

The background of the cover features a blurred image of a student with glasses sitting at a desk, using a laptop. The student's hands are visible, one holding a blue pen and the other typing on the keyboard. The image is partially obscured by a large purple and orange graphic element on the left side.

IBPS RRB Clerk Main Exam 2021

GK Tornado PDF (Capsule)

GK-Tornado IBPS RRB Mains Exam 2021

Dear Aspirants,

This **GK Tornado** is a complete docket of important **Banking Awareness & Current Affairs news** and events that occurred in last **6 months (1st April 2021 – 30th September 2021)**. This file is important and relevant for all competitive exams like **Banking, Insurance, SSC and UPSC Exams**.

News related to RBI

September 2021

1. RBI announces Opening of Third Cohort under the Regulatory Sandbox

Note: RBI has announced the opening of Third Cohort under Regulatory Sandbox (RS) with the theme of 'MSME Lending'. Third Cohort application will be kept open from October 1 to November 14, 2021. Prior to this, RBI has launched 2 cohort under regulatory sandbox. These are:

- ❖ First Cohort: It was launched in November 2019, with the theme as 'Retail Payments'. Six entities have completed the testing phase of the cohort.
- ❖ Second Cohort: It was announced in December 2020 with the theme as 'Cross Border Payments'.

2. **RBI removes lending curbs on UCO Bank**

Note: Reserve Bank of India has taken public sector lender UCO Bank out of Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework (PCA) on improvement in financial and credit profile. This decision gives the bank more freedom for lending, especially to corporations and grow the network, subject to prescribed norms. The Kolkata-based lender was placed under PCA in May 2017 on account of high Net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and negative Return on Assets (RoAs). Earlier, RBI also removed IDBI Bank from PCA after almost 4 years.

3. **RBI imposes Rs 25 lakh fine on Axis Bank for flouting KYC norms**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 25 lakh on Axis Bank for violating certain provisions of know your customer (KYC) norms, on September 01, 2021. RBI had carried out scrutiny during February 2020 and March 2020 in a customer account maintained with the bank, where it was observed that the bank failed to comply with the KYC norms. As a result, the banking regulator issued the notice that Axis Bank did not comply with RBI – KYC Direction, 2016.

4. **RBI enhances limit under Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility to Rs 2 lakh**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India has made enhancements to the Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility

Scheme, whereby the ceiling per transaction has been increased four-fold to ₹2 lakh and the cap of 12 remittances in a year per remitter has been removed. The step has been taken to boost trade payments between the two countries, as also to facilitate person-to-person remittances electronically to Nepal.

5. **RBI's Auto Debit Rules Have Become Effective**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mandated new auto-debit rules effective from October 1, 2021. RBI's directive states that there will be no automatic recurring payment for various services including utility bills, recharge of phone, DTH, and OTT, among others as the additional factor of authentication (AFA) will become mandatory. Under the new norms, banks will be required to inform customers in advance about recurring payments due and transactions would be carried the following nod from the customer. So the transactions would not be automatic but would be done after authentication from the customer. Customers will have to go through a one-time registration process, and subsequent transactions can be performed without the additional factor authentication. For recurring payments above ₹5,000, banks are required to send a one-time password to customers as per the new guidelines.

6. **IOB out of RBI's PCA framework**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) out of the PCA restrictions. The Chennai-headquartered public sector bank (PSB) was put under PCA in 2015. Earlier this month, UCO Bank came out of the PCA regime. Now, among public sector banks, only Central Bank of India remains under the PCA. IOB's performance was reviewed by the Board for Financial Supervision. The Board noted that going by its published results for the year ended March 31, 2021, the bank is not in the breach of the PCA parameters.

7. **RBI permits transfer of fraud loans to ARCs.**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India allowed loan exposures classified as fraud to be transferred to Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs). This comes in the wake of banks reporting frauds aggregating ₹3.95-lakh crore between FY19 and FY21. Stressed loans, which are

in default for more than 60 days or classified as non-performing assets (NPA), can be transferred to ARCs. This shall include loan exposures classified as fraud as on the date of transfer.

Under the new guidelines, loans can be transferred only after a minimum holding period (MHP) of three months in case of loans with tenor up to 2 years, and six months for those with tenor of more than 2 years. In case of loans where the security does not exist or cannot be registered, the MHP shall be calculated from the date of first repayment of the loan.

8. RBI allows Ujjivan SFB to form a special committee

Note: The Reserve Bank has given its go-ahead to Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) to form a special committee of directors to oversee operations in the absence of an MD and CEO. The Reserve Bank of India has approved the constitution of 'Special Committee of Directors' with three independent directors as its members. The committee will "oversee the operations and administration of the bank in the absence of the Managing Director and CEO with effect from September 16, 2021. Ujjivan SFB, which began operations from February 2017, recently saw some top-level exits amid high level of bad assets and management issues, among others.

9. Bank deposits rise 12% in FY21 on higher CASA growth: RBI data

Note: According to the RBI Data, the bank deposits grew 11.9 per cent year-on-year during 2020-21 compared to 8.8 per cent in 2019-20 on the back of high growth in current account and savings account (CASA) deposits. The share of CASA deposits increased to 43.7 per cent in March 2021 compared to 41.7 per cent a year ago.

11. RBI enhances limit under Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility to Rs 2 lakh

Note: RBI has increased the incentives for the distribution of coins over the counter from Rs 25/bag to Rs 65/bag of coin with effect from September 1, 2021. RBI provides incentives to banks and currency chests under Currency Distribution & Exchange Scheme (CDES) for the distribution of coins over the counter to promote the circulation of coins. An additional incentive of Rs. 10/- per bag would be paid for coin distribution in rural and semi-urban areas

12. RBI extends card payment tokenisation facility to laptops, wearable devices

Note: The RBI has extended the scope of 'tokenisation' to several consumer devices, including laptops, desktops, wearables like wristwatches and bands, as well as Internet of Things (IoT) devices. Tokenisation, which aims at improving the safety and security of the payment system, refers to the replacement of actual card details with a unique alternate code called the 'token', which is

Among institutional categories, the household sector held 64.1 per cent share in total deposits. Individuals, including Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), were the major constituent of the household sector and contributed 55.8 per cent in aggregate deposits.

10. RBI Released Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2020-21:

Based on an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) at its meeting on **8th October 2021** decided to

Key Highlights of the policy are:

- Keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at **4.0 per cent**.
- The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank rate remain unchanged at 4.25 per cent.
- The reverse repo rate stands unchanged at 3.35 per cent.
- The MPC also decided to continue with the accommodative stance as long as necessary to revive and sustain growth on a durable basis and continue to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target going forward.

Current Policy Rates:

Policy Repo Rate	4.0%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	4.25%
Bank Rate	4.25%

August 2021

unique for a combination of card, token requestor and identified device.

13. RBI to introduce 'Regulatory GAAR' for round tripping

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has come up with a draft rule with modifications in the existing regulation related to foreign investment to discourage round-tripping. The central bank is looking to tweak the existing regulations and has come up with draft rules around round-tripping. Some of the largest Indian companies, startups and multinationals with an India presence have put their outbound investment, fundraising and restructuring plans on hold as the RBI looks to introduce fresh regulations around "round-tripping."

14. RBI to put in place a "PRISM" to strengthen compliance by lenders

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is putting in place a Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring (PRISM), a web-based end-to-end workflow automation system, to strengthen compliance by supervised entities (SEs). This comes in

the backdrop of continuous engagement and more frequent reviews of risk profiles and supervisory assessments being envisaged for supervised entities, including banks and non-banking financial companies.

15. RBI introduced Financial Inclusion Index

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced the financial inclusion index (FI-Index) to capture the extent of financial inclusion in the country. The annual FI-Index for the period ending March 2021 is 53.9 as against 43.4 for the period ending March 2017. The FI-Index has been conceptualized as a comprehensive index incorporating details of banking, investments, insurance, postal, and the pension sector in consultation with government and respective sectoral regulators.

16. RBI imposes ₹1 crore penalty on Cooperative Rabobank U.A

Note: For deficiencies in regulatory compliances, the RBI imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1 crore on Cooperative Rabobank U.A. The monetary penalty has been imposed for contravention of certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and directions related to 'transfer to reserve funds'.

17. RBI cancels license of Raigad based Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank

Note: The Reserve Bank has canceled the license of Raigad based Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited in Maharashtra. The bank has been directed to cease all its operations from 13th August. The license of Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank was canceled due to insufficient capital and earning prospects and its continuance would have adversely affected depositors.

18. RBI hikes collateral free loans to SHGs under DAY-NRLM to Rs 20 lakh

Note: The RBI notified the enhancement of collateral free loans to self-help groups (SHGs) from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). The DAY-NRLM is the flagship programme of Government of India for promoting poverty reduction through building strong institutions of the poor, particularly women, and enabling

these institutions to access a range of financial services and livelihoods.

19. RBI to penalise banks if ATMs run out of cash

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to levy monetary charges on ATMs that run out of cash, starting 1 October, 2021. Launching the 'Scheme of Penalty for non-replenishment of ATMs', the central bank said that a penalty of ₹10,000 per ATM will be levied in the event of a cash-out situation for more than 10 hours in a month. In case of WLAOs, RBI stated that the banks which are meeting their cash requirement shall furnish a separate statement on behalf of WLAOs on cash-out of such ATMs due to non-replenishment of cash.

20. RBI's digital rupee trial could begin by December

Note: RBI is set to launch the trial program of its digital currency by December 2021. Currently, RBI is working on bringing its Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in a phased manner. RBI is working on CBDC carefully because it is a new product for RBI as well as for the whole world. RBI is also studying different aspects of digital currency and investigating its security as well as its impact on the financial sector of the country.

21. RBI appointed panel submits report on urban cooperative banks (UCBs)

Note: The RBI has released the report of the Expert Committee on Primary Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs). The committee has constituted an expert committee under the chairmanship of N S Vishwanathan in February 2021 to examine the issues and to provide a road map for strengthening the sector. The committee has submitted its report, and a copy of which has been placed on the RBI website for comments of stakeholders and members of the public. As per committee, UCBs can be split into four categories

- Tier-1-** with deposits up to Rs 100 crores;
- Tier-2** with deposits between Rs 100-Rs 1000 crore,
- Tier-3** with deposits between Rs 1000 crore to Rs 10000 and
- Tier-4** with deposits more than Rs 10000 crore.

July 2021

1. RBI cancels licence of Madgaum Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Margao

Note: The RBI has cancelled the license of Madgaum Urban Cooperative Bank Co., Ltd., located in Margao, Goa, because due to the current financial situation of the bank they will not be able to pay its current depositors in full. The Reserve Bank of India further stated that based on the data submitted by the bank, approximately 99% of depositors will receive full deposits from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). At the time of liquidation, every depositor has the right to receive a deposit insurance claim amount from their deposits, up to a maximum limit of 500,000 rupees, only from DICGC.

2. RBI imposes Rs 6 lakh penalty on Hewlett-Packard Financial Services

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 6 lakh on Bengaluru-based Hewlett-Packard Financial Services (India) Private Ltd. RBI said the statutory inspection of the company, concerning its financial position as of March 31, 2019, revealed, inter alia, non-compliance with the statutory directions on (i) submission of credit information to Central Repository of Information on Large Credits and (ii) submission of credit data to Credit Information Companies.

3. IndusInd Bank gets empanelled as Agency Bank to RBI

Note: IndusInd Bank has been empanelled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to act as an 'Agency Bank' to facilitate transactions related to government businesses. It will strengthen the bank's presence within the government domain. As an empanelled 'Agency Bank', IndusInd Bank can now be authorised to handle transactions pertaining to revenue receipts under CBDT, CCBIC and GST on behalf of the state/central government.

4. RBI imposes penalty of ₹50.35 lakh on Nashik's Janalaxmi Co-operative Bank

Note: The penalty on Janalaxmi Co-operative Bank has been imposed for non-compliance with directions issued by RBI on 'Placement of Deposits with Other Banks by Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks' and 'Membership of Credit Information Companies (CICs)'. RBI has also imposed a penalty of Rs 3 lakh on the Noida Commercial Co-operative Bank, Ghaziabad.

5. RBI imposes Rs 5-crore monetary penalty on Axis Bank

Note: The RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 5 crore on Axis Bank for contravention of certain provisions of directions issued by the RBI, encompassing those on cyber security framework. The directions include 'Strengthening the Controls of Payment Ecosystem between Sponsor Banks and SCBs/UCBs as a Corporate Customer', 'Cyber Security Framework in Banks', 'RBI (Financial Services provided by Banks) Directions, 2016', 'Financial Inclusion- Access to Banking Services - Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account' and 'Frauds - Classification and Reporting'.

