in the world.

50. India ranked **10th** in the Global Cybersecurity Index 2020 (GCI) released by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Note: It is a United Nations (UN) agency for information and communication technologies (ICT). India jumps 37 places from 47th in the previous ranking. The GCI is a composite index produced, analysed and published by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

May 2021



1. Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman virtually inaugurated India's first 3D printed house at **IIT Madras**.
Note: The single-storey home has been built in just five days over an area of about 600 sq. ft using 'Concrete 3D Printing' TVASTA Manufacturing Solutions, a start-up founded by IIT-M alumni in association with Habitat for Humanity's Terwilliger Centre for Innovation in Shelter built the 3D Printed House. The 3D Printed House would help to meet the deadline of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of the 'housing for all' scheme by 2022.
2. **PepsiCo Foundation** has partnered with the not-for-profit organisation, Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) to launch a community COVID-19 vaccination drive and set up COVID care centres.
Note: As part of the partnership, SEEDS will drive Covid-19 vaccinations for the community at large, set up Covid care centres equipped with beds and medical facilities, including oxygen cylinders. SEEDS is a not-for-profit organization.
3. With **United Kingdom**, India has adopted 'Roadmap 2030' which aims to elevate bilateral ties to 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'.
Note: During the summit, the two leaders adopted 'Roadmap 2030' which aims to elevate bilateral ties to 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'. The UK finalised new deals/trade worth 1 Billion British Pound Sterling (GBP) to create 6,500 jobs in the UK. They also agreed/announced 9 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs)/Declarations during the summit.
4. Recently, the first-ever electric tractor in India has been tested at the Central Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute which is located in **Madhya Pradesh**.
Note: This new electric tractor will be more environmentally friendly than other types of tractors. The Central Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute at Budni is a premier institute under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. It is located in the state of Madhya Pradesh.
5. On the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the first-ever India-France-Australia Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Dialogue was held in **London**.
Note: The first-ever India-France-Australia Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Dialogue was held in London, UK, on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The meeting was attended by External Affairs Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar from India, France's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian and Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Marise Payne.
6. The Nation's first 'Drive in Vaccination Center' was inaugurated by MP Rahul Shewale in **Mumbai**.
Note: This center has been set up in the parking lot of Kohinoor Square Tower at Dadar. This first of its kind 'Drive-in Vaccination Center' facility has been made available to the citizens at a time when people with disabilities are facing difficulties in getting to the vaccination center.
7. With **Energy Efficiency Services Ltd** the National Dairy Development Board signed an MoU to promote efficient renewable technologies in the dairy industry.
Note: NDDDB and EESL will work to design and develop innovative energy-efficient business solutions (innovative business models) for dairy cooperative institutions. They collaborate with different agencies for adopting non-conventional energy-generating facilities for the disposal of crop residues/agricultural waste and bio waste in an environment-friendly manner.
8. 2021 G20 Tourism Ministers' Meeting was held in Italy that was attended by the Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (I/c) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel virtually.
Note: Mr Massimo Garavaglia, Minister of Tourism, Government of Italy Chaired the meeting. India will support the Principles for the transition to a green travel and tourism economy submitted by United Nation World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) as a further contribution to the policy area "Green Transformation" to embrace sustainability in tourism.
9. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announced a year-long celebrations to Mark birth centenary of **Satyajit Ray**.
Note: Satyajit Ray (May 2, 1921-April 23, 1992) was a renowned filmmaker, writer, illustrator, graphic designer and music composer. He started his career in advertising and found inspiration for his first film, Pather Panchali, while illustrating the children's version of the novel by Bibhutibhusan Bandopadhyay.
10. **Rs 8,873 crore** has been released by the central govt for State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to all the States for COVID-19 containment measures.
Note: The States can use up to 50 percent of the released amount for COVID-19 containment measures. It includes meeting the cost of oxygen generation and storage plants in hospitals, ventilators, strengthening ambulance services, COVID-19 hospitals, thermal scanners, personal protective equipment, testing laboratories and testing kits.



11. **Rs 15,000 crores** additional amount has been decided to provide to states as an interest free 50 year loan for spending on capital projects.
Note: The Department of Expenditure has issued fresh guidelines in this regard on the Scheme of Financial Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure for the financial year 2021-22. This helped to sustain state level capital expenditure in the pandemic year. In view of the positive response to the scheme and considering the requests of the State Governments, the Government has decided to continue the scheme in the year 2021-22.
12. The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of an MoU on Migration and Mobility Partnership between India and **UK**.
Note: The MoU will benefit Indian students, academics, and researchers, migrants for professional and economic reasons and those willing to contribute through various projects to the economic development of both countries. It can support the innovation ecosystem in both countries by facilitating free flow of talent.
13. **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** has issued a notification mandating all State/UT Governments to issue a certificate of disability through online mode only using Unique Disability ID Portal.
Note: The requirement of a Certificate of disability is mandated under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act, 2016). Using the certificate, people with disabilities can avail benefits of different government schemes. The sector has been demanding online issuance of certificates, as people with disabilities were unable to get certificates due to prevalent restrictions in Pandemic times.
14. **CBSE** has launched 'Dost for Life', an exclusive psychological counselling app for students and parents.
Note: The new App will simultaneously cater to students and parents from CBSE-affiliated schools in different geographies across the world. The app will also provide students with other resource material such as suggestive course guides for after senior secondary education, tips on mental health and well being, and a 'corona guide' with information on daily safety protocol, learning from home and self-care.
15. According to Knight Frank's 'Prime Global Cities Index Q1 2021' report New Delhi ranked at **32nd** position.
Note: While Bengaluru moved down by four places in Q1 2021 and is ranked 40; Delhi and Mumbai dipped one place each in the same period. Three Chinese cities – Shenzhen, Shanghai and Guangzhou lead the index this quarter. Shenzhen recorded the strongest performing world region with a growth of 18.9%, while New York was the weakest performing market with negative 5.8% growth.
16. According to the new report 'Renewable Energy Market Update – Outlook for 2021 and 2022' released by International Energy Agency (IEA), India's Renewable Energy capacity addition declined by almost **50%**.
Note: The decline in capacity addition in India has been attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the Global level, the annual renewable capacity additions increased 45% to almost 280 GW (up from 190 GW in 2019), which is the highest year-on year increase since 1999. China alone accounted for more than 50% of the green energy projects built in 2020.
17. Around **Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary** the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) announced 48.32 square km are as an Eco-Sensitive Zone.
Note: The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has notified 48.32 sq km around the Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary (TCFS) in Maharashtra as an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ). Eco-Sensitive Zones are geographical areas within a radius of 10 kms around a protected area, a national park or a wildlife sanctuary, and are declared by the ministry under the provisions of Environment Protection Act 1986.
18. According to Union minister Nitin Gadkari **581** Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) medical oxygen plants will be installed in various states.
Note: NHAI will be the nodal agency for executing civil and electrical work for these facilities. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, will be the nodal agency for executing civil and electrical work for these plants and will complete them on war footing.
19. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan remotely flagged off the first supply of UCO. UCO stands for **Used Cooking Oil**.
Note: Centre had initiated Expressions of Interest for "Procurement of Bio-diesel produced from Used Cooking Oil" on the occasion of World Biofuel Day on 10th August 2019. Such "Expressions of Interest" are being periodically released by Oil Marketing Companies. This initiative will garner substantial economic benefits for the nation by shoring up indigenous Biodiesel supply, reducing import dependence, and generating rural employment.
20. The foreign ministers of **India, 581** and **France** are set to hold a first trilateral meet in New Delhi to discuss



steps to strengthen maritime security and other Indo-Pacific issues.

Note: The trilateral meet was attended by heads of state of Rwanda and Denmark and other 10 foreign ministers while PM Modi attended the opening and closing sessions of the event. The three foreign ministers will also be discussing the global security environment and the Chinese posture in the Indo-Pacific.

21. **IRDAI** has issued guidelines on Bharat Yatra Suraksha, the standard domestic travel insurance product.

Note: It will provide coverage for hospitalization expenses, death, permanent complete or partial disablement due to an accident, for travel through taxi, bus, train, ship, and airplane in the country. The base cover will provide coverage for hospitalization expenses ranging from Rs1 lakh to Rs10 lakh and an accidental death benefit ranging from Rs1 lakh to Rs1 crore.

22. Telecom Equipment Manufacturers Association of India (TEMA) has signed a pact with business organization of **Canada** to jointly promote 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat', and facilitate investment and manufacturing in areas such as telecom and ICT.

Note: TEMA has signed a pact with Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC). TEMA will come on board as a partner organisation for CONNEXT 2021 – ICCC's 10 days-10 states virtual trade mission to India from June 11-25, 2021.

23. Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA) located in **Chennai** that has developed the country's first vaccine for deadly viral nervous necrosis (VNN) disease.

Note: Scientists say the VNN disease is a serious threat affecting many marine, brackishwater and freshwater fish causing up to 100% mortality in larval and early juvenile stages. The disease is caused by nervous necrosis virus (NNV). Red-spotted grouper nervous necrosis virus (RGNNV) is the only genotype prevalent in India and most other tropical countries. The vaccine can be used in all species susceptible to VNN such as Asian seabass, milkfish, grey mullet, mangrove red snapper etc."

24. **Indian Army** has set up a Covid Management Cell to bring in greater efficiency in coordinating real-time responses to address the exponential rise in Covid cases across the country _____

Note: In order to coordinate multiple facets of staffing and logistics support, an exclusive Covid Management Cell under a Director General rank officer has been established which reports directly to the Vice Chief of Army Staff. The force said that it helps in assistance to civil

administration in the form of testing, admissions in military hospitals, and transportation of critical medical equipment.

25. According to the 'Environmental Risk Outlook 2021' released by Verisk Maplecroft, **43** cities India has in the list of World's 100 most environmentally riskiest cities.

Note: Jakarta in Indonesia was ranked as the riskiest city in the world, followed by Delhi and Chennai. 99 of the World's 100 riskiest cities are in Asia. Lima, Peru is the only non-Asian city to be listed in the World's 100 Riskiest cities. Glasgow, Scotland was ranked as the safest city in the report.

26. According to the 'Environmental Risk Outlook 2021' released by Verisk Maplecroft, **New Delhi** is the riskiest city in India.

Note: Jakarta in Indonesia was ranked as the riskiest city in the world, followed by Delhi and Chennai. 99 of the World's 100 riskiest cities are in Asia. Lima, Peru is the only non-Asian city to be listed in the World's 100 Riskiest cities.

27. According to 'State of Indian Healthcare – Indian Cities through the lens of healthcare 2021' report released by Housing.com, **Pune, Maharashtra** is the healthiest city among the top 8 urban cities of India.

Note: The ranking is done with regard to parameters like number of hospital beds, ease of living, water quality, and local body performance. The top 3 cities are – Pune, Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Bengaluru (Karnataka).

28. With **Microsoft**, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has signed an MoU for digital transformation of Tribal schools such as Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), Ashram Schools, and other schools under MoTA.

Note: Under the agreement, Microsoft will make the Artificial Intelligence (AI) curriculum available to tribal students in English and Hindi at all EMRS schools. This is to ensure inclusion and access. During the 1st phase of the program, 250 EMRS schools will be adopted by Microsoft for the purpose.

29. **India** country hosted the 'GOA MARITIME SYMPOSIUM (GMS)-21' in which 13 Indian Ocean Littoral Countries Participated.

Note: The theme for GMS-21 was focused on "Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for IOR Navies". 13 Indian Ocean Littoral countries (India, Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand) participated in the GMS-21.



- 30.** According to the ranking released by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) **Jharkhand** ranked first among the 36 States & UTs of India based on the progress of implementation of Smart City projects.
Note: The rankings were released by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA). The ranking is based on factors like smart city plan implementation, ongoing work and tendering process, utilisation of funds and provision of utility certificates to the Central Government.
- 31.** Telangana health department has signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Health Authority for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat scheme.
Note: The guidelines for the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Scheme in the State was also issued by the state Medical and health department and will be implemented by the Aarogyasri Health Care Trust. The health insurance coverage is for Rs 5 lakh for beneficiaries.
- 32. Satpura Tiger Reserve** along with 5 other sites have been shortlisted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to be classified as world heritage sites.
Note: Six Indian sites, under the care of Archaeological Survey of India, have been shortlisted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to be classified as world heritage sites. The six Indian sites include the Satpura Tiger Reserve, the Iconic Riverfront at Varanasi, Hire Benkal, a megalithic site, Maratha military architecture in Maharashtra, Bhedaghat-Lametaghat in Narmada Valley, Jabalpur, and the temples of Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu.
- 33.** Six Indian sites have been shortlisted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to be classified as world heritage sites.
Note: The six Indian sites include:
1. Satpura Tiger Reserve
2. The Iconic Riverfront at Varanasi
3. Hire Benkal, a megalithic site
4. Maratha military architecture in Maharashtra
5. Bhedaghat-Lametaghat in Narmada Valley, Jabalpur, and
6. The temples of Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu.
- 34.** India's rank in the 57th Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) – May 2021, released by Ernst & Young Global Ltd (EY) is **Third**.
Note: The USA topped the index, while China took the 2nd Rank. India has improved its rank from 4th (in 56th RECAI) to 3rd due to its exceptional performance in the Solar PhotoVoltaic (PV) sector. Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) is a biannual report being released since 2/003.
- 35.** National Commission for Protection of Child Rights comes under administrative control of **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has Launched 'SAMVEDNA' to Provide Psycho-Social Mental Support for Children During Covid-19.
Note: SAMVEDNA stands for Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance. The main objective is to provide psychological first-aid and emotional support to children affected during COVID-19 Pandemic.
- 36.** India's largest Virtual Fair in the Home, Fashion, Lifestyle, Textiles and Furniture sector, the 51st Edition of Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair (IHGF) 2021 took place in **New Delhi**.
Note: It was organized by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH). It was inaugurated by Ravi K. Passi, Chairman of EPCH. IHGF is an exclusive Business-2-Business (B2B) online platform developed to assist buyers from all across the globe to source from India.
- 37.** The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) has partnered with **NITI Aayog** for implementation of Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) initiative under Van Dhan Yojna in 39 Tribal Aspirational districts.
Note: Van Dhan tribal start-ups or VDVK is a programme for value addition, branding & marketing of Minor Forest Produces by establishing Van Dhan Kendras to facilitate the creation of sustainable livelihoods for the forest-based tribes. A dedicated team consisting of members from TRIFED and NITI aayog will be for implementation of Van Dhan Yojana.
- 38.** Kuno National Park is located in **Madhya Pradesh** where 10 African Cheetahs will be brought from South Africa & Namibia.
Note: It is the 1st time in the world that a large carnivore will be relocated from one continent to another. As per the plan, 10 African Cheetahs will be brought from South Africa & Namibia and reintroduced in India. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has approved a budget of INR 1, 400 Lakh for the 2021 Fiscal under 'Project Cheetah'.
- 39. National Green Tribunal** has constituted a committee to submit a report on alleged violation of norms in the construction of a reservoir across the Cauvery river at Makedatu in Karnataka.



Note: NGT bench consisting of Justice K Ramakrishnan took suo motu cognizance of newspaper report regarding the dam. Report states Karnataka proposes to construct a dam across Cauvery river even though proposal was deferred by Cauvery Water Management Authority twice in past because of opposition from Tamil Nadu government.

40. Mohali International Hockey Stadium has been renamed **Balbir Singh Senior** by the government of Punjab.

Note: He passed away at the age of 96 on 25th May 2020. Balbir Singh Senior won three Olympic gold medals from the Olympic Games held in London (1948), Helsinki (1952) and Melbourne (1956). He served as the vice-captain of the Indian team during the Helsinki (1952) and as the Captain during the Melbourne (1956) games.

41. Under chairmanship of **Nilesh Shah** the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), the regulator of GIFT- City, constituted a 12-member expert committee on investment funds (IF).

Note: The Committee consists of leaders from the entire Fund Management ecosystem including from areas such as technology, distribution, legal, compliance, and operations. The aim is to develop a comprehensive and consistent regulatory framework for IF based on global best practices with a special focus on ease of doing business.

42. **IIM Indore** has partnered with The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) to identify the challenges across pandemic-hit sectors and to figure out ways to tackle them.

Note: For this IIM Indore has received a research grant of Rs 85.3 lakh. Covid-19 has not only impacted the health index of several countries (WHO 2020); but also created the macro-level turbulence that has severe implications for economic political social and psychological well-being. The institutions will now work together on documenting the challenges faced by these business sectors and their ways of tackling challenges.

43. The Mid-Day-Meal Scheme (MDM) scheme is implemented by **Ministry for Education** that has approved proposal to provide monetary assistance to 11.8 Crore students through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of the cooking cost component.

Note: Class 1-8 students who are studying in 11.20 Lakh Government and Government aided schools across India will be benefitted. Each Child will get approximately INR 100 under the One-time welfare measure. The INR 1200 Crore fund has been provided from the Cooking cost component of MDM Scheme.

44. Under the chairmanship of **Srikrishna Deva Rao** the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has constituted a 5-member Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws.

Note: The Committee is appointed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to reform Indian Penal Code (IPC) is set to propose a separate Section in IPC on 'Offences relating to speech and expression'. Purpose – At present there is no definition of what is 'Hate Speech' in IPC, The Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws is attempting for the 1st time to define it.

April 2021

1. **140th** is India's rank in the in the Global Gender Gap index 2021 among 156 countries, released by World Economic Forum.

Note: India was ranked 112th among 153 countries in 2020. India emerged as the third-worst performing country in South Asia. Iceland has topped the index for 12th time, followed by Finland, Norway, New Zealand, Rwanda, Sweden, Ireland and Switzerland. Afghanistan is the worst-performing country in the report. The Global Gender Gap Report 2021 is 15th edition of the annual publication by WEF

2. Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Mansukh Mandaviya, virtually flagged off the Cruise Ship service between Hazira Port of Surat and **Diu**.
Note: Between 2014 to 2020, Cruise calls at Indian Ports have increased from 139 calls with around 1 lakh

passengers to 450 calls with over 4.5 lakh passengers. Indian Govt. is planning for 6 International Cruise Terminals

3. India's biggest floating solar power plant with a capacity of 100 megawatt is expected to become operational in **Telangana**.

Note: The project has been set up by the energy conglomerate National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in the reservoir of its thermal power plant at Ramagundam, Peddapalli district. The solar photovoltaic project, spread over 450 acres, will have 4.5 lakh photovoltaic panels and it can be expanded in the future.

4. **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** has won the number one rank in the Academic Ranking of World



Universities (ARWU) 2020 also known as Shanghai Ranking.

Note: As per the ARWU Ranking 2020 of top institutions in India, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) was on the number one rank while the University of Calcutta was on the third spot among all premier higher educational institutions in the country. Calcutta University has secured first place among Indian universities and third position among top higher educational institutions in the country in the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2020.

5. Spices Board India is under administrative control of **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has signed an MoU with UNDP India's Accelerator Lab to build a blockchain based traceability interface for Indian spices to enhance transparency in supply chain and trade.

Note: Blockchain is a decentralized process of recording transactions on an open and shared electronic ledger. This allows for ease and transparency in data management across a complex network, including, farmers, brokers, distributors, processors, retailers, regulators, and consumers, thus simplifying the supply chain.

6. **Dr BR Ambedkar** birth anniversary has been declared as a public holiday 2021, under Section 25 of Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

Note: As per an official order of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Central government offices, Industrial Establishments throughout the country will also remain closed on the 14th April BR Ambedkar inspired Dalit Buddhist movement and was independent India's first Minister of Law and Justice.

7. **Anamaya** initiative jointly launched by the Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan and Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda to enhance the health and nutrition status of the tribal communities.

Note: A multi-stakeholder initiative supported by Piramal Foundation and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Anamaya will converge efforts of various Government agencies and organisations to enhance the health and nutrition status of the tribal communities.

8. **Narendra Singh Tomar** has launched the "मधुक्रान्तिपोर्टल" and Honey Corners of NAFED to enable traceability source of honey and other beehive products.

Note: "मधुक्रान्तिपोर्टल" is an initiative of National Bee Board (NBB), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare under National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM). This portal is being developed for online

registration to achieve traceability source of Honey and other beehive products on a digital platform. The technical and banking partner for development of this digital platform is Indian Bank.

9. **Flipkart** partnered with Mahindra Logistics Limited (MLL) for fast-track deployment of electric vehicles across its logistics fleet.

Note: The partnership is made for fast-track deployment of electric vehicles across its logistics fleet in the country. Both the entities will develop a conducive environment for EV deployment and operations in India. They will jointly develop supportive infrastructure and technology like charging stations and parking lots, training workforce, route planning and battery swapping stations.

10. **\$500,000** has been contributed by India to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism.

Note: India has contributed an additional \$500,000 to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism, taking the country's donation to the UN office set up to combat terrorism to over \$1 million. With this amount, India's total contribution to it so far is \$1.05 million.

11. **SUPACE** Artificial Intelligence portal has been launched by the Supreme Court of India.

Note: Through this portal, the SC intends to leverage machine learning to deal with the vast amounts of data received at the time of filing of cases. Justice L Nageshwara Rao, who is also the chairman of the SC's Artificial Intelligence Committee, delivered the opening address during the virtual launch of SUPACE.

12. Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' presented Lilavati Awards 2020 on women empowerment, the award was instituted by **AICTE**.

Note: The awards ceremony was based on the theme of women empowerment. Based on the theme 'Women Empowerment', AICTE finalized the winners of Lilavati Awards 2020 from a total of 456 entries who competed across 6 sub themes, which include:

- ✓ Women's Health
- ✓ Self-Defense
- ✓ Sanitation and Hygiene
- ✓ Literacy
- ✓ Women Entrepreneurship
- ✓ Legal Awareness.

The winner received Rs 1 Lakh cash prize. First runner-up got Rs 75,000 and second runner up got Rs 50,000.

13. **SARTHAQ** initiative has been launched by the Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' to implement the National Education Policy 2020.

Note: The full form of SARTHAQ is 'Students' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality Education. This implementation plan was released as a



part of the celebrations leading to the Amrit Mahotsav on 75 years of Indian independence. The plan delineates the roadmap for the implementation of NEP 2020 for the next 10 years.

14. #ViralWorld: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of

Control is the theme of the 6th Edition of the prestigious Raisina Dialogue, jointly organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Observer Research Foundation.

Note: The 6th Edition of the prestigious Raisina Dialogue, jointly organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Observer Research Foundation, will be held virtually from 13-16 April, 2021. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurated the Dialogue

15. Ministry of External Affairs has organized the 6th Edition of the prestigious Raisina Dialogue along with Observer Research Foundation.

Note: The 6th Edition of the prestigious Raisina Dialogue, jointly organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Observer Research Foundation, will be held virtually from 13-16 April, 2021. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurated the Dialogue.

16. NITI Aayog has launched 'Poshan Gyan', a national digital repository on health and nutrition in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Centre for Social and Behaviour Change, Ashoka University.

Note: NITI Aayog, in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Centre for Social and Behaviour Change, Ashoka University launched Poshan Gyan, a national digital repository on health and nutrition. The launch event was addressed by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar, CEO Amitabh Kant, Women and Child Development Secretary Ram Mohan Mishra and Additional Secretary Dr Rakesh Sarwal.

17. e-SANTA is the name of the e-marketplace that will connect aqua farmers and the buyers launched by Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal.

Note: It will enable farmers to get a better price and the exporters to directly purchase quality products from them. The full form of the e-Santa is "Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA farmers' Trade in Aquaculture"

18. Transforming Food Systems After COVID-19 is the theme of the Global Food Policy Report 2021 published by the International Food Policy Research Institute.

Note: This year the institute has released the report based on the theme "Transforming Food Systems After COVID-19". As per the report the severe health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have disrupted food systems and upended livelihoods.

19. Aahaar Kranti mission has been launched by the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan to raise awareness of the importance of nutritionally balanced diet and the importance of accessibility to all local fruits & vegetables.

Note: It is a joint initiative of Vijnana Bharati (Vibha), Global Indian Scientists' and Technocrats' Forum (GIST), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) & Pravasi Bharatiya Academic and Scientific Sampark (PRABHASS). The motto of the Mission is Uttam Aahaar Uttam Vichaar or 'Good Diet-Good Cognition'. It aims to achieve nutritional balanced diets by emphasizing on consumption of locally sourced fruits and vegetables.

20. MANAS app has been launched by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government for to promote wellbeing across age groups.

Note: MANAS which stands for Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System was endorsed as a national program by the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council. It is a comprehensive, scalable, and national digital wellbeing platform and an app developed to augment mental well-being of Indian citizens. The application integrates the health and wellness efforts of various government ministries, scientifically validated indigenous tools with gamified interfaces developed by various national bodies and research institutions.

21. India hosted the summit of BRICS Finance Ministers.

Note: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman emphasised the key role the BRICS group was playing in responding to the current global crisis through policy support and by enhancing international policy coordination. She was addressing the first meeting of BRICS finance ministers and central bank governors meeting virtually from New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by Sitharaman and RBI governor Shaktikanta Das.

22. With Microsoft the Agricultural Ministry of India recently signed Memorandum of Understanding to implement a pilot project in 100 villages of six states to promote digital agriculture.

Note: Microsoft will start a pilot project in 100 villages in 10 districts of 6 states (Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh) to develop farmer interface for smart and well-organised agriculture, including post-harvest management and distribution. For this project, Microsoft has tied up with its local partner, CropData. The project is for one year and both sides inking the MoU will bear the cost on their own.

23. 49th is India's rank in the 'Inclusive Internet Index' 2021 released by the Economist Intelligence Unit along with Facebook.



Note: India is set to reach one billion internet users by 2025. There were over 687.6 million internet users in India in 2020. The Facebook 'Inclusive Internet Index' looked at 120 countries, representing 98 per cent of global GDP and 96 per cent of global population.

24. With online travel companies **Cleartrip & Ease My Trip** the Ministry of Tourism signed an MoU to strengthen the Hospitality & Tourism Industry especially during COVID.

Note: The aim of the MoU is to provide extensive visibility to accommodation units which have self-certified themselves on SAATHI (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for the Hospitality Industry) on OTA platform MoU also outlines both parties to encourage Units to register on NIDHI and thereby on SAATHI and encourage local tourism Industry.

25. **Piyush Goyal** launched the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) aims at providing financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market-entry, and commercialization.

Note: The Fund aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market-entry, and commercialization. The government has approved Rs. 945 Crore corpus for the fund, which will be divided over the next 4 years beginning April 01, 2021, for providing seed funding to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India. The scheme is expected to support an estimated 3,600 startups through 300 incubators.

26. **84th** is India's rank in the Henley Passport Index 2021.

Note: India stands at number 84 on the list, as the Indian citizens can visit Visa-Free or Visa-on-Arrival in over 58 places. Japan, Singapore and Germany, South Korea stand in Top 3 respectively.

27. India ranked **142nd** in the latest World Press Freedom Index 2021, released by international non-profit and non-governmental organization "Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

Note: In the report India has been classified among the world's most dangerous countries for journalists. India was at 142nd position in 2020 as well. India was ranked in the "bad" category, along with Brazil, Mexico and Russia. In south Asia, Nepal was placed 106, Sri Lanka 127, Myanmar 140, Pakistan 145 and Bangladesh at the 152nd spot. China was ranked 177, and the US 44.

28. According to the National Climate Vulnerability Assessment report titled 'Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Adaptation Planning in India Using a Common Framework' released by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) **eight** eastern state have

been identified as Highly Vulnerable to Climate Change.