6. RBI raises limit for loan to other banks' directors up to Rs 5 crore

Note: The RBI has overhauled rules for extending loans to directors of other banks and relatives of directors. As per the amendments, the central bank has allowed banks to extend personal loans up to ₹5 crores to directors of other banks and directors' relatives other than spouses without board approval. The earlier limit for such loans was ₹25 lakh. The regulations apply to directors, including the Chairman/Managing Director, of other banks.

7. RBI allows IDFC to exit as promoter of IDFC First Bank

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed IDFC to exit as the promoter of IDFC First Bank after the expiry of the lock-in period of 5 years. The IDFC Bank was created by the demerger of the infrastructure lending business of IDFC to IDFC Bank in 2015. The above clarification could potentially lead to a reverse merger, which would be beneficial to IDFC Limited shareholders by increasing shareholder value.

8. RBI restricts Mastercard from issuing new debit, credit cards in India

Note: The Reserve Bank of India has imposed restrictions on Mastercard Asia/Pacific Private Limited for adding new domestic customers from 22nd July 2021. MasterCard will not be allowed to add customers, be it

for debit, credit or pre-paid cards onto its network as the entity has failed to comply with the directions on Storage of Payment System Data.

9. RBI Launches 'Retail Direct Scheme'

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched 'the RBI Retail Direct' scheme for retail investors, through which they can directly buy and sell government securities (G-Secs), both primary and secondary. The bond-buying window was opened to increase retail participation in G-Secs and democratize ownership of G-Secs beyond the managers of pooled resources such as banks and mutual funds. The date of commencement of the scheme will be announced later.

10. RBI Announces Changes in Government Securities Auction Methodology

Note: The RBI has decided that benchmark securities of tenor 2-yrs, 3-yrs, 5-yrs, 10-yrs, 14-yrs tenor and Floating Rate Bonds will be, henceforth, issued using the uniform price auction method. For other benchmark securities i.e. 30-yrs and 40-yrs, the auction will continue to be multiple price-based auctions. The above arrangement will continue till further review. This was noted by RBI while reviewing market conditions and the market borrowing program of the govt.

11. RBI imposes Rs 25 lakh penalty on Punjab and Sind Bank

Note: The Reserve Bank of India imposed a penalty of Rs 25 lakh on Punjab and Sind Bank for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions on 'Cyber Security Framework in Banks'. The state-owned bank had reported a few cyber incidents to the RBI on May 16 and 20, 2020. Examination of the incident reports and the report of the forensic analysis of the said incidents, revealed, non-compliance with aforesaid directions. The RBI issued a show-cause notice to the bank.

12. RBI tweaks norms for interest on unclaimed matures deposit

Note: The RBI has tweaked the norms for interest on unclaimed mature term deposits. RBI has decided that an unclaimed mature term deposit shall attract a rate of interest as applicable to a savings account or the contracted rate of TD, whichever is lower. Currently, unclaimed mature term deposit attracts the RoI as applicable to savings deposits. The new norms are applicable for deposits in all commercial banks, small finance banks, local area banks, and cooperative banks.

13. RBI Report: India's Current Account surplus of 0.9% of GDP in FY21

Note: According to the data released by the RBI India has reported a current account surplus of 0.9 per cent of GDP in the FY 21. In 2020, it has reported current account deficit of 0.9 per cent in FY20. India's current account deficit has increased to USD 8.1 billion or 1 per cent of GDP for March quarter in 2021 as compared to the surplus of USD 0.6 billion or 0.1 per cent of GDP in 2020 for same period.

June 2021

1. RBI imposes penalties on four cooperative banks

Note: The RBI has imposed penalties on four cooperative banks for contravention of certain regulatory directions. A penalty of Rs 112.50 lakh has been imposed on Hyderabad-based Andhra Pradesh Mahesh Co-operative Urban Bank, Rs 62.50 lakh on The Ahmedabad Mercantile Co-operative Bank, Rs 37.50 lakh on SVC Co-operative Bank, Mumbai; and Rs 25 lakh on Saraswat Cooperative Bank, Mumbai. The penalty on Co-operative Urban Bank was for non-compliance with directions issued by RBI.

2. RBI issues guidelines for dividend distribution by NBFCs

Note: RBI has issued guidelines on the distribution of dividend by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to infuse greater transparency and uniformity in the practice. These guidelines will be effective from March 31, 2022 and onwards. NPA ratio should be less than 6% for dividend declaration. The guidelines will be applicable to NBFCs regulated by RBI. Dividend payout ratio: It is the ratio of total amount of dividends paid to shareholders relative to a company's net income.

3. CFSL gets RBI's in-principle nod to take over PMC Bank via SFB route

Note: The RBI has given "in-principle" approval to Centrum Financial Services Ltd to set up a small finance bank. Then, the SFB will take over the beleaguered Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank. Centrum Capital, the holding entity for CFSL, and its partner BharatPe will infuse Rs 1,800 crore into the small finance bank. The amalgamation with PMC Bank is a separate process that would involve notification of the scheme by the govt.

4. RBI proposes removing interest rate caps for microlenders

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed a uniform regulatory framework for microfinance institutions (MFIs), wherein MFIs can provide collateral-free loans to households at interest rates determined by their boards. MFIs will get the freedom to set rates and end regulatory caps on interest rates. Microfinance is a form of financial service which provides small loans and other financial services to poor and low-income households.

5. RBI expands BBPS scope by August 31, 2021

Note: The RBI has expanded the scope of the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) by 31st August 2021. Also, 'mobile prepaid recharges' are added as a biller category. BBPS is an integrated bill payment system that offers interoperable bill payment services to customers online as well as through a network of agents on the ground. BBPS functions under the aegis of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

6. RBI Increases ATM Interchange Fee From Rs 15 To Rs 17

Note: The Reserve Bank of India raised the interchange fee on each financial transaction at ATM from Rs 15 to Rs 17 for financial transactions and from Rs 5 to Rs 6 for non-financial transactions. Banks will be able to raise ATM transaction charges from August 1, 2021. Customers are still eligible for five free transactions — inclusive of financial and non-financial transactions — every month from their own bank ATMs and three transactions from other bank ATMs.

7. RBI extends risk-based internal audit system to HFCs

Note: The RBI extended the Risk-Based Internal Audit (RBIA) system to select HFCs to enhance the quality and effectiveness of their internal audit system. In Feb 2021, the RBI had issued a circular mandating the RBIA framework for select NBFCs and urban co-operative banks by March 31, 2022. The provisions will apply to all deposit-taking HFCs, irrespective of their size, as well as non-deposit-taking HFCs with an asset size of Rs 5,000 crore and above.

8. RBI extends Risk Based Internal Audit rules to HFCs

Note: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended Risk-Based Internal Audit (RBIA) rules to all deposit-taking and non-deposit taking HFCs (Housing Finance Companies) who are having assets above Rs 5,000 crore. These rules will be effective from June 30, 2022. RBI's new guidelines are important with respect of rising instances of financial regularities and governance issues in banks and NBFCs. It will ensure smooth transition from existing system of internal audit to constitution of committee comprising of senior executives with responsibility to formulate plans for RBIA, NBFCs and UCBs concerned.

May 2021

1. RBI published Annual Report-2021

Note: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published its annual report and highlights "asset quality of banks and their preparedness requires close monitoring for higher provisioning for upcoming quarters. In its report, RBI cautioned "banks being lenders will have to provide true picture of bad loans after Supreme Court lifted interim stay on classifying non-performing assets (NPA) in March 2021. Gross NPA ratio of banks decreased from 8.2% in

March 2020 to 6.8% in December 2020. Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of banks improved from 66.6% in March 2020 to 75.5 % by December 2020, because of prudent provisioning by banks above regulatory prescriptions on accounts availing moratorium and undergoing restructuring. Capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of banks increased to 15.9% by December 2020, in March it was 14.8%. Gross NPA ratio for non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs) increased from

6.8% in March to 5.7% in December 2020. Capital adequacy ratio of NBFCs increased from 24.8% in December 2020 from 23.7% in March.

2. RBI issues guidelines for merging district central co-op banks with state ones

Note: RBI has notified the guidelines for merging DCCBs with StCBs as two-tier Short-term Co-operative Credit Structure (STCCS). Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020 has also been notified in effect from April 1, 2021 for these banks. Merger of such banks will be finally be sanctioned by Reserve Bank of India. As per the guidelines, RBI will consider proposals of merger “when state government will make it” after studying detailed legal framework. Guideline mention, there should be an additional capital infusion strategy and assurance with respect to financial support.

3. RBI announces Second Tranche of purchase under G-SAP 1.0

Note: The Reserve Bank of India recently announced that the second tranche of open market purchase of Government Securities is to be held on May 20, 2021. This is to be held under G-Sec Acquisition Programme. This second tranche is to be conducted for Rs 35,000 crores. In April 2021, the Reserve Bank of India launched the Government Security Acquisition Programme 1.0. It was held on April 15, 2021. RBI purchased Rs 25,000 crores of Government securities.

4. RBI to conduct first SLTRO for small finance banks

Note: The Reserve Bank of India recently announced that it is to conduct the first Special Long Term Repo Operation (SLTRO) of Rs 10,000 crores for Small Finance Banks. The RBI will conduct the SLTRO for each month starting from May 2021. This is to continue till October 2021. The SLTRO will be valid for three years. All the Small Finance Banks shall participate in the SLTRO. The

Special Long Term Repo Operations is a tool under which RBI provides money to the banks at repo rate.

5. RBI sets up Committee to assist RRA 2.0

Note: The Reserve Bank of India recently constituted a Committee under the Managing Director S Janaki Raman. The committee is to assist the second Regulatory Review Authority. The committee will assist the authority to identify areas, guidelines, regulations and returns. It will submit reports periodically to RRA that will provide suggestions and recommendations. RRA 2.0 was established in April 2021. The authority is to function for a period of one year. It will review the regulatory prescription internally. Also, it will examine and suggest changes required in the dissemination process of RBI instructions and circulars.

6. RBI measures to boost economy

Note: The Reserve Bank of India recently launched a host of measures to protect individual borrowers and the small and medium enterprises in the country. RBI has opened on-tap liquidity window of Rs 50,000 crores at repo rate of 4%. This will boost provisions of immediate liquidity. The banks shall provide fresh lending support to the health sectors and others under this. The loans provided under this window will be classified under “Priority sector” till repayment.

7. RBI's second purchase under G-SAP 1.0

Note: The Governor of Reserve Bank of India Shaktikanta Das recently announced that the apex bank will make the second purchase of Government securities under the G-Sec Acquisition Programme 1.0 on May 20, 2021. The first purchase was made in April 2021. The RBI purchased Rs 25,000 crores of Government Securities during the first purchase. The RBI is to purchase Rs 35,000 crores of Government Securities in the second purchase. Earlier, the RBI had announced a target of one lakh cores rupees for the GSAP-1.0.

April 2021

1. RBI joins Network for Greening the Financial System-NGFS

Note: The Reserve Bank of India recently joined the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS). By joining the system, RBI is to learn from and contribute to the Global Climate risk management in the financial sector. Ultimately, the apex bank will work with its global partners to support the transition towards a sustainable economy. There are 83 central banks associated with the system. Of these 75 are members and 13 are observers. The main objective of the system is to increase and accelerate green finance. It was announced during the One Planet Summit held at Paris in 2017.

2. RBI Guidelines for Tenure of Bank CEOs and MDs

Note: The Reserve Bank of India recently laid down set of instructions to improve the corporate bank governance. The post of MD and CEO shall not be held by the same person for more than 15 years. However, they can be

reappointed after a cooling period of three years. During the cooling period, the individual shall not be appointed or associated with the bank or its group entities directly or indirectly. The MD or the CEO shall not hold these posts more than twelve years. However, in extraordinary circumstances, they shall be allowed to continue till 15 years. The guidelines are not applicable to the foreign banks whose branches are operating in the country. The maximum age limit of the Chairman or the Non-Executive Director has been fixed at 75 years.

3. RBI sets up committee to review working of ARCs

Note: The Reserve Bank of India recently set up a committee to study about the Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARC) in the country. The committee will evaluate the role of ARCs in debt resolution and will review their business model. The Committee is headed by former RBI Executive director Sudarshan Sen. It will review the legal and regulatory framework of ARCs. It

will recommend measures to improve the efficacy of Asset Reconstruction Companies.

4. RBI established the Regulations Review Authority (RRA) 2.0

Note: The Reserve Bank of India recently established the Regulations Review Authority (RRA) 2.0. The authority is to function for a period of one year. The RRA will review the regulatory prescriptions internally. It will also review the regulatory prescriptions by seeking suggestions from regulated entities and stakeholders. It will work towards easing the implementations of the regulatory prescriptions. Deputy Governor Rajeshwar Rao has been appointed as the head of RRA.

5. RBI Amended the 'Inflation Forecast Model'

Note: The Reserve Bank of India recently revised its Inflation Forecast Model. The new model will capture how fiscal and monetary policy interact with real economy elements in a better way. The new model is broken into three blocks. The first block decomposes the primary deficit of the Government into structural and cyclical components. It is also called fiscal block. A structural increase in deficit of the Government will create a positive output gap. This will in turn make borrowings costlier and will eventually depreciate the currency.

Highlights Economic Survey 2020-21

Here we are with the most important highlights of economic survey 2020-21:

- India focused on strategy motivated by the Nobel-Prize winning research of **Hansen & Sargent (2001)**: a policy focused on minimizing losses in a worst-case scenario when uncertainty is very high.
- India's strategy flattened the COVID curve, that was on the peak in September 2020 and India has been unique in experiencing declining daily cases despite increasing mobility.
- **V-shaped recovery** has been seen in 7.5% decline in GDP in Q2 and recovery across all key economic indicators with 23.9% GDP contraction in Q1.
- India was the only country to announce **structural reforms** to expand supply in the medium-long term and avoid long-term damage to productive capacities
- **Public investment programme** focused around **National Infrastructure Pipeline** accelerated demand push economy and boost recovery.
- India is fifth largest economy in the world and has been rated **BBB-/Baa3** in sovereign credit ratings.
- **Health:** National Health Mission (NHM), Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) and Ayushman Bharat played a critical role. Public healthcare spending increased from 1% to 2.5-3% of GDP that can decrease expenditure from 65% to 35% of overall healthcare spending.
- **Innovation:** India entered top-50 innovating countries for the first time in 2020 since the inception of Global Innovation Index in 2007, ranking first in Central and South Asia, and third amongst lower middle-income group economies.
- **India's gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD)** is lowest amongst top ten economies. Govt sector contributes a disproportionately large share in total GERD at three times the average of top 10 economies.
- **Access to 'bare necessities':** It has improved across all States in 2018 as compared to 2012. It is highest in states like Kerala, Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat while lowest in Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Tripura
- **Fiscal Development:** Monthly GST collections have crossed the Rs. 1 lakh crore mark consecutively for the last 3 months, reaching its highest levels in December 2020 ever since the introduction of GST. Tax reforms has led to transparency.
- **External Sector:** India's forex reserves is at an all-time high of US\$ 586.1 billion as on January 08, 2021.
 - Net FDI inflows of US\$ 27.5 billion during April-October 2020 is 14.8% higher as compared to first seven months of FY2019-20.
 - Net FPI inflows of US\$ 28.5 billion during April-December 2020 as against US\$ 12.3 billion in 2019.
 - India's Trade balance with China and the US improved as imports slowed.
 - India's external debt is placed at US\$ 556.2 billion in September 2020 from US\$ 2.0 billion (0.4%) as compared to end-March 2020.
 - Govt Schemes related to export sector: Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) and Improvement in logistics infrastructure and digital initiatives.
- **Accommodative monetary policy:** repo rate cut by 115 bps since March 2020.

- **NIFTY-50** and BSE SENSEX reached record high closing of 14,644.7 and 49,792.12 respectively on January 20, 2021
- Gross Non-Performing Assets ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks decreased from 8.21% at end-March, 2020 to 7.49% at end-September, 2020
- Inflation ranged from 3.2% to 11% across States/UTs during June-December 2020 compared to (-) 0.3% to 7.6% during the same period last year.
- **India's rank in the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) Index for 2019 has moved upwards to 63rd position in 2020 from 77th in 2018**, showing improvement in investment.
- Indian start-up ecosystem has been progressing well amidst COVID-19, being home to 38 unicorns, India added 12 start-ups to the unicorn list last year.
- **Social Infrastructure, Employment and Human Development:**
 - Combined (Centre and States) social sector expenditure as % of GDP has increased in 2020-21 compared to 2019-20.
 - India's rank in HDI 2019 was recorded at 131, out of total 189 countries.
 - India's GNI per capita (2017 PPP \$) has increased from US\$ 6,427 in 2018 to US\$ 6,681 in 2019.
 - Life expectancy at birth improved from 69.4 years in 2018 to 69.7 years in 2019

State of the Economy in 2020-21: A Macro View

- India adopted a four-pillar strategy: **containment, fiscal, financial, and long-term structural reforms.**
- As per NSO's advance estimate, **India's GDP is estimated to grow by (-) 7.7% in FY21**, a robust sequential growth of 23.9% in H2: FY21 over H1: FY21
- India's real GDP will record 11.0% growth in FY2021-22 and nominal GDP will grow by 15.4%, which is the highest since independence.
- On supply side, Gross Value Added (GVA) growth pegged at -7.2% in FY21 as against 3.9% in FY20.
- Agriculture will show a growth of 3.4% in FY21.
- Industry and services is estimated to contract by 9.6% and 8.8% during FY21
- **Net FPI inflows:** It recorded an all-time monthly high of US\$ 9.8 billion in November 2020.
- India was the only country among emerging markets to receive equity FII inflows in 2020
- Buoyant SENSEX and NIFTY resulted in India's market-cap to GDP ratio crossing 100% for the first time since October 2010
- India became the fastest country to roll-out 10 lakh vaccines in 6 days and also emerged as a leading supplier of the vaccine to neighbouring countries and Brazil.

Ranking, Indexes, Reports and Survey

September

1. Third edition of FSSAI's State Food Safety Index (SFSI)

- Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has released **third SFSI of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** for evaluating food safety across all States/UTs in 2020-21.
- **Top state in larger states category:** Gujarat, followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu
- **Top state in smaller states category:** Goa, Meghalaya and Manipur
- **Top UT:** Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and New Delhi

2. Global Innovation Index (GII) 2021

- Released by: **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).**
- The index captures the innovation ecosystem performance of 132 economies
- **India's position:** India has been ranked at 46th place GII 2021. India was ranked 48th in GII 2020. Under Lower middle-income category group, India has been ranked at 2nd spot after Vietnam
- **Top performers:** Switzerland, Sweden, U.S., U.K. and Republic of Korea.

3. National Statistical Office (NSO) has released All India Debt & Investment Survey

Key finding of the survey:

- **Number of indebted households:** It has risen sharply in rural India with average debt shooting up by 84% between 2012 and 2018, and COVID-19 has likely further doubled all households' borrowings by 2021.
- Rural households' average debt grew from ₹32,522 in 2012 to ₹59,748 by June 2018, while urban households' average debt increased by 42% in the same period to little more than ₹1.20 lakh.

4. National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) India Ranking 2021

- It is the 6th edition of NIRF India Rankings that ranks higher educational institutions.
- **List of Winners:**
 - Overall Winner: IIT Madras
 - Best University: IISc Bangalore
 - Management: IIM, Ahmedabad
 - College: Miranda House, Delhi
 - Pharmacy: Jamia Hamdard, Delhi
 - Medical: AIIMS, Delhi
 - Engineering: IIT, Madras
 - Architecture: IIT, Roorkee
 - 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, Bhubaneshwar) 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 (HIEx) 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.
- 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.

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.

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

- Top performer: Shanghai Jiao Tong University, University of Texas Austin (fourth), the University of Berkley (12th) and University of Cambridge (27th).

- 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

- **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.

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 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.

Economy News

September

1. Ministry of Agriculture signs five MoUs with Private Companies

Note: Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare signed 5 MoUs with five private companies

namely, CISCO, ITC Limited, Ninjacart, Jio Platforms Limited, and NCDEX e-Markets Limited (NeML) for pilot projects. Jio Platforms Limited will conduct its pilot project in order to provide advisories for farmers in Jalna & Nasik districts of Maharashtra. ITC Limited has signed MoU in a bid to build a “Customized ‘Site Specific Crop Advisory’ service.” Cisco will “conceptualize the Proof of Concept in effective knowledge sharing between farmers, administration, academia and industry. MoU with NCDEX e Markets Limited (NeML) will look after four services–Market Linkages, Financial Linkages, Aggregation of demand, and Data Sanitization. Ninjacart will help in the development and hosting the Agri Marketplace Platform (AMP).

2. Central government has allowed 11 states to borrow an additional fund of Rs 15,721 crore from the market

Note: Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand are the other states that have met the capital expenditure target. All the 11 states together were allowed to borrow an additional amount of Rs 15,721 crore. Capital expenditure has a high multiplier effect, enhances the future productive capacity of the economy, and results in a higher rate of economic growth.

3. Land records integrated with Centre’s e-portal by all but 3 states

Note: Land records have been integrated with the Centre’s e-portal by most states, barring three, Assam, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir. The procurement in the Kharif Marketing Season 2021-22 will be according to the new mechanism. Cross-checking land records before procurement will help in ensuring that the MSP reaches to the farmers and not traders. Crop cultivated by farmers, either in their own land or rented property, will be procured by the government.

4. India expected to grow 10% during current fiscal: NCAER

Note: The Indian economy is expected to grow around 10 per cent during the current financial year on the likelihood of fewer COVID-19-linked supply disruptions and buoyancy in the global economy. The real challenge, however, would be to sustain a growth rate of 7-8 per cent in years to come. Poonam Gupta is the first woman director general of NCAER. Before joining NCAER, she worked as the lead economist at the World Bank. She had also worked at the Reserve Bank of India Chair Professor at NIPFP as well as a Professor of Macroeconomics at ICRIER.

5. Govt unveils 100-day plan to boost civil aviation sector

Note: The scheme has 16 main points - 4 of which are under infrastructure, 8 under policy targets, and 4 under reforms. Among others, six heliports would be

developed in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand under the regional air connectivity scheme UDAN. Besides all this, separate advisory groups have been constituted for every sector.

6. Railways Ministry closes Indian Railways Organisation for Alternative Fuels

Note: IROAF is a separate enterprise that works in the field of green fuels for transport. It recently invited bids for hydrogen fuel cell-based technology to run the trains. This closure would not affect the ongoing projects or contracts of IROA. With some administrative change, projects will be executed as usual. Work of IROAF will be transferred to Northern Railways and Railway Board. Solar power rolling stock or Alternate Fuel Electrical Directorate of the IROAF will be transferred to the Railway Board, while the existing tenders will be handled by Northern Railway.

7. Finance Ministry releases Revenue Deficit Grants to States

Note: The Finance Ministry has released its fifth monthly installment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant of Rs 9,871 crore to the states. Grants were released on the recommendations of 15th Finance Commission to 17 states for 2021-22. Grants were released in accordance with the Article 275 of the Indian constitution. Under, article 275, post devolution revenue deficit grant is provided to the states.

8. India, ADB sign loan worth \$112 million to improve water supply infrastructure in Jharkhand

Note: ADB and the government signed another loan of \$112 million for development of water supply infrastructure in Jharkhand. The loan will also strengthen capacities of urban local bodies (ULBs) in order to improve service delivery in four towns of Jharkhand. This project is in line with the priority of Jharkhand Government to improve urban services in state. It will ensure continuous, treated piped water supply in Ranchi and other three towns namely Jhumri Telaiya, Hussainabad, and Medininagar. These towns are located in economically and socially backward areas.

9. India, ADB sign 300 mn dollar loan to expand rural connectivity in Maharashtra

Note: Indian government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a 300 million dollar loan as additional financing to scale up improvement of rural connectivity to help boost rural economy in Maharashtra. The additional financing for the ongoing Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project will help improve an additional 1,100 rural roads and 230 bridges for a total length of 2,900 kilometers in 34 districts.

10. MSP increased for all Rabi crops for 2022-23

Note: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the PM Modi has approved the increase in the MSP for all designated Rabi crops for

Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2022-23. Based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the Government of India declares MSP. The MSP approved for designated Rabi Crops for 2022-23 during Rabi Marketing Season is higher or equal to 1.5 times of cost of production.

11. Centre gives nod to ₹10,683 crore-worth PLI scheme for textile sector

Note: Under the scheme, incentives worth ₹10,683 crore will be provided over a period of five years. This outlay has been approved for textiles for man-made fibre (MMF) apparel, MMF fabrics and ten segments or products of technical textiles. Notably, the PLI scheme for textiles is part of a wider announcement made earlier during the Union Budget 2021-22, which includes a total of 13 sectors, with an outlay of ₹1.97 lakh crore.