Note: The 8 states are – Jharkhand, Mizoram, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, and West Bengal. Among all states, Assam, Bihar, and Jharkhand have over 60% districts in the category of highly vulnerable districts.

29. India has signed an agreement titled "Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment" on Technical cooperation with **Germany** over a virtual event in New Delhi.

Note: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (**GIZ**) GmbH India signed the agreement on behalf of the government of Germany. The project is expected to be a collaborative effort under the Indo-German bilateral development corporation on sustainable urban transformation. This project will be undertaken at national level in selected states (Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands) and in the cities of Kanpur, Kochi, Port Blair. Project period: **three and half years**.

30. Indian Army Chief General M M Naravane attended the Army Chiefs' Conclave that was held in **Bangladesh**.

Note: The Conclave was held on the sidelines of Multinational Military Exercise 'Shantir Ogroshena 2021' (Front Runner of Peace) held at Bangabandhu Senanibas (BBS), Bangladesh from April 4-12, 2021. During the conclave, Naravane delivered a keynote address on 'Changing Nature of Global Conflicts: Role of UN Peacekeepers'. He visited Bangladesh from April 8-12 on the invitation of Bangladesh Army General Aziz Ahmed.

31. India ranked **87th** in the Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2021 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) that tracks nations on the current performance of their energy systems across various aspects.

Note: The report was published by the World Economic Forum (WEF). The report, prepared in collaboration with Accenture, also draws on insights from ETI. The top 10 countries in the index are Western and Northern European countries, with Sweden in the first place, followed by Norway and Denmark. "China (68) and India (87), which collectively account for a third of global energy demand, have both made strong improvements over the past decade, despite coal continuing to play a significant role in their energy mix.

32. **Arvind Kejriwal** represented Delhi and India at the World Cities Cultural Forum (WCCF) 2021.

Note: It is a forum of 40 top cities of world including London, Tokyo and New York. The WCCF 2021 Forum was hosted by London. The WCCF is an annual summit attended by the deputy mayors for culture and heads of culture from the member cities & it will be hosted by



- each member City annually. The theme of WCCF 2021 is "The Future of Culture".
- 33.** The Indian Air Force Commanders Conference 2021 took place in New Delhi, with theme '**Reorienting for the Future**'.
- Note:** The theme of the conference was – 'Reorienting for the Future'. Other subjects of discussions were identifying challenges across all threat domains, incorporation of new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence & 5G into the service.
- 34.** **Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Tamil Nadu** became the only Indian University to make it to the list of World's Top 100 Educational Institutions in the 3rd edition of Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2021.
- Note:** Apart from Amrita Vishwa University, two Indian Universities namely Karnataka-based JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research and Punjab-based Lovely Professional University were ranked in the list with a place in the 100-200 grouping. At the global level, University of Manchester (UK), University of Sydney (Australia) & RMIT University (Australia) grabbed the top 3 places.
- 35.** The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **IIT Kharagpur** to set-up an Accelerator Centre for Research & Development in the institute.
- Note:** The centre will act as an incubation hub for creation & development of technological products. The Accelerator Centre will act similar to Central govt's "ASHA-India initiative". About Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA): Minister of State Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)– Hardeep Singh Puri.
- 36.** Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) of Indian Air Force (IAF), Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria recently visited to **France**.
- Note:** During his visit he flagged off four Rafale aircraft for India. During his visit to France, he flagged off the
- four Rafale fighter jets for India from a Merignac airbase in France. These jets once inducted into service will complete the first Rafale squadron No. 17 Golden Arrows based at Ambala. The next(2nd) squadron will be based in Hasimara air base in West Bengal.
- 37.** India ranked 49th in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI), which classifies 104 countries in terms of government capabilities and outcomes.
- Note:** The Chandler Good Government Index shows the importance of measuring and investing in governance capabilities that matter. It highlights a key need for 'pracademics' in government – people who combine a rigorous understanding of research and data with a practical and grounded sense of what governments need to do to succeed. Finland has topped the CGGI list, in which each country is measured across over 50 open data points.
- 38.** **Russia** becomes the fourth country with which India has decided to hold '2+2 ministerial dialogue' between foreign, defence ministers.
- Note:** 2+2 Ministerial is the highest-level institutional mechanism between the two countries. It is a format of dialogue where the defence/foreign ministers or secretaries meet with their counterparts from another country.
- 39.** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) has certified around 14, 491 Hectares of land as 'Organic Area' under the 'Large Area Certification (LAC)' scheme in **Car Nicobar and Nancowry Islands**.
- Note:** It became the 1st large contiguous territory to be conferred with organic certification. LAC is a certification programme under the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare's (DAC&FW) flagship scheme 'Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)'. The organic certification will help farmers in getting direct access to the emerging organic food market of the country

Important News – World

September (1-15th)

- 1.** 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.
- 2.** 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.
- 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.

- 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.

August 2021

- A hotline has been set up between the Indian and Chinese armies in **Sikkim**.
Note: The hotline is between the Indian Army in Kongra La, North Sikkim and China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) at Khamba Dzong in Tibetan Autonomous Region. The inauguration of the hotline was attended by ground commanders of the two sides and a message of friendship and harmony was exchanged.
- India** has the Presidency of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for August 2021.
Note: India will decide the agenda for August and coordinate important meetings and other related issues. India will focus on three priority areas during its presidency: maritime security, peacekeeping, and counter-terrorism. India joined UNSC in January 2021 for 2-year term as one of the 10 rotating non-permanent members.
- Germany** country became the 5th country to sign International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement after amendments to it entered into force on 8th January 2021, opening its Membership to all Member States of the United Nations.
Note: Membership to the ISA was earlier limited to 121 countries, which were partially or entirely located within the tropics. This didn't allow major solar energy economies to join the alliance. ISA initiative was launched in 2015.
- The lightest trainset and Pune's first metro was unveiled in **Italy**.
Note: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs said that the train will be delivered to India by December this year. It is being manufactured by Titagarh Wagons Ltd, a company based out of Titagarh in West Bengal. They conducted a virtual ceremony to showcase their first train manufactured for Pune metro.

The Rs 11,420 crore Pune Metro Project is being executed jointly by the Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited and the Government of Maharashtra as 50:50 stakeholders.

- The US has approved the sale of Harpoon Joint Common Test Set (JCTS) and related equipment to **India**.
Note: It will help strengthen the bilateral strategic ties and improve the security of a major defensive partner in the Indo-Pacific region. The Pentagon's Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) delivered the required certification notifying the US Congress of this possible sale, according to an official statement.
- Singapore** ranked first in the 2020 Global Youth Development Index, which measures the status of young people in 181 countries around the world released by the Commonwealth Secretariat.
Note: Singapore ranked top for the first time followed by Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark. Chad, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Niger finished at the bottom, respectively. The index ranks countries between 0.00 (lowest) and 1.00 (highest), according to the developments in youth education, employment, health, equality and inclusion, peace and security, and political and civic participation.
- 7th edition of International Army Games 2021 will be held in **Russia**.
Note: It is the seventh edition of International Army Games. The competition will be hosted in eleven countries in 2021 Games. The games are organised each year by Russian Ministry of Defence, since 2015.
- The 11th Annual meeting of the Forum of the Election Management Bodies of SouthAsia (FEMBoSA) for the year 2021 was hosted by **Bhutan**.
Note: The meeting in Virtual mode was hosted by the Election Commission of Bhutan. Alongwith India,



- delegations from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated in the day-long meeting. Shri Sushil Chandra, CEC, as the outgoing Chair of FEMBoSA, virtually handed over the Chairmanship of FEMBoSA to H.E. Dasho Sonam Topgay, Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan.
9. China has set the goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2060.
Note: However, this also made China the biggest emitter of carbon dioxide. As a result, China has set the goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2060. Carbon neutral means cutting carbon dioxide emissions as large as possible and offsetting what cannot be eliminated. This can be done by switching to renewable energy sources like using solar power instead of coal.
10. **Commonwealth Secretariat** has released the Global Youth Development Index in which India stood at 122nd globally among 181 countries.
Note: Singapore ranked top for the first time followed by Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark. Chad, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Niger finished at the bottom, respectively.
11. In collaboration with **United Nations**, India has launched a tech platform named "UNITE Aware" for improving the safety and security of the UN peacekeepers.
Note: The platform was launched in the presence of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the UN headquarters. The launch of the UNITE AWARE platform came as India assumed the Presidency of the 15-nation UN Security Council for the month of August
12. **Sweden** becomes the first country in the world to manufacture first fossil-free steel (Green Steel).
Note: It has been developed by HYBRIT Technology and its first delivery was done to truck-manufacturer Volvo AB as a trial run. The initiative was in process since 2016. Full-scale production of green steel will begin from 2026.
13. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and **UNCTAD** have extended their collaboration to facilitate international trade, particularly e-commerce.
Note: The extended partnership will enrich their history of working together. This includes the successful integration of air cargo messaging standards (CargoXML) into UNCTAD's automated customs management system ASYCUDAWorld. For the 100 countries choosing to deploy the latest version of ASYCUDAWorld, this enables more efficient processing of air cargo shipments.
14. According to a report prepared by British company HouseFresh **Hotan** has been named the most polluted city in the world.
Note: Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad was adjudged the second most polluted city out of the 50 'most polluted cities' in the world in 2020 by a report prepared by British company HouseFresh.
15. **India** will host the 2nd United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) in October 2022 on the theme 'Towards Geo-enabling the Global Village'.
Note: This information was provided during the curtain raiser event which was organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) on the lines of 11th Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) to be held during the end of August 2021. It was inaugurated by Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST.
16. **Operation Devi Shakti** is the name that has been given by India to its operation of evacuating its citizens from war-torn Afghanistan.
Note: External affairs minister S Jaishankar called the evacuation process as 'Operation Devi Shakti' while saluting the efforts of Indian Air Force and Air India. This announcement was made after 78 people, including 25 Indian nationals, were brought to India from Dushanbe (Tajikistan) in a special Air India flight.
17. **Copenhagen** has been named as the world's safest city from among 60 global cities, in Safe Cities Index 2021, released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
Note: The Danish capital surpassed former frontrunners like Tokyo, Singapore and Osaka in the fourth edition of the EIU's biennial Safe Cities Index, which for the first time included environmental security metrics. In a study of five pillars of urban security — digital, health, infrastructure, personal and environmental — Copenhagen topped the charts, scoring 82.4 points out of 100.
18. **Shaping an Equitable, Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery** will be the theme of the World Economic Forum's annual Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2021 to be held on September 20-23, 2021 in Geneva, Switzerland.
Note: This year's event will focus strongly on inclusively revitalizing economies. The United Nations General Assembly, the summit convenes under the theme "Shaping an Equitable, Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery". It will welcome almost all leaders from government, business and civil society who will work together to drive action and build momentum for a more sustainable and inclusive future.
19. World's largest and tallest observation wheel is set to be unveiled in **Dubai**.
Note: This observation wheel is known as 'Ain Dubai'. It is 250 m (820 ft) in height and is located at Bluewaters Island. This record breaking wheel is 42.5 m (139 ft) taller than the current world's tallest observation



wheel, High Roller, in Las Vegas, measuring 167.6 m (550 ft)

20. 27th Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress was held in **Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire** in that India has been elected to its Council of Administration (CA).

Note: India with 134 votes got highest votes in CA elections from South Asia and Oceania region. India was also elected with 106 votes out of 156 countries to

the Postal Operations Council (POC) at the 27th UPU Congress in Abidjan.

21. **Sweden** becomes the first country in the world to manufacture first fossil-free steel (Green Steel).
Note: It has been developed by HYBRIT Technology and its first delivery was done to truck-manufacturer Volvo AB as a trial run. The initiative was in process since 2016. Full-scale production of green steel will begin from 2026.

July 2021

1. **Singapore** has signed an agreement with the Royal Government of Bhutan on the establishment of Model Technical Training Centres (MTTC) as part of growing between the two countries.

Note: The agreement was signed by Sonam Tobgay, Director of Bilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bhutan, and Simon Wong, Ambassador of Singapore to Bhutan. It is seen as one of the outcomes of Bhutan's opening up to the outside world. India with whom Bhutan has a special relationship has warm ties with Singapore with the city state setting up vocational training institutes for Indian youth in places like Rajasthan and Assam in recent years.

2. USA ranked first in the Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021 by Startup Blink.

Note: The country was in the 17th spot in 2019 and slid six spots down in 2020 and stood at 23. Like last year, the US, the UK, Israel, Canada and Germany are in the top five spots. The report has a score for each location, which is calculated as the sum of three parameters — quantity, quality and business environment.

3. To be commissioned in December 2021 the Rampal Maitree Power project is being built by India in **Bangladesh**.

Note: The event will be coinciding with the Golden jubilee celebration of the liberation of Bangladesh. The second unit is expected to be commissioned matching with the implementation of the associated transmission system. The Power Secretaries of both the countries held a meeting through video conferencing

4. World's second-biggest hydroelectric dam, the Baihetan Dam is located in **China** that was turn on officially.

Note: The Baihetan Dam on the Jinsha River, a tributary of the Yangtze, is part of Chinese efforts to curb surging fossil fuel demand by building more hydropower capacity at a time when dams have fallen out of favor in other countries due to environmental complaints. Plans call for the 289-meter-tall (954-foot-tall) Baihetan Dam to have 16 generating units with a capacity of 1 million kilowatts each. That will make it second in size after the

Three Gorges Dam, opened in 2003 on the Yangtze, with 22.5 million kilowatts of generating capacity.

5. **China** was certified as malaria-free by the World Health Organisation, following a 70-year effort to eradicate the mosquito-borne disease.

Note: China was certified as malaria-free by the World Health Organisation, following a 70-year effort to eradicate the mosquito-borne disease. The country reported 30 million cases of the infectious disease annually in the 1940s but has now gone four consecutive years without an indigenous case.

6. Jovenel Moise the President of **Haiti** was assassinated in an attack on his residence.

Note: The acting Prime Minister Claude Joseph declared a state of seige in the country. Haitian National Police have detained two suspects and killed four others connected to the assassination. Haiti is a Caribbean country that shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic to its east.

7. **International Air Transport Association (IATA)** has launched a global mobility aids action group to examine and improve the transport journey of mobility aids, including wheelchairs, with the objective of improving the handling of this vital equipment for travelers with disabilities.

Note: The action group will be the first of its kind aimed at tackling issues around the safe and secure transport of mobility aids—an issue of huge importance to a growing number of travelers. It will also provide advice and recommendations to airlines and other stakeholders concerning the establishment of policy, process and standards related to the handling and transport of mobility aids.

8. Nepal Investment Board has signed a pact with **SJVN Ltd** to develop the 679-megawatt (MW) Lower Arun Hydro Electric Project in eastern Nepal.

Note: The National Investment Board of the Himalayan Nation announced that the pact was signed with India's state-owned Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) which is the second mega project undertaken by Southern neighbour. The memorandum of understanding MoU was signed by



- SJVNL Chairman and Managing Director Nand Lal Sharma and IBN Chief Executive Officer Sushil Bhatta.
9. Recently Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched BHIM–UPI services in **Bhutan**.
Note: With launch of BHIM–UPI in Bhutan, payment infrastructures of the two countries are seamlessly connected and will benefit a large number of tourists and businessmen from India who travel to Bhutan each year. Bhutan is the first country to adopt UPI standards for its QR deployment, and the first country in our immediate neighbourhood to accept mobile based payments through the BHIM App.
 10. **21** targets have been set up in the first official draft of a new Global Biodiversity Framework released by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to guide actions worldwide through 2030 to preserve and protect nature and its essential services to people.
Note: The framework includes 21 targets for 2030 that call for, among other things, at least 30 per cent of land and sea areas global, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, conserved through effective, equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.
 11. **Singapore** has unveiled one of the World's largest floating solar panel farms, which can produce enough electricity to power its five water treatment plants quadrupling its solar energy production by 2025.
Note: It is located on a reservoir in western Singapore. It is 60 megawatt-peak solar photovoltaic farm with 1,22,000 solar panels and has been built by a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sembcorp Industries. It will help to reduce carbon emissions by about 32 kilo tonnes annually, comparable to taking 7,000 cars off the roads.
 12. **UAE** has become the first Gulf country to open an embassy in Israel.
Note: UAE embassy is situated in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, Israel, followed by the inauguration of Israel's embassy in the UAE last month. Normalisation of ties between UAE and Israel were discussed for the first time on trade and investment opportunities across various fields, including economy, air travel, technology and culture. Sudan and Morocco have since also moved to establish ties with Israel
 13. European Commission (EC), the executive branch of European Union (EU) proposed plans to impose World's 1st 'Carbon Border Tax' from **2026**.
Note: It aims to protect European industries from competitors abroad not subject to the same carbon levies. During the transitional phase from 2023-25, Importers will monitor and report their emissions.
 14. **India** is not a part of the Quad group formed for Afghanistan peace process.
Note: Representatives of the United States, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan agreed in principle to establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform focused on enhancing regional connectivity. The parties consider long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan critical to regional connectivity and agree that peace and regional connectivity are mutually reinforcing. The parties see the establishment of the group as a means to bolster regional trade, build new transit routes and strengthen business ties.
 15. Russia will conduct military drills with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan near Afghan border.
Note: The joint drills will take place August 5-10 at the Kharbmaidon training ground in Tajikistan near the Afghan border. The troops will run drills to defeat illegal armed units that invaded the territory of an allied country.
 16. Historic Urban Landscape Project of UNESCO was started in **2011**.
Note: It is an approach to the management of heritage resources in dynamic and constantly changing environments. It is based on the recognition and identification of a layering and interconnection of natural and cultural, tangible and intangible, international and local values present in any city.
 17. World's first 3D-printed stainless-steel bridge has been inaugurated in **Amsterdam**.
Note: It was developed by MX3D, a Dutch robotics company, in collaboration with a consortium of experts, and represents a major milestone for 3D-printing technology. After four years of development, the bridge was unveiled by **Her Majesty Queen Máxima** of the Netherlands. It was installed over one of the oldest canals in Amsterdam's city centre – the Oudezijds Achterburgwal.
 18. **Naples** city hosted the G20 Environment Ministerial Meeting 2021.
Note: The host city of this meet was Naples, Italy. The meeting was held as part of 16th G20 Leaders' Summit, scheduled to be held in October 2021, under the Presidency of Italy, with primary theme of 'People, Planet and Prosperity'. Union Environment Minister of India, Bhupender Yadav participated in the two-day G20 Environment Ministerial Meeting 2021 virtually, along with Minister of State for Environment Ashwini Choubey and senior officials
 19. **Philippines** will become the first country in the world to be able to cultivate a variety of rice enriched with nutrients to help reduce childhood malnutrition, after receiving the green light from regulators.



Note: Golden Rice was developed by Dept of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute (DA-PhilRice) in partnership with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) to contain additional levels of beta-carotene, which the body converts into vitamin A. Golden Rice is genetically engineered to provide up to 50% of the estimated average requirement (EAR) for vitamin A of young children.

- 20. Uzbekistan** has hosted a high-level International Conference titled “Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities”.
Note: Challenges and Opportunities” at Tashkent. The conference was an initiative of the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev. It was attended by President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani, Ministers from Central Asian, West Asian and South Asian countries, including Minister of External Affairs of India Dr. S. Jaishankar.

- 21. Landscape garden, Sitio Burle Marx** site is located in **Brazil** that has been added to UNESCO’s list of World Heritage sites.

Note: The garden features more than 3,500 species of plants native to Rio and is considered a laboratory for botanical and landscape experimentation. It has been named after Burle Marx, a Brazilian landscape architect whose designs of parks and gardens made him world-famous. It is the 23rd Brazilian location recognized on UNESCO’s list of World Heritage sites

- 22. Alphabet** has announced to launch a new company, known as Intrinsic, which will focus on building industrial robot software.

Note: It will focus on releasing new robotic software and projects related to artificial intelligence that will develop delivery drones and self-driving cars. The motive is to add flexibility to the smaller businesses performing a USB connection task. It will help the manufacturing industry to ensure that user’s demands are kept in mind.

June 2021

- 1. South Korea** hosted the Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030 Summit.
Note: During the summit UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed for a global partnership to tackle climate change and strive toward inclusive green growth. He also said that, tackling climate change head-on will help protect the most vulnerable people from the next crisis while sustaining a job-rich recovery from COVID-19.
- The Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) opens its first European innovation centre in **Netherlands**.
Note: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will bring universities, businesses, startups and government together at its latest innovation hub in Amsterdam to help use digital technology to solve sustainability challenges. It will focus on sustainability challenges faced by organisations and becomes the first in a network of hubs, known as TCS Pace Ports, in Europe.
- Microsoft** has launched first ever “Asia Pacific Public Sector Cyber Security Executive Council”.
Note: It was launched with the aim of building strong communications channel to address cyber threats and to share best practices among participating countries. Cybersecurity Council comprises of policy makers and influencers from countries like Indonesia, Korea, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, and Thailand. It is supported by cybersecurity professionals. Council was set up with the aim of accelerating public-private

partnerships in cybersecurity, and share threat intelligence.

- 4. India** has launched the Mission Innovation CleanTech Exchange, a global initiative, that will create a network of incubators across member countries to accelerate clean energy innovation.

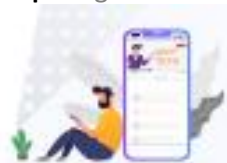
Note: The network, launched virtually at the Innovating to Net Zero Summit hosted by Chile. It will provide access to the expertise and market insights needed to support new technologies to access new markets globally. India among 23 governments collectively launched bold new plans to catalyze action and spearheaded a decade of innovation to drive global investment in clean energy research, development and demonstrations.

- 5. Fire stricken MV X-Press Pearl** cargo ship sinks near Colombo Harbour belongs to **Singapore**.

Note: The towing the ship to the deeper seas was abandoned as the stern of the ship sank to the seabed when it was being towed 500 to 600 meters westward, reported Colombo Page. X-Press Feeders, operators of the container ship 'X-Press Pearl' reported that despite salvors successfully boarding the vessel and attaching a tow wire, efforts to move the ship to deeper waters have failed. X-Press Pearl with a container leaking nitric acid reported smoke from the cargo hold on the 20th May while anchorage at 9.5 nautical miles northwest of the Port of Colombo. The vessel reported fire on deck on May 21.



6. Kharg is the largest warship of **Iran** that caught fire and sank in the Gulf of Oman.
Note: State media reported 400 troops on board fled the vessel, with some 20 suffering injuries. The vessel sank near the Iranian port of Jask, some 1,270 kilometers (790 miles) southeast of Tehran on the Gulf of Oman near the Strait of Hormuz — the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf.
7. **Manama** city topped the AIRINC Global 150 Cities Index for Financial Attractiveness ranking.
Note: Indicators used for calculating Financial Attractiveness – Salary levels, Cost of Living, and Taxes in a particular market. Seven cities from the MENA (Middle East North Africa) region were among the Top 16. 1st Country in the MENA region to develop an economic diversification strategy away from hydrocarbons. Currently, over 80% of the country's GDP depends on the Non-Oil sector.
8. **Denmark** parliament has to build the world's first artificial island with the aim to provide clean energy in North Sea.
Note: The size of the island will be 1 sq mile (2.6 sq km), the project is to begin later this year. The giant island, named Lynetteholm, would be connected to the mainland via a ring road, tunnels and a metro line. Plans for Lynetteholm include a dam system around its perimeter, with the aim of protecting the harbour from rising sea levels and storm surges.
9. **International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol)** has launched a new global database named "I-Familia" to identify missing persons through family DNA and help the police solve cold cases in member countries.
Note: I-Familia has three components: a dedicated global database to host the DNA profiles provided by relatives, held separately from any criminal data; DNA matching software called Bonaparte, developed by Dutch company Smart Research; and interpretation guidelines developed by Interpol.
10. **Germany** hosted the 8th triennial conference of the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI).
Note: Germany's Federal Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt-UBA) hosted the conference for the 1st time since its inception. The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety is supported the UBA. UN Environment Programme, UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and UN Economic Commission on Europe, also addressed the conference. The conference was attended by over 800 scientists and other stakeholders from over 60 countries.
11. **USA** to hand over three MH-60 Romeo multirole helicopters to Indian Navy.
Note: The first batch of Indian pilots has also reached the US for training on the helicopters which would be arriving in India next year in July. India and the US had signed over- ₹16,000 crore deal to buy 24 MH-60 Romeo helicopters from Lockheed Martin in 2020 under fast track procedures on a government-to-government deal to hasten the process.
12. **Russia** formally exits from Open Skies Treaty, after United States withdrew from pact in 2020.
Note: Signed on March 24 1992, the pact allows for unarmed surveillance over the territories of its 34 member states. Russia has become the second country to exit the pact following a Donald Trump-led US' exit from the treaty last year. Open Skies Treaty is an international treaty that allow nations to collect information on one another's military forces to increase transparency
13. **El Salvador** has become world's first country to grant legal tender status to bitcoin.
Note: Bitcoin use as legal tender will become law in 90 days. Its economy heavily relies on remittances and so those who are working abroad can send money back home in bitcoins too. It will bring financial inclusion, investment, tourism, innovation and economic development in the country.
14. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index 2021 **Auckland** becomes the most livable city in the world.
Note: The annual list did not go ahead in 2020, but Austria's Vienna, number one in both 2018 and 2019, has completely dropped out of the top 10 after being heavily effected by Covid, and now sits in 12th place. New Zealand's capital Wellington was fourth on this year's list, tying with Japan's Tokyo, and four cities of Australia, where tough border controls have been in place throughout the crisis, occupy the top 10.
15. First edition of the two-day Arab-India Energy Forum (AIEF) was held under the co-chairship of India and **Morocco**.
Note: The event was held under the co-chairship of India and the Kingdom of Morocco. The forum witnessed exchange of knowledge, expertise and best practices in the fields of energy efficiency programmes for different economic sectors, accelerated development of new & renewable energy, fostering regional power sharing arrangements, enhanced oil recovery, tight gas extraction, and safe nuclear power generation etc. It was



- agreed to hold the 2nd edition of AIEF in India during 2023.
- 16.** During the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Meeting (HLM) on HIV/AIDS, the assembly approved a declaration to end AIDS by **2030**.
Note: The Assembly stated that COVID-19 has increased inequalities and pushed access to AIDS medicines, treatments and diagnosis off track. The declaration also committed assembly's 193 member countries to implement Reduce annual new HIV infections to under 3, 70, 000 and annual AIDS-related deaths to under 2, 50, 000 by 2025.
- 17.** **Indonesia** is at top position in the World Giving Index 2021 report.
Note: Four African nations now sit in the top 10 -- three of them (Nigeria, Ghana and Uganda) for the first time. Most of the western countries which are usually in the Top 10 have fallen far down the rankings. 61 per cent of Indians helped strangers; 34 per cent volunteered; and 36 per cent donated money.
- 18.** The European Space Agency (ESA) will launch world's first satellite, WISA Woodsat from **New Zealand**.
Note: The objective of the satellite is to test the applicability of wooden materials like plywood in spacecraft structures and expose it to extreme space conditions, such as heat, cold, vacuum and radiation. It will be launched by Rocket Lab Electron rocket from the Mahia Peninsula launch complex in New Zealand. Designed and built in Finland will orbit at around 500-600 km altitude in polar Sun-synchronous orbit.
- 19.** Recently, United Kingdom has agreed on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with **Australia**.
Note: It will make it cheaper for the UK to sell its cars and Scotch whisky Down Under and remove barriers for business. An FTA with Australia is also dubbed as a gateway into the fast-growing Indo-Pacific region, which covers India. The UK-Australia trade relationship was worth 13.9 billion pounds last year and is set to grow under the deal.
- 20.** India has signed an agreement with **Sri Lanka** for extending a US\$ 100 million Line of Credit (LOC) for projects in the Solar Energy Sector.
Note: The agreement was signed between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Export-Import Bank of India. This US\$ 100 million LOC will help finance various projects in the solar energy sector in Sri Lanka, such as rooftop solar photo-voltaic systems for households and government buildings. Some of the projects were announced during the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) held in March 2018 in Delhi.
- 21.** **Switzerland** ranked 1st in the World Competitiveness Index 2021.
Note: The report was compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD). Top three nation in the 64-nation list are: 1. Switzerland; 2. Sweden; 3. Denmark. BRICS Nations rank order is China, India, Russia, Brazil and South Africa. India has maintained its position for the past three years.
- 22.** **Afghanistan** declared the least peaceful country in the world in 15th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021 released by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Sydney.
Note: Indian ranked 135th most peaceful country in the world. Iceland remains the most peaceful country while Afghanistan is the least peaceful country in the world for the fourth consecutive year. Bhutan ranked as the most peaceful nation in South Asia. New Zealand, Denmark, Portugal ranked 3rd, 4th, and 5th resp.
- 23.** According to the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021, **Iceland** is the most peaceful country in the world.
Note: The 15th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021 was released by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Sydney. Indian ranked 135th most peaceful country in the world. Bhutan ranked as the most peaceful nation in South Asia. New Zealand, Denmark, Portugal ranked 3rd, 4th, and 5th resp.
- 24.** **Japan** has decided to make a vaccine passport available from next month for Japanese travellers in a bid to relaunch tourism and business trips abroad.
Note: The certificate will be paper-based rather than digital and will be issued by local governments from sometime next month. The European Union is working on a digital vaccine passport for this summer so it can welcome back badly needed tourists, and some EU countries plan to introduce certificates at the national level. The EU version will feature information on whether a person has been vaccinated, or had the virus, tested negative, and recovered.
- 25.** World's third-largest diamond unearthed in **Botswana**.
Note: This newly discovered diamond is believed to be the third-largest gem-quality stone ever to be mined in the world. It has been presented by Debswana Diamond Company to President of Botswana, Mokgweetsi Masisi. **Cullinan stone in South Africa** and **Lesedi La Rona of Botswana** are the other largest diamond.
- 26.** **Israel** has successfully tested an airborne high-power laser that can shoot down drones mid-air.