12. Indian Railways introduces new AC-3 economy coaches with reduced fare

Note: Indian Railways for the first time has introduced AC 3-tier economy class coach with reduced fare. The new coach, which has started to offer its service from today, has been attached to Train No.02403 Prayagraj-Jaipur Express. The new AC Economy coach has 83 berths as compared to 72 berths in 3AC Coach. Also, the fare structure for this coach is 8% lesser than 3AC Coach.

13. Amazon India launches Kisan store

Note: Amazon India has launched the Kisan (farmer) store that will make agri-inputs such as seeds, farm tools and accessories, available to buyers at competitive prices with the added convenience of delivery at their doorstep. The Amazon Kisan store was launched by Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar. Kisan Store is an online platform that enable farmers of India to get access of more than 8,000 agriculture inputs like farm tools & accessories, seeds, plant protection, nutrition etc. These products are listed by small and medium businesses (SMBs).

14. FM chairs 24th meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council

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

15. Chandigarh Railway Station certified five-star 'Eat Right Station'

Note: The certification was awarded by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) upon the conclusion of an FSSAI-empanelled third-party audit agency with ratings from 1 to 5. The 5-star rating indicates exemplary efforts by stations to ensure safe and hygienic food is available to passengers. The Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC) looks after food supply along with upgradation of railway stations. Chandigarh Railway station was selected to upgrade on the pattern of World Class Railway Station.

16. Coal India starts pilot project to replace diesel with LNG in dumpers

Note: State-owned CIL has begun the process of retrofitting LNG kits in its dumpers — big trucks engaged in transportation of coal. It will help the PSU to save around ₹500 crore annually. The company in association with GAIL (India) Ltd. and BEML Ltd. has taken up a pilot project for retrofitting LNG kits in its two 100 tonne dumpers working at CIL subsidiary Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL).

17. IMF allocates \$17.86 billion to India under SDR

Note: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has made an allocation of special drawing rights (SDR) 12.57 billion (equivalent to around \$17.86 billion at the latest exchange rate) to India. The total SDR holdings of India now stand at SDR 13.66 billion (equivalent to around \$19.41 billion at the latest exchange rate). This increase in SDR holdings will be reflected in the foreign exchange reserves (FER) data that will be published for the week ended August 27, 2021.

18. World's highest motorable road inaugurated in Ladakh

Note: World's highest motorable road which connects Leh to the Pangong Lake, was inaugurated in Leh. The stretch passing through the Kela Pass at 18,600 feet is the world's highest motorable way. The road was constructed by 58 Engineer Regiment of the Indian Army. It will reduce the distance between Leh (Zingral to Tangtse) to Pangong Lake crossing the Kela Pass by 41 kms.

19. India's electricity demand to grow 8-8.5% in FY22: ICRA Report

Note: According to rating agency ICRA Ltd, India's electricity demand is expected to increase by 8-8.5 % in Financial Year 2022. The report says, all-India electricity demand increased by 12.7% to 707 billion units (BU) on year-on-year basis, during the period from April 2021 to September 2021. This increase in demand was supported by a lower base, improvement of economic activity as well as lower than normal monsoons. Lower than normal monsoon led to higher demand from the agriculture segment in the period of July 2021 and August 2021.

20. Centre notifies new rules providing easier access to electricity transmission network

Note: Power Ministry has promulgated the Electricity (Transmission System Planning, Development and Recovery of Inter-State Transmission Charges) Rules 2021. This paves the way for overhauling of transmission system planning, towards giving power sector utilities easier access to the electricity transmission network across the country. The rules underpin a system of transmission access which is termed as a General Network Access (GNA) in the inter-state transmission system. This provides flexibility to the States as well as the generating stations to acquire, hold and transfer transmission capacity as per their requirements.

21. Crypto assets pose financial stability challenges: IMF report

Note: The International Monetary Funds (IMF) in its “Global Financial Stability Report” report, says that the rapid growth of the crypto ecosystem presents new opportunities. but also cautioned that the digital currency assets pose financial stability challenges. The IMF says that the technological innovation is ushering in a new era that makes payments and other financial services cheaper, faster, more accessible, and allows them to flow across borders swiftly. The IMF in its report said that challenges posed by the crypto ecosystem include operational and financial integrity risks from crypto asset providers, investor protection risks for crypto-assets and DeFi, and inadequate reserves and disclosure for some stable coins.

22. WB to extend \$150 million to Chennai’s Sustainable Urban Services Program

Note: The World Bank will give \$150 million loan to support the Tamil Nadu’s Chennai City Partnership: Sustainable Urban Services Program. The program seeks to help strengthen institutions, improve the financial health of service agencies, and drive significant improvements in the quality of urban services — water supply and sewerage, mobility, health, and solid waste management. This program will support the TN in its efforts to transform the city and its services.

23. NABARD approves credit plan for rearing Himalayan yaks

Note: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has approved a credit plan for the high-altitude animal often referred to as “mountain cattle”. The scheme was developed by the National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY) at Dirang in Arunachal Pradesh’s West Kameng district. The NRCY comes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The banking scheme is expected to be a shot in the arm for yak husbandry and boost the economic dividends of yak herders above 8,000 ft in the Eastern Himalayas.

24. Centre announced procedure to set up Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF)

Note: The ministry of road transport and highways has announced procedure to set up Registered Vehicle

Scrapping Facility (RVSF) under the long-awaited vehicle scrapping policy, which was launched by prime minister Narendra Modi. It was announced by Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget 2021. As per rules, RVSF will be provided connectivity and access of the VAHAN database of vehicle registration with password protected user ID.

25. The Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry launched “Ease of Logistic Portal”

Note: Portal was launched during ‘Vanijya Saptah Samapan Samaroh’, which was organised by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO). While addressing the event, the minister noted that government would be providing everybody an equal opportunity to their businesses, irrespective of whether they are big or small business houses or where they are from or other such differentiating factor. Ease of Logistics portal was launched to bring in transparency. It was launched in order to bring exporters and logistics service providers (LSPs) on a single platform. On this portal, exporters can post details of their container requirements to the service providers directly in order to provide their best quotes.

26. India to increase share of renewable energy to 60 % in Major Ports

Note: According to Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonwal, government has aimed to increase India’s share of renewable energy to 60% in Major ports through solar and wind power. Presently, renewable energy accounts for less than 10% of power demand at the ports. Government also targets to electrify 50% of port equipment by 2030. As per plan, all the ports will supply shore power to visiting ships in three-phased manner by 2030. Ports aim to reduce carbon emissions/ton by 30% by 2030.

27. SEBI lays the framework for gold exchanges

Note: Stock market regulator Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the setting up a gold exchange that will provide investors security in the form of electronic gold receipts (EGR). Under the framework for gold exchange, EGRs will be available for trading on the existing stock exchanges. Like shares, these EGRs will be held in demat form and can be converted to physical gold when needed. EGR denomination and its conversion to gold will be decided by the stock exchange with the approval of SEBI. SEBI accredited vault managers to accept gold deposits, create EGRs, handle gold withdrawal, and periodically reconcile physical gold with the depository records. The vault manager will have a net worth of at least ₹50 crore.

28. SEBI approved a separate framework for social stock exchange

Note: SEBI approved a separate framework for social stock exchange for the listing of non-profit organisation and for-profit social enterprises that are engaged in 15 broad eligible social activities approved

by the market regulator. The social entities can raise funds through equity, issue of zero coupon zero principal bonds, mutual funds, social impact funds and development impact bonds. Existing social venture funds will be rechristened social impact funds and can have a reduced corpus of ₹5 crore against ₹20 crore prescribed earlier. SEBI will engage with Nabard, SIDBI and stock exchanges towards instituting a capacity-building fund with a corpus of ₹100 crore.

29. Foreign Trade Policy Extended Till End of FY 2021-22

Note: According to Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, Country's foreign trade policy (FTP) will be extended till March 31, 2022 for six months. FTP was extended just before its previous extension which is ending on September 30, 2021. FTP for 2015-2020 highlights the basic contours for boosting exports with the aim of enhancing. Under the FTP, government provides incentives for different schemes like Duty Free Import Authorisation (DFIA) and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG). FTP (2015-20) was launched on April 1, 2015. It provides a framework of increasing exports of goods & services, generation of employment and increasing value addition in India. This policy is in line with schemes like Make in India, Skill India, Digital Indi, Start-up India as well as Ease of Doing Business initiatives.

30. ICRA revises FY22 GDP Growth Forecast to 9%

Note: Ratings agency ICRA has revised up its 2021-22 real GDP growth estimate for India to 9 per cent from the earlier 8.5 per cent. It can be noted that after the 7.3 per cent contraction in 2020-21, there were expectations of a higher growth number in 2021-22. However, the second wave of COVID-19 infections early into the fiscal year, which spread even in the hinterland, made analysts more circumspect. The RBI expects the economy to grow at 9.5 per cent. The robust kharif harvest is likely to sustain the consumption demand from the farm sector while the expected acceleration in the central government spending after the withdrawal of the earlier cash management guidelines will recharge this key driver of aggregate demand.

31. Weaver service, design resource centre to open in Kullu

Note: According to Union minister for commerce and industry Piyush Goyal, a weaver services and design resource centre will be set up in Kullu to encourage handicraft products of Himachal Pradesh besides providing a better platform for their export. This centre will help in encouraging the attractive handicraft products of the state and provide a better platform to export these products at the international market. The Minister announced this while addressing at an interaction programme with handicrafts and handloom artisans. Programme was organized under

'Seva & Samarpan Abhiyan' to commemorate the golden jubilee year of statehood of Himachal Pradesh on September 27, 2021.

32. India is Dubai's second biggest trade partner

Note: According to official data, India has emerged as Dubai's second biggest trading partner after China with the overall volume touching 38.5 billion dirham in the first half of 2021. The emirate had a trade volume of 86.7 billion dirham with China in H1 (first half) of 2021, followed by India and the U.S. at third position. Trade with India grew 74.5% year-on-year to 67.1 billion dirham from 38.5 billion dirham in H1 2020.

33. Indian Railways Launched "Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana"

Note: Indian Railways took a leap in advancement of Skill India Mission by launching the "Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana (RKVY)" under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)". RKVY was launched by Minister of Railways, Ashwini Vaishnaw. This Mission will provide Railways an entry level training in industry relevant skills with the help of 75 Railway training institutes across India. This mission seeks to empower youth by providing entry level training in skills relevant to industry as part of 75 years of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

34. UNCTAD projects India 2021 economic growth at 7.2%

Note: The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has released its Trade and Development report. According to the report, India's economic growth rate will increased to a four-year high of 7.2 per cent in 2021 as compared to a contraction of 7 per cent in 2020. With this growth rate, India will be the fastest growing economy after China. China is projected to grow by 8.3 per cent. These calculations were made on the basis of GDP at constant dollars in 2015. UNCTAD has also projected that, India's economy will outpace all other major economies in the year 2022 even though the growth would be slower, at 6.7 per cent.

35. KVIC sets up Odisha's first silk yarn production centre to boost local industry

Note: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has started a historic initiative to set up first ever Tussar Silk Yarn Production Centre at Choudwar in Cuttack district in Odisha. The silk yarn production centre was inaugurated on September 24, 2021 by Chairman of KVIC, Vinai Kumar Saxena. This centre will ensure local availability of Tussar Silk yarn, reduce the silk production cost as well as create local employment. Tussar silk is one of the finest varieties of Silk. It is distinguished by its coarseness and porous weave, giving it a rugged and rustic appearance.

36. India, UAE may sign comprehensive trade agreement by March 2022

Note: India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) have launched the negotiations for a mutually beneficial comprehensive economic partnership agreement. First round of CEPA negotiations will be held on September 23 and 24. Both the countries aim to conclude the negotiations by December 2021. Once the negotiations are concluded, they will sign a formal agreement in March 2022 after completing the internal legal procedures and ratification. India and the UAE are each other's largest trading partners. CEPA will help in enhancing the bilateral trade and investment flows. This agreement will also assist in post-Covid economic recovery and future economic growth of both the countries. It will create new job opportunities, boost living standards, and improve general welfare of the people of both the countries.

37. ARAI successfully develops indigenous chargers for electric vehicles

Note: The Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) has developed its indigenous charger for electric vehicles (EV) in order to give a push to EV ecosystem in India. According to ARAI Director, Reji Mathai, in order to promote EVs, infrastructure for charging is important. Currently, in India, mobility chargers are imported. So, ARAI focused on developing these indigenous chargers. These chargers are cost-effective and boost the local economy. ARAI has developed indigenous technology for EV charger called AC001. It has been taken up for manufacturing and promotion by the Bharat Electronics.

38. National Single Window System for Investors and Businesses Launched

Note: Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Textiles, Consumer Affairs & Distribution, Piyush Goyal, launched the "National Single Window System" for Investors and Businesses. National Single Window System is a giant leap, towards making India Aatmanirbhar. This system will usher in independence from the legacy of running towards Government offices for approvals and registrations. It will also bring in Ease of doing business & Ease of living, do away with the need of paperwork, duplication & information asymmetry from Windows within the system. This portal will become a one-stop-shop for investors for the purpose of approvals and clearances. As of now, the portal hosts approvals across 18 Central Departments

& 9 States. By December 2021, 14 Central departments and 5 states will be added to the portal.

39. ADB cuts India's Growth Forecast to 10%

Note: The Asian Development Bank (ADP) has reduced its forecast for India's GDP growth to 10 percent in 2021-22, from 11 percent it projected earlier. GDP growth was reduced as the downside risks were dominating the economic outlook. ADB also noted that, rising input costs is increasing the inflation to a faster pace of 5.5 percent, against 5.2 percent estimated earlier. Inflation increased because of rising global oil prices and higher duties on gasoline & diesel fuel, along with double-digit consumer price inflation on pulses & vegetable oil. A deficient monsoon will increase the inflationary pressure.

40. Kharif Food Grain Production to touch 150.50 mn tonne in 2021

Note: According to Agriculture Ministry, India's food grain production is expected to touch a record of 150.50 million tonne in the Kharif season of 2021 with a better rice output. In the Kharif season of 2020-21 crop year, food grain output consisting of rice, pulses & coarse cereals were at 149.56 million tonnes. Record production is expected in rice, sugarcane and cotton. However, production of coarse cereals and oilseeds is estimated to be lower during the Kharif season of 2021. Production of pulses is likely to reach 9.45 million tonne in 2021-22 Kharif season as compared to 8.69 million tonne in 2020-2021. Production of tur is estimated to reach to 4.43 million tonnes as compared to 4.28 million tonnes in 2020-2021.

41. 45th GST Council Meeting Highlights

Note: 45th GST council Meeting was chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on September 17, 2021 in Lucknow. Discussions over bringing petrol & diesel under the GST regime was discussed and several key decisions were taken. Issue of Petrol & Diesel was discussed as Kerala High Court had questioned it. However, Council decided not to put petrol and diesel under GST. In the meeting, concessional GST rates on Covid-19 related medicines were also announced, which are applicable till September 30. Now, the date has been extended till December 31, 2021.

August 2021

1. PayU acquires Digital payments provider BillDesk

Note: Fintech services provider, PayU, is set to acquire the Indian digital payments provider, BillDesk for \$4.7 billion. This will be one among the largest deals in Indian fintech sector. The proposed acquisition will see PayU that operates in more than 20 high-growth markets. It also became one of the leading online

payment providers by total payment volume, globally. Now, PayU India and BillDesk will be able to meet changing payments needs of digital consumers, merchants and Government enterprises in India.

2. Indian Railways introduces new toy-train Darjeeling Himalayan Railway route

Note: Indian Railways in a bid to provide boost to the covid-hit tourism sector has decided to launch a regular Jungle Tea Toy-Train Safari from Siliguri junction to Rongtong station in West Bengal. This new service has been announced by the Indian Railways' Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) zone which operates the world-famous Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR). UNESCO, in 1999 had declared the toy train on this route 'World heritage site'.

- 3. Govt introduces new registration mark under BH-series for new vehicles**

Note: The Government introduced a new registration mark for new vehicles under the "Bharat series (BH-series)" to facilitate seamless transfer of vehicles. This citizen-centric, IT-based solution for vehicle registration was launched for facilitating mobility. Vehicle with this registration mark will not require assignment of any new registration mark when owner of the vehicle shifts from one state to other. Motor vehicle tax will be levied for two years or in multiple of two. After completing fourteenth year, this tax will be levied annually and it will be half the amount that was charged earlier for that vehicle.
- 4. Indian Oil to build India's First Green Hydrogen Plant**

Note: Indian Oil plans to expand more into hydrogen technologies and develop India's first green hydrogen plant. This project at Mathura Refinery will be pioneering the introduction of green Hydrogen in India. This will be in addition to expanding existing crude oil refining capacity by 25 million tonnes/year and more biofuel production plants. IOC is also in the process of setting up 1-tonne/day capacity pilot plants based on 4 innovative hydrogen production technologies.
- 5. LIC launches mobile app for agents**

Note: The LIC has launched a mobile app for its agents and intermediaries to onboard prospective customers. The app is the latest dimension of the Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital Application or ANANDA. It is a paperless solution for new business processes that the insurance major had unveiled last year. This digital application will help in onboarding process to get insurance policy by a paperless module with the help of agent or intermediary.
- 6. Ministry of Textiles and NIFT launched INDIAsize Survey**

Note: The NIFT, New Delhi under the aegis of Ministry of Textiles is undertaking an extensive anthropometric research study to develop a comprehensive body size chart for the Indian population. This initiative was launched with the aim of introducing a new standardized 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.

7. IITian-founded exchange is India's first cryptocurrency unicorn

Note: CoinDCX became India's first cryptocurrency unicorn after the exchange raised 6.70 billion rupees from investors led by Facebook Inc. The latest funding round values the firm at \$1.1 billion. Other investors include existing partners Coinbase Ventures, Poly chain Capital, Block one, and Jump Capital. The 30-year-old engineer from the elite Indian Institute of Technology spent several hours daily reading about blockchain and cryptocurrencies before setting up CoinDCX in 2018.

8. ADB approves USD 300 million additional loan for rural roads in Maharashtra

Note: ADB has approved an additional USD 300 mn loan for the ongoing Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project. The ongoing project, approved in August 2019, has been improving and maintaining the condition and safety of 2,100 kilometers (km) of rural roads across Maharashtra. The additional financing will improve an additional 1,100 rural roads and 230 bridges for a total length of 2,900 km in 34 districts, the Multilateral funding agency added.

9. Govt defers sale of two PSU banks to next year

Note: India's plan to sell two state-controlled lenders may get deferred to the next financial year, as the government is yet to seek parliament's nod for changes in laws required to start the transaction. The government will seek buyers for two state-run banks by March 2022. India's plan to sell a majority stake in the country's second-biggest state refiner has also slowed down, and the transaction may only take place early next year rather than in 2021.

10. NITI Aayog, WRI launch forum for decarbonisation of transport sector

Note: NITI Aayog in collaboration with World Resources Institute (WRI), launched the Forum for Decarbonising Transport in the country. It aims to decrease the peak level of Greenhouse Gas emissions (transport sector) in Asia which is rising because of problems like air pollution and congestion. It was launched in line with below 2-degree pathway. India comprises of a massive and diverse transport sector. It is also the third most CO2 emitting sector.

11. Finance Minister Launches EASE 4.0, Reviews Performance Of PSBs

Note: Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, launched the fourth edition of Public Sector Bank (PSB) Reforms Agenda called 'EASE 4.0' for the financial year 2021-22. SBI, Bank of Baroda (BoB), and Union Bank of India (UBI) won the awards for best performing banks on the basis of EASE index. SBI, BoB, UBI, Punjab National Bank and Canara Bank also won the top awards across different themes of PSB Reforms Agenda EASE 3.0.

12. India's exports to ASEAN seen at \$46 billion in FY22

Note: According to Minister of State of Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel India is likely to record exports worth \$46 billion to the ASEAN region in FY 2022. Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel on Monday said that India is expected to export USD 46 billion to ASEAN in the financial year 2022. She inaugurated "India-ASEAN Engineering Partnership Summit" organised by the Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPC) with support from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Department of Commerce.

13. PFRDA increases the entry age in National Pension System (NPS) to 70 years

Note: The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has increased the entry age for the National Pension System (NPS) from 65 years to 70 years. Earlier the eligible age to invest in NPS was 18-65 years which has now been revised to 18-70 years. As per the revised norms, any Indian Citizen, resident or non-resident and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) between the age of 65-70 years can join NPS and continue or defer their NPS Account up to the age of 75 years.

14. RBI includes PM SVANidhi Scheme beneficiaries under PIDF Scheme

Note: The Reserve Bank of India has announced to include street vendors of tier-1 and tier-2 centres, identified as part of the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi Scheme) as beneficiaries under the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme. Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme was launched by RBI to encourage deployment of Points of Sale (PoS) infrastructure (both physical and digital modes) in tier-3 to tier-6 centres and northeastern states.

15. Ind-Ra revises GDP growth projection to 9.4% in FY22

Note: India Ratings (Ind-Ra) has projected the GDP growth rate for India for FY22 at 9.4%. Earlier Indi-Ra had projected the rate at between 9.1-9.6%. It would be 15.3 per cent in the first quarter, 8.3 per cent in the second quarter and 7.8 per cent in each of the remaining two quarters of the year. The agency's estimate suggests that 5.2 million daily doses would have to be administered from now on to fully vaccinate more than 88 per cent of the adult population as well as to administer single doses to the rest by March in the current financial year.

16. Retail inflation eases to 5.59% in July

Note: Retail inflation eased to 5.59% in July mainly due to softening of food prices. The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation was 6.26% in June and 6.73% in July 2020. Inflation in the food basket slowed down to 3.96% in July from 5.15% in the previous month.

17. Number Of Billionaires In India Dropped From 141 to 136

Note: In the pandemic-hit financial year of 2020-21, the number of billionaires in India dropped from 141 in FY20 to 136 in FY21, as per a statement issued by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Rajya Sabha. The count is based on the gross total income declared in the income tax returns. In FY 2018-19, the number of individuals with a gross total annual income of more than Rs 100 cr is 77.

18. Finance Ministry: over 5.82 crore Jan Dhan accounts inoperative

Note: The Finance Ministry has informed Rajya Sabha that over 5.82 crore Jan Dhan (PMJDY) accounts are inoperative. This is 14 per cent of the total number of accounts. It means at least one out of 10 Jan Dhan accounts is inoperative. According to guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India, "savings, as well as current account, should be treated as inoperative/dormant if there are no transactions in the account for over a period of two years. According to the website of PMJDY, the total number of Jan Dhan accounts is 42.83 crore with a balance of nearly ₹1.43 lakh crore.

19. Sebi allows payments banks to act as investment bankers

Note: Sebi has allowed payments banks to carry out the activities of investment bankers to provide easy access to investors to participate in public and rights issues by using various payment avenues, markets regulator. Non-scheduled payments banks, which have prior approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), will be eligible to act as a banker to an issue (BTI).

20. GoI cuts Mudra loans target to Rs 3 trillion in FY22

Note: The government has set the loans disbursement target under the PM Mudra Yojana (PMMY) at Rs 3 trillion for 2021-22 (FY22). This target is lower than the previous year. For FY21, the target was set at Rs 3.21 trillion. Experts attribute the lower target to increased allocation under the credit guarantee scheme for small businesses.

21. Modi govt's fiscal deficit touches 18.2% of annual target

Note: The central government's fiscal deficit stood at Rs 2.74 lakh crore or 18.2 per cent of the full year's Budget estimate at the end of June, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). The fiscal deficit at the end of June 2020 was 83.2 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) of 2020-21. The fiscal deficit or the gap between expenditure and revenue for 2020-21 was 9.3 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), better than 9.5 per cent projected in the revised estimates in the Budget in February.

22. Labour ministry to launch e-Sharm Portal

Note: It is named as National Database for Unorganised Workers (NDUW). This portal will help in bringing millions of unorganised workers in India on a common platform. As per an estimate, 92% of India's workforce of 500 million is unorganised. They are often deprived of minimum wages and other forms of social security. As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 90% of the workers in India are in informal sector.

23. India emerges as second most attractive manufacturing hub globally

Note: According to real estate consultant Cushman amp, Wakefield, India has overtaken the United States (US) to become second-most attractive manufacturing destination internationally. China maintains its number one position according to 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index. This index assessed the most advantageous locations for global manufacturing across 47 countries in Europe, Asia-Pacific and the Americas. In the year 2020, US was at second position while India was at third. US has slipped to third position. It is followed by Canada, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Lithuania, Thailand, Malaysia and Poland.

24. 'National Monetisation Pipeline' scheme

Note: FM Sitharaman, unveiled a 4-year NMP scheme with a Rs 6 lakh crore unlock value in brownfield projects. Scheme will be using the funds for infrastructure creation across India. Under the scheme, roads, railways and power sector assets would be comprising of more than 66 per cent of the total estimated value of the assets to be monetised. Rest of the estimated value will come from sector like mining, telecom, ports, aviation, natural gas, warehouses & stadiums and petroleum product pipelines.