- Note:** It will deploy this technology on a larger scale in the coming years. The trial, which is planned for later this year, will test the system's ability to shoot down incoming rockets and mortar fire at close range. The ground-based laser system is being developed by the Rafael weapons manufacturer. This will supplement the Iron Dome or Israel's other air defense systems.
27. Nikol Pashinyan is acting PM of **Armenia** whose party has won a parliamentary election with 53.92 per cent votes in the country.
Note: The local news agency reported today, citing the electoral commission. Pashinyan had earlier claimed victory in Sunday's election based on preliminary results, with his party taking an early lead over its closest challenger, the Armenia Alliance, led by former President Robert Kocharyan.
28. According to the International Energy Forum (IEF) announcement **India** will host the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9) next year.
Note: The summit will take forward the understandings reached in the previous meeting in Abu Dhabi during

2018, which was co-hosted by India. The International Energy Forum (IEF) is the world's largest energy organisation with 71 member countries, accounting for 90 per cent of the global energy market.

29. Rosatom is a company of **Russia** country that has started the construction work for unit 5 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP).
Note: The commenced with the first concrete pouring into the foundation plate of the reactor building. The General Framework Agreement (GFA) between India and Russia was signed on April 10 2014, on construction of Units 3 and 4.
30. USA ranked first in the Global Cybersecurity Index 2020 (GCI) released by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
Note: India is ranked 10th in the Global Cybersecurity Index 2020 (GCI) released by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). It is a United Nations (UN) agency for information and communication technologies (ICT). India jumps 37 places from 47th in the previous ranking.

May 2021

1. Alstom is a rolling stock manufacturer of France that successfully manufactured and delivered its 100th Electric Locomotive to the Indian Railways.
Note: It successfully manufactured and delivered its 100th Electric Locomotive to the Indian Railways. It is part of the 3.5 Billion Euro contract signed between the Ministry of Railways, India & Alstom in 2015 for delivery of 800 fully electric high-powered double-section locomotives of 12,000 HorsePower (HP) (9 MW). It is the Largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Project in the Indian Railway sector.
2. The Global Forest Goals Report 2021 has been released by **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs**.
Note: The UN has released its Global Forest Goals Report 2021. The Report has been prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN. According to the report, the Covid-19 pandemic has aggravated the challenges faced by countries in managing their forests. It provides an initial overview of the progress of Goals and targets contained within the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030.
3. The world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge has been opened in **Portugal**.
Note: It will attract tourists and help to revive a region whose economy was devastated by the Covid-19

pandemic. The bridge hangs 175 meters above the fast-flowing River Paiva. It is Hidden between rock-strewn mountains covered with lush greenery and yellow flowers inside the UNESCO-recognised Arouca Geopark.

4. 44 people were killed in a stampede that occurred at a religious gathering at Mount Meron that is located in **Israel**.
Note: The tragedy struck when a large number of Jewish pilgrims had gathered at the site of the reputed tomb of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, a second-century Talmudic sage. It started after some attendees slipped on steps, which caused dozens more to fall. Authorities say at least 44 people have been killed and about 150 injured.
5. **USA** has approved the proposed sale of 6 Poseidon-8I (P-8I) Patrol Aircraft and other equipment to India.
Note: It is being procured by the Indian Government for use by the Indian Navy. The P-8I Patrol Aircrafts are produced by Boeing, an American Aerospace & Defense Company. In November 2019, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the procurement of the P-8I Aircrafts and other equipment.



6. **Portugal** hosted the India-European Union Leaders' Meeting that was attended by PM Narendra Modi, held in a hybrid format.

Note: PM Modi attended the event at the invitation of the President of the European Council Mr Charles Michel. The leaders of all the 27 EU Member States, as well as the President of the European Council and the European Commission, participated in the meeting. This is the first time that the EU hosted a meeting with India in the EU+27 format.

7. 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3) Meeting 2021 was held in **Tokyo**.

Note: The ASM3 2021 is the 1st meeting to be held in Asia. The theme for 2021 is 'Knowledge for a Sustainable Arctic'. ASM is a global platform for discussing research and cooperation in the Arctic region, it is an event initiated by the Arctic Council, a high-level intergovernmental forum. Union Minister for Earth Science Dr Harsh Vardhan virtually represented India in the meeting.

8. **Interpol** has launched 'ID-Art' app which will help identify stolen cultural property, reduce smuggling and increase the possibility of recovering stolen works and artefacts.

Note: The 'ID-Art' app enables users — from law enforcement agencies to the general public — to get mobile access to the Interpol database of stolen works of art, create an inventory of private art collections and report cultural sites that are potentially at risk, said the Interpol. It is available for both Android and Apple devices. The app's users can immediately cross-check if an object is among the over 52,000 items registered as stolen in the Interpol's "Stolen Works of Art" database.

9. India chaired the first BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting held in 2021 in virtual format.

Note: The meeting was held under the chairmanship of India, which has assumed the BRICS Presidency in 2021. The meeting was chaired by Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Labour and Employment.

10. According to the 'Environmental Risk Outlook 2021' released by Verisk Maplecroft, **Jakarta** is the riskiest city in the world.

Note: According to the 'Environmental Risk Outlook 2021' released by Verisk Maplecroft, India has 43 of the World's 100 most environmentally riskiest cities and China has 37 most environmentally riskiest cities.

11. According to the 'Environmental Risk Outlook 2021' released by Verisk Maplecroft, **Glasgow, Scotland** is the safest city in the world.

Note: According to the 'Environmental Risk Outlook 2021' released by Verisk Maplecroft, India has 43 of the World's 100 most environmentally riskiest cities and China has 37 most environmentally riskiest cities. Jakarta in Indonesia was ranked as the riskiest city in the world, followed by Delhi and Chennai.

12. **Russia** becomes the first country in the world to all synthetic cannabinoid substances _____ **Russia**.

Note: The ban is likely to come into effect on July 1. The move comes as China tries to curb the manufacturing and trafficking of the drug.

13. **Iran** country unveiled its most powerful supercomputer named 'Simorgh', which is 100 times more powerful than the previous supercomputer of the country.

Note: The supercomputer has been developed indigenously by Tehran's Amirkabir University of Technology (AUT). It has been named after a mythical Phoenix-like bird 'Simurgh'.

14. **Paris, France** country hosted the Summit on Financing of African Economies 2021.

Note: Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan virtually represented India in the summit. The objective of the summit is to arrange financial resources for reviving the economy of African Continent, which has been affected by COVID-19.

15. **USA** ranked first in the 57th Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) – May 2021, released by Ernst & Young Global Ltd (EY).

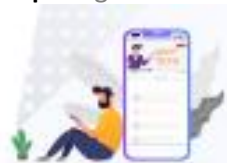
Note: The USA topped the index, while China took the 2nd Rank. India has improved its rank from 4th (in 56th RECAI) to 3rd due to its exceptional performance in the Solar PhotoVoltaic (PV) sector. Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) is a biannual report being released since 2003.

16. The 'Protected Planet Report 2020' has been released by **IUCN and UNEP** according to that around 21 million square kms have been added within the Protected & Conserved Areas of the world since 2010.

Note: According to the report around 21 million square kms (which is 7 times the size of India) have been added within the Protected & Conserved Areas of the world since 2010. It brings the total percentage of earth's land which is protected/conserved to 64%, which is just a fraction short of the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 (Protecting/Conserving 17% of Earth's land and 10% of its marine environments by 2020).

17. **Italy** hosted the Global G20 Health Summit along with European Commission.

Note: The summit adopted the agenda to overcome Covid-19 pandemic. It also decided to develop and



endorse a Rome Declaration of principles. ACT-Accelerator is used for "Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator".

18. With **Israel**, India has signed a three-year Work Program for development in Agriculture cooperation.
Note: Under the work program, both countries will implement two initiatives namely 'Indo-Israel Agricultural Project Centre of Excellence' & 'Indo-Israel Villages of Excellence (IIVoE)'. It will benefit local farmers both through the Centers of Excellence and the Villages of Excellence. Under the IIAP, 29 CoEs have been established across India in 12 states.
19. The World Health Organization (WHO) has signed an MoU with **Switzerland** to launch the first WHO BioHub Facility as part of the WHO BioHub System.
Note: The facility will allow the rapid sharing of viruses and other pathogens between laboratories and global

partners. It will be set up in Spiez, Switzerland. Under this agreement, the Spiez Biocontainment Laboratory will be made available to WHO and the lab will act as a repository for Sars-CoV-2 viruses or other pathogens with epidemic or pandemic potential.

20. **UK** has announced that it will work with the WHO other partners and nations to develop an advanced international pathogen surveillance network to identify COVID-19 variants and emerging diseases.
Note: The UK PM also claimed that the "Global Pandemic Radar," as the network was called, will ensure the early detection of new variants and emerging pathogens, so vaccines and treatments needed to stop them can be rapidly developed. The Global Pandemic Radar is expected to become fully operational before the end of with the aim of significantly improving global health security going into next year.

April -2021

1. First ever World Immunisation & Logistics Summit 2021 held in **Abu Dhabi, UAE**.
Note: Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare of India virtually participated in a final panel discussion on 'Focus on Asia: Vaccine production and distribution across Asia'. Abu Dhabi launches The Hope Consortium launched by Department of Health ,Abu Dhabi for full global vaccine distribution.
2. Longi Green Energy Technology Co, the world's biggest solar energy company belong to **China** is entering in to the hydrogen market.
Note: China's Longi Green Energy Technology Co., the world's biggest solar company, is entering the hydrogen market. This is mainly because hydrogen is a carbon-free fuel that can be produced by electrolysis of water and then stored and transported and used in every possible machinery such as cars to electrical generators to steel mills. The firm, which manufactures wafers, cells and panels, is the world's largest solar company by market capitalization, at about \$52 billion.
3. **India** becomes the first country in the world to adopt Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), an advanced disease surveillance system.
Note: Expressing his enthusiasm at the brave, futuristic and pertinent amalgamation of healthcare and technology. India is the first country in the world to adopt such an advanced disease surveillance system. He pointed out that the new version of IHIP will house the data entry and management for India's disease surveillance program.
4. Vjosa Osmani has been elected as the new president of **Kosovo**.
Note: While 82 deputies participated in the vote in the 120-member parliament, 11 votes were declared invalid. The 38-year-old politician studied law at the University of Pristina in Kosovo and earned a doctorate from Pittsburgh University in the US.
5. India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Japan** in areas of atmospheric science and technology that was approved by the Union Cabinet.
Note: The pact was signed between National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL) and Department of Space and Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere (RISH), Kyoto University for academic and research cooperation and exchange in November 2020. The agreement would lead to mutual utilisation of facilities such as the Middle and Upper atmosphere (MU) radar in Shigaraki, Japan, the Equatorial Atmosphere Radar (EAR) in Kototabang, Indonesia and complementary instruments available from RISH, and the Mesosphere-Stratosphere-Troposphere (MST) radar and complementary instruments available at NARL.
6. First meeting of joint working group on 'Counter Terrorism, Countering Violent Extremism and De-Radicalisation' between India and **Maldives** held recently in April, 2021.



Note: India and Maldives decided to enhance capacity building mechanism to counter terror as well as collaboration to counter violent extremism and de-radicalisation. The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation that will include assistance and capacity building for the security and law enforcement agencies and other relevant agencies of the Maldives as well as collaboration and the exchange of best practices in the areas of counter-terrorism, preventing and countering of violent extremism and de-radicalisation, according to an official statement issued after the first meeting of India-Maldives Joint Working Group on 'Counter Terrorism, Countering Violent Extremism and De-Radicalisation'.

7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds a Virtual Summit with Mark Rutte, the prime minister of **The Netherlands**.

Note: During the meeting both the countries are agreed to work together for the supply chain in the Indo-Pacific region. India and the Netherlands share cordial and friendly relations underpinned by shared values of democracy, rule of law, and freedom. Both countries have wide-ranging cooperation including water management, agriculture and food processing, healthcare, smart cities, etc.

8. **Singapore** hosted the BASIC Ministerial meeting on Climate change _____.

Note: At a time when the European Union is toying with the idea of 'carbon border tax' as part of its green push, the BASIC nations — Brazil, South Africa, India and China — have jointly opposed the move, saying such trade barrier would not only be discriminatory but also against the principles of equity under the Paris Agreement on climate change. The BASIC nations expressed concerns over the issue while discussing climate actions during the two-day ministerial meeting.

9. **Singapore** becomes the first country to ratify the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement, the world's largest free trade agreement, led by China.

Note: In doing so, Singapore became the first among 15 participating countries to ratify RCEP. The RCEP must first be ratified by at least six ASEAN and three non-ASEAN member states to come into effect. Once implemented, RCEP would be the world's largest free trade agreement, covering around one-third of the world's population and about 30% of the world's economy.

10. **Noura al-Matroushi** becomes the United Arab Emirates's first female astronaut.

Note: The United Arab Emirates named the next two astronauts in its space programme on 10th April, including the country's first female astronaut. Noura

al-Matroushi is the UAE's first female astronaut. The announcement gave no biographical information about her or her male counterpart, Mohammed al-Mulla.

11. Indian origin business tycoon of UAE, **Yusuffali MA** has been honoured with Abu Dhabi's top civilian award for their noble and charitable contributions to the community.

Note: Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan has honoured Indian-origin businessman Yusuffali MA and 11 other individuals with Abu Dhabi's top civilian award for their noble and charitable contributions to the community. The prestigious award was given to Mr Yusuffali, who was born in Kerala, for his outstanding contribution to Abu Dhabi's business, industry and support to various philanthropic initiatives.

12. **Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan** have launched the construction of an international center for trade and economic cooperation named 'Central Asia'.

Note: Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov and his Kazakh counterpart Askar Mamim, laid a capsule at the construction site of the logistic centre, which is located in the vicinity of the border check post Gisht Kuprik. According to a News release on Kazakh Prime Minister's official website, the center, which occupies 400 hectares of land, will have a capacity of accommodating 35,000 people and 5,000 trucks per day in both directions.

13. India contributed **\$500,000** additional amount to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism, taking the country's donation to the UN office set up to combat terrorism to over \$1 million.

Note: With this amount, India's total contribution to it so far is \$1.05 million. India said it was keen to continue working with the UN office to further the common objective of combatting terrorism.

14. **New Zealand** becomes the first in the world to introduce a bill that would require banks, insurers and asset managers to report the impacts of their funding on the effect of climate change.

Note: The bill, said to be the first of its kind in the world, would receive its first reading in the country's parliament this week. The island nation has been at the forefront of trying to cut down carbon emissions and has pledged to make its public sector carbon neutral by 2025. It will also force the financial firms to evaluate the companies they are lending in terms of environmental impacts.

15. The Economist Intelligence Unit released Inclusive Internet Index 2021 along with social media platform **Facebook**.

Note: India is set to reach one billion internet users by 2025. There were over 687.6 million internet users in India in 2020. The Facebook 'Inclusive Internet Index'



- looked at 120 countries, representing 98 per cent of global GDP and 96 per cent of global population.
- 16.** Recently, Italy has launched its first ever mega food park project in India involving food processing facilities _____ **Italy.**
Note: The pilot project “The Mega Food Park” was launched, in virtual mode, with the signing of a Letter of Intent between the ICE Office in Mumbai and Fanidhar Mega Food Park, in Gujarat. The main aim of the project is to develop an interaction between agriculture and industry. Also, the project will focus on the research and development of efficient technologies in the sector.
- 17.** The 1st ever United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021 to be held in September 2021 in **New York, USA.**
Note: The Summit is a part of the Decade of Action (2020-30) to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The summit will launch new actions for delivering progress on all 17 SDGs. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to participate in the event along with other global leaders. The summit is to strategize actions for positive change in Agri-food systems.
- 18.** **Japan's** passport has been adjudged as the most powerful passport in the Henley Passport Index 2021.
Note: India stands at number 84 on the list, as the Indian citizens can visit Visa-Free or Visa-on-Arrival in over 58 places. Japanese passport holders have visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 167 more destinations than citizens of Afghanistan, who are at the bottom of the ranking as they can only visit 26 places without needing a visa in advance.
- 19.** **Norway** ranked at first position in the World Press Freedom Index 2021, released by international non-profit and non-governmental organization “Reporters Without Borders (RSF).
Note: In the report India has been classified among the world's most dangerous countries for journalists. India was at 142nd position in 2020 as well. India was ranked in the “bad” category, along with Brazil, Mexico and Russia. In south Asia, Nepal was placed 106, Sri Lanka 127, Myanmar 140, Pakistan 145 and Bangladesh at the 152nd spot. China was ranked 177, and the US 44.
- 20.** **Eritrea** is at the bottom of the World Press Freedom Index 2021, released by international non-profit and non-governmental organization “Reporters Without Borders (RSF).
Note: In the report India has been classified among the world's most dangerous countries for journalists. India was at 142nd position in 2020 as well. India was ranked in the “bad” category, along with Brazil, Mexico and Russia. In south Asia, Nepal was placed 106, Sri Lanka 127, Myanmar 140, Pakistan 145 and Bangladesh at the 152nd spot. China was ranked 177, and the US 44.
- 21.** According to ‘Global Energy Review 2021’ released by International Energy Agency (IEA), Global CO₂ emissions expected to increase by 5 percent in 2021 as compared to 2020.
Note: It would be the Biggest annual rise in emissions since 2010. The major reason for increase in CO₂ emissions is due to rise in Coal demands. Coal is set to grow by 4.5% in 2021. The report is IEA's annual update on latest trends in world energy and CO₂ emissions.
- 22.** **Sweden** ranked at first position in the Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2021 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) that tracks nations on the current performance of their energy systems across various aspects.
Note: The report has been prepared in collaboration with Accenture, also draws on insights from ETI. The top 10 countries in the index are Western and Northern European countries, with Sweden in the first place, followed by Norway and Denmark. “China (68) and India (87), which collectively account for a third of global energy demand, have both made strong improvements over the past decade, despite coal continuing to play a significant role in their energy mix.
- 23.** **Tbilisi, Georgia** has been selected as the World Book Capital for 2021 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).
Note: As per UNESCO, the city of Tbilisi in Georgia was selected as the World Book Capital for 2021. World Book Day is celebrated by UNESCO on April 23, every year. As a celebration of this year's World's Book and Copyright Day 2021, UNESCO has created a 'Bookface' challenge.
- 24.** The 6th Global Forum on TB Vaccines will be convened in **Toulouse, France** from 22 – 24 February 2022.
Note: The 5th Global Forum on TB Vaccines was held virtually from 20th April to 22nd April 2021. It was attended by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**). The forum is convened by Stop TB Partnership Working Group on New Vaccines in association with International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) & Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (TBVI).
- 25.** The World Cities Cultural Forum (WCCF) 2021.
Note: It is a forum of 40 top cities of world including London, Tokyo and New York. The WCCF is an annual summit attended by the deputy mayors for culture and heads of culture from the member cities & it will be hosted by each member City annually. The theme of WCCF 2021 is “The Future of Culture”.



- 26. Norway tops in the World Press Freedom Index 2021** released by international journalism not-for-profit body Reporters Without Borders -- **5th time.**
Note: The index was topped by Norway for the 5th time in a row followed by Finland & Sweden. India with a score of 46.56 ranked at 142nd Rank. Also, in 2020 India was ranked at 142nd. India has been classified as a country with a 'bad' environment for Press Freedom, it shared the classification with Brazil, Mexico & Russia.
- 27. University of Manchester, UK finds top position in the 3rd edition of Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2021.**
Note: At the global level, University of Manchester (UK), University of Sydney (Australia) & RMIT University (Australia) grabbed the top 3 places. Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Tamil Nadu became the only Indian University to make it to the list of World's Top 100 Educational Institutions for sustainability. It was ranked 81st (overall ranking) in the 3rd edition of Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2021.
- 28. India is not a member country of 'Net Zero Producers Forum' being set up to support implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change.**
Note: Saudi Arabia decided to join the forum. Saudi Arabia is the world's biggest crude exporter. SA aims to reduce its carbon emissions by generating 50% of the country's energy from renewables by 2030. U.S President Joe Biden unveiled plans to cut emissions by 50%-52% from 2005 levels at the start of a two-day climate summit kicked off on Earth Day and attended virtually by leaders of 40 countries including big emitters China, India and Russia.
- 29. United Kingdom will build World's most powerful weather, climate-change forecasting supercomputer.**
Note: Likely to be operational in 2022, the supercomputer will provide accurate warnings on severe weather and help protect from impact of increasingly extreme storms, floods and snow in the UK. In February 2020, the UK government had announced funding of £1.2 billion (about ₹12,400 crore) to develop this supercomputer, which is expected to be one of the top 25 supercomputers in the world.
- 30. UNICEF has released the report, "Gender Bias & Inclusion in Advertising in India" that analyzed Indian Women's position in Televisions & Advertisements.**
Note: The research conducted by UNICEF with the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media measures the level and type of gender stereotyping found in Indian advertisements on TV and YouTube, through analysis of

over 1,000 most viewed advertisements in 2019. The ads were provided and translated by the India Chapter of the International Advertising Association (IAA). UNICEF shared that IAA will be working with members to launch campaigns to deconstruct harmful stereotypes.

- 31. Finland** country has topped the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI), which classifies 104 countries in terms of government capabilities and outcomes.
Note: The index focuses on seven pillars: leadership and foresight; robust laws and policies; strong institutions; financial stewardship; attractive marketplace; global influence and reputation; and helping people rise. India has been ranked 49th in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI), which classifies 104 countries in terms of government capabilities and outcomes.
- 32. China** has launched NEO-01, robot prototype capable of catching space debris with net.
Note: The NEO-01, which will also peer into deep space to observe small celestial bodies, was launched on the government's Long March 6 rocket along with a handful of satellites, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. The 30kg robot developed by Shenzhen-based Origin Space will pave the way for future technologies capable of mining on asteroids, according to the company.
- 33. Along with India and Australia, Japan** has launched the 'Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)' to build a resilient supply chain with focus on free, transparent trade & investment environment in the Indo-Pacific region.
Note: It will reduce the dependency of the 3 countries on China and counter its dominance on Trade. During the initial stages, SCRI will focus on sharing best practices on supply chain resilience & holding investment promotion events for stakeholders to diversify their supply chains.
- 34. United Kingdom** became the first country in the world to permit self-driving cars on motorways.
Note: In order to make safe use of the self-driving vehicle system, the transport ministry of the UK was working on specific wording to update its country's highway code. For keeping the cars within a lane, a technology called Automated Lane Keeping Systems (ALKS) will be used as it uses sensors and software to guide the self-driving cars to accelerate and brake without manual input.

Government Schemes

September 2021



1. One Gram Panchayat-One DIGI-Pay Sakhi mission

- 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 SHG of Jammu and Kashmir division to promote financial inclusion within UT's SHG ecosystem.

2. 'Project Udaan'

- Launched by: **IIT Bombay**
- **Aim:** to break the language barrier in education, which hampers the flow of messages.
- It is a donation-based project, which can translate scientific and technical content from English to Hindi and all other Indian languages.
- The project uses an AI-based translation software ecosystem, to translate engineering textbooks and learning materials, and all main streams of higher learning, in the desired language, in one-sixth of the time taken by a team of domain and linguistic experts working manually on it

3. Govt approves Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Auto Industry and Drone Industry

- It will incentivize emergence of Advanced Automotive Technologies global supply chain in India
- It will help create additional employment for over 7.6 lakh people
- It will also provide incentives worth ₹ 26,058 crore will be provided to industry over 5 years
- PLI Scheme for auto sector will bring fresh investments of over ₹42,500 crore in five years and incremental production of over ₹ 2.3 lakh crore

4. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahaabhiyaan (PM KUSUM)

- Haryana has been ranked as the first state of India in installation of off-grid solar pumps

under PMKUSUM, as per Ministry of New and Renewable Energy data

- The state has installed 14,418 pumps against 15,000 sanctioned pumps for the year 2020-21 with total cost of Rs 520 crore
- PM-KUSUM scheme: It is a centrally-sponsored scheme, that was launched in 2019 with target to install 20 lakh standalone solar pumps

5. Centre has revised 'Transport and Marketing Assistance' (TMA) scheme for Specified Agriculture Products.

- It was launched in Feb 2019 to provide assistance for international component of freight and to mitigate disadvantage of higher freight costs faced by the Indian exporters of agriculture products
- Dairy products will also be eligible for assistance
- Rates of assistance have been increased, by 50% for exports by sea and by 100% for exports by air.

6. Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021

- Launched by: Jal Shakti Ministry
- It was launched under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II at an event organized by Dept of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS)
- DDWS had commissioned Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) in 2018 and 2019 respectively.
- 17,475 villages in 698 Districts across India will be covered. 87,250 public places namely schools, anganwadis, public health centres, haat/bazaars/religious places
- Direct Observation of sanitation in villages including HHs/public places: 30%
- Citizen's Feedback using mobile App: 35%
- Service Level Progress on sanitation related parameters: 35%

7. MoHUA launches 'Main Bhi Digital 3.0' campaign

- Launched by: **Ministry of Housing and urban Affairs (MoHUA)** in collaboration with **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)** has launched pilot drive 'Main Bhi Digital 3.0'



- It is a special campaign for digital onboarding and training for street vendors under PM SVANidhi scheme across 223 cities in India
- PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) was launched in 2020 as a Central Sector Scheme to facilitates working capital loan of up to ₹10,000 with an interest subsidy @7% on regular repayment.

8. Govt launches portal for National Livestock

Mission

- Aim: to increase the effectiveness and ensure transparency in the implementation of the scheme.

- NLM Portal:
 - It is developed by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in collaboration with Dept of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
 - Aim: to enable a customized workflow between State Implementing Agency, lenders, and Ministry
- NLM: It is an initiative of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and was introduced in 2014-15 for sustainable development of the livestock sector.

August 2021

1. Minister of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launches SAMRIDH Scheme

- SAMRIDH stands for **Startup Accelerators of MeitY for pRoduct Innovation, Development, and growth.**
- Implemented by: **MeitY Start-up Hub (MSH).**
- It will support startups and entrepreneurs in the most challenging phase by providing customer connect, investor connect, and international expansion opportunities in the next 3 years.

2. Finance Minister launches 'Ubharte Sitaare Fund' for export-oriented MSMEs

- **Managed by:** India's Exim Bank and SIDBI under Ubharte Sitaare Programme (USP) announced in the Budget speech of 2021-22.
- **Aim:** To identify and invest in small and mid-size ventures in manufacturing and service industries with good export potential that could be future champions of export and handhold them through the growth phase.
- Size of the fund: **Rs. 250 crores with greenshoe option.**

3. Aarogya Dhara- 2.0

- Launched by: **Health and Family Welfare Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya**

- **Aim:** to mark the completion of 2 Crore treatments under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
- Apart from this, Adhikar Patra, Abhinandan Patra and Ayushman Mitra was also launched.

4. Student Entrepreneurship Program (SEP) 3.0

- Launched by: **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) NITI Aayog**, along with **La Fondation Dassault Systemes**
- Theme of SEP 3.0 is based on '**Made in 3D - Seed the Future Entrepreneurs Program**'
- Under this, team from each school (6 students and a teacher) will be allocated seed funding towards creating their own start-up, design and prototype their innovation using 3D printing, prepare marketing campaign, define product pricing, and create expansion strategy.

5. RoDTEP Scheme

- **RoDTEP** stands for **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products.**
- Centre has notified RoDTEP Scheme Guidelines and Rates for zero rating of exports will boost our exports & competitiveness
- **Rates of RoDTEP will cover 8555 tariff lines.**
- It shall not be available in respect of duties and taxes already exempted or remitted or credited.



- It is to be implemented by Customs through a simplified IT System.

6. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched 'SonChiraiya' for SHG

- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), under the aegis of MoHUA has focused on equipping the urban poor women with adequate skills and opportunities.
- It will certainly prove as a step towards increased visibility and global access for the products made by urban SHG women.

7. Ministry of Women and Child Development launches 2nd Phase of SAMVAD

- **SAMVAD** stand for **Support, Advocacy & Mental health interventions for children in Vulnerable circumstances And Distress**.
- It is a National Initiative for child protection, mental health, and psychosocial care of children.
- It will begin work with Panchayati Raj systems to integrate child protection and mental health in aspirational districts across the country to facilitate awareness generation and improve service delivery at the grassroot level.

8. Government announces 'Prime Minister Gatishakti Scheme'

- Fund: worth Rs 100 lakh crores
- **Aim:** To adopt holistic and integrated approach in infrastructure growth and create employment opportunities for the youth of the country.
- Government will soon announce Master Plan for the scheme to help boost productivity of industries, and boost economic growth of the country, besides creating job opportunities for hundreds of thousands of youths.

9. PM Modi announces Rs 11,000 crore palm oil initiative

- It is called as **National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)**.
- Govt will invest more than Rs. 11,000 crores under the scheme, through National Mission on Oilseeds, cooking oils and Oil Palm.

- It aims to help increase farm incomes and make the country self-reliance in edible oil.
- It will increase oil palm cultivation to 1 million hectares by 2025-26 and 1.7-1.8 million hectares by 2029-30.

10. ISRO presented SATNAV Policy 2021 for public consultation

- SATNAV: Indian Satellite Navigation
- Aim: To address the growing demands of space-based navigation and timing applications, with the view of self-sustenance in areas of commercial, strategic, and societal applications to maximize the socio-economic benefits.
- These applications include tracking, telematics, location-based services, automotive, survey, mapping & GIS, and timing.

11. Union Minister for Power and MNRE reviewed implementation of PM-KUSUM Scheme.

About PM KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evem Utthan Mahabhiyan) Scheme:

- It is an initiative of **the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**.
- It is a scheme for farmers for installation of solar pumps and grid connected solar and other renewable power plants in the country
- It was approved in February 2019 to provide financial and water security and to add solar and other renewable capacity of **25,750 MW by 2022**.

12. Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana

- Implemented by: **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**
- Under the scheme, eligible target groups are being provided skill development training programmes on up-skilling/reskilling, short term training programme, long term training programme and entrepreneurship development program.
- Govt has launched 'PM-DAKSH' portal and app to make skill development schemes accessible to the target groups of Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Safai Karamcharis.

13. PM Modi launches Ujjwala 2.0 (Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana-PMUY)



- It was announced in budget 2021-22 for an additional one crore LPG connection under PMUY scheme to provide deposit-free LPG connections to those low-income families
- It will provide first refill and hotplate free of cost to the beneficiaries.
- **Ujjwala 1.0** was launched in 2016.

14. Centre has approved continuation of 'Samagra Shiksha Scheme' till March 31, 2026

Components of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) 2.0:

July -2021

1. Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme in Meghalaya

- Under this, pure drinking water will be provided through taps to Sohra Town and 12 other habitations close to Sohra in East Khasi Hills.
- For this, govt will tap the stream sources of Wah Lyngksiar waterfall and Law Sanlait spring.
- Sohra is also known as Cherrapunji.

2. I-STEM Phase II project

- It will run until 2026 with added features.
- About Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM):
 - National web portal for sharing R&D facilities and was formally launched in January 2020
 - It is an initiative of Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Govt. of India (PSA, GOI) under Prime Minister Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) mission.
- Under Phase II, portal will host indigenous technology products listed through digital catalogue with various City Knowledge and Innovation Clusters

3. Union Cabinet approves Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Specialty Steel

- Budgetary outlay: **₹6322 crores**.
- **Duration of the scheme:** 5 years from 2023-24 to 2027-28.

- To enhance the direct outreach, all child-centric interventions will be provided directly to the students through DBT [or direct benefit transfer] mode on an IT-based platform
- This DBT would include RTE entitlements such as textbooks, uniforms and transport allowance.
- It will have the NIPUN Bharat initiative for foundational literacy and numeracy, which will get an annual provision of ₹500 per child for learning materials, ₹150 per teacher for manuals and resources and ₹10-20 lakh per district for assessment.

- It is expected to bring in investment of approximately ₹40,000 crores and capacity addition of 25 MT for speciality steel.
- It will give direct and indirect employment to 5,25,000 people.
- It is expected that the speciality steel production will become 42 million tonnes by 2026-27.

4. Centre extends 'Stand Up India Scheme' up to 2025

- **Aim:** to facilitate loans to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and women borrowers promoting entrepreneurship among them.
- The scheme was launched in 2016 and loans under this are extended by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) between Rs. 10 lakh and Rs.1 Crore.
- The scheme encourages beneficiaries in setting up a green field enterprise, outside of the farm sector, like manufacturing, services or trading sector.

5. Cabinet approves continuation of National AYUSH Mission for 5 years

About National AYUSH Mission

- It is a centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- It will now be implemented from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026.
- Govt has allocated Rs. 4607.30 crore (Rs 3,000 crore as Central Share and Rs. 1607.30 crore as State Share) for the scheme to be invested for five years.
- NAM Mission was introduced in 2014 and is being implemented by Ministry of AYUSH



6. KVIC launches unique project 'BOLD' to boost tribals income

- BOLD stands for **Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought**
- It has been launched in tribal village Nichla Mandwa (Udaipur, Rajasthan)
- It is a unique scientific exercise serving the combined national objectives of reducing desertification and providing livelihood and multi-disciplinary rural industry
- In this, 5000 saplings of special bamboo species – BambusaTulda and BambusaPolymorpha specially brought from Assam have been planted over 25 bigha (16 acres approx) of vacant arid Gram Panchayat land.

7. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment formulates SMILE Scheme

- **SMILE** stands for **Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise**.
- **Focus:** rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counseling, basic documentation,

education, skill development, economic linkages etc.

- It includes sub scheme '**Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging**'.
- It would be implemented with the support of State/UT Governments/Local Urban Bodies, Voluntary Organizations, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), institutions and others.

8. PRASHAD Scheme inaugurated in Varanasi, UP

- The inaugurated projects include Tourist Facilitation Centre and operation of Cruise Boat from Assi Ghat to RajGhat.
- PRASHAD stands for **Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive**.
- It is a **Central Sector Scheme**.
- Launched by: **Ministry of Tourism** in the year 2014-15.
- **Objective:** Integrated development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations.

June 2021

1. Agriculture Minister launches Seed Minikit Programme

- Minikits (higher yielding varieties of seeds) of Pulses and oilseeds to farmers were distributed.
- It is a major tool for introducing new varieties of seeds in the farmers fields and is instrumental for increasing the seed replacement rate.

2. TRIFED partners with NITI Aayog to implement Van Dhan Yojana scheme in the identified aspirational districts.

- It will work together to prepare the follow-up-plan for the implementation of the Yojana in each of the 39 Tribal Aspirational Districts.
- These districts are in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Telangana, and Tripura.

3. YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors

- **Launched by:** Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education.
- YUVA stands for Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors.
- It is an Author Mentorship programme to train young and budding authors, below 30 years of age to promote reading, writing and book culture in the country, and project India and Indian writings globally.

4. Lt Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur launched 'YounTab' scheme

- Under this, 12,300 tablets would be distributed among the students in the Union Territory.
- As part of the first phase of the YounTab Scheme, tablets to the students of Classes 9 to 12 standards have been distributed.

5. Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS)

- **Ministry associated:** Ministry of Power
- Under this, 50 kWp Solar roof top was recently inaugurated in Solan, Himachal Pradesh and reinforces the 'Go Green' Initiative of the



government envisaged in the Urban Distribution scheme of the government of India.

6. Indian Certification of Medical Devices (ICMED) Plus Scheme

- It has been launched by Quality Council of India (QCI) and Association of Indian Manufacturers of Medical Devices (AiMeD)
- It will undertake verification of the quality, safety and efficacy of medical devices.
- It has been designed to integrate Quality Management System components and product related quality validation processes

7. Finance Minister announces relief package of Rs 6,28,993 crore to support Indian economy in fight against COVID-19 pandemic

Note:

- Under this, Finance Minister announced 1.1 lakh crore rupee **Loan Guarantee Scheme for COVID affected sectors**, 1.5 lakh crore rupees for **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme** and **Credit Guarantee Scheme** which is a new scheme to facilitate loans to 25 lakh people through Micro Finance Institutions, MFI.
- It is aimed at upscaling medical infrastructure targeting unreserved areas.

8. FAME India Phase II

- Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME India Phase II)' has been approved by Union Cabinet till 2024.
- Aim: to encourage Faster adoption of Electric and hybrid vehicle by way of offering upfront Incentive on purchase of Electric vehicles and also by way of establishing a necessary charging Infrastructure for electric vehicles.

9. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (Phase IV) extended till November 30, 2021

- Union cabinet has approved allocation of additional foodgrain to National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries under Phase IV
- Under the scheme, the government will provide 5 kg foodgrains per person per month free of cost ration.
- It will cover 81.35 crore beneficiaries covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Priority Households including those covered under Direct Benefit Transfer

10. Government has decided to extend Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana from 30th of June, 2021 to 31st of March, 2022.

Note:

- It will generate 71.8 lakh employment in the formal sector.
- It is being implemented through Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)

May 2021

1. Govt announces two scheme to provide pension for dependents of Covid victims

- Family Pension under Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC):
 - Dependent family members of such persons will get pension equivalent to 90% of average daily wage drawn by worker
 - It will be applicable from 24 March 2020 to 24 March 2022.
- EPFO-Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLI):
 - Insurance benefits under EDLI scheme have been enhanced and liberalized, particularly to help the families of

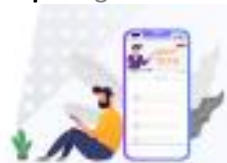
employees who have lost their lives due to COVID.

- Maximum insurance: Rs. 7 lakh

2. PM announces Rs 10 Lakh PM CARES Fund for kids orphaned due to COVID

About the fund:

- Fixed Deposit in the name of the child with Rs 10 lakh for each child.
- Children under 10 years will be admitted in the nearest KVs or in a private school as a day scholar.



- Children between 11-18 years of age will be given admission in any central government residential school
- Health Insurance scheme

3. Power Ministry to set up National Mission on use of Biomass based thermal power plant

- It will address the issue of air pollution due to farm stubble-burning and will reduce carbon footprints with energy transition in India.

4. Minister of Corporate Affairs (MCA) launches 1st Phase of MCA21 Version 3.0

- It comprises of revamped website, new email services for MCA Officers and 2 new modules, named e-Book and e-Consultation.
- MCA V3.0 is going to be implemented in two phases and 2nd and final phase shall be launched from October 2021 onwards.

5. Govt has issued guidelines for 'Production Linked Incentive Scheme for the Food Processing Industry' (PLISFPI).

- It is a Central Sector Scheme namely PLISFPI for implementation during 2021-22 to 2026-27 with an outlay of Rs 10,900 crore.
- Aim: To support creation of global food manufacturing champions commensurate with India's natural resource endowment and support Indian brands of food products in the international markets.

April 2021

1. Govt introduces ECLGS 3.0 in view of COVID-19 pandemic

- It has been launched to extend the scope of Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) and will now cover business enterprises in hospitality, travel, tourism, leisure and sporting sectors
- It will involve extension of credit upto 40% of total credit outstanding across all lending institutions.
- Tenure of loans granted under ECLGS 3.0: 6 years

2. Extension of 'SWAMITVA Scheme' across India

6. 'Scheme of Financial Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure'

- Under this, Ministry of Finance has decided to provide an additional amount of up to Rs. 15,000 crores to States as interest free 50-year loan for spending on capital projects for 2021-22.
- Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided to the State Governments in the form of 50-year interest free loan.
- Part-I: This part of the scheme is for the North-East and Hill States and an amount of Rs.2,600 crore has been earmarked for this part.
- Part-II: This part of the scheme is for all other States not included in Part-I. An amount of Rs 7,400 crore is earmarked for this part.
- Part-III: This part of the scheme is for providing incentives to States for monetization/recycling of infrastructure assets and disinvestment of the State Public Sector Enterprises (SPSEs).

7. One Stop Centre Scheme

- Under this, Central government will set up One Stop Centres (OSCs) across 10 missions to aid Indian women who are survivors of gender-based violence.
- Ten missions: Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, UAE, Jeddah and Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, Australia, Canada and Singapore.
- It is popularly known as Sakhi
- It has been formulated by Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

- About 4.09 lakh property owners were given their e-property cards, in more than 5 thousand villages under this.
- Swamitva (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) Scheme: It is a Central Sector Scheme, launched in April 2020 to promote a socio-economically empowered and self-reliant rural India.
- The Scheme will ensure the demarcation of inhabited land in rural areas.

3. ISRO's RESPOND programme



- ISRO will support eight joint research projects mooted by the Space Technology Cell (STC), IIT-Delhi under its RESPOND programme with varying duration of 1-3 years
- RESPOND Programme: It is launched to establish strong links with premiere academic institutions in the country

4. Piyush Goyal launches Startup India Seed Fund Scheme

- Aim: To provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialization.
- Govt has approved Rs. 945 Crore for SISFS, that will be divided over the next 4 years for providing seed funding to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India.

5. Union Health Minister to launch a new mission called 'Aahaar Kranti'.

- Motto: 'Good Diet-Good Cognition'
- Aim: To spread the message of the need for a nutritionally balanced diet and to understand the importance of accessible to all local fruits and vegetables.
- Organized by: Vijnana Bharati (Vibha) and Global Indian Scientists' and Technocrats' Forum (GIST)

6. Skill development Ministry to organise 1st regional workshop on PMKVY 3 at Gangtok

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 (PMKVY 3.0) will facilitate the understanding of the scheme in Sikkim along with effective implementation of the scheme in North East Region (NER)
- The workshop is aimed at learning from the best practices and understanding the challenges related to PMKVY 3.0

7. First online Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) Programme for migrant workers

- It has been launched to supplement physical training being held in PDOT Centres.
- It is an initiative of Ministry of External Affairs, Protector of Emigrants, Mumbai and other POEs
- Online PDOT will continue even after COVID restrictions are eased to facilitate prospective migrants, who are not in a position to attend the training in-person, and to expand its reach.

8. Stand-Up India Scheme

- Govt has sanctioned more than Rs 25,586 crores to over 1,14,322 accounts under Stand-Up India Scheme in five years.
- The Scheme was initially launched in 2016 to promote entrepreneurship at grassroot level (Women, SC & ST) focusing on economic empowerment and job creation.
- It has been extended up to 2025.

Important Committee

September (1 -15th)

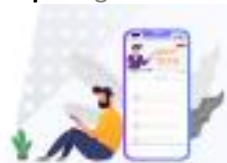
1. National Steering Committee for development of National Curriculum Framework

- Formed by: **Ministry of Education**
- Chairman: **K Kasturirangan**
- **Other members:** Mahesh Pant, Govind Prasad Sharma, Najma Akhtar, TV Kattimani, Michel Danino, Milind Kamble, Jagbir Singh, Manjul Bhargava, M K Sridhar, Dhir Jhingran. Shankar Maruwada

- Committee will develop National Curriculum Frameworks for School Education, Early Childhood Education, Teacher Education, Adult Education.

2. Centre's task force to assess climate and ESG resilience in India's financial sector

- Head of committee: **Ajay Seth (Economic Affairs Secretary)**



- **Aim:** To recommend a concrete road map to strengthen India's sustainable finance architecture.
- 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.

3. High Level Expert Committee for NCC

- Ministry of Defence constituted **15-member Committee for comprehensive review of National Cadet Corps (NCC)**.
- Head of the committee: **Baijayant Panda**
- It will also include Cricketer MS Dhoni and Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra as members
- It will suggest measures to empower NCC cadets to contribute more effectively towards nation building

4. Eight Member expert committee for framing new laws for drugs, cosmetics and medical devices

- Formed by: **Ministry of health and family welfare**
- The new law will replace existing Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 that regulates only import, manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs and cosmetics.
- Head of the committee: **VG Somani** (Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI))

5. MeitY constituted Task force to improve internet connectivity in Karnataka

- It comprises of officers from National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) and Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)
- They will visit each district and meet people and will also visit State government officials and submit a report to Minister.

6. Task Force and Expert Committee for Coal based Hydrogen Production

- Formed by: Ministry of Coal
- Head of the task force: **Additional Secretary of Coal 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
- Head of Expert Committee: **R.K. Malhotra**.

7. RBI has set-up 5-member committee for NUE licences

- Aim: to review applications and give recommendations on new umbrella entity (NUE) licences.
- Head of the committee: RBI chief general manager P Vasudevan.
- New Umbrella Entities will set up their own payment infrastructure to compete with the National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI).

August -2021

1. Govt sets up panel to develop technological platform for revenue litigation

- Aim: to develop a technological platform streamlining the appeal filing process related to direct and indirect taxation matters.
- Head of the panel: **Ashish Shiradhonkar** (head of e-courts project in National Informatics Centre (NIC))
- Committee will complete its work in 3 months and will have members from revenue department, CBDT and CBIT.

- NIC is collaborating to integrate Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS) with e-office mechanism so that real time tracking of cases can be done.

2. Govt constitutes Committee for doubling handloom production within three years.

- Head of the committee: **Sunil Sethi** (Chairman of Fashion Design Council of India).
- This Committee will submit the final report within 45 days from the day of constitution.



- It will suggest the strategy and policy framework for doubling the production and for improving the quality of handloom products with the aim of enhancing income of the weavers.

3. Tamil Nadu govt forms 7-member panel for study of hydrocarbon projects

- Head of the committee: **Sultan Ahmed Ismail**
- Hydrocarbon project study will be conducted in areas other than the protected agricultural zone as the terms of reference has been revised.

- It will also assess the impact of drilling technologies like hydro fracturing on ground water and environment.

4. Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds

- **TM Bhasin** has been re-appointed as the chairman of the **Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF)** by **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)**.
- ABBFF panel was constituted to examine bank frauds of over Rs 50 crore and recommend action.

July 2021

1. IFSCA sets up expert group to suggest road map for longevity finance hub

- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) expert committee is being co-chaired by **Kaku Nakhate**, Bank of America, Country Head (India), and **Gopalan Srinivasan**, Ex-CMD, New India Assurance Company Limited.
- Currently, GIFT IFSC is the only international financial services centre in the country.
- **Aim:** to serve the investment and wealth management needs of the 'Silver Generation' (People with age group 60 and above), comprising people aged 60 and above.

2. ISRO gives nod to panel to implement satellite TV classrooms

- ISRO has given its nod to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education to provide technical assistance for satellite TV classrooms in the country to bridge the learning gap due to COVID-induced lockdown.

3. Govt sets up nine-member panel to prevent digital monopolies

- Nandan Nilekani has been named as an advisor to a government panel set up to prevent digital monopolies
- National Health Authority CEO R S Sharma will design and accelerate adoption of open network for digital commerce (ONDC).
- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has initiated a project on ONDC.

4. 25-member Development Council for Cement Industry

- **Chairmanship:** Puneet Dalmia
- It will suggest ways to eliminate waste, obtain maximum production, improve quality, reduce costs and promote standardization of products.
- It will also recommend measures for securing the full utilization of the installed capacity and for improving

June 2021

1. Supreme Court of India e-Committee on captchas for PwDs

- Head: **Justice D Y Chandrachud**
- The committee has recommended all High Court websites will now have captchas accessible to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).
- This e-Committee in collaboration with NIC is creating a judgment search portal

(<https://judgments.ecourts.gov.in>) accessible to people with disabilities.

2. NHRC committee to probe complaints of post-poll violence in West Bengal

- National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has constituted a committee to probe complaints of post-poll violence in West Bengal.
- Head: **Rajeev Jain**



- **Other members:** Atif Rasheed, Rajulben L Desai, Pradip Panja, and Raju Mukherjee
- The committee has been entrusted with examining complaints received by NHRC or those that it may receive.

3. IFSCA committee to examine global best practices in ship financing and leasing

- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has constituted a committee to examine global best practices in ship financing and leasing.
- Chairman: **Vandana Aggarwal** (Former Senior Economic Advisor)
- This Committee will also identify opportunities and devise a roadmap to enable such activities.

4. Takeover Panel by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- Chairman: **N K Sodhi** (Former chief justice of the high courts of Karnataka and Kerala)
- The panel looks into the applications seeking exemption from the mandatory open offer that an acquirer needs to make to minority shareholders.
- New member of the SEBI Takeover Panel: **N Venkatram** (MD and CEO of Deloitte India)

5. Expert group to provide technical inputs

- Chairman: **Ajit Mishra** (Director of Institute of Economic Growth)
- Labour and Employment Ministry has constituted an expert group to provide technical inputs and recommendations on fixation of minimum wages and national floor for minimum wages.
- **Tenure:** 3 years
- **Other Members:** Tarika Chakraborty, Anushree Sinha, Vibha Bhalla, H Srinivas, DPS Negi

6. Committee for recommendation on developing e-content for children with disabilities

- **Chairman:** Manoj Ahuja
- **Constituted by:** Department of School Education and Literacy under the Ministry of Education
- The Committee has recommended that textbooks would be adapted into Accessible Digital Textbooks in a phased manner and the content should be provided in multiple formats.

7. GST Council forms panel under to examine GST exemption on Covid material

- Head: **Conrad K Sangma** (CM of Meghalaya)
- Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has constituted 8-member Group of Ministers (GoM) panel to examine GST exemptions on Covid-19 relief materials such as vaccines, drugs, testing kits and ventilators.
- Members of GoM are:
 - Nitinbhai Patel
 - Ajit Pawar
 - Mauvin Godinho
 - KN Balagopal
 - Niranjan Pujari

8. Committee submitted report on Variable Capital Company

- **Head of the committee:** K.P. Krishnan.
- **Expert committee on Variable Capital Company (VCC)** has submitted its report on the feasibility of Variable Capital Companies in International Financial Services Centres in India to the Chairperson of IFSCA, Injeti Srinivas.
- It was set up to explore the potential for allowing another legal structure popularly known as a VCC as an additional option through which asset managers could pool the investors' funds.

May 2021

1. IFSCA constitutes expert committee on Investment Funds

- **Head of the committee:** Nilesh Shah (Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Co)
- **About:** International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) has established this Committee to recommend IFSCA about the road map for the

funds industry in IFSCs in India. It comprises of leaders from the entire Fund Management ecosystem including from areas such as technology, distribution, legal, compliance, and operations.

- **Members:** Committee comprises of leaders from the entire Fund Management ecosystem including



from areas such as technology, distribution, legal, compliance, and operations.

2. RBI set up Regulations Review Authority 2.0

- **Head of the authority:** M Rajeshwar Rao (Deputy Governor of RBI)
- **Aim:** to review the regulations, circulars, reporting systems and compliance procedures of the central bank
- **Tenure of RRA:** 1 year, unless the timeline is extended by RBI.
- Similar RRA was set up by RBI on April 1, 1999, for 1 year.
- Advisory group to assist the second Regulatory Review Authority (RRA 2.0) under S Janakiraman has also been constituted.

April 2021

1. Six-members Committee based on Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARC)

- **Head of the Committee:** Sudarshan Sen
- **About:** The committee undertake a comprehensive review of the working of asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) in the financial sector ecosystem and recommend suitable measures for enabling them to meet the growing requirements.
- Committee will also review the role of ARC in stressed asset resolution under **IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code)**.
- **Other members:**
 - Vishakha Mulye (Executive Director of ICICI Bank)
 - P N Prasad (former Dy. Managing Director of SBI)

- Rohit Prasad (Professor of Economics, MDI, Gurgaon)
- Abizer Diwanji (Partner, Ernst & Young)
- R Anand (Chartered Accountant)

2. RBI constituted Advisory Committee for Ways and Means limits

- **Head of the committee:** Sudhir Shrivastava
- On the recommendation of the committee, RBI has increased Way and Means Advances (WMA) limits for the State Governments/UTs from Rs. 32,225 crores (fixed in February 2016) to Rs. 47,010 crores
- Revised WMA limits depicts an increase of about 46%.
- RBI has extended enhanced interim WMA limit of ₹ 51,560 crore for a further period of six from April 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021.