25. NTPC commissioned largest 25 Megawatt floating solar PV project in India

Note: With this plant in Simhadri, Andhra Pradesh, the total installed capacity of NTPC has now reached 66,900 MW. In July 2021, NTPC commissioned the initial 10MW. And recently, the rest 15 MW was also declared open by NTPC. Thereby, the floating solar PV project at NTPC Simhadri was declared for commercial operation

26. Rs 250-crore export-oriented Ubharte Sitaare Fund launched for MSMEs

Note: Ubharte Sitaare fund has been set up jointly by Exim Bank and SIDBI. It will be launched in Lucknow. Finance minister will also launch India Exim Bank's study on 'Exports from Uttar Pradesh: Trends, Opportunities and Policy Perspective'. On the occasion, India Exim Bank's publication on 'Indian Sports Goods Industry: Strategies for Tapping the Export Potential' will also be launched.

27. TCS market valuation crosses Rs 13.5 lakh crore

Note: TCS has become the second Indian company after Reliance to cross the market value of Rs 13 lakh crore. By the end of trading, market capitalisation (m-cap) of TCS stood at Rs 13.14 lakh crore. Oil-to-telecom conglomerate, Reliance Industries, is currently valued at Rs 13.7 lakh crore. TCS is a multinational information technology (IT) services and consulting company of India. It is headquartered in Mumbai.

28. Six lakh villages to get internet connectivity by 2024

Note: According to Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Rajeev Chandrashekhar, six lakh villages in India will get internet connectivity by 2024 under the Bharat Net programme. It is a flagship mission that is being implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. (BBNL). This Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) was set up Government of India under Companies Act, 1956. Government had launched the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) in October 2011. In 2015, this project was renamed as Bharat Net Project.

29. IMF approves \$650 billion for poor countries to tackle Covid

Note: Member nations of the International Monetary Fund have approved the injection of \$650 billion to help countries in dealing with mounting debt and economic fallout because of Covid-19 pandemic. These reserve assets, called as special drawing rights, have been created first time after 2009 global financial crisis when \$250 billion were issued. SDR allocation will benefit all members, address the global need for reserves, build confidence, and foster resilience & stability of global economy.

July 2021

1. IMF World Economic Outlook July 2021

Note: International Monetary Fund has cut India's GDP growth forecast to 9.5% for the fiscal year 2021-22. Previously, IMF has forecasted 12.5% GDP growth. In the latest World Economic Outlook report published by IMF, the global economy growth has been projected at 6% in the year 2021 and 4.9% for the year 2022.

2. Rules related to incorporation of companies changed

Note: The government has amended the rules concerning to the incorporation of companies which comes under the Companies Act, 2013. From 1st September, these changes will come into effect. The government has amended the rules concerning to the incorporation of companies which comes under the

Companies Act, 2013. From 1st September, these changes will come into effect.

3. Govt. to sell stakes in LIC in two stages

Note: The government has decided that it might not sell 10% stake in Life Insurance Corp. of India through an initial public offering but instead choosing instead to sell 5 or 6% which will be followed by a second public offering. LIC is yet to be concluded but it is estimated that the value will be around Rs 12-15 trillion. Sell of 10% stake would mean that the amount will be around Rs 1.2 trillion to Rs 1.5 trillion. The Budget of 2021-22 has set Rs 1.75 trillion target for disinvestment. Rs 1 trillion could be targeted by selling government stakes in various financial institutions and state-run banks which includes the LIC.

4. NTPC to set up India's largest solar park at Rann of Kutch

Note: This solar park will have the capacity of 4.75 gigawatt (GW). It will be set up in Rann of Kutch in Gujarat from where NTPC will also generate green hydrogen on commercial scale. NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd got the go-ahead from ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE) for this project under "ultra-mega renewable energy power parks (UMREPP) scheme".

5. India's first 5-star Hotel atop Railway Track in Gandhinagar

Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to virtually inaugurate a newly-built five-star hotel on the top of redeveloped Gandhinagar railway station. This project on redevelopment of Gandhinagar railway station and construction of five-star hotel started by Indian Railway Stations Redevelopment Corporation (IRSDC) in January 2017.

6. National Asset Reconstruction Company

Note: The National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARC) has finally become a legal entity registered with the Registrar of Companies (RoC) Mumbai. NARC is also called as bad bank is finally here in India. It is considered as a one-stop solution for banking systems stressed assets menace. Under the first phase, 22 stressed accounts amounting to Rs 89,000 cr has been identified to transfer to NARC.

7. India's First Private LNG Facility plant inaugurated at Nagpur

Note: Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated India's first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility plant at Nagpur. Ministry have also designed a policy that encourages development of imports substitute, cost-effective, pollution-free and indigenous ethanol, LNG, bio CNG and hydrogen fuels. Minister also underlined, surplus in rice, corn and sugar can be used as alternative fuel in order to prevent it from going to waste.

8. Govt brings Dept of Public Enterprises under Finance Ministry

Note: The govt has brought the Department of Public Enterprises under the Finance Ministry in a bid to facilitate its ambitious Disinvestment Programme. Earlier, DPE was part of the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. The other 5 departments under the Finance Ministry are Economic Affairs, Revenue, Expenditure, Investment & Public Asset Management and Financial Services. The govt has budgeted Rs 1.75 lakh crore from stake sale in PSUs during 2021-22.

9. DoT to fine Rs 10,000 for fraud messages with fake headers

Note: Any sender who is caught sending an SMS using invalid header will be fined in the range of Rs1,000 to Rs 10,000 per violation. Under the new norms, DoT's Digital Intelligence Unit (DIU) will check violations at device-level as well. DIU will send system generated message to suspected numbers to verify it.

10. DCC clears Satellite Connectivity in Telecom Networks

Note: Digital Communications Commission (DCC) has cleared a provision of using satellite connectivity in telecom networks in accordance with TRAI recommendations. Satellite connectivity will be used through VSAT terminal in order to provide services in remote areas as it is difficult to lay optical fibre network there. DCC also cleared Request for Proposal (RFP) to rollout BharatNet project for broadband services in villages in 16 states in public private partnership mode. BharatNet project was cleared with viability gap funding of Rs 19,041 crore.

11. DPIIT starts project on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

Note: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has launched a project on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). Project on Open Network for Digital Commerce was launched with the aim of promoting open networks developed on open-sourced methodology. Open network will be developed using open specifications & open network protocols independent of any specific platform

12. NABARD sanctions Rs 388 crore under RIDF for Odisha.

Note: NABARD has sanctioned Rs 388 crore under the RIDF for four drinking water and 20 rural road projects in Odisha. The projects are intended to provide 70 litre per capita per day safe and portable drinking water through functional household tap connection. These projects will provide safe drinking water for 8 hrs to 2.57 lakh rural people in 467 villages. Construction and up gradation of 20 village roads across 15 dist of the State will be taken up under this sanction.

13. India raises its share in world market capitalisation

Note: As per Bloomberg data, India accounted for 2.60% of world market capitalisation in June 2021.

India raised its share in world market capitalisation as compared with long-term average of 2.45%. In May 2020, India's share had dropped to 2.05% when first wave of coronavirus had affected the global equity markets. However, since then, equity share has been rising. India's market-capitalisation increased to 66% in one year to \$3.02 trillion in June 2021.

14. Govt announces inclusion of retail and wholesale trades under MSMEs

Note: MSMEs Minister Nitin Gadkari announced the inclusion of retail and wholesale trade under MSMEs. Retail and wholesale Trade will also now get the benefit of priority sector lending under RBI guidelines. The revised guidelines will benefit 2.5 crore retail and wholesale traders. The move would also allow them to register on the Udyam portal. Besides, now the traders can avail the benefits of several other government schemes for MSMEs.

15. India joins G20-OECD Tax Framework deal

Note: India joins OECD-G20 inclusive framework tax deal. The deal seeks to reform international tax rules and ensure that MNCs pay their fair share wherever they operate. However, India will have to roll back the equalization levy that it imposes on companies such as Google, Amazon and Facebook when the global tax regime is implemented. 130 countries reach a consensus on a minimum 15% tax on global MNCs.

16. NTPC, ONGC plans to boost development of offshore wind energy in India

Note: NTPC Ltd and ONGC Ltd have planned to boost the development of offshore wind energy in India. NTPC and ONGC had signed an MoU to accelerate their footprint in the renewable energy space. As per the MoU, NTPC and ONGC will explore the setting up of offshore wind and other renewable energy projects in India and overseas.

17. Govt launches 6 technology innovation platforms

Note: Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises launched 6 Technology Innovation Platforms. It will focus on the development of technologies for globally competitive manufacturing in India. The platforms have been developed by IIT Madras, Central Manufacturing Technology Institute, International Centre for Automotive Technology, Automotive Research Association of India, BHEL and HMT in association with IISc Bangalore.

18. Cabinet approves Rs 3 trillion outlay for Power Reform scheme

Note: Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a Rs 3.03 trillion power distribution company (DISCOM) reform scheme on June 30, 2021. Under the scheme, Centre's share will be about Rs 97,631 crore. It is a reforms-based result-linked power distribution sector scheme. It will be applicable till 2025-2026. It was announced in union budget 2021. This scheme subsumes programmes like Integrated Power Development Scheme and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana. Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) have been nominated as nodal agencies to implement the scheme.

19. New TDS Rules from July 1

Note: Under the new rules, non-filer of income tax for past two financial years will be subjected to higher taxation. TDS or TCS will be charged at double rate specified in relevant provision of Income Tax Act or 5 per cent. Provisions of this section will be applicable to TDS deductions on resident payments including shareholder dividends and service payment to vendors rent. However, it will not be applicable on salary, winnings from lottery or crossword, horse race, trust income and cash withdrawals.

June 2021

1. Cabinet approves BharatNet PPP model

Note: Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved for revised implementation strategy of BharatNet under Public Private Partnership mode on June 30, 2021. Project would be implemented across 16 States of India. Under the revised proposal, BharatNet will now extend up to all inhabited villages beyond Gram Panchayats (GPs). Revised strategy also includes creation, upgradation, operation, maintenance and utilization of BharatNet by concessionaire.

2. NITI Aayog recommends privatising UIIC

Note: NITI Aayog has recommended privatisation of state-owned insurer United India Insurance coverage (UIIC). This recommendation was made in the backdrop of government's goals to maneuver forward with new public sector enterprise (PSE) coverage for a Atmanirbhar Bharat. NITI Aayog prompt that general public sector insurer should

be thought of privatisation within banking, insurance coverage and monetary provider's sector.

3. Govt extends Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana deadline till March 2022

Note: The Central Govt has extended its flagship employment scheme - the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana till 31 March 2022. The scheme was earlier open till 30 June 2021. It aims to encourage formal job creation in the country. This was one of the 8 relief measures announced by the FM. The government bears provident fund contribution for employers and employees for two years under the scheme. The registration under the scheme, launched in October 2020.

4. FM announces credit guarantee scheme to facilitate loans to 25L people MFI

Note: The govt announced a new credit guarantee scheme to facilitate loans to 25 lakh people

through MFIs. The announcement was made by FM Nirmala Sitharaman as part of the economic relief package provided to spur investment climate in the country affected by the Covid pandemic. As per the new scheme, a guarantee will be provided to SCB for loans to new or existing NBFC-MFIs or MFIs for on-lending up to Rs 1.25 lakh to approx 25 lakh small borrowers.

5. Govt extended FAME II Scheme till 2024

Note: The GoI has extended the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME Phase II) by 2 yrs. It is an ambitious scheme to expedite the adoption of electric vehicles launched on April 1, 2019, for 3 yrs. The extension will help push EV sales, especially in the two and three-wheeler segments. According to data available, only 5% or around Rs 500 crore of the allocated Rs 10,000 crore has been spent so far to make green mobility affordable.

6. Govt launches E-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal

Note: Union govt launched the e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), 'itad e-dwar'. 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.

7. SEBI amends norms for Independent Directors

Note: To boost corporate governance between listed companies, SEBI approved amendments to rules that govern appointment, re-appointment and removal of independent directors. Appointment, re-appointment and removal of independent directors will be done only through special resolution passed by shareholders. This provision will be applicable to all listed entities. Under the amended rules, a one-year cooling period will be given for an independent director transitioning to a whole-time director in same company or holding or subsidiary or any company belonging to promoter group.

8. MCA broadens small and medium companies (SMC) definition

Note: The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has expanded the definition of Small and Medium-sized companies (SMCs) by raising their turnover and borrowing limits. Now, an SMC is an unlisted company with sales of up to Rs 250 crore and borrowings up to Rs 50 cr. Except, Banks and financial institutions. Earlier, companies with sales of Rs 50 cr and borrowings of Rs 10 cr were qualified to be called SMC.