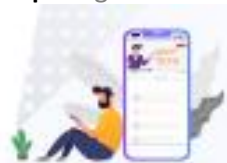
Science and Defence

September (1-15th)

1. Samudra Shakti exercise

- Third edition of India and Indonesia bilateral maritime exercise titled as 'Samudra Shakti' began in Sunda Strait, Indonesia

- It is a 3-day exercise
- It will strengthen bilateral relationship, enhance mutual understanding and interoperability in maritime operations between 2 navies



2. SpaceX launched world's first all-civilian crew into Earth orbit came back

- They were sent under Inspiration-4 mission by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida on September 16, 2021 and came back on 19 September
- It had 4 members: **Jared Isaacman (mission commander), Sian Proctor, Hayley Arceneaux, Chris Sembroski.**
- It features no trained astronauts, who spent time in orbit in SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft, dubbed as Resilience.

3. 15th edition of Surya Kiran Exercise at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand

- It is an Indo-Nepal Joint Military Training Exercise
- 14th edition of Exercise Surya Kiran was conducted in Nepal in 2019.
- Surya Kiran was called off in 2020, due to Covid-19 pandemic
- Joint military training will help in improving bilateral relations and further strengthen the traditional friendship between the two nations

4. IIT Delhi designs Liquid-solid Interface Triboelectric Nanogenerator

- 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

5. 'Peaceful Mission' 2021

- Indian military contingent comprising of an all arms combined force of 200 personnel is participating in Exercise titled as 'Peaceful Mission 2021'

- It is a Joint Counter Terrorism Exercise between **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states.**
- **Hosted by:** Russia in Orenburg Region of Southwest Russia

6. South Korea successfully test submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM)

- South Korea is the first country without nuclear weapons to develop SLCM missile system.
- With this, South Korea joins only a handful of countries to have successfully developed SLBM.
- Other countries that have tested or developed SLBMs: **United States, Russia, China, Britain, France, North Korea, and India,** which have typically designed them to carry nuclear weapons.

7. North Korea test new long-range cruise missile

- It is capable of hitting Japan
- 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

8. India's first nuclear-missile tracking ship, INS Dhruv commissioned in Andhra Pradesh.

- It is a 10,00 tonnes satellite and ballistic missile tracking ship, which has been built by the Hindustan Shipyard Limited in collaboration with DRDO and National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO).
- INS Dhruv is capable of tracking nuclear missiles at a long-range that will provide early warning of attacks by ballistic missiles launched from Pakistan and China.
- India now joins an elite list of countries consisting of France, US, UK, Russia, and China, who possess and operate such ships

9. Roll-out of the aircraft (Mk2) is planned next year and the first flight in scheduled in early 2023



- Under this, configuration for Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk2 has been frozen and steel cutting is expected to begin soon.
- It features enhanced range and endurance including an onboard oxygen generation system, which is being integrated for the first time.
- Mk2 is 1,350 mm longer featuring canards and can carry a payload of 6,500 kg compared to 3,500 kg the LCA can carry.

10. AIM launches Space challenge in collaboration with ISRO & CBSE

- Challenge has been designed for all the school students, mentors and teachers across India, associated with schools having ATL labs but for all the non ATL schools as well.
- Students can create a solution on topics: Explore Space, Reach Space, Inhabit Space and Leverage Space
- The application can be submitted on the AIM online portal.

11. Procurement of 56 C-295MW transport aircraft for Indian Air Force (IAF)

- Cabinet Committee of security has approved this and will make 40 aircraft in India within 10 years, while the rest will be delivered by Airbus from Spain.
- Aircraft will be procured from Airbus Defence and Space S.A., Spain.
- It will make Tata as the first Indian private sector company to make military transport aircraft for Indian Air Force
- All 56 aircraft will be installed with the indigenous Electronic Warfare Suite.
- It will give a boost to the aerospace ecosystem in India

12. China launches 24th Gaofen-series Earth-observation satellite

- It has launched on Long March 4C carrier rocket from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Shanxi province
- Aim: to monitor environmental protection efforts and boost its natural resources surveillance.
- It has been developed by Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology based on its SAST3000 satellite platform
- It is equipped with hyperspectral observational devices tasked with monitoring air, water and environments

13. AUSINDEX 2021

- It is a bilateral maritime exercise between **Indian Navy** and **Royal Australian Navy (RAN)**.
- It will be conducted from 6th to 10th September at COVIDSafe harbour phase in Darwin, followed by a sea phase in the North Australian Exercise Area.
- This is the first time the naval exercises are being held in the Northern Territory.
- Exercise was conducted for the first time in 2015

14. The 28th edition of Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)

- 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.
- Aim: to strengthen the bilateral defence ties between both countries



1. China's Artificial Sun sets new record

Note:

- China's Artificial Sun named Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) has set a new record in the latest experiment, where it achieved a plasma temperature of 216 million Fahrenheit (120 million C) for 101 seconds.
- EAST project is part of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) facility, which will become the world's largest nuclear fusion reactor when it becomes operational in 2035.

2. India set to launch deep sea mission

- The focus of the mission will be on deep-sea mining, ocean climate change advisory services, underwater vehicles, and underwater robotics related technologies.
- The mission is expected to cost **₹4,077 crore** over the next five years.
- Nodal Ministry: **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**

3. Cyber Capabilities and National Power Report released by International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

- The report analyses the cyber ecosystem of each state and how it intersects with international security, economic competition and military affairs.
- Report has divided the countries into three tiers of cyber power:
 - First Tier:** States with world-leading strengths across all the categories in the methodology. US is the only country in this tier.
 - Second Tier:** States that have world-leading strengths in some of the categories. Australia, Canada, China, France, Israel, Russia, and UK are in this tier.
 - Third Tier:** States that have strengths or potential strengths in some of the categories but significant weaknesses in others. India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, North Korea, and Vietnam are in this tier.

4. NASA announces two new missions to Venus

- It includes:
 - Davinci+ (Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry, and Imaging):** It will measure the planet's atmosphere to gain insight into how it formed and evolved.
 - Veritas (Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography, and Spectroscopy):** This mission will map the planet's surface to understand its geological history.

5. Polar-Areas Stellar-Imaging in Polarisation High-Accuracy Experiment (PASIPHAE)

- PASIPHAE is an international collaborative sky surveying project to study the polarisation in the light coming from millions of stars.
- The survey will use two high-tech optical polarimeters to observe the northern and southern skies, simultaneously.
- It will focus on capturing starlight polarisation of very faint stars that are so far away that polarisation signals from there have not been systematically studied.

6. IIT Ropar has developed 'AmbiTag'

- AmbiTag is a device that records ambient temperature during the transportation of vaccines, body organs and blood.
- It is a USB-shaped device that continuously records the temperature of its immediate surroundings from -40 to +80 degrees in any time zone for a full 90 days on a single charge.

7. IIT Guwahati has developed 'Smart Window' material that can effectively control the amount of heat and light passing through it in response to an applied voltage.

- This material can help in developing automatic climate control systems in buildings and develop efficient automatic climate control systems in buildings.

8. SpaceX launches tiny critters, solar panels to space station



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

9. IIT Guwahati researchers have developed "Smart Window" material

- It can effectively control the amount of heat and light passing through it in response to an applied voltage.
- This material can help in developing automatic climate control systems in buildings.
- It will develop efficient automatic climate control systems in buildings, the scientists claimed.

10. 'XraySetu' for early detection of COVID 19

- New AI-driven platform called 'XraySetu' has been developed to help in the early detection of COVID 19, with the help of Chest X-ray.
- It will be beneficial for early detection especially in rural areas, where RT-PCR tests and CT-Scans are not easily available.
- XraySetu will operate through WhatsApp
- It has been developed by **ARTPARK (AI Robotics Technology Park)**

11. European Space Agency (ESA) is developing its own 'EnVision' to study Venus

Note:

- It is for holistic view of planet from its inner core to upper atmosphere.
- The mission dubbed as **EnVision**, will probably be launched to the planet in the early **2030**.
- **EnVision probe of ESA** will determine how and why Venus and Earth evolved so differently, even while being in the habitable zone to the Sun.

12. IIT Ropar has developed a device 'Jivan Vayu'

- It can be used as a substitute for Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machine.

- This is the nation's first such device which functions even without electricity and is adapted to both kinds of oxygen generation units like CO₂ cylinders and oxygen pipelines in hospitals.
- These provisions are not available in otherwise existing CPAP machines.

13. China to send three male astronauts in its new space station for 3-month

- China has announced to send three male astronauts to its space station next month for a 3-month stay to achieve another milestone in its ambitious space programme, after the successful launch of cargo spacecraft Tianzhou-2.
- These three astronauts will take the Shenzhou-12 spacecraft from Gobi Desert to the space station core cabin in June.
- They will conduct tasks, including repair and maintenance, appliance switch and scientific tasks on the space station after reaching.

14. Maiden Indian Navy and European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) exercise was conducted in Gulf of Aden.

Note:

- A total of five warships from four navies were participated in the two-day exercise to enhance and hone their war-fighting skills to promote peace, security and stability in the maritime domain.
- INS Trikand, mission deployed for anti-piracy operations, is participating in the exercise.

15. Indian Navy to receive MH-60 'Romeo' Multi-role Helicopters from US

- Indian Navy is set to receive three MH-60 Romeo helicopters from USA in July 2022
- India and US had signed Rs 15,157 crore (\$2.13 billion) deal to buy 24 MH-60 Romeo helicopters from Lockheed Martin in Feb 2020
- Currently, the first batch of Indian pilots are in US for training on these helicopters.
- MH-60 Romeos are equipped with multi-mode radars and night-vision devices, Hellfire missiles, torpedoes and precision-guided weaponry.



16. China plans to send its first crewed mission to Mars in 2033.

Note:

- It aimed a long-term plan to build a permanently inhabited base on the Red Planet and extract its resources.
- It will intensify a race with the United States to plant humans on Mars. Crewed launches to Mars are planned for 2033, 2035, 2037, 2041 and beyond.

17. IIT Madras has launched 'Centre for Research on Start-Ups and Risk Financing' (CREST)

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

18. IIT Ropar has developed device dubbed as 'Jivan Vayu'

- 'Jivan Vayu' can be used as a substitute for Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machine.
- It can deliver high flow oxygen up to 60 Litres Per Minute (LPM).

19. European Space Agency (ESA) planned to world's first wooden satellite from New Zealand.

- It will be launched from Rocket Lab Electron rocket by 2021.
- It is the brainchild of Jari Makinen.
- WISA Woodsat: It is a nanosatellite and is 10cm on each side, length, height, and width.
- The sensors of the satellite have been developed by the European Space Agency (ESA) and designers have placed the wood in a thermal vacuum chamber to keep it dry.

20. OneWeb launched its next batch of 36 LEO satellites from Russia

- Using LEO satellites OneWeb seeks to offer connectivity across the UK, Alaska, Northern

Europe, Greenland, the Arctic Seas and Canada and all regions north of 50 degrees latitude.

- OneWeb is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite communications operator, has launched its next batch of 36 satellites from Russia.
- With the latest launch, OneWeb's total in-orbit constellation stands at 218 satellites.

21. Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy participated in 2-days 'Passage Exercise' with USA in Indian Ocean

Note:

- As part of the exercise, Sukhoi, Jaguars, IAF refuelling aircraft and warships and maritime patrol aircraft of the Navy participated in the exercise.
- INS Kochi and Teg, along with P8I and MiG-29K aircraft participated with US Navy CSG Ronald Reagan.
- Passex is part of regular exercises between India and US

22. Indian Naval Ship INS Tabar has been deployed for naval exercises in Africa, Europe

- The ship will participate in exercises like Konkan, Varuna and Indra.
- It will visit a number of ports in Africa and Europe and will also participate in a number of joint exercises with friendly navies.
- Ship will transit across the Gulf of Aden, Red Sea, Suez Canal, Mediterranean Sea, North Sea and Baltic Sea

23. DRDO successfully test-fires Agni P, a new missile in Agni series

- Agni P is an advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles and is a canisterised missile with a range capability between 1000km and 2000km.
- It can be used to target enemy armadas in the Indo-Pacific.

24. United States has launched joint Sea Breeze naval exercises with Ukraine.

- The exercise Sea Breeze has been held since 1997, involving NATO states and their allies in the Black Sea region.



- It has taken place 21 times since 1997. This edition (2021) will be the largest in Exercise's history that will involve some 5,000 military personnel from more than 30 countries.

25. NASA to send its first mobile robot to search for water on the moon in 2023

- First mobile robot is named as VIPER and is a part of NASA's Artemis program
- Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER) will collect data that would help NASA map resources at the lunar South Pole that could one day be harvested for long-term human exploration at the Moon.
- It will carry 4 instruments: TRIDENT hammer drill, MSolo instrument, NIRVSS and NSS.

26. China successfully launches new ocean observation satellite 'Haiyang-2D'

Note:

- HY-2D will form a constellation with HY-2B and HY-2C satellites to build an all-weather and round-the-clock dynamic ocean environment monitoring system of high frequency and medium and large scale to provide early warning on marine disasters.
- It will support China in detecting early warning and prediction of marine disasters, sustainable development and utilisation of ocean resources, effective response to global climate change as well as ocean research.

27. Reliance Jio is building largest international submarine cable system

- Reliance Jio will be constructing the largest international submarine cable system centred on India.
- Two cables are:
 - **India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) system** will connect India eastbound to Singapore and beyond
 - **India-Europe-Xpress (IEX) system** will connect India westbound to the Middle East and Europe.
- It will be built in collaboration with several key global partners and world-class submarine cable supplier SubCom.

28. United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V launches SBIRS GEO-5 satellite for US Space Force

Note:

- This two-stage rocket was launched from Space Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.
- Space Based Infrared System Geosynchronous Earth Orbit Flight 5 (SBIRS Geo-5) is fifth in the series of a constellation of the US Space Force, that will eventually contain six satellites.

29. Google Cloud partners with SpaceX to offer Satellite Internet Service

- SpaceX will set up Starlink ground stations within Google's data centres, that connect to Starlink satellites to enable high-speed broadband internet through Google Cloud.
- By combining Starlink's high-speed, low-latency broadband with Google's infrastructure will provide a secure and fast connection to global organisations.

30. Iran develops its most powerful supercomputer 'Simorgh'

- Simorgh is 100 times more powerful than previous supercomputer of the country.
- It has been developed indigenously by Tehran's Amirkabir University of Technology (AUT).
- It has been named after a mythical Phoenix-like bird 'Simurgh'
- It will be used for artificial intelligence workloads, traffic and weather data, and image processing.

31. DRDO's 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) drug for treating Covid-19 patients launched

- Developed by: INMAS, Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL).
- It will help in faster recovery of hospitalized patients and reduces oxygen dependence.
- It is an anti-COVID-19 therapeutic application of the drug.

32. China's First Mars Rover 'ZhuRong' successfully lands on the Red Planet

- Tianwen-1 was carrying ZhuRong, named after an ancient Chinese god of fire, which will explore the surface near the landing site

33. SpaceX accepts dogecoin as payment to launch lunar mission in 2022

- Space X will launch 'DOGE-1 Mission to the Moon' in the first quarter of 2022 with Elon Musk's commercial rocket company accepting the meme-inspired cryptocurrency dogecoin as payment
- It will be the 1st meme and 1st crypto in space.



- On crypto data tracker CoinGecko.com, dogecoin has jumped more than 800% over the last month and is now the fourth-largest digital currency.

April

1. 11th edition of Indo-US Special Forces military exercise 'Vajra Prahar 2021' held in Himachal Pradesh in March 2021.

- Aim: Enhancing interoperability between the two side and share the best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics.

2. China launches robot prototype 'NEO-01' in the Earth's low orbit

- It has been developed by Shenzhen-based space mining start-up 'Origin Space' to observe small celestial bodies in deep space and to experiment with space debris removal techniques.
- NEO-01 will use large net to capture debris left behind by other spacecraft and then burn it using its electric propulsion system.

3. DRDO Conducts Maiden Trial of Python-5 Air to Air Missile Using LCA Tejas at Goa

- This adds Python-5 AAM in weapons package of India's indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas
- Python-5 AAM has been manufactured by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems of Israel and is one of the most sophisticated guided missiles in the world.

4. CSIR-CMERI indigenously developed Oxygen enrichment technology

- Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-CMERI), Durgapur in collaboration with MSME-DI has indigenously developed Oxygen enrichment technology, effective for treating COVID-19 patients.
- This unit can even deliver up to 70 LPM at a purity of around 30%.

5. DRDO develops single crystal blades technology

- It is part of a program taken up by Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), lab of

DRDO, to develop five sets (300 in number) of single crystal high pressure turbine (HPT) blades using a nickel-based super alloy.

6. Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise 'VARUNA-2021' begins

- It is the 19th edition of exercise and will participate INS Kolkata, INS Tarkash, INS Talwar and Chetak integral helicopters.
- It was initiated in 1983.

7. Russia space agency Roscosmos to launch its own space station in 2025

- Moscow considers withdrawing from International Space Station (ISS) programme to go it alone so this is the reason the announcement came to light.
- Russia lost its monopoly for manned flights to ISS last year after the first successful mission of U.S. company Space X.
- ISS: It is a modular space station in low Earth orbit.

8. NASA's helicopter Ingenuity successfully makes historic first flight on Mars

- Ingenuity Mars Helicopter successfully completed 1st powered controlled flight by an aircraft on any planet besides Earth taking off vertically, hovering and landing.
- It rose 3 m (9.8 ft), hovered there for about 30 seconds, before returning to the surface of Mars with a total flight time of 39.1 seconds.

9. NASA awards \$2.9 billion contract to SpaceX to build commercial moon lander

- Total value of contract: \$2.89 billion
- Under this, SpaceX will develop a spacecraft 'SpaceX Starship' to land next two US astronauts, including a women astronaut at the lunar south pole region, by 2024.

10. Rare lunar occultation of Mars visible



- Skygazers watched a rare celestial event, known as occultation, when the moon came between Earth and Mars.
- Occultation (term used in astronomy): An event that occurs when one object is hidden by another object that passes between it and the observer.

11. NASA set to launch SpaceX Crew-2 Mission with 4 astronauts onboard

- It will have 4 astronauts on board SpaceX Crew Dragon: Shane Kimbrough and Megan McArthur of NASA, JAXA astronaut Akihiko Hoshide and ESA astronaut Thomas Pesquet
- This mission is the second of the six certified, crew missions of NASA, and SpaceX, as a part of the Commercial Crew Programme of NASA.

12. India inks MoU with France for cooperation on Gaganyaan Mission

- ISRO has signed an agreement with space agency of France CNES for cooperation in its first human space mission, Gaganyaan.
- Under this, CNES will provide equipment developed by it, tested and still operating aboard the International Space Station (ISS) to Indian crews.

13. Noura al-Matroushi has been named as the UAE's first woman astronaut selected for space programme

- United Arab Emirates (UAE) named two astronauts for its space programme, including country's first woman astronaut.
- Apart from her, Mohammed al-Mulla has been selected for this programme
- They will undergo training at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

14. DRDO develops Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard naval ships

- DRDO has developed Three variants of Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard the naval ships against enemy missile attack
- It has been indigenously developed by Defence Laboratory Jodhpur (DLJ), DRDO
- Three variants:
 - Short Range Chaff Rocket (SRCR)
 - Medium Range Chaff Rocket (MRCR)
 - Long Range Chaff Rocket (LRCR)

15. Indian Army to participate in SHANTIR OGROSHENA 2021 in Bangladesh

- It is a Multinational Military Exercise being held to commemorate birth centenary of Bangladesh 'Father of the Nation' Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
- Theme: **Robust Peace Keeping Operations**
- Other participants: Royal Bhutan Army, Sri Lankan Army and Bangladesh Army.
- USA, UK, Turkey, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Singapore will also attend the exercise as Military observers

16. DRDO lab develops light weight Bullet Proof Jacket

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), along with Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur has developed a Light Weight Bullet Proof Jacket
- It is of 9 kg weight and meets the qualitative requirements of Indian Army.
- The Front Hard Armour Panel jacket was tested successfully at TBRL Chandigarh and met relevant BIS standards.

Honor & Awards

September (1-15th)

1. **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.
2. **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.
 3. Indian President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2020. The award is 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.
 4. 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.
 5. 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.

6. 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-INSO, DG-CSIR, Director-NPL and Chairman-NABL. QCI is a non-profit organization registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860.
7. **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

August 2021

1. **Cyrus Poonawalla** has been selected for the prestigious Lokmanya Tilak National Award for 2021.
Note: He has been named for his work during COVID-19 pandemic by manufacturing Covishield vaccine.
 - Lokmanya Tilak national award:
 - It comprises cash prize of Rs 1 Lakh and a memento.
 - It is presented annually since 1983 on August 1 (death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak by the Lokmanya Tilak Trust).

2. **Jagdish Bhagwati and B. C Rangarajan** has been conferred with the inaugural Prof CR Rao Centenary Gold Medal (CGM) by the Indian Econometric Society (TIES).
Note: Dr Bhagwati is a professor of economics, law and international relations at Columbia University and Director of the Raj Centre on Indian Economic Policies. Dr Rangarajan is the former chairman, Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister and former governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The award has been constituted by the TIES to commemorate the



- contribution of Prof Rao, who is the founder president of the Society, and is the doyen of mathematical statistics.
3. Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd ranked at **155th** in the 2021 Fortune Global 500 list.
Note: Reliance took a beating on the rankings as revenues dropped owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is its lowest ranking since 2017. Walmart continues to top the Fortune list with a revenue of USD 524 billion, followed by China's State Grid at USD 384 billion. With USD 280 billion revenue, Amazon came in at the third spot, replacing Chinese giants. China National Petroleum was ranked fourth and Sinopec Group fifth.
 4. **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** has been renamed as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.
Note: The Prime Minister said the move was based on the numerous requests he received from across the nation. Dhyan Chand, whose birthday is celebrated as National Sports Day, won three Olympic golds for the country in Hockey. The award was inaugurated in 1991-92, the award comprises a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of ₹ 25 lakh.
 5. **Hamad International Airport, Qatar** airport has been named as the Best Airport in the World in 2021 Skytrax World Airport Awards.
Note: Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in New Delhi has been placed at 45th position in 2021 Skytrax Awards. Other Indian Airports in the list:
 1. Hyderabad (rank 64)
 2. Mumbai (rank 65)
 3. Bengaluru (rank 71)
 6. **Babu Ram** has been conferred with Ashok Chakra by the President of India on the occasion of 75th Independence Day.
Note: President Ram Nath Kovind has conferred 144 Gallantry awards to armed forces, police and paramilitary personnel on the occasion of Independence Day 2021.
Awards includes:
 - Ashok Chakra - Babu Ram (posthumously)
 - Kirti Chakra - Altaf Hussain Bhat (posthumously)
 - Shaurya Chakras – Arun Kumar, Ravi
 - Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry)
 - Sena Medals (Gallantry)
 - Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry)
 - Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry)
 7. Women Sub-Inspector Rita Debnath of **Tripura** police has been awarded the 'Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation' for the year 2021.
Note: The list of awardees were announced by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The 'Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation' for the year 2021 has been awarded to 152 police personnel all over the country including 28 women police officers across the country are to receive the award.
 8. **Mohammad Azam** has been awarded the National Youth Award recently by the Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur in Delhi for displaying exemplary leadership qualities.
Note: He informed that he has been providing skills to youth and conducting personality development camps for them from Chintakunta and Rekurthy villages in his district.
 9. **State Bank of India** is the Overall winner of the EASE Reforms Index Award 2021 (EASE 3.0 Awards).
Note: Bank of Baroda is second and Union Bank of India is third. **Indian Bank** won the award for the **best improvement from the baseline performance**. SBI, BoB, Union Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and Canara Bank won the top awards in different themes of the PSB Reforms Agenda EASE 3.0.
 10. **Basavalinga Pattaddevaru (senior seer of Bhalki Hiremath)** has been selected for the prestigious Sri Basava International Award by the Karnataka government.
Note: Minister for Kannada and Culture V. Sunil Kumar will present the award at Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru. The septuagenarian seer has spent over five decades in the Lingayat religious institution in the Bidar district.

July 2021

1. Dr Rajendra Kishore Panda is poet of **Odia** language who won the prestigious Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar 2020.
Note: This national award was instituted in memory of late poet laureate Kuvempu to recognise litterateurs who had contributed in any language listed in 8th Schedule of Constitution. The prestigious award carries a cash award of Rs 5 lakh, a silver medal, and a citation. Born on June 24, 1944, Dr Panda writes in the Odia language. He has published 16 poetry collections and a novel.
2. **Korean Airline** International Airline has been selected as the "2021 Airline of the Year" award by the Air Transport World (ATW) also known as Oscar in the aviation industry.



- Note:** It is also called the Oscar in the aviation industry. The awards ceremony will be held in Boston on October 5. The ATW's Airlines of the Year award has a huge honour that called the Oscar in the global aviation industry.
- The Indian Army has named a military firing range in Gulmarg after Indian Actor **Vidya Balan**.
Note: The Vidya Balan Firing Range is located in Gulmarg, Kashmir. Earlier this year, Vidya along with her husband Siddharth Roy Kapur had even attended the Gulmarg Winter Festival organised by the Indian Army. Also, a few days ago, it was announced that she has been invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the governing body behind the Oscars.
 - Indian venture '**Invest India**' has won the world's most innovative Investment Promotion Agency award 2021 by OCO Global.
Note: **OCO Global** is a leading economic development advisory firm, working with govt and companies worldwide on international investment and trade. **Invest India**, set up in **2009**, is a non-profit venture under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
 - Indian economist **Kaushik Basu** has been conferred with the Humboldt Research Award for 2021 by Dr Hans-Bernd Schäfer of Bucerius Law School Hamburg, Germany.
Note: The award recognizes excellence through an entire career and offers research collaboration opportunities. Basu is a professor of economics at Cornell University and the Carl Marks professor of International Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences and SC Johnson College of Business. He was the chief economist of the World Bank from 2012 to 2016, and chief economic adviser to the Indian government from 2009 to 2012.
 - Syed Osman Azhar Maqsusi** has recently been granted the prestigious United Kingdoms Commonwealth Points of Light Award for his initiative 'Hunger Has No Religion'.
Note: The hunger drive feeds about 1,500 people every day in five cities across the country. Presented by the British government, the award is given to the outstanding individual volunteers who make a positive difference through their services to the community around them.
 - Malayalam Poet **Omchery N N Pillai** has been honoured with the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS)'s Literary Award for 2021 for his contribution to the Malayalam language and literature.

Note: NN Pillai hails from Vaikom, Kottayam, Kerala. The award constitutes a cash prize of Rs 50000 and a citation. The award was announced by P V Radhakrishna Pillai President of BKS, Varghese Karakal, general secretary of BKS and Firoz Thiruvathra, literary wing secretary.

- Caleb Landry Jones** has won the best Actor award (male) in Cannes Film Festivals 2021.
Note: The Cannes film festival concluded in the south of France.

Here is a list of the main winners:

Award	Winner
Palme d'Or:	Julia Ducournau (Titane)
Best director:	Leos Carax "Annette"
Best actress:	Renate Reinsve (Worst Person in the World)
Best actor:	Caleb Landry Jones (Nitram)
Best screenplay:	Hamaguchi Ryusuke and Takamasa Oe (Drive My Car)
Best first film:	Antoneta Kusijanovic (Murina)
Best short film:	All The Crows In The World (Tang Yi)
9. Muhammad Yunus will be awarded with the Olympic Laurel at the Tokyo Games. Note: Yunus, whose pioneering micro-lender has been hailed for cutting poverty across the globe, will be honoured for "his extensive work in sport for development. The 81-year-old economist-turned-globe-trotting celebrity speaker won the Nobel in 2006. He will be given the award at the Tokyo 2020 opening ceremony on July 23.	
10. Aadhimalai Pazhangudiynar Producer (APP) Company & Snehakunja Trust have been awarded with the prestigious United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) Equator Prize for their work in the field of conservation and biodiversity. Note: They are among the 10 awardees. UNDP gives biennial award to recognize community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. APP is a 1,700-member cooperative, managed and run entirely by indigenous people from Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in Tamil Nadu.	
11. Sandesh Jhingan has been chosen as the AIFF men's Footballer of the Year.	