9. PM Modi interacts with Toycathon 2021 participants

Note: PM Modi interacted with the participants of Toycathon-2021 via video conferencing. A total of 5 teams presented their unique toy and gaming ideas during the live video conference. Toycathon was jointly launched by the Ministry of Education, WCD Ministry, MSME Ministry, DPIIT, Textile Ministry, I&B Ministry, and AICTE. Globally, toy-making is a \$100 bn industry. China, USA, Germany, and Japan are key players. India imports 80 to 85% of its annual \$1.5-bn toy market.

10. India, WB sign \$32 million loan agreement for Mizoram healthcare project

Note: The GoI, Mizoram, and the World Bank have signed a \$32 million Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project. The aim is to improve management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram. The project will strengthen the governance and the management structure of the Department of Health and Family Welfare (DoHFW) and its subsidiaries. A key focus will be to strengthen the effectiveness of the state health insurance program. Build synergies with the PMJAY.

11. RIL launches New Clean Energy Business

Note: Reliance Industry has announced to launch a new clean energy factory to make solar photovoltaic cells for next three years. Mukesh Ambani will launch a Rs 75,000 crore investment project. It will be launched to set up four 'Giga' factories in order to make solar photovoltaic cells, green hydrogen, batteries and fuel cells for next three years. It will set up 100 GW of solar power generating capacity. These capacities will be set up through rooftop installations and de-centralised operations across villages.

12. FinMin allows small HFCs to take recourse to SARFAESI law

Note: The Finance Ministry has now allowed all Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) with asset sizes of over Rs 100 cr to use SARFAESI law to recover dues. Till now, HFCs with assets over Rs 500 cr and notified by FinMin, were allowed to use SARFAESI law to recover dues. The top-10 HFCs account for 70-80% of the assets of the housing finance industry. SARFAESI law, enacted in 2002, empowers lenders to attach the pledged assets of the borrowers in the event of non-payment of dues.

13. Govt launches 'green tariff' policy

Note: The govt is working on a 'Green Tariff Policy' to reinforce India's green energy credentials. This will help discoms supply electricity generated from clean energy projects at a cheaper rate as compared to power from conventional fuel sources such as coal. Once the mechanism is in place, discoms can exclusively buy green electricity and supply it at 'green tariff'. It will be the weighted

average tariff of green energy that the consumer will pay.

14. India's NHRCL and IGBC to develop green rating system for HSR stations

Note: National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHRCL) 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. 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.

15. Adani Power to acquire 1,200 MW Essar Power's Mahan project

Note: Adani Power will acquire the 1,200 MW Essar Power's Mahan Project located at Singrauli, MP. Resolution Professional of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) issued a Letter of Intent to Adani Power. Mahan power plant supplies power through the Mahan-Sipat transmission line and is also connected with a railway siding 18 km away from the plant for the supply of coal and other raw materials. Adani Power will shell out close to Rs 3,000 crore for the Mahan Project.

16. TRAI launches TV Channel Selector Portal

Note: TRAI has launched TV Channel Selector Portal. This portal will facilitate those subscribers who do not own a mobile phone but want to use a web browser for the selection of TV channels. This portal will help the subscriber to check their own subscription and view all the channels provided by the DTH and Cable operators. The portal also allows the subscriber to modify the existing subscriptions. The users can also provide feedback through the portal.

17. Financial wealth in India jumps 11% in 2020 to \$3.4 trillion: BCG Report

Note: As per the BCG report, financial wealth in India grew 11% to \$ 3.4 tr. in 2020. This growth was at par with the compounded annual growth rate for the 5 years. Financial wealth is defined as the total wealth excluding real assets and liabilities held by adult individuals. As per the report India is expected to lead the percentage growth of individuals with fortunes of over \$100 mn till 2025. The real assets are expected to grow by 8.2% per annum to \$ 18.5 tr. by 2025.

18. Centre allocates 78,000 tonnes of rice from FCI for ethanol production

Note: The Centre has allocated 78,000 tonnes of rice from FCI to distilleries for ethanol production for 2020-21. The Centre had allowed procurement of surplus FCI rice by grain-based distilleries for production of ethanol to be supplied to oil

marketing companies under the Ethanol Blending Programme. The govt has set a target of blending 20% ethanol with petrol by 2025-26. To achieve that target, over 1,000 cr litres of ethanol will be required to blend with the petrol.

19. India became 4th Largest Forex Reserve holder

Note: India's forex reserves crossed \$600 for the first time. As of June 4, 2021, the forex reserves stood at \$605 bn, almost tying with Russia as the 4th largest reserve holder in the world. While India's forex reserve was \$605.008 bn, Russia's was \$605.2 bn. It took just about a year for the reserves to rise by \$100 billion. India's Forex Reserves include- Gold, Foreign Currency Assets, Special Drawing Rights, and Reserve position with International Monetary Fund (IMF).

20. India's agriculture exports increase 17.34% in 2020-21

Note: India's export of Agri and allied products in 2020-21 grew by 17.34% to & 41.25 bn. The largest markets for India's Agri prod are the US, China, Bangladesh, UAE, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Nepal, Iran & Malaysia. Maharashtra, Kerala, Nagaland, TN, Assam, Punjab, and Karnataka -- have finalized their specific action plan to implement the Agri export policy. As part of it, 46 unique product-district clusters have been identified for export promotion.

21. Flipkart to start drone delivery pilot for vaccines, drugs in Telangana

Note: Flipkart has partnered with Telangana to lead the 'Medicines from the Sky' project conceived by WEF and Healthnet Global Ltd. It is meant to deliver medical supplies to remote areas. Flipkart will deploy drones and enable deliveries of vaccines and medical supplies. These efforts will be complemented with technologies such as geo-mapping, routing of shipments. A combination of these technologies will then be used to conduct 'Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) deliveries.

22. SEBI Reconstitutes Takeover Panel

Note: The takeover panel looks into application that seeks exemption from mandatory open offer which as acquirer needs to make to minority shareholders. N Venkatram MD and CEO of Deloitte India has been appointed as the new member of Takeover Panel. Panel is chaired by N K Sodhi, former chief justice of high courts of Karnataka and Kerala. He was also the former presiding officer of Securities Appellate Tribunal. Panel was constituted in accordance with regulation 11(5) of SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011.

23. Mandatory Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery

Note: Government implemented mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts from June 15, 2021. Earlier this deadline was June 1,

which was extended by a fortnight because of Covid-19 pandemic. To ensure proper coordination and resolve issues while implementation, a committee headed by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Director-General Pramod Tewari has been established.

24. TRAI released new framework for broadcasting & cable services

Note: Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released new framework for broadcasting and cable services by amending interconnection regulations of 2017. New technical framework is the first step in defining an indigenous set of specifications with respect to international standards. It will bring several important benefits to television broadcasting sector and consumers. Under the new framework, Operationalisation and oversight of framework will be carried out through a testing and certification agency, which will be prescribed by authority later.

25. Exports of India's organic farm products jump 51% in 2020-21

Note: Exports of India's organic farm products surged 51% in 2020-21. Outbound shipments of organic products hit \$ 1,040 mn last fiscal compare with 689 million dollars a year before. Even in volume terms, exports of organic products grew at 39% to 8 lakh 88 thousand 179 tonnes last fiscal. The key organic products exported were oil cake and meals, oil seeds, cereals, millets, spices and condiments, tea, medicinal plant products, dry fruits, sugar, pulses and coffee.

26. Airbnb, EaseMyTrip, OYO and Yatra established a new industry association CHATT

Note: Confederation of Hospitality, Technology & Tourism Industry (CHATT) will help small companies and travel & hospitality technology players. It will promote domestic tourism and help in digital transformation of domestic tourism. It will act as a thought leader to run training programmes. Every member will have the access to CHATT resources and benefits.

27. Centre announces hike in MSP for Kharif Crops

Note: Centre has increased MSP for paddy by Rs It now stands at to Rs 1,940 per quintal for 2021-22 crop. Highest absolute increase in MSP over previous year has been recommended for sesamum, followed by tur and urad. MSP on groundnut and niger seed was increased by Rs 275 per quintal and Rs 235 per quintal, respectively. Differential remuneration was fixed with the aim of encouraging crop diversification.

28. World Bank approves program to boost MSME sector

Note: World Bank programme called "USD 500 million Raising and Accelerating Micro, Small and

Medium Enterprise (MSME) Performance (RAMP) Program" aims to improve performance of five lakh 50 thousand MSMEs. It was announced because out of 58 million MSMEs, more than 40 per cent lack access to formal sources of finance in India even though MSME sector is the backbone of Indian economy. It contributes 30 percent in India's GDP and 40 percent in exports. Programme is second intervention by World Bank in MSME sector. First was Rs 750 million MSME Emergency Response Program which was approved in July 2020.

29. Income Tax Department to launch its new e-filing portal

Note: Income Tax Department is set to launch its new ITR e-filing portal, which can be accessed through website called "www.incometax.gov.in". ITR e-filing portal will be launched with aim of providing a modern, seamless and more convenient experience to taxpayers. Portal has been integrated with immediate processing of Income Tax Returns and quick refunds to taxpayers. Portal will act as one-stop centre and display all interactions or pending actions on a single dashboard for follow-up action by taxpayer.

30. NTPC joins UN's CEO Water Mandate

Note: NTPC Ltd. has become a signatory of UN Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate. CEO Water Mandate is a coveted league of companies focusing on efficient water management. NTPC has taken several measures across its plant locations for water management. Now, it will follow the policy of 3 R's that is; reduce, reuse, recycle for water conservation and management while generating power.

31. SEBI Increases Foreign Investment Limit for MFs

Note: SEBI has increased overseas investment limit for local mutual funds. With this, mutual funds can make overseas investments to a maximum of US \$ 1 billion per Mutual Fund out of overall industry limit of US \$ 7 billion. While in overseas Exchange Traded Fund, mutual funds can invest a maximum of US \$ 300 million per Mutual Fund with industry limit of US \$ 1 billion.

32. Mission Innovation CleanTech Exchange

Note: India launched a global Initiative 'Mission Innovation CleanTech Exchange' with the aim of creating a network of incubators in member countries to boost clean energy innovation. Mission was launched virtually at "Innovating to Net Zero Summit, 2021" organised by Chile. It will provide access to expertise and market insights that are required to support new technologies in order to access new markets across the world.

33. Seed Minikit Programme launched

Note: Union Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar, launched a seed Minikit programme by

distributing high-yielding varieties seeds of oilseeds and pulses to farmers. This programme was launched as a major tool to introduce new varieties of seeds in fields. It will also help in increasing the seed replacement rate. Under the programme, Mini-kits are being provided by NAFED, National Seeds Corporation (NCS), and Gujarat State Seeds Corporation. It is completely funded by government through National Food Security Mission.

34. FICCI's Business Confidence Survey

Note: FICCI has published its quarterly "Business Confidence Survey". According to it, Business confidence of Indian companies has come down to its lowest in three quarters in May. In last survey, confidence was at decadal high. Business Confidence Index (BCI) declined due to decline in optimism levels of participating companies with respect to current conditions. BCI stands at 51.5 in latest survey, after hitting 74.2 in previous survey round. However, index is still higher than 2020 (42.9) when nationwide lockdown was imposed.

May 2021

1. SEBI to appoint Forensic Auditors for Listed Firms

Note: Security and Exchange Board of India is considering to appoint auditors in a bid to conduct forensic audits of financial statements of listed companies to strengthen its efforts towards curbing frauds. In recent times, SEBI has already conducted forensic audit of several companies. To initiate the process, SEBI has invited applications from eligible chartered accountant firms to take up assignments on forensic audit of financial statements of listed companies.

2. GoI increases Fertilizer Subsidy by 140%

Note: The Government of India increased fertilizer subsidies to Rs 1,200 per bag. Earlier, it was Rs 500 per bag. Thus, the subsidies have been increased by 140%. The GoI was spending Rs 80,000 crores for chemical subsidies earlier. Now, with the increase in subsidy, the Government of India will spend an additional Rs 14,775 crores. This is the second major step in the interest of the farmers after the GoI recently transferred Rs 20,667 crores to the farmers account under PM-KISAN.

3. India's first Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre set up at Pune

Note: The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture and NABARD recently launched the first Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre. The Centre will aid in boosting the agricultural and food exports of the state of Maharashtra. The centre will act as a one-stop shop to export agricultural food productions. The centre is open to anyone who is involved in agricultural exports. It will provide guidance in areas such as Minimum residue level, orchard management, branding and marketing, country-wise protocols, special export treatments and government export schemes.