Note: Midfielder Suresh Singh Wangjam won the Emerging Player award for 2020-21. It is the 1st time that the defender has received the AIFF Player of the Year award, having won the Emerging Player of the Year Award in 2014. The award winners were chosen on the basis of votes from the Indian Super League and I-League club coaches.

12. **Kandla SEZ** of India has been awarded with IGBC Platinum Rating and is the First Green SEZ to achieve IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating for Existing Cities.
Note: KASEZ is the oldest export zone in the country and has become the first green industrial city in India to receive a platinum rating in the industrial cities

category. KASEZ has increased to 3.5 lakh trees from 25,000 trees in 2019. Most of these trees have been planted post 2019, using Miyawaki forestation method.

13. **Vaidehi Dongre** has been crowned as the Miss India USA 2021.

Note: Arshi Lalani from Georgia was declared the first runner-up of the beauty pageant while Mira Kasari, from North Carolina was the second runner-up. She also won the 'Miss Talented' title when she gave a flawless performance of Indian classical dance form Kathak. Miss India USA was started by New York-based Indian Americans Dharmatma and Neelam Saran under Worldwide Pageants.

June 2021

1. **Nitin Rakesh & Jerry Wind** has been awarded the International Business Book of the Year Award 2021.
Note: This book provides the knowledge to thrive business even in a crisis for entrepreneurs and business owners. Nitin Rakesh is the Chief Executive Director (CEO) and Executive Director of IT major Mphasis. He has won 'Gold Stevie Award' for Tech Innovator of the Year in 2019. Jerry Wind is an internationally renowned academician and is currently Lauder Professor Emeritus and Professor of Marketing at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.
2. **Thomas Vijayan** has won the 2021 Nature TTL Photography Awards for his photo of an Orangutan clinging to a tree.
Note: The photograph is titled 'The World is Going Upside Down'. Vijayan was adjudged as the overall winner of the competition from over 8,000 entries for Nature TTL Photographer of the Year 2021, which carries a grand prize of 1,500 pounds (Rs.1.5 lakh). Nature TTL is the world's leading online nature photography resource.
3. **David Diop** has won the International Booker prize 2021.
Note: David Diop has become the first French novelist to win the International Booker prize for translated fiction with *At Night All Blood Is Black*, his first novel translated into English. Diop, the author of two novels, and his translator Anna Moschovakis split the £50,000 annual prize, which goes to the best author and translator of a work translated into English.
4. **Water Burial** has bagged the best film National Award on environment conservation at 67th National Films Awards 2021.
Note: Inspired by the popular Assamese novel *Saba Kota Manuh*, which is written by Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi, *Water Burial* is in Monpa dialect and has an intriguing storyline around a dark ritual of a local tribe

in Arunachal Pradesh. The film, which is directed by independent filmmaker Shantanu Sen in Monpa dialect, has garnered positive reviews for its uniqueness in portraying the rituals of the tribals of the Northeast and bringing the attention of the mainstream media towards it.

5. **Rhea Chakraborty** has bagged the number 1 spot on Times 50 Most Desirable Women 2020 list.

Note: This year Rhea Chakraborty has topped the list. She was in the news for most of last year due to the sudden demise of Sushant Singh Rajput and the controversy around his death. Adeline Castelino (Miss Universe 2020 - 3rd Runner-up) at number 2, Disha Patani at number 3, Kiara Advani at number 4 and Deepika Padukone at number 5.

6. **Sumita Mitra** has been honoured with the European Inventor Award 2021 in the 'Non-European Patent Office countries' category.

Note: She successfully integrated nanotechnology into dental materials to produce stronger and more aesthetically pleasing fillings. The award, one of Europe's most prestigious innovation prizes, is presented annually by the European Patent Office (EPO) to recognise outstanding inventors from Europe and beyond.

7. Environmental organization 'Family Forestry' of Rajasthan has won the 2021 Land for Life Award by United Nations.

Note: The **2021 Land for Life Award** has been won by **Family Forestry** of Rajasthan, a unique concept that relates a tree with a family, making it a green "family member." The UN **Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** organises the **Land for Life Award** every two years to recognize excellence and innovation in efforts towards land in balance. The theme for the 2021 Award is "Healthy Land, Healthy Lives".



8. **K K Shailaja** has been awarded with the Central European University's (CEU) highest award – 'Open Society Prize 2021'.
Note: She has been selected for the award in recognition of her commitment to public health services. Open Society Prize, the highest civilian recognition by the university, is annually awarded to persons of exceptional distinction who serve the ideals of an open society.
9. Indian PSU **NTPC** has been recognized as a 'Great Place to Work' for the 15th year in a row by the Great Place to Work (GPTW) Institute.
Note: Under the category of 'India's Great Place to Work' it ranked at 38th position from its 47th position of 2020, it also won its first-ever recognition of – 'India's Best Employers among Nation-Builders 2021' from GPTW. Great Place to Work Certification: It is the most definitive 'Employer-of-Choice' recognition that organizations aspire to achieve, it is considered the 'Gold Standard' in identifying and recognizing Great Workplaces with High Trust and High-Performance Cultures.
10. **Cochin International Airport, Cochin** has won the Airport Council International (ACI) Director General's Roll of Excellence award in Airport Service Quality.
Note: This was established by Director General of Airport Council International (ACI). It is a global body of airport operators. The award will be presented during the ACI Customer Experience Global Summit to be held in Sep in Montreal, Canada.
11. **Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata** has emerged as the biggest philanthropist in the world over the last 100 years, as per a report prepared by Hurun Research and EdelGive Foundation.
Note: The report pegs the current valuation of India's pioneer industrialist Jamsetji Tata's donations at \$102.4 billion over the past century. He is followed by Bill and Melinda Gates (\$74.6 billion), Warren Buffett (\$37.4 billion), George Soros (\$34.8 billion) and J D Rockefeller (\$26.8 billion). He was regarded a 'Father of Indian Industry'.
12. **Surat and Indore** two cities of India has jointly won the Smart Cities Award 2020.
Note: India Smart Cities Awards Contest (ISAC) 2020 has been released to rank cities on different themes ranging from Social Aspects, Governance, Culture, Urban Environment, Sanitation, Economy, etc. Award was organized under Smart Cities Mission project, by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
13. Indian journalist **P. Sainath** has been selected as one of the three recipients of the Fukuoka Prize for 2021.
Note: Mr. Sainath will receive the 'Grand Prize' of the Fukuoka Prize while the Academic Prize and the Prize for Arts and Culture will go to Prof. Kishimoto Mio of Japan and filmmaker Prabda Yoon of Thailand respectively. The Fukuoka Prize is given annually to distinguished people to foster and increase awareness of Asian cultures, and to create a broad framework of exchange and mutual learning among the Asian people.

May 2021

1. **Shyamala Ganesh** has been honoured with the 3rd highest order decoration of Japan, Order of the Rising Sun, under the class Gold and Silver Rays from the Consulate-General of Japan in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
Note: She received the order for her contribution in spreading the Japanese culture and language in Karnataka and other parts of India and for promoting the friendship and goodwill between Japan and India. She is also the former President of the Bengaluru Chapter of Ohara-Ryu Ikebana and supported to popularise the cultural traditions of Ikebana, Japanese flower arrangements. Along with her husband Ganesh she has started a Japanese language school in 1983.
2. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has instituted the "Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema" from 2021, which will be given every year at **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**.
Note: The award consists of a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh, a certificate, shawl along with a silver peacock medal and a scroll. The award is instituted as a part of the celebration of the birth centenary of Bharat Ratna Awardee Satyajit Ray, who was born on 2nd May 1921 in Kolkata, West Bengal.
3. Maria Ressa is an investigative journalist and media executive of **Philippines** who has been named as the 2021 laureate of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
Note: The \$25,000 prize "recognizes outstanding contributions to the defence or promotion of press freedom especially in the face of danger," according to UNESCO. The prize was named after Guillermo Cano Isaza, the Colombian journalist. Over a career spanning more than thirty years, Ressa has worked as CNN's lead investigative reporter for Asia and the head of ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs.



4. **Pink** will be honoured with the Icon Award at the 2021 Billboard Music Awards (BBMAs).

Note: The award aims to recognize artists who have achieved success on the Billboard charts and left an indelible impact on music. Pink joins previous honourees that include Neil Diamond, Stevie Wonder, Prince, Jennifer Lopez, Celine Dion, Cher, Janet Jackson, Mariah Carey and Garth Brooks.

5. **Tyler Perry** has been honored with the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award, an Oscar statue, at the 93rd Academy Awards 2021 Ceremony.

Note: He was honoured for his contribution towards the recovery of the entertainment industry amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award is presented to an individual in the motion picture industry whose humanitarian efforts have brought credit to the industry.

6. **Naomi Osaka** has been named as the "Sportswoman of the Year" at the 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards.

Note: This is Osaka's second Laureus Sports Awards. In 2019, she won the "Breakthrough of the Year" award.

7. **Rafael Nadal** has been named as the "Sportsman of the Year" at the 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards.

Note: With the French Open victory in 2020, Nadal took his tally to 20 Grand Slam titles. Nadal picked up his fourth Laureus honour, having previously scooped the Breakthrough, Comeback and men's individual awards.

8. **Gita Mittal** has been selected for the Arline Pacht Global Vision Award for 2021.

Note: The Award will be presented at IAWJ's Biennial Conference during the virtual opening ceremony on May 7, 2021. She shares the honour with Margarita Luna Ramos from Mexico. International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) instituted this award in 2016. Justice Mittal would be the first Indian judge to receive the award.

9. **Anupam Kher** has won the Best Actor award in the New York City International Film Festival.

Note: The film has been directed by Prasad Kadam and produced by FNP Media. Besides Anupam, Happy Birthday stars Aahana Kumra. The film also won the Best Short Film award at the festival.

10. Indian American **Tahera Qutbuddin** won the Sheikh Zayed Book Award in 2021 for his/her book titled "Arabic Oration: Art and Function", thus became the first person from India to win the award.

Note: She became the first person from India to win the award. She won the award under the Arab Culture in

Other Languages category. The awards under 8 different book categories were announced at the 15th annual Sheikh Zayed Book Award held in Abu Dhabi.

11. **Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted** has been conferred with the World Food Prize 2021.

Note: World Food Prize is an award that aims to recognise achievements made in the field of food and agriculture. The award is also referred to as the Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture. Every year, the committee selects one person who will be awarded the title and prize money of \$250,000. Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted is a resident of Denmark and was born in Trinidad and Tobago.

12. **IREDA** has been conferred with the prestigious "Green Urja Award" 2021.

Note: The award was received by Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director, IREDA from Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, International Solar Alliance. IREDA gets the award for the pivotal and developmental role it plays in Green Energy Financing.

13. **Y Nuklu Phom** become the only Indian to the Whitley Award 2021 for his efforts toward creating "Biodiversity Peace Corridor".

Note: His name, along with that of five others, was announced in a virtual award ceremony organised by the UK-based Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN). Worth £40,000, the award is for creating a new network of community-owned forests to protect Amur Falcons and increase biodiversity in Nagaland. He is the only Indian to win the prestigious award. The award is also known as the Green Oscar.

14. **Andrea Meza** crowned as the 69th Miss Universe 2020.

Note: The pageant that was held on May 16, in the Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood Hotel. Meza was preceded by Miss Universe Zozobini Tunzi of South Africa. Miss India's Adline Quadros Castellino made it to the Top 4. Brazil's Julia Gama is the first runner-up, Peru's Janick Maceta is the second runner-up while India's Adline Castellino and Dominican Republic's Kimberly Perez are third runner-up and fourth runner-up, respectively.

15. **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** received the International Invincible Gold Medal for the year 2021.

Note: He has been recognised for his extraordinary commitment and outstanding service to humanity through his writings, social and illustrious public life. The decision was made after due deliberations by a high-powered committee duly constituted under the leadership of Dr Tony Nader who is the global head of the



Maharshi organisation. This honour will be given by the worldwide Maharishi Organization & its universities.

16. Indian scholar **Professor Shankar Balasubramanian** along with Professor David Klenerman won the 2020 Millennium Technology Prize for the development of revolutionary DNA sequencing techniques – Next Generation DNA Sequencing (NGS).
Note: It is a prestigious global science and technology prize awarded for their development of revolutionary sequencing techniques which means DNA can now be read in super-fast times. The prize, awarded by Technology Academy Finland (TAF) at two-year intervals since 2004 - when Sir Tim Berners-Lee was honoured for his discovery of the World Wide Web - to highlight the extensive impact of science and innovation on the wellbeing of society, is worth Euro 1 million.
17. Indian Choreographer **Suresh Mukund** becomes the first Indian to win the 10th Annual 'World Choreography Award 2020'.
Note: He won the award in the 'TV REALITY SHOW/COMPETITION' category, for his work on the hit American TV reality show 'World of Dance'. Mukund is the director and choreographer of the Indian dance crew 'The Kings', which won the 2019 season of World of Dance. The World Choreography Awards, famously known as the "Oscars of Dance",
18. **Hockey India, India** has won the prestigious Etienne Glichitch Award.
Note: The awards were announced by the game's governing body FIH during the HockeyInvites virtual conference. It was part of its 47th FIH Congress which concluded with the FIH Honorary Awards. The award gives recognition to numerous individuals, teams and organisations for their outstanding contributions to the sport of hockey.
19. **Shaji .N.M** has been awarded the India Biodiversity Award 2021 in the individual category of 'Conservation of domesticated species'.
Note: Mr. Shaji, who conserves a wide array of around 200 tuber crops including greater yam, lesser yam, elephant foot yam, arrow root, colocasia, sweet potato, cassava and Chinese potato in his farm has received State awards seven times for his efforts. He has also received the Plant Genome Savior Reward 2015, instituted by PPV&FR Authority, New Delhi.
20. **Conor McGregor** has been emerged as the highest-paid athletes in the world for 2021 according to the list released by Forbes.
Note: This year, MMA fighter Conor McGregor tops the list with US\$180 million in total earnings, edging past

the two football legends Lionel Messi (#2) and Cristiano Ronaldo (#3) who've been topping the charts consistently in the past few years. Read on to discover the full list and find out how much do the superstars make.

21. **Jane Goodall** has been honoured with 2021 Templeton Prize.
Note: Dr. Jane Goodall is founder of the Jane Goodall Institute, UN Messenger of Peace and world-renowned ethologist and conservationist. The Templeton Prize honors individuals whose exemplary achievements advance Sir John Templeton's philanthropic vision – harnessing the power of the sciences to explore the deepest questions of the universe and humankind's place and purpose within it.
22. According to the Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List **Bernard Arnault** became the world's richest person.
Note: He overtook Jeff Bezos, CEO of Amazon, whose net worth was 186 billion USD and Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla whose net worth was 147.3 billion USD. The net worth of Bernard Arnault has risen from 76 Billion USD (March 2020) to 186.3 billion USD with a massive rise of around 110 Billion USD in 14 months.
23. **Dr D Nageshwar Reddy** become the first Indian to win the Rudolf V Schindler Award from the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE).
Note: Rudolf V Schindler Award is the highest category in the prestigious Crystal Awards named after Dr Schindler who is considered as "the father of gastroscopy." With this, Dr Reddy becomes the first Indian medical practitioner to win this award. Dr Reddy is one of the first to promote endoscopy in India and has led the charge of educating numerous endoscopists all over the world.
24. **C.N.R. Rao** has been conferred with the International Eni Award 2020 which is also called as Energy Frontier award for research into renewable energy sources and energy storage.
Note: The award is also known as Energy Frontier award. This is considered to be the Nobel Prize in Energy Research. The Energy Frontiers award has been conferred for his work on metal oxides, carbon nanotubes, and other materials and two-dimensional systems, including graphene, boron-nitrogen-carbon hybrid materials, and molybdenum sulfide (Molybdenite - MoS₂) for energy applications and green hydrogen production.
25. **Amartya Sen** has been conferred with Spain's top Princess of Asturias Award in the social sciences category.



Note: Amartya Sen was selected for his best-known work- "Poverty and Famines". His research on famines and his theory of human development, welfare economics and the underlying mechanisms of poverty have contributed to the fight against injustice, inequality, disease and ignorance. The award comprises a Joan Miro sculpture representing and symbolising the Award, a diploma, an insignia and a cash prize of 50,000 Euros.

26. Indian actor **Sanjay Dutt** who has been awarded with Golden Visa by UAE government _____. **Sanjay Dutt.**
Note: The Golden Visa system essentially offers long-term residency to people with outstanding talents. In 2019, UAE implemented a new system for long-term

residence visas enabling foreigners to live, work & study there without the need of a national sponsor & with 100% ownership of their business. As per reports, Sanjay Dutt is the first mainstream to receive the Golden Visa.

27. **Valeria Luiselli** has won the International Dublin Literary Award 2021 for her novel, Lost Children Archive.

Note: Lost Children Archive is the 5th novel of Valeria Luiselli and the 1st one to be written in English. Valeria Luiselli was born in Mexico City and her essay collections include Sidewalks, Faces in the Crowd, The Story of My Teeth, and Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in Forty Questions.

April 2021

1. **Dr. Sharankumar Limbale** has been selected for the Saraswati Samman 2020 by the KK Birla Foundation.
Note: The Saraswati Samman 2020 marks the 30th Saraswati Samman. The book – Sanatan, features the story of socio-cultural struggles of the untouchables. The Saraswati Samman is an annual award instituted by KK Birla Foundation in 1991. It is one of the highest literary awards in India.
2. **Rajinikanth** will be conferred with the he prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2019.
Note: India's highest honour in cinema. Presented by: Directorate of Film Festivals. It is named after Dhundiraj Govind Phalke, who is revered as the father of Indian cinema. It was instituted in 1969. The recipient receives a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh.
3. **Hamnet** novel has won the National Book Critics Circle prize for fiction.
Note: Maggie O'Farrell's Hamnet has been conferred with National Book Critics Circle prize for fiction. Hamnet: Well-timed story for the current pandemic, explores the impact of the boy's illness and death on his family. He was Shakespeare's only son.
4. **Biswabhusan Harichandan** has been conferred with the Kalinga Ratna Samman for the year 202.
Note: It was given by M. Venkaiah Naidu during 600th Birth Anniversary of Adikabi Sarala Das and 40th celebrations of Sarala Sahitya Sansad. The award carried a silver statue of Goddess Saraswati and a copper plaque. Sarala Das was an excellent literary genius of 15th century who is well known as Adi Kavi, who contributed to epic literary works in Odia.
5. **Alfred V. Aho** has won the 2020 Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) A.M. Turing Award, known informally as the "Nobel Prize of computing."
Note: Lawrence Gussman Professor Emeritus of Computer Science, Alfred V. Aho has won the 2020 Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) A.M. Turing Award, known informally as the "Nobel Prize of computing." Aho shares the award with his long-time collaborator Jeffrey David Ullman. Aho and Ullman began working together at Bell Labs in 1967 and their early efforts included developing efficient algorithms for analyzing and translating programming languages.
6. **Jeff Bezos** has topped Forbes' annual world's billionaires list 2021.
Note: Jeff Bezos has topped the Forbes' annual world's billionaires list 2021 for the fourth consecutive year. India's richest billionaire Mukesh Ambani ranked at 10th position with total net worth of \$ 84.5 billion. Elon Musk stood second, followed by Bernard Arnault, Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg
7. **Suman Chakraborty** has been selected for 2021 GD Birla Award for Scientific Research.
Note: Suman Chakraborty has been selected for 2021 GD Birla Award for Scientific Research. He is a faculty member at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, has been chosen for his outstanding contribution to engineering science and its applications in developing technologies for affordable healthcare
8. **Ashutosh Bhardwaj** has been awarded with the famous Devishankar Awasthi Award 2021.
Note: This honour has been given to him for his work 'Pitra-Vadh'. He was elected by the selection



- committee of Ashok Vajpayee, Nandkishore Acharya, and Rajendra Kumar.
9. **Great Khali** has been inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame Class of 2021.
Note: The Great Khali went on to battle many of WWE's most legendary Superstars, including John Cena, Batista, Shawn Michaels and fellow 2021 Inductee Kane, whom he defeated to pick up his first win on The Grandest Stage of Them All, WrestleMania.
 10. Dutee Chand, the Jakarta Asian Games silver-medalist in 100 and 200 metres, will receive Veerni Award instituted by **Chhattisgarh**.
Note: The award, instituted by the Chhattisgarh state government, recognises contribution of Indian women in different fields, including sports. In 2019, the Odisha sprinter became the first Indian woman to win a gold medal at the World University Games held in Italy.
 11. **Nomadland** has won the best picture at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) 2021.
Note: The awards were given during a pandemic-curbed ceremony that recognized a diverse array of screen talent. "Nomadland" filmmaker Chloe Zhao became only the second woman, and the first woman of color, to win the BAFTA for best director, and star Frances McDormand was named best actress.
 12. **Guneet Monga** will conferred with honour of the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres), the second-highest civilian French honour.
Note: This honour has earlier been given to Hollywood stars like Meryl Streep, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Bruce Willis. Revelling in her recent success with Umesh Bist's Pagglait starring Sanya Malhotra, this is another proud moment for Monga. The French Consulate has decided to offer the title Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres to Guneet Monga for her varied accomplishments going past geographical and demographical boundaries.
 13. **Kane Williamson** has won the Sir Richard Hadlee medal 2021.
Note: He had a great test season. He scored 251 against West Indies followed by a century on the boxing day. Williamson's staggering performance against Pakistan helped New Zealand book a place in the ICC World Test Championship final.
 14. **Ben Stokes** has been named as Wisden's leading cricketer of the year for the second consecutive year.
Note: Stokes, 29, is the first Englishman to win the award twice since its inception in 2004. He scored more Test runs than any other batsman in 2020, with 641 in seven matches, while also taking 19 wickets. Kent all-rounder Darren Stevens has become the oldest person since 1933 to be named as one of Wisden's five Cricketers of the Year.
 15. **Beth Mooney** has been given the 2021 'Leading Woman Cricketer in the World' award by Wisden'.
Note: Mooney was considered the overwhelming choice for the accolade after also being voted the player of the T20 World Cup in which she played such a huge part in Australia's triumph, with innings of 81 not out, 60, 28, and 78 not out in the final at the MCG against India.
 16. **Alfred VainoAho & Jeffrey David Ullman** have been declared as the winner of 2020 ACM A.M. Turing Award also known as the Nobel Prize of Computing.
Note: The award was presented to them for fundamental algorithms and theory on programming language implementation. The award is also referred to as the Nobel Prize of Computing. Alfred VainoAho is the Lawrence Gussman Professor Emeritus of Computer Science at Columbia University. Jeffrey David Ullman is the Stanford W. Ascherman Professor Emeritus of Computer Science at Stanford University.
 17. **Uttar Pradesh** state has won the "E-Panchayat Puraskar 2021" ranking first under Category I.
Note: The award recognises the efforts of UP in implementing the e-applications developed by the Centre and other applications developed by the State Government. Uttar Pradesh was followed by Assam and Chhattisgarh in 2nd rank and Odisha and Tamil Nadu in 3rd rank. The award was instituted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj(MoPR) to promote the use of ICT in monitoring the works of gram panchayats.
 18. **Krithi K Karanth** become the first Indian and Asian woman to be chosen for the 2021 'WILD Innovator Award' given by the 'WILD ELEMENTS Foundation'.
Note: This award given by the 'WILD ELEMENTS Foundation' brings together a coalition of innovators, advocates and partners to "disrupt the status quo and identify solutions to global sustainability and conservation.
 19. Along with Jio Platform, **Byju's** have figured in Time Magazine's first-ever list of 100 Most Influential Companies .
Note: It listed Jio Platforms under the Innovators category alongside Zoom, Adidas, TikTok, Ikea, Moderna and Netflix. Byju's was listed alongside Tesla, Huawei, Shopify, Airbnb and DiDi Chuxing in the Disruptors category.



Sports News

September 1-15

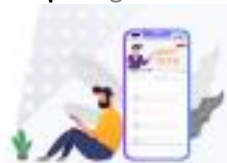
1. Harmilan Kaur Bains associated with **Sprint** sports.
Note: Harmilan, undefeated in eight national-level 1,500 metres races since January 2020. With this achievement, the 23-year-old athlete broke the 19-year-old record held by Sunita Rani in 1500m at the 2002 Asian Games in Busan by clocking 4:06.03.
2. **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.
3. 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.

August -2021

1. To win a bronze medal in badminton women's single match in Tokyo Olympics PV Sindu defeated **He Bing Jiao**.
Note: She defeated He Bing Jiao of China by 21-13 and 21-15 in the bronze medal match and became the first Indian woman to win two Olympic medals. She has also won silver at Rio 2016. Wrestler Sushil Kumar is the first and only other Indian to win two Olympic medals.
2. **PV Sindu** becomes the first Indian women to win two Olympic medals in individual category.
Note: She won bronze medal in women's single match in Tokyo Olympics. She defeated He Bing Jiao of China by 21-13 and 21-15 in the bronze medal match and became the first Indian woman to win two Olympic medals. She has also won silver at Rio 2016.
3. The Indian women's hockey team qualified for the Tokyo Olympic Games 2020 semifinals for the **first time**.
Note: India stunned three-time champions Australia by a solitary goal in the biggest upset of the Olympics. A day after the Indian men's team entered the Olympic semifinals following a 49-year gap, the world no. 9 women's side also entered the history books with a phenomenally gritty performance. India's best performance in the Olympics came way back in the 1980 Moscow Games where they finished fourth out of six teams.
4. Lamont Marcell Jacobs held from **Italy** who won the gold medal in men's 100m in 9.80s.
Note: American Fred Kerley clocked 9.84sec to take silver. Canada's Andre de Grasse, a bronze medallist at the 2016 Rio Games, won bronze medal this year too. In women's section, Jamaican sprinter Elaine Thompson-Herah won the gold medal in women's 100 metres in 10.61 seconds.
5. Elaine Thompson-Herah held from **Jamaica** country who won the gold medal in women's 100 metres in 10.61 seconds.
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6. **Yulimar Rojas** sets a new world record by winning Olympic gold medal in the women's indoor triple jump.
Note: Rojas jumped 15.67 metres on her sixth and final jump in Tokyo, smashing the previous best of 15.50m set by Ukraine's Inessa Kravets in 1995. It was the first world record of the Tokyo Olympics athletics programme. Portugal's Patricia Mamona won silver with a national best of 15.01m.
7. **Viktor Axelsen** won the badminton gold medal in men's singles in Tokyo Olympic 2020.
Note: The world number two beat China's defending champion Chen Long 21-15, 21-12, taking control early and never loosening his grip in a relentless performance. Axelsen, who won bronze at the 2016 Rio Games, followed in the footsteps of compatriot Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen, the Atlanta Games champion and the last winner from outside Asia.
8. **Chen Yufei** won the badminton gold medal in women's singles in Tokyo Olympic 2020.
Note: She defeated Tai Tzu-Ying of Taiwan 21-18, 19-21, 21-18. Tai Tzu-Ying had defeated PV Sindhu for a place in the gold medal match. PV Sindhu defeated China's He Bing Jiao to clinch bronze



9. **Esteban Ocon** has won the Hungarian Grand Prix 2021, which was held on August 1, 2021 at Hungaroring in Mogyoród, Hungary.
Note: This is the maiden F1 race victory for Esteban Ocon. Sebastian Vettel (Aston Martin-Mercedes/Germany) came second, followed by Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain). With this, he took the Formula One championship lead from Max Verstappen. Hungarian Grand Prix was the eleventh round of 2021 F-1 Championship.
10. **USA** has won 2021 CONCACAF Gold Cup in football.
Note: This is the seventh Football Gold Cup title for the USA, their first since 2017. CONCACAF Gold Cup: It is the biennial international men's football championship organized by CONCACAF, the football ruling body in North America, Central American, and Caribbean.
11. Alexander Zverev belongs to **Germany** who has won the gold in men's single tennis at Tokyo Olympics.
Note: With this victory, he has become the first German man to win a singles Olympic gold. He is yet to win a Grand Slam title of his career. He is also the only second German player to win Olympic singles gold, after Steffi Graf won at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.
12. Lovlina Borgohain is associated with **Boxing** who won a bronze medal in Tokyo Olympic 2020.
Note: She is the only third Indian boxer to win a medal at the Olympics after Vijender Singh (2008) and MC Mary Kom (2012). She won bronze medal at the 2018 and 2019 World Championships. She hails from Golaghat district of Assam.
13. Indian men's hockey team has defeated **Germany** to win the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics.
Note: This is India's first Olympic medal in hockey since they won the gold medal in the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. This is India's fourth medal in Tokyo so far. This is India's fourth bronze medal at the Olympics and last won a bronze in the 1972 Munich Olympics.
14. Shehroz Kashif belongs to which country **Pakistan** becomes the youngest mountaineer in the world to reach the summit of K2.
Note: He achieved the feat of scaling the 8,611-metre high peak with the aid of bottled oxygen, on July 27, 2021. Prior to Kashif, Sajid Sadpara, the son of the legendary climber Muhammad Ali Sadpara, was the youngest person to have climbed K2 at the age of 20.
15. Ravi Kumar Dahiya is associated with **Wrestling** sports who won a silver medal in Tokyo Olympic 2020.
Note: The ROC wrestler registered a 7-4 win against Dahiya. There were expectations that the 23-year-old Dahiya would become India's youngest Olympic champion but the Russian defended well to win comfortably. India have won five medals—two silver and three bronze—so far, following Dahiya's feat.
16. **Zavur Uguev** won Olympic gold medal in men's freestyle 57kg title in Tokyo Olympic 2020 after defeating India's Ravi Kumar Dahiya in final clash.
Note: The ROC wrestler registered a 7-4 win against Dahiya. There were expectations that the 23-year-old Dahiya would become India's youngest Olympic champion but the Russian defended well to win comfortably. India have won five medals—two silver and three bronze—so far, following Dahiya's feat.
17. **Belgium** won the Olympic men's hockey title (gold medal) in a penalty shootout after the final finished in a 1-1 draw.
Note: Australia, who won the silver medal, claimed their last Olympic title in 2004. India took the bronze earlier after a thrilling 5-4 victory over Germany, giving the country its first Olympic medal in the sport since the 1980 Moscow Games. India forward Simranjeet Singh scored twice, including the winner.
18. Japanese town Tokyo has handed over the flame of hope to **Paris** that will host the Olympic Games in 2024.
Note: Flame of hope or the flag was passed to Paris with the message of moving forward. It also remembered those who lost their lives to Covid-19 pandemic. Flame of Hope is the symbol of Special Olympics Games. It is used much in same spirit as the Olympic Flame is used at the Olympic Games. The Flame of Hope is lit during traditional ceremony in Athens, Greece. After lighting, it is relayed on foot towards the organizing city by the members of law enforcement agencies comprising of mostly policemen and policewomen along with Special Olympics athletes.
19. **Neeraj Chopra** becomes the first Indian to win a gold medal in a track and field Olympic event.
Note: He became only the second Indian to win an individual Olympic gold after Abhinav Bindra. At his calmest best, he hurled the javelin 87.58m to script history for India. He ended India's 121-year wait for an athletics medal. No Indian had won a medal in athletics since 1920 when India started taking part in the Olympics in 1920 in Antwerp, Belgium.
20. Peres Jepchirchir belongs to **Kenya** has won Women's marathon in Japan's northern city of Sapporo.
Note: She defeated world record holder Brigid Kosgei in the closing stages to win in 2 hours 27 minutes 20 seconds. American Molly Seidel took bronze. The race was run at midnight and the temperature still hit 88 degrees (31 C) and nearly 30 runners not getting to the finish line as Chepngetich captured gold.
21. **USA** top in the medals tally in Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.
Note: Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games conclude; USA tops medals tally with 39 gold medals followed by China (38), Japan (27), Great Britain (22) and Russia (20);



- India 48th. Total 113 medal USA has won in the event. The USA was involved in a two-way battle with China on the final day of the Olympics.
22. India stood at **48th** position in the medal table of Tokyo Olympic 2020 out of 86 countries.
Note: India stood at 48th position in the medal table out of 86 countries. 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics came to an end on August 8, 2021 and was commenced from July 23. This was for the fourth time that Japan hosted Olympic Games, after previously hosting in 1964 (Summer), 1972 and 1998. US has topped the overall medal table with 113 medals.
23. **Kolkata** will host the Durand Cup, Asia's oldest and world's third oldest football tournament to be held in September 2021.
Note: The 130th edition of Durand Cup is scheduled to be held in and around Kolkata between September 05 to October 03, 2021. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the competition was cancelled last season.
24. **Raunak Sadhwani** has won 19th Spilimbergo Open chess tournament 2021.
Note: He remained undefeated in the tourney, notching up five wins and four draws. He defeated Italian Joshuaede Cappelletto, Aron Pasti of Hungary, Lorezno Lodici of Italy and France's Loic Travadon. He was also U-10 Commonwealth Champion in 2015 in New Delhi, India.
25. Komalika Bari is associated with **Archery**.
Note: India's Junior recurve archers also bagged gold in the men's and the mixed team event. In U21 men's recurve team final, Indian team of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Aditya Choudhary, and Parth Sushant Salunkhe clinched gold medal. Indian trio came from behind to clinch the 5-3 win against Spain.
26. Harshit Raja belong to **Maharashtra** who became the 69th Chess GrandMaster of India.
Note: He won Silver in Under-13 National Chess Championship in 2014 held at Jamshedpur and Gold in School Games Federation of India (SGFI) Nationals held in Tamil Nadu in 2014. In April 2021, 18-years old Arjun Kalyan from Tamilnadu (TN) became India's 68th Chess GrandMaster(GM).
27. 2021 edition of World Athletics U20 Championships is scheduled to be held in **Nairobi, Kenya**.
Note: Javelin Thrower Kunwar Ajai Raj Singh Rana and Long Jumper Shaili Singh will lead the Indian challenge in World Athletics U20 Championships. India have had a champion at the U20 Athletics World Championships in each of the last two editions.
28. Shaili Singh is associated with **Long Jump** who won a silver medal at the U-20 World Athletics Championships in Nairobi, Kenya.
Note: She missed Gold medal by a mere 1 centimetre. Shaili's personal best effort of 6.59 metre was not enough for Gold as Sweden's reigning European junior champion Maja Askag managed 6.60 metre for the top spot on the final day of the championships. Shaili Singh is trained by veteran long jumper Anju Bobby George and her husband Robert Bobby George.
29. Youth World Archery Championship was held in **Wroclaw (Poland)** where India has won highest ever 15 medals.
Note: 15 medals (8 Gold, 2 Silver and 5 Bronze medals) which is India's best ever performance in the Youth World Archery Championship till date. Five Youth archers who won medals, have also been selected as members of the senior team that is going to participate in the USA-World Championships-September, 2021. Komalika Bari became the second Indian after Deepika Kumari to win both the Cadet and Junior Recurve Women World Champions' titles.
30. Indian table tennis player **G Sathiyan** has won Czech International Table Tennis Federation tournament at Olomouc in Czech Republic, after beating Yevhen Ryshchepa of Ukraine.
Note: This is only his third ITTF Challenger title following triumphs in Belgium Open 2016 and Spanish Open 2017. Prior to this, he paired up with Manika Batra to win mixed doubles title at WTT Contender in Budapest.
31. **Army Sports Institute Stadium, Pune** has been named after Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Neeraj Chopra.
Note: At the inaugural event, Army Chief General MM Naravane and Neeraj Chopra were also present. ASI, Pune has produced 34 Olympians, 22 Commonwealth Games medalists, 21 Asian Games medalists, six Youth Games medalists and 13 Arjuna Awardees so far.
32. **Avani Lekhara** has won the gold medal in Women's 10 metre Air Rifle Shooting at Tokyo Paralympics.
Note: She has won the first Gold for the country at the Tokyo Paralympic Games. Yogesh Kathuniya won Silver medal in Discus Throw. This is the fifth medal for the country at the Tokyo Paralympics.
33. Yogesh Kathuniya is associated with **Discus Throw** who won a silver medal at Tokyo Paralympics.
Note: Yogesh threw 44.38 in his sixth and final attempt to take up the top spot before Claudiney Batista of Brazil fired 44.57 in his first attempt to dethrone the Indian athlete. Yogesh got off to a poor start as his first throw was deemed as foul but the Indian para-athlete soon made up for it as he registered a massive 42.84 in his second attempt.



34. Indian table tennis player **Bhavinaben Patel** has won historic silver medal at 2020 Paralympic Games at Tokyo in the women's singles table tennis summit clash.
Note: She lost to Chinese paddler Ying Zhou by 0-3, in her maiden Paralympic Games. This is the first medal for India at the ongoing Tokyo Paralympic Games. She is the only second Indian woman to win a medal at the Paralympics, after Deepa Malik, who claimed silver in shotput at 2016 Rio Olympics.
35. Nishad Kumar is associated with **High Jump**, won a silver medal at Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
Note: This is the second medal for India at Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. He made a jump of 2.06m, and in doing so created an Asian record. He also equaled his jump with USA's Dallas Wise, who also took home silver.
36. Indian para-athlete **Sumit Antil** won a gold medal for a record three time in javelin throws after winning the third one in final of the Tokyo Paralympics.
Note: With this, World No. 1 in the F64 category, Sumit Antil won India's second gold in the Tokyo Paralympics and the first in athletics. The 23-year-old from Sonapat in Haryana, who lost his left leg below the knee after he was involved in a motorbike accident in 2015, sent the spear to 68.55m in his fifth attempt, which was the best of the day by quite a distance and a new world record.
37. Indian para-athlete **Devendra Jhajharia** won a silver medal in the men's javelin throw F46 final at Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
Note: Earlier he won gold medal twice. The 40-year-old Jhajharia, already India's greatest Paralympian after winning gold medals in the 2004 and 2016 Games, pulled off a new personal best throw of 64.35m for the silver.
38. Indian grandmaster **P Inian** won the Noisiel International Open tournament in Noisiel, Paris.
Note: The event, held from August 23 to 28, saw Inian score 8 points out of 9 rounds. GM Solodovnichenko Yuri of Ukraine finished second with 7.5 points while French IM Kambrath Yannick was third. The tournament was a 9 round Swiss system with Classical time control. A total of 54 players from 9 countries participated in the event.
39. **Max Verstappen** has won the Belgian Grand Prix 2021.
Note: Pole-sitter Verstappen was awarded half points, which moved him to within three points of Lewis Hamilton in the drivers' championship. Williams' George Russell took second with Hamilton's Mercedes in third in the shortest race in Formula One history - all 14 kilometres of it.

July 2021

1. **Abhimanyu Mishra** becomes the youngest chess Grandmaster, breaking the record of 12 years and seven months set by Sergey Karjakin in 2002.
Note: Abhimanyu reached the milestone in 12 years, four months, and 25 days. The 12-year-old player from New Jersey scored his third GM norm in Budapest, having already crossed the required 2500 ELO rating barrier. He went on to defeat 15-year-old Indian GM Leon Luke Mendonca, securing a performance rating higher than 2600 over nine rounds, which constitutes a GM norm.
2. **Sprinter** MP Jabir qualified for the Tokyo Olympics recently.
Note: Jabir qualified through the World ranking quota where there are 14 spots available. The 25-year-old sailor hails from Malappuram, Kerala. He is currently ranked 34th in the World Athletics' Road to Olympics rankings where 40 athletes qualify.
3. **Nihal Sarin** has won the Silver Lake Open chess tournament in Serbia.
Note: The third-seeded Indian came on top of the field with eight points from nine rounds. In the final round, he defeated Branko Damjanovic of the host. The second and third places were also taken by Indians, as Raunak Sadhwani and Abhimanyu Puranik scored seven points each.
4. **Max Verstappen** has won the Austrian Grand Prix 2021.
Note: This is his third victory in a row from pole. It consolidates his world championship lead over Lewis Hamilton. Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas took second with McLaren's Lando Norris in third.
5. **Hou Yifan** has won the FIDE Chess.com Women's Speed Chess Championship 2021.
Note: She beats GM Harika Dronavalli from by 15-13 in the final. Hou, a four-time women's world champion and the winner of the 2017 Biel tournament, added another prestigious title to her resume. Hou clinched the \$20,000 first prize in a tight match where she won the final two bullet games.
6. Levon Aronian has won the wins Goldmoney Asian Rapid online chess title, he held from **Armenia**.
Note: The Armenian grandmaster defeated the Russian chess player Vladislav Artemiev. He will receive a \$ 30,000 prize for winning first place. Goldmoney Asian Rapid is the 7th round of the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour organized by Magnus Carlsen.



7. **Mariyappan Thangavelu** has been named the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent in the Tokyo Paralympics 2021.
Note: The decision was taken by the executive committee meeting of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) due to his victory in 2016 Rio Paralympics. Mariyappan Thangavelu was conferred with the Khel Ratna. He had won the 2016 Rio Paralympics T-42 high jump gold by clearing 1.89m.
8. **Manpreet Singh** will be the India's flag bearers at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics along with M C Mary Kom.
Note: IOA also revealed that wrestler Bajrang Punia will be the flag bearer at the closing ceremony of the Games. The official size of the Indian contingent will be around 126 athletes and 75 officials, totalling 201. The Tokyo Olympics would be held from July 23 to August 8.
9. **Bajrang Punia** will be the flag bearer at the closing ceremony of the Tokyo Games 2021.
Note: IOA also revealed that wrestler Bajrang Punia will be the flag bearer at the closing ceremony of the Games. The official size of the Indian contingent will be around 126 athletes and 75 officials, totalling 201. The Tokyo Olympics would be held from July 23 to August 8.
10. Indian female swimmer **Maana Patel** became the first female and only the third swimmer from the country to qualify for Tokyo Olympics 2021.
Note: Maana Patel qualified for the Olympics through the Universality quota. Universality quota allows one male and one female athlete from a country to participate in the Olympics. Maana Patel will join Sajjan Prakash and Srihari Natarajan in India's swimming squad in Tokyo. Maana will compete in the women's 100m backstroke event.
11. AFC women's Asian Cup 2022 will be hosted by **Mumbai and Pune**.
Note: This move was taken by AFC to minimise the travel time and maintain an optimum bio-secure bubble for the players. The tournament set to take place from 20th January to 6th February, 2022 will be held at 3 Football Stadiums:
 - Andheri Sports Complex – Mumbai
 - D Y Patil Stadium – Navi Mumbai
 - Chhatrapati Sports Complex – Pune
12. Indian Grandmaster **Nihal Sarin** won the Serbia Open Chess Championship in Belgrade.
Note: This is the second consecutive tournament victory for sixteen-year old Sarin after he claimed the title in Silver Lake Open. The GM from Thrissur, Kerala played out a draw with GM Vladimir Fedoseev of Russia to finish with 7.5 points out of a possible nine to finish clear first in the 289-player field in the nine-round tourney.
13. **Italy** has won the UEFA European Football Championship 2020.
Note: Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma saved two England penalties to win by a 3-2 shootout. It was the first final to be decided on penalties since Czechoslovakia beat West Germany in 1976. Italy's goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma was Best player of the tournament.
14. **Argentina** has won the Copa America 2021 title.
Note: They beat Brazil 1-0 in the final at the historic Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro. Angel Di Maria scored the only goal of the match in the 22nd minute. This is Lionel Messi's first major trophy with the Argentina senior team. Messi elected joint best player along with Brazil's Neymar.
15. **Gianluigi Donnarumma** has been adjudged as the best player of the tournament in the UEFA European Football Championship 2020.
Note: Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma saved two England penalties to win by a 3-2 shootout. It was the first final to be decided on penalties since Czechoslovakia beat West Germany in 1976. Italy's goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma was Best player of the tournament.
16. **Novak Djokovic** won the Wimbledon 2021 men's singles titles.
Note: He beats Matteo Berrettini of Italy in final at All England Club in London. It his 20th Grand Slam title, Thus he equal Federer and Rafael Nadal's tally of 20 major wins in the Open Era. Djokovic also completed the Wimbledon hat-trick (2018, 2019 & 2021) to become the first male player since Federer to achieve the feat.
17. **Ashleigh Barty** won the Wimbledon 2021 women's singles titles.
Note: Barty has become the first Australian woman to win Wimbledon women's singles title since 1980. Ashleigh Barty's victory comes 50 years after her idol, Australian Evonne Goolagong Cawley, won her first Wimbledon title.
18. Indian origin boy **Samir Banerjee** won the Wimbledon boys' singles title 2021.
Note: All of 17, the boy from New Jersey just wanted to win a match at the biggest stage in the junior circuit, but little did he know that he would be the last boy standing at the hallowed grass courts. Up against compatriot Victor Lillov, the teenager won 7-5 6-3 in the summit clash that lasted one hour 22 minutes.
19. **Cristiano Ronaldo** has won European Championships (EURO 2020) Golden Boot, as no one from England or Italy managed to surpass his tally in the tournament final at Wembley.



- Note:** He had scored 5 goals, the same as Czech Republic forward Patrik Schick. Three of his goals came from the penalty spot, while the other two came from open play against Hungary and Germany. Ronaldo also became the leading goal-scorer in the history of Euros with his 14th strike.
- 20. Haryana** will organize the Khelo India Youth Games 2021 to be held in February 2022.
Note: Earlier, Khelo India Youth Games was scheduled to be held from November 21 to December 5, 2021, but has been shifted due to the possible third wave of Covid-19 pandemic. Khelo India Youth Games 2021 are to be held for the under-18 category. Around 8,500 players will participate in the event of which 5,072 will be athletes, including 2,400 females and 2,672 males.
- 21. Sophie Ecclestone** belongs to **England** has been named as ICC Women Player of the Month for June.
Note: She is the 2nd English female to win the title after Tammy Beaumont, who was awarded this title for February 2021. Along with her, New Zealand opener Devon Conway has bagged ICC Men's Player of the Month for June.
- 22. All-rounder Mohammad Mahmudullah** Riyad belongs to **Bangladesh** has announced his retirement from Test cricket recently.
Note: Mahmudullah's decision to leave the Test game mid-way, has been criticized by Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Nazmul Hassan. He decided to stop playing Test cricket, after the end of the third day's play of the ongoing one-off Test between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.
- 23. According to the Badminton World Federation (BWF)** India will host World Badminton Championships in year **2026**.
Note: This will only be the 2nd time that India will be hosting the world championship, with Hyderabad having played host to the prestigious event in 2009. Suzhou will now stage the 2023 edition of the BWF World Mixed Team Championships, with original 2023 hosts India accepting the opportunity to host the BWF World Championships in 2026.
- 24. Babar Azam** becomes the fastest batsman to notch up 14 ODI centuries reaching the milestone in 81 innings.
Note: After failing to score in the 1st two matches, he returned to form, scoring 158 runs off 134 balls, including 14 boundaries and 4 maximums. Babar notched up the triple-figure with a four of Saqib Mahmood's bowling in the 38th over of Pakistan's innings.
- 25. Lewis Hamilton** has won the British Grand Prix 2021 for a record 8 times.
Note: The win was the 99th of seven-times world champion Hamilton's Formula One career, fourth of the current campaign. The event was held at the Silverstone Circuit in the United Kingdom. Monaco based Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc finished at second. Hamilton's teammate Valtteri Bottas (Finland) finished third after being told to let Hamilton through to chase Leclerc.
- 26. In chess, Viswanathan Anand** won the Sparkassen Trophy 2021 held in Dortmund, Germany.
Note: He defeated Vladimir Kramnik of Russia in his fourth and final round. Playing white in a Tarrasch variation, Anand, a former world champion, settled for a draw in 40 moves, to win the match 2.5-1.5. The event was played as part of the "No-Castling" Chess devised by the Russian GM.
- 27. Mithali Raj** bagged top position in ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings in batting category.
Note: This is the ninth time that Mithali has reached the number one spot among batting players. Apart from her, Babar Azam (Pakistan) reign at the top of the MRF Tyres ICC Men's ODI Player Rankings.
- 28. Tajikistan and Switzerland** country has been inducted as a member in International Cricket Council.
Note: Mongolia and Tajikistan have been inducted as the 22nd and 23rd Members from the Asia region while Switzerland is 35th Member from Europe region. These three newly inducted nations are now among ICC's 94 Associate members.
- 29. Brisbane** has been chosen by International Olympic Committee for hosting for 2032 Summer Olympics Games.
Note: Australian city of Brisbane will be the host city for 2032 Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games as announced by International Olympic Committee (IOC). Brisbane will be the third Australian city to host the Olympic Games after Melbourne in 1956 and Sydney in 2000.
- 30. Web-based engagement platform 'Heroes Connect'** has been launched by **Hockey India**.
Note: Hockey India has launched its own player-oriented web-based engagement platform titled as 'Heroes Connect'. It has been designed to encourage former and current Indian hockey players to initiate constructive discussions around the sport.
- 31. Saikhom Mirabai Chanu** has won first medal for India in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
Note: This is the first medal for India at the ongoing Tokyo Olympics Game. She lifted a total of 202kg (87kg in snatch and 115kg in clean and jerk). China's Zhihui Hou bagged gold after lifting a total of 210kg, creating a new Olympic Record. Indonesia's Windy Cantika Aisah won bronze with a total of 194kg.
- 32. Indian Junior wrestler Priya Malik** won the Gold Medal at the 2021 World Cadet Wrestling Championship in 73-kg category.



Note: The championship was held in Budapest, Hungary. She defeated Kseniya Patapovich by 5-0 in the summit clash. Cadet World Championship is a tournament where the best Greco-Roman, Freestyle and Women wrestlers worldwide below the age of 17 compete.

33. 13 years old Japanese Momiji Nishiya associated with **Skateboard** won the gold medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and became one of the youngest gold medalists ever at the Olympic Games.
Note: Nishiya won the gold on 26th July, 2021 in the women's street competition which debuted for the first time in Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Yuto Horigome of Japan won the men's competition on 25th July, 2021. This makes Japan the gold medal holder in both the categories. Nishiya landed her tricks perfectly to beat out Brazil's Rayssa Leal, also just 13 years of age.
34. Yuto Horigome belongs to **Japan** has won the first ever skateboarding gold medal at the Tokyo Olympic Games 2020.
Note: He scored 37.18 points to win the first ever Olympic Gold medal for skateboarding in the men's street skating competition, held at Ariake Urban Sports Center, Tokyo. Kelvin Hoefler of Brazil won silver and Jagger Eaton of United States clinched the bronze. Skateboarding's inclusion into the Olympics marks a turning point for the sport, that was originated in US.
35. **Carissa Moore** become the first woman to ever win a gold medal at the Olympics women's surf champion.

Note: She defeated Bianca Buitendag of South Africa and registered a score of 14.93. Italo Ferreira of Brazil has defeated Kanoa Igarashi of Japan with massive lead in men's surfing event and secured gold medal. Surfing made its Olympic debut during three days of competition at Tsurigasaki Beach, in Chiba province, 40 miles from Tokyo.

36. **Vantika Agarwal** has won the National women online chess title.
Note: With 9 points Arpita Mukherjee of West Bengal took the second spot. Tamil Nadu's Sreeja Seshadri with 8.5 points took the third spot in this competition. Maharashtra's Soumya Swaminathan and Tamil Nadu's R Vaishali of finished fourth and fifth respectively.
37. **China** has won gold in the first mixed team 10m air rifle final in Tokyo Olympic 2020.
Note: This is the second gold for Yang Qian, who won the first gold of Tokyo Olympics in the women's individual event. The teams were locked at 9-9 after 10 series, but the Chinese pulled away outscoring the Americans in three straight series and four of the last five.
38. Weightlifter Polina Guryeva has secured first Olympic medal for **Turkmenistan**.
Note: She won silver medal for the Central Asian nation at the Tokyo Games. She lifted a total 217 kilograms in the 59-kilogram category, edging Mikiko Andoh of Japan for second place. Kuo Hsing-Chun of Taiwan has won gold by lifting 236kg in weightlifting.

June 2021

1. Indian men boxer **Sanjeet** who has won the gold medal in 91 Kg category in the Asian Boxing Championships 2021.
Note: Sanjeet triumphed 4-1 over Levit, who was chasing his fourth gold of the tournament and is an Olympic silver-medallist. With 15 medals in this edition, India surpassed its previous best-ever show at this Championship, achieved in 2019, when the country secured 13 medals in all, including two gold medals.
2. **Jordan Clarkson** has won the the 2020-21 Kia NBA Sixth Man Award.
Note: This is the first Sixth Man honour for Clarkson, who becomes the first player to win the annual award with the Jazz. Clarkson becomes the first player in Jazz franchise history to win the award and was presented the trophy by his teammate and fellow Sixth Man of the Year Finalist Joe Ingles. Clarkson received 65 first-place votes and earned 407 total points from a global panel of 100 sportswriters and broadcasters.
3. Tsang Yin-Hung is from **Hong Kong** became the fastest female climber to reach the peak of Mount Everest.
Note: She beat the record set by Nepali woman Phunjo Jhangmu Lama in 2017, who climbed Everest in 39 hours and 6 minutes. In 2017, Tsang became the 1st Hong Kong woman to reach the peak. Arthur Muir, 75, became the oldest American to climb the Mount Everest – at 8,848.86-metres (29,031 feet).
4. In tennis, **Novak Djokovic** has won the first edition of 2021 Belgrade Open Singles.
Note: The Belgrade Open part of the Association of Tennis Professionals(ATP) Tour 250 Tennis Tournament. 2021 Belgrade open is an outdoor clay courts tournament. Belgrade Open 2021 is the first edition of the event created due to the one-week delay of the 2021 French Open.
5. Sifan Hassan belong to **Netherlands** sets women's 10,000m world record of 29 min 6.82 sec.
Note: Ethiopia's Almaz Ayana held the previous record of 29:17.45, set at the 2016 Rio Olympics, but Hassan



- shaved more than 10 seconds off that mark. Hassan is the reigning world champion having won gold in Doha in 2019 and the 28-year-old set down a marker before next month's Tokyo Games, blowing away the competition and sprinting solo across the line with her arms outstretched in celebration.
6. **Sergio Perez** has won the Formula One Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2021 in Baku.
Note: Driver Championship leader and Perez's Red Bull teammate Max Verstappen crashed with just 4 laps to go. Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton, meanwhile, went off course while trying to win the race on the standing restart in the two-lap shootout. Four-time champion Sebastian Vettel took second for Aston Martin after an impressive drive after qualifying 11th.
 7. **Oman** country will host the inaugural International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey5s World Cup.
Note: Matches will take place in Oman's capital city Muscat. The Hockey5s' flagship event is a brand-new FIH competition. Sixteen teams per gender (3 per continent Oman as hosts) will take part in this first edition. Continental Hockey5s qualifiers for the World Cup will be organized in 2022.
 8. Indian footballer **Sunil Chhetri** has surpassed Argentina's global superstar Lionel Messi to become the second-highest active international goal-scorer with 74 strikes.
Note: The 36-year-old Chhetri achieved the staggering feat with his brace against Bangladesh in the joint preliminary qualifying round match for 2022 FIFA World Cup and 2023 AFC Asian Cup. The seasoned striker, who helped India register their first win in six years in World Cup qualifiers, now stands only behind Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (103) in the active international goal-scorer list.
 9. **Novak Djokovic** has won the French open Men's Singles title 2021.
Note: He is now one short of the men's 20 Grand Slam titles record of Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. The Serbian world number one increased his Grand Slam tally to 19 titles, and is now one adrift of the men's record held by Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. Djokovic has also become the first man in the Open era, and third overall, to win all four Majors at least twice.
 10. **Barbora Krejčíková** has won the French Open Women's singles title 2021.
Note: The 25-year-old Krejčíková, who was unseeded and ranked 33rd, hadn't made it past the fourth round in at any major before this trip to Paris. But after a magical run, beating the likes of Elina Svitolina, Sloane Stephens, Coco Gauff, and Maria Sakkari, she lifted the prestigious Roland Garros trophy after a two-hour-long final. Pavlyuchenkova, who played her first major final in her 52nd appearance, bounced back in the second set but failed to keep her momentum going till the very end.
 11. India's Mirabai Chanu is associated with **Weightlifting** qualified for Tokyo Olympics.
Note: The International Weightlifting Federation announced that Mirabai has qualified on the basis of her world ranking points. The 26-year-old from Manipur lifter is ranked second in the women's 49-kg category. As per rules of the IWF, top eight lifters in each of the 14 weight categories, including seven in the women's group, are eligible to compete in Tokyo Games.
 12. Indian Wrestler **Vinesh Phogat** has won the women's 53kg freestyle gold with an 8-0 win over Khrystyna Bereza of Ukraine at the Poland Ranking Series in Warsaw.
Note: The gold-winning effort of Vinesh is likely to improve her seeding in the 53kg freestyle event at the Olympics, to be held from July 23 to August 8. In the final match, Vinesh went up 2-0 in the opening 70 seconds of the bout. With less than two minutes on board, she led 4-0. Khrystyna struggled to keep pace with Vinesh in the initial stages of the bout. As the match progressed, the Ukrainian made some good moves but Vinesh was quick to wriggle out of the tricky situations.
 13. **D. Gukesh** has won the won the \$15,000 Gelfand Challenge chess title and with it, a 'wild card' for the elite Meltwaters Champions Chess Tour.
Note: He won all four rounds, including the key battle against Praggnanandhaa, and emerged on top after a series of favourable results from the games involving other title-contenders.
 14. **Max Verstappen** has won the 2021 French Grand Prix 2021.
Note: This race is the seventh round of 2021 Formula-One World Championship. With this victory, Max Verstappen has 131 points and now leads Lewis Hamilton (119 points) in the Formula One drivers' title race, after seven matches. Britain's Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) stood second in the 2021 French Grand Prix, followed by Sergio Perez (Mexico- Red Bull).
 15. Indian archer **Abhishek Verma** won a gold medal in the men's individual compound event in Archery World Cup Stage 3 in Paris.
Note: He defeated American Kris Schaff via shoot-off in a nerve-wracking final. This was Verma's second World Cup individual gold medal. He won the first one in Wroclaw, Poland, in 2015.
 16. Indian shooter **Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker** won the silver medal in the 10m air-pistol mixed team event at the ISSF Shooting World Cup.



- Note:** The tournament is being held in Osijek, Croatia. The duo lost to Russia's Vitalina Batsarashkina and Artem Chernousov in the gold medal match. Russia currently leads the medal tally with three golds as many silver and one bronze.
- 17. Max Verstappen** has won Formula One Styrian Grand Prix 2021.
Note: Verstappen has won three of the last four races. With a clean start from pole Verstappen denied Lewis Hamilton an early attack and he remained ahead for the entire race.
- 18. Shafali Verma** becomes the youngest Indian cricketer to make debut across formats after being picked for the first ODI against England Women.
Note: On her ODI debut, Verma scored 15 runs off 14 balls before being dismissed by Katherine Brunt. The Haryana girl took 17 years and 150 days to make her debut across format
- 19. Sajjan Prakash** has become the first Indian swimmer to qualify for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics.
Note: He achieved the feat as he clocked 1 minute 56.38 seconds in the men's 200m butterfly at the Sette Colli Trophy in Rome. Qualification cut-off was 1 minute 56.48 seconds. Tokyo **Olympics** will begin on July 23 and the Games will run up to August 8 2021.
- 20. Indian shooter Rahi Sarnobat** won the gold medal in women's 25 metres pistol event at the ISSF Shooting World Cup in Osijek, Croatia.
Note: Rahi shot 39 out of 50 in the 25m pistol final to win the first gold for India in the ongoing World Cup. The silver went to France's Mathilde Lamolle, who scored 31 in the final. In the in the women's 25m pistol event she along with Chinki Yadav and Manu Bhaker won the team gold medal.
- 21. Indian archer Deepika Kumari** completed a hat-trick of gold medals at the Archery World Cup Stage 3 after winning the women's individual recurve event.
Note: Deepika Kumari beat Elena Osipova of Russia 6-0 in the women's individual recurve final Deepika also won gold medals in the mixed team and women's recurve team events. Deepika's 2nd gold medal came with husband Atanu Das in the mixed team recurve event.
- 22. UAE and Oman** will host the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 amidst second wave of Covid 19 outbreak in India.
Note: It was announced by the International Cricket Council (ICC). The tournament is scheduled to be held from October 17 to November 14. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which holds the hosting rights of this year's event, will inform the International Cricket Council (ICC) in this regard.

May 2021

- 1. Lewis Hamilton** won the won the 2021 Spanish Grand Prix.
Note: This win is the fifth successive Spanish Grand Prix title of Lewis Hamilton and the third win of this season. Max Verstappen (Red Bull Racing-Netherlands) came second followed by Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) at third position.
- 2. Kami Rita**, Nepali climber has scaled Mount Everest for the record 25th time.
Note: Rita, 51, first scaled Everest in 1994 and has been making the trip nearly every year since then. He is one of many Sherpa guides whose expertise and skills are vital to the safety and success of the hundreds of climbers.
- 3. Ashleigh Barty** has won the women's singles title in the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix 2021 in Stuttgart.
Note: Australian tennis star beats Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in the final. She also won the women's double title partnering with Jennifer Brady. It was her first European tournament on clay since triumphing in the 2019 French Open.
- 4. Due to rising Covid cases in India** the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), in consultation with the Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC) decided to conduct the 2021 Asian Elite Men and Women Boxing Championships in **Dubai, UAE**.
Note: The tournament was scheduled to be held at Delhi's Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium from May 21 to 31, 2021. Now the event will be held between May 21 to June 1, 2021 and will be organized by BFI along with UAE Boxing Federation. Under the championship, the Indian women's team will be led by the MC Mary Kom (51kg) and the men's team is not yet announced.
- 5. Lewis Hamilton** has won the Portuguese Grand Prix 2021.
Note: He defeated Red Bull's Max Verstappen to eight points after three races. Verstappen finished second at the Algarve circuit with Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas completing the podium, and taking a bonus point for the fastest lap, after starting from pole position.
- 6. Indian sports person, PV Sindhu** has been nominated as athlete ambassadors for the International Olympic



Committee's (IOC) 'Believe in Sport' campaign aimed at preventing competition manipulation.

Note: The Badminton World Federation announced that India shuttler PV Sindhu and Canada's Michelle Li have been nominated as athlete ambassadors for the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) 'Believe in Sport' campaign aimed at preventing competition manipulation. Sindhu and Li will be working alongside other athlete ambassadors from around the world to raise awareness on the topic of competition manipulation amongst athletes and encourage. The pair have been global ambassadors for BWF's 'i am badminton' campaign since April 2020.

7. Indian gymnast, **Pranati Nayak** has qualified for Tokyo Olympics through Asian quota.
Note: She has won the bronze in vault at the Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championship 2019. She has qualified through the Asian quota. She is the 2nd reserve after Elpitiya Badalge Dona Milka Geh of Sri Lanka for the Asian quota. Both the Gymnasts will compete in the Olympics starting on 23rd July 2021.
8. Asian Games gold medalist Colonel Gulam Mohammad Khan (retired) passed away recently, he was associated with **Riding**.
Note: From 1980 to 1990, he captained the ASC team, during which time his team won the National title six times and he became individual National Champion (Eventing) four times. As a member of the team that won the gold medal in Eventing at the 1982 Asian Games in Delhi, Col Khan clinched the individual silver medal riding Goodwill.
9. Mark Selby belongs to **England** who has become the World Snooker Champion for the fourth time.
Note: He won the Championship title after defeating fellow mate Shaun Murphy by 18-15 victory at a professional snooker tournament, that took place from 17 April to 3 May 2021 at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, England. Prior to this, Selby won the Championship title in 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2021.
10. **Mark Selby** won the 2021 World Snooker Championship.
Note: This is his 4th World Championship. The Championship held in Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, England. The Championship was organized by the World Snooker Tour, a subsidiary of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA).
11. Indian weightlifter, **Jhilli Dalabehera** clinched gold medal in the 45kg category at the Asian Weightlifting Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Note: India's Jhilli Dalabehera clinched the gold medal in the 45kg category at the Asian Weightlifting Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. It was only a two-lifter field as Dalabehera made the most of the opportunity to better her record at the continental level.

12. **Aryna Sabalenka** won the 2021 Madrid Open women's singles title.
Note: She defeated world number one Ashleigh Barty of Australia in the final. This Sabalenka's 10th career WTA singles title, second WTA title of the season and first on clay court. Madrid Open is a professional WTA tennis tournament played on outdoor clay courts.
13. **Babar Azam** has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for April 2021.
Note: The ICC Player of the Month Awards recognise and celebrate the best performances from both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket throughout the year. Along with Babar, Australian women's team wicketkeeper-batsman Alyssa Healy also bagged the ICC Women's Player of The Month accolade for her incredible performances during the month of April.
14. **Alexander Zverev** won the Men's Singles Title in Madrid Open tennis tournament 2021.
Note: This is the 2nd Madrid Open Title (previous one – 2018) & 4th Masters 1000 Title for Alexander Zverev. In the Women's Singles Category, Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka defeated World No.1 Ashleigh Barty (Australia) to clinch her maiden Madrid Open Title. The 2021 Madrid Open is the 20th edition of the Tournament in WTA.
15. Wicketkeeper-batsman BJ Watling held from **New Zealand** has announced that he would be retiring from international cricket after the three Tests, including the World Test Championship final against India.
Note: Watling has played 73 Tests, 28 ODIs and 5 T20Is for the BlackCaps. Watling became just the 9th wicketkeeper to hit a double hundred and the first to hit a double against England when he did so in Bay Oval in 2019. Watling has been involved in two 350-plus stands, one with Brendon McCullum in 2014 against India and the other with Kane Williamson the following year.
16. Tejaswini Shankar associated with **High Jump** who won gold at Big 12 Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Manhattan, USA.
Note: Shankar cleared the bar at 2.28m to win high jump gold, but his efforts fell short of Tokyo Olympic Games qualification standard of 2.33m. Shankar had also won the men's high jump title in the 2019 edition of the Big 12 Outdoor Track and Field Championships while the 2020 edition was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



17. In tennis, **Iga Swiatek** won the women single title in the Italian Open 2021.
Note: She defeated world number nine Karolina Pliskova 6-0, 6-0 in just 45 minutes on the red clay of the Foro Italico. Swiatek has now won three titles, following on from Roland Garros with Adelaide in January, and now Rome, and will move into the top 10 for the first time.
18. **Rafael Nadal** won the men's single title in the Italia open tennis tournament 2021.
Note: He defeated the world number one Novak Djokovic in the final. Djokovic and Nadal were facing each other for the 57th time, having last played in the 2020 French Open final which the Spaniard won in straight sets.
19. Renowned cricketer Harry Frederick Gurney belongs to **England** who announced his retirement from the sports.
Note: He has represented the England Cricket Team in 10 One Day Internationals (ODIs) & 2 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is). He picked up 11 wickets in 10 ODIs & 3 wickets in his T20I career. He has played for clubs like Nottinghamshire, Melbourne Renegades (BBL – Big Bash League), Quetta Gladiators (PSL – Pakistan Super League), and Kolkata Knight Riders (IPL – Indian Premier League).
20. Stupa Sports Analytics has partnered with **International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)** to provide Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled real-time match and practice solutions.
Note: AI will help in taking Table Tennis to the next level by providing real time and in-depth analysis. During COVID-19 pandemic, ITTF collaborated with Stupa Analytics to provide online training lessons. AI analytics will help players to optimise their training, unearth new revelations, patterns and discover data driven insights.
21. AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships 2021 will be held in **Serbia**.
Note: The International Boxing Association (AIBA) has announced that the 2021 AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships is scheduled to be held in Belgrade, Serbia from October 26 to November 6, 2021. The previous edition of Championships was hosted by Ekaterinburg, Russia in 2019.
22. **Baljeet Kaur & Gunbala Sharma** becomes the first Indian Women Mountaineers to Summit Mount Purnima in Nepal.
Note: The two women are also the first ones to scale a mountain that is a part of the Everest Massif. Everest Massif is formed by four peaks- Mount Purnima(7,161m), Mount Nuptse(7,862 m), Mount Lhotse(8,516m) and Mount Everest(8,848.86m) together.
23. **Arjan Singh Bhullar** become the first Indian origin fighter to win an MMA world champion title.
Note: Indo-Canadian Mixed Martial Artist (MMA) Arjan Singh Bhullar defeated Brandon Vera to become the heavyweight world champion at the Singapore-based One Championship and became the first Indian-origin fighter to win an MMA world champion title. A former freestyle wrestler, Bhullar had won the 2010 Commonwealth games gold medal in New Delhi representing Canada.
24. Mountaineer, Tashi Yangjom held from **Arunachal Pradesh** becomes the first Indian Woman to Scale the World's highest Mountain, Mt Everest in 2021.
Note: Mountaineer, Tashi Yangjom from Arunachal Pradesh becomes the 1st Indian Woman Climber to Scale the World's highest Mountain, Mt Everest (Elevation of 8,849 Metres) in 2021. She was trained at the National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (NIMAS) in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh.
25. Sporting club **Atletico Madrid** has won the 2020-21 La Liga title.
Note: Luis Suárez scored the winner for Atlético as it beat Real Madrid for the title in a wild finish that had plenty of twists with the two remaining title contenders playing at the same time. Atlético's 11th league title ended a seven-year dominance by Barcelona and Real Madrid in Spain. Since 2014, Barcelona had won the league four times and Madrid twice, including last season.
26. **Stefanos Tsitsipas** has won the men's singles title at 2021 Lyon Open tennis in France.
Note: He defeated Briton Cameron Norrie by 6-3, 6-3 in final. Tsitsipas lifted his seventh career title and his second red surface win this year. Tsitsipas lost in the Barcelona final to Rafael Nadal but landed the Monte Carlo ATP with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Russian Andrey Rublev.
27. **Max Verstappen** won the Formula One Monaco Grand Prix title 2021.
Note: The 23-year-old Dutch driver started the day 14 points behind Mercedes' seven times world champion Lewis Hamilton and ended it four clear. Hamilton finished seventh, with an extra point for the fastest lap. The victory was Verstappen's second of the season and also the first time he had stood on the podium at the sport's most glamorous race.
28. **Casper Ruud** has won the Men's Singles title at Geneva Open tennis tournament.



- Note:** He defeated 15th-ranked Denis Shapovalov of Canada. In Geneva, the 22-year-old Ruud dropped only one set en route to the championship match against Shapovalov, who was also seeking his second tour-level title. Ruud improved to an ATP Tour-leading 32 clay-court wins in 2020-21, ahead of Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas (26) and Chile's Cristian Garin (25).
29. **India** will host the 2022 FIFA under-17 Women's World Cup.
Note: India was set to host the 2021 U-17 Women's World Cup before it was canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This global event will be the second FIFA tournament to be hosted by India after the FIFA under-17 World Cup in 2017, which broke the record for being the most attended youth World Cup in FIFA's history.
30. Palak Kohli and Parul Parmar associated with **Badminton** were qualified for the Tokyo Paralympics 2021.
Note: They are the first Indian para shuttlers to qualify for the Tokyo Paralympics. Palak Kohli is ranked no.11 in the world and she is becoming the youngest para-badminton player in the world to qualify for Tokyo 2021 Paralympics. The pair is currently ranked number 6 in the world and has won a total of four titles together since 2019.
31. **Robert Lewandowski** awarded with Europe's Golden Shoe, as he finished as the top scorer in Europe's leading domestic leagues.
Note: He scored a record-breaking 41 goals in the Bundesliga en route to Bayern's ninth consecutive league title. By breaking Gerd Muller's single season Bundesliga record, Lewandowski became the first Bundesliga striker

to win the Golden Shoe. He beat out Barcelona's Lionel Messi, Juventus's Cristiano Ronaldo, PSG's Kylian Mbappe, and fellow Bundesliga rivals Erling Haaland (Borussia Dortmund), and Andre Silva (Eintracht Frankfurt).

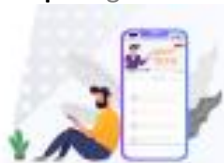
32. **Chelsea** has won the 2020-21 UEFA Champions League title.
Note: Chelsea defeated Manchester City 1-0 in the final, to lift the 2020-21 UEFA Champions League title, on May 29, 2021, played at the Estádio do Dragão in Porto, Portugal. German forward Kai Havertz scored the only goal of the football match. This is the second Champions League title for Chelsea, after winning the first won in 2012.
33. Indian Women boxer **Mary Kom** settles with silver medal at 2021 Asian Boxing Championships.
Note: The five-time Asian Championships gold medallist Mary Kom was competing in a high-octane 51kg final. This is the second silver for Mary Kom at the Asian Championships who has previously won silver in 2008. Apart from this, she won world championship titles on five occasions including 2003, 2005, 2010, 2012, and 2017.
34. Indian Women boxer **Pooja Rani Bohra** won the Gold Medal in the 2021 Asian Boxing Championships in 75Kg category.
Note: She defeated Mavluda Movlonova in the gold medal clash. Meanwhile, Lalbuatsaihi (64kg) also won the silver medal in her category, losing to Milana Safronova. Anupama (+81kg) also bagged a silver medal, losing to Lazzat Kungeibayeva in the final.

April 2021

1. **Uzbekistan** will host the 2023 men's boxing World Championships.
Note: Tashkent is awarded the 2023 AIBA Men's boxing World Boxing Championships after the successful bid presentation by the Boxing Federation of Uzbekistan. 22nd edition of the competition will be the first time when Uzbekistan will be hosting it. Uzbekistan is one of the most active members of the International Boxing Association, we have rich boxing history.
2. **Nethra Kumanan** became the first Indian woman sailor to qualify for the Olympics after she was assured of a top-place finish in the laser radial event of the Asian Qualifiers in Oman.

Note: The 23-year-old Kumanan has a 21-point advantage over her nearest rival, who also happens to be an Indian -- Ramya Saravanan -- in the Laser Radial Class event with one race to go. The Chennai-based Kumanan currently has 18 points while Saravanan has 39 on the penultimate day of competitions in Mussanah Open Championship, which is a joint Asian and African Olympic qualifying event.

3. FIFA has suspended the football governing body of Chad and **Pakistan**.
Note: The suspension will be lifted once the relevant government decisions have been repealed. A group of football officials led by Ashfaq Hussain, which was



- elected by the Supreme Court in 2018 to run the PFF but was not recognised by FIFA, took over the headquarters recently and seized control from the FIFA Normalisation Committee headed by Haroon Malik.
4. **Seville** city will host the 22nd Laureus World Sports Awards in a virtual ceremony owing to the raging COVID-19 pandemic.
Note: The awards show, featuring presentations and related news stories will be available to the world's media and broadcast extensively on Laureus social media platforms. The winners of Laureus World Sports Awards are selected by a jury comprising 69 members of the Laureus World Sports Academy.
 5. **Max Verstappen** has won the Emilia Romagna F1 Grand Prix 2021, in Imola, Italy.
Note: This win is his first victory of the season. The race was the second round of the 2021 Formula One World Championship. The seven-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) finished second, following a crash and sustaining damage involving Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas. Lando Norris (McLaren – Great Britain) took third place.
 6. 34th edition of the Senior Asian Wrestling Championships was held in **Kazakhstan**.
Note: The event was the 34th edition of the Asian Wrestling Championships. India won 14 medals to stand in the third spot on the medal table. The medals include 5 Gold, 3 Silver & 6 Bronze Medals. Iran and Kazakhstan topped the medal tally with 17 medals each.
 7. **Vinesh Phogat** has won the gold medal in the 53 kg Women's freestyle event in 34th edition of the Senior Asian Wrestling Championships 2021.
Note: The event was the 34th edition of the Asian Wrestling Championships. India won 14 medals to stand in the third spot on the medal table. The medals include 5 Gold, 3 Silver & 6 Bronze Medals. Iran and Kazakhstan topped the medal tally with 17 medals each. Indian Gold medalist are:
 1. Ravi Kumar Dahiya – 57 kg Men's freestyle
 2. Vinesh Phogat – 53 kg Women's freestyle
 3. Anshu Malik – 57 kg Women's freestyle
 4. Sarita Mor – 59 kg Women's freestyle
 5. Divya Kakran – 72 kg Women's freestyle
 8. Mirabai Chanu is associated with **Weightlifting** who set a new World Record recently.
Note: The 26-year-old Indian won the bronze medal at the event. The gold medal went to Hou Zhihui of China who created a new world record in snatch. Asian Games, held once every 4yrs, is the 2nd largest multi-sport event after Olympics.
 9. **Barcelona** has won Copa del Rey football tournament at Seville in Spain.
Note: Barca earned the Spanish King's Cup trophy, scoring all their goals in the second half of the final at La Cartuja Stadium, Seville. French star Antoine Griezmann scored the opener with a left-footed shot in the near post in the 59th minute to give Barcelona the lead. Dutch midfielder Frenkie de Jong doubled the gap with a diving header in the 63rd minute.
 10. **Stefanos Tsitsipas** has won the ATP Masters 1000 series tennis tournament.
Note: The Greek star had lost his previous two finals at this level, with Rafael Nadal denying him in Toronto and Novak Djokovic beating him in Madrid. Rublev beat 11-time Monte Carlo champion Nadal in the quarter-finals. Rublev knocked out Roberto Bautista Agut, Rafael Nadal and Dan Evans en route to the final but could not find a way past Tsitsipas.
 11. Sri Lankan Cricketer **Dilhara Lokuhettige** has been banned for 8 years from all forms of cricket for breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption code the International Cricket Council (ICC).
Note: The ban was backdated to 3rd April 2019 when he was provisionally suspended. He was the 4th former Sri Lanka player to be charged with corruption. He was also charged by the ICC on behalf of Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) for breaching 3 ECB anti corruption code for T10 league in 2017.
 12. Arjun Kalyan held from **Tamil Nadu** who became India's 68th Chess Grand Master (GM) after winning against Dragan Kotic of Montenegro in the 5th round of the ongoing GM Round Robin "Rujna Zora-3" in Serbia.
Note: In order to qualify for the title of GM, a player must achieve 3 GrandMaster norms in events covering a minimum of 27 games and an ELO (Electric Light Orchestra) rating of at least 2500 at any point in their career. Arjun Kalyan already had 4 GM norms under his belt but his ELO was 2477. After playing a steady chess in the three closed round robin event he crossed the 2500 mark to become India's 68th GM.
 13. **Priyanka Mohite** become the first Indian women to scale the Mount Annapurna 10th highest mountain peak in the world.
Note: Priyanka Mohite from Satara in western Maharashtra has scaled Mt Annapurna, the 10th highest mountain peak in the world, becoming the first Indian woman climber to achieve the feat. Priyanka has also climbed the world's highest peak Mount Everest (8,849 metres) in 2013, Mount Lhotse (8,516



- metres) in 2018, Mount Makalu (8,485 metres) and also Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 metres) in 2016.
- 14. Indian boxer Amit Panghal** has won a bronze medal at the Governor's Cup in St Petersburg, Russia.
Note: Amit, a world championship silver-medallist, lost 5-0 to the Uzbek, who is also the reigning Olympic champion. This was the Indian's second loss to Zoirov after the 2019 world championships. In that event, he had lost to Zoirov in the finals.
- 15. Football Club Manchester City** has won the League Cup final in London.
Note: The final was played in front of 8,000 supporters, including 2,000 from each club - and it was a delight to hear noise inside Wembley's vast arena once more. City's victory equalled Liverpool's achievement in the early 1980s of winning the competition four years in a row, as well as matching the Reds' overall tally of eight triumphs, and manager Pep Guardiola said his players are motivated by such milestones.
- 16. According to the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)** USA will host the World Table Tennis Championship 2021 for the first time.
Note: This is for the 1st time USA will host the World Table Tennis Championship. The decision was made at a meeting of the ITTF executive committee on April 11. It is to be noted that, 2020 World Table Tennis Championship in Busan, South Korea was cancelled due to covid-19 pandemic.
- 17. Rafael Nadal** has won the 68th Edition of Barcelona Open.
Note: This is the 12th Barcelona Open Title for Rafael Nadal. The 2021 Barcelona Open (sponsored by Banc Sabadell) took place from April 17-25, 2021 at Real Club de Tennis Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain. Rafael Nadal won his 1st Barcelona Title in the year 2005. Barcelona Open is an annual tennis tournament for male professional players and is played on clay courts.
- 18. AIBA Youth Men's and Women's World Boxing Championships 2021** was held in **Poland**.
Note: India topped the overall medals tally by winning 11 Medals (8 Gold, 3 Bronze). The AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships is an biennial event, around 414 boxers from 52 countries participated in the 2021 edition.
- 19. Indian boxer Sachin** is the only one from the Indian Men's Boxing Contingent to win a Gold Medal (56 Kg) at AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships.
Note: India topped the overall medals tally by winning 11 Medals (8 Gold, 3 Bronze). The AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships is an biennial event, around 414 boxers from 52 countries participated in the 2021 edition. Indian Boxer Sachin who hails from Bhiwani, Haryana was the only one from the Indian Men's Boxing Contingent to win a Gold Medal (56 Kg) at the event.
- 20. Arjun Kalyan** won the GM round robin Rujna Zora-3 2021 chess tournament which concluded in Serbia.
Note: The 18-year-old Kalyan is a B. Com. student at the SRM College (Vadapalani) in Chennai. He is coached by IM Saravanan and Ukrainian GM Aleksandr Goloshchapov.

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