4. MCA21: First phase of version 3.0 online portal launched

Note: The first phase of a data analytics driven version of MCA21, which was India's first mission

mode e-governance project, was virtually launched by union minister Anurag Thakur. MCA21 version 3.0 was highlighted during budget 2021-2022. This project makes use of new technologies to streamline corporate compliance and experiences of stakeholders. It will be implemented in two phases for which second and third phase will be launched in October 2021. First phase of the project consists of new email services for MCA officers, revamped website, eBook and eConsultation.

5. NABARD provided Rs 1,236 crore from its RIDF for Assam in FY21

Note: NABARD has provided an all-time high amount of Rs 1,236 crore from its Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) during the financial year 2020-21 with Rural Connectivity Projects (Roads & Bridges) as the focus area in the state of Assam. RIDF was created in 1995-96 with an initial corpus of Rs 2,000 crores. In 2020-21, Rs 29,848 crores was allocated to RIDF. With this the cumulative allocation has reached Rs 18,500 crores.

6. PayPal introduces digital Foreign Inward Remittance Advice

Note: PayPal, introduced an automated process to obtain the monthly Foreign Inward Remittance Advice (FIRA). PayPal merchants can now download their monthly digital FIRA released by the bank for free by simply logging into their PayPal account. The fully automated process eliminates the need for sellers to submit manual and individual requests, minimising the amount of time it takes to file paperwork process to obtain the monthly Foreign Inward Remittance Advice (FIRA).

7. Union Government formulates strategy for Kharif 2021

Note: With an aim to attain self-sufficiency in the production of pulses, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has formulated a special Kharif strategy for implementation in the ensuing Kharif 2021 season. Through consultations with the state governments, a detailed plan for both area expansion and productivity enhancement for Tur,

Moong and Urad has been formulated. Under the strategy, utilising all the high yielding varieties (HYVs) of seeds that are available either with the Central Seed Agencies or in the States will be distributed free of cost to increase area through intercropping and sole crop.

8. India notifies digital tax threshold of Rs 2 crore and 300,000 users

Note: India recently notified Digital Tax threshold of two crore rupees and 300,00 users under the Significant Economic Presence principle. This threshold was notified for non-resident technology firms such as Netflix, Facebook, Google, to pay tax in India. The principle was first introduced in the Finance Bill 2018-19. It was adopted to address the challenges of tax profits made by the digital companies. The Significant Economic Presence concept was introduced in 2018 under Income Tax Act, 1961. It was basically introduced to tax the income of non-residents. These incomes are those related to goods and services or property in India.

9. Govt targets road construction worth Rs.15 lakh crore in next 2 years

Note: The Minister of Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari recently announced that the Government of India has set a target of road construction of worth Rs 15 lakh crores in next two years. This will help to boost the National Infrastructure Pipeline. Under the National Infrastructure Pipeline, the Union Government aims to provide world-class infrastructure to the citizens and thereby improve their quality of lives. There are 7,300 projects to be implemented under the NIP. The total cost of the project has been estimated as Rs 111 lakh crores.

10. Govt to Provide Rs 15,000 crore to States for Capital Expenditure

Note: The Ministry of Finance, Government of India has decided to provide an additional amount of upto Rs 15,000 crore to States as interest free 50 years loan for spending on capital projects. 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. In 2020-21, Rs 12,000 crores was allocated for the scheme and Rs 11,830.29 crores was released to the states.

April 2021

1. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund crosses Rs 8,000 crores mark

Note: The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has received 8,665 applications so far. The worth of these applications has amounted to Rs 8, 216 crores. Out of this, Rs 4, 000 crores have been sanctioned by the Ministry so far. The states that received maximum help through the fund are Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Rajasthan. In 2020, the Government of India established the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund to inject credit into agriculture and its allied activities. It was launched as a part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat to make the farmers self-reliant.

2. Cabinet approves Agreement between India and UK on Customs Cooperation

Note: Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the agreement signed between Government of India and the Government of UK. The agreement was signed on Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs matters. India and UK have been signing several trade related agreements after the latter moved out of European Union. The Agreement will provide a legal framework to share intelligence and information between the customs department of the two countries.

3. ADB provided \$1.5-billion to India for Covid response

Note: According to the Annual Report, 2020 of Asian Development Bank, it has provided fiscal support of 1.5 billion USD to India to fight against COVID-19 crisis. The Asian Development Bank had allocated 31.6 billion USD for Asia and Pacific regions in 2020. This is to support a green and sustainable green recovery. Also, it focused on long term development projects. In 2020, the Asian Development Bank allocated 16.1 billion USD for COVID-19 pandemic. This is more than half of the total financial assistance committed by the bank. The financial support committed by ADB for the Asia and Pacific regions is 32% higher than that of 2019.

4. GoI targets 17 million tonnes of Mustard Production

Note: The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare recently announced that it is to bring nine million tonnes of land under mustard cultivation. This will increase mustard production to 17 million tonnes by 2025-26. The average mustard production in India, that is, the mustard production between 2015 and 2019 was 7.7 million tonnes. This was produced from 5.9 million hectares of land. India imports around 70% of edible oil needs. Of this, Palm oil is the highest. There is a need to make India self-sufficient in oil.

5. Union Cabinet approves India-Bangladesh Cooperation in Trade

Note: The Union Cabinet recently approved the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Director General of Trade Remedies of India and Trade and Tariff Commission of Bangladesh. The agreement was signed to increase the cooperation in the area of trade remedies. The agreement was signed on March 27, 2021. The agreement aims to promote exchange of information, trade remedies and other activities in accordance with the provisions of World Trade Organisation. The agreement mainly targeted on countervailing, anti-dumping and safeguard measures in bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh.

6. Govt launches a beta portal for 'trusted' telecom gear makers

Note: The government has launched a beta version of an online portal that will carry the names of "trusted" suppliers of telecom gear. The beta version is initially open to a few telecom service providers (TSPs) and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) identified by India's highest cyber security authority, who will help the government collect sample data on gear that can be qualified as trusted products

7. National Startup Advisory Council

Note: The then Ministry of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal recently chaired the first meeting of the National Startup Advisory Council. It was constituted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. The main objective of the council is to advise the Government of India on measures needed to build strong ecosystem to nurture innovation and startups in the country. This is to drive sustainable economic growth in the country and also to generate large scale employment opportunities. The council is constituted with both Ex-officio and non-official members. These members are nominated by the Government of India. They include members from the central ministries and also founder of successful startups.

8. Facebook signs first deal to buy renewable energy in India

Note: Facebook has signed a deal to buy renewable energy in India from a local firm's wind power project, the social media giant's first such deal in the South Asian nation. The 32 megawatt wind power project, located in southern Karnataka state, is part of a larger portfolio of wind and solar projects that Facebook and Mumbai-based CleanMax are working together on for supplying renewable power into India's electrical grid.

9. Flipkart acquires Cleartrip as part of its diversification drive

Note: The Walmart-owned e-commerce firm, Flipkart announced to acquire 100% stack in

Cleartrip, a leading online travel and technology company. Cleartrip was founded in 2006. The company books train and flight tickets, hotel reservations and other activities in India and in middle east countries. The company has offices in Saudi Arabia, UAE, India and Egypt. Flipkart is an E-Commerce company headquartered in Bangalore, India.

10. DGFT's 'Trade Facilitation' mobile app to promote exports

Note: Ministry of Commerce and Industry recently launched DGFT 'Trade Facilitation' Mobile App during the online video conference, for promoting ease of doing business and providing quick access to information to importers/exporters. DGFT was formed as a part of Economic Reforms in 1991 when the Liberalisation, Globalisation and Privatisation policies began in India.

11. Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched eSaNTA platform for marine products

Note: Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched e-commerce platform eSaNTA for marine products will empower farmers as they will be able to sell their produce at the click of a button through this portal. It will enable farmers to do spot as well as forward sales. The platform would also provide more freedom, options and opportunities to fish and aqua farmers, he said, adding that it will ensure fair prices and traceability to both buyers and sellers.

12. Irdai proposes guidelines on trade credit insurance

Note: The IRDAI has issued draft proposals on regulatory framework to promote sustainable and healthy development of trade credit insurance for businesses. Trade credit insurance protects businesses against the risk of non-payment for goods and services by buyers. It usually covers a portfolio of buyers and indemnifies an agreed percentage of an invoice or invoices that remain unpaid as a result of protracted default, insolvency/bankruptcy.

13. Indian Railways records highest electrification of sections covering over 6000 RKM in 2020-21

Note: The Indian Railways has achieved the highest ever electrification of sections during 2020-21. It has covered 6,015 kilo metres of electrification in a single year. This is 37% higher than that achieved in 2019-20. The Broad-Gauge network of Indian Railway currently stand at 63,949 kilo metres. Of this 71% has been electrified. In the last seven years, the electrification of Indian Railways has increased by seven times. Totally 45,881 kilometres has been electrified. Of this 34% were electrified in the last three years.

14. India's biggest floating solar power plant to be set up at Ramagundam in Telangana

Note: The capacity of the solar power plant is 100 MW. It is expected to be opened in May 2021. The solar power plant is being set up at the Ramagundam Thermal Power Plant reservoir. The

solar power plant is to be set up in 450 acres of the reservoir. The project is commissioned by NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation). NTPC aims to reduce its carbon footprints and increase its green energy production to 30% of its capacity through this solar power plant.

Banking & Financial Awareness

September 2021

1. Union Cabinet approved government guarantee up to **₹30,600 crore** amount to back Security Receipts to be issued by National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL).

Note: The National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) would be operational soon, and it had to ensure resolving bad loans within five years, beyond which the guarantee to be issued by the government would expire. The NARCL will acquire stressed assets of about Rs 2 trillion in phases, and these soured loans would be transferred by paying 15 per cent cash to lenders and the remaining 85 per cent would be paid through security receipts.

2. Recently Escorts tied up with **IndusInd Bank** to provide financial solutions to farmers.
Note: IndusInd Bank will offer farmers easy access to financial assistance in the form of loans in a seamless manner. Given its deep understanding of rural markets and wider penetration, IndusInd Bank will bring forth better accessibility to innovative financial solutions which, in turn, will help Escorts attain its larger goal of fostering the dreams of farmers
3. **Punjab and Sind Bank** has entered into a strategic co-lending alliance with Indiabulls Commercial Credit and Indiabulls Housing Finance (IHFL) for MSME and Priority Sector Housing Loans respectively.
Note: The co-lending model will improve the flow of credit to the unserved and underserved sector of the economy. It will make available funds to the ultimate beneficiary at an affordable cost, considering the lower cost of funds from banks and greater reach of the NBFCs/ HFLs.
4. According to a joint study conducted by ASSOCHAM and CRISIL the gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) of commercial banks are expected to exceed **Rs 10 lakh crore**.
Note: The report says that NPAs are expected to rise to 8.5-9% by March 2022, driven by slippages in retail, micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) accounts, besides some restructured assets.
5. PayNow is a payment system of **Singapore** with that the **Reserve Bank of India** has announced to link its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to enable users to make instant, low-cost fund transfers on a reciprocal basis.

Note: The RBI and the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) announced the project to link the fast payment systems. The linkage is targeted for operationalisation by July 2022. The linkage builds upon the earlier efforts of NPCI International Private Limited (NIPL) and Network for Electronic Transfers (NETS) to foster cross-border interoperability of payments using cards and QR codes, between India and Singapore.

6. The theme of the third Cohort under Regulatory Sandbox (RS) announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
Note: Third Cohort application will be kept open from October 1 to November 14, 2021. Prior to this, RBI has launched 2 cohort under regulatory sandbox. These are: First Cohort: It was launched in November 2019, with the theme as 'Retail Payments'. Six entities have completed the testing phase of the cohort.
7. **Fino Payments Bank** has appointed Indian actor Pankaj Tripathi as its first brand ambassador.
Note: During the two-year engagement effective 1st September 2021, Pankaj Tripathi will be the face of Fino Payments Bank's marketing campaigns across various platforms. He will work with the brand in promoting its products and services representing through Fino's ever-present and friendly neighbourhood local banker – Hamesha available!
8. According to the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) 7.2 per cent** will the growth rate of Indian economy in FY 2021-22.
Note: At this rate, India would be the fastest growing economy after China, which is projected to grow by 8.3 per cent. Calculations are based on GDP at constant dollars in 2015. The report said India's economy, which shrank by seven per cent in 2020, showed strong growth of 1.9 per cent in the first quarter of Calendar 2021, on the back of the momentum of the second half of 2020 and supported by government spending in goods and services.
9. **Power Finance Corporation** has launched its maiden €300 million 7-year Euro Bond issuance.
Note: It is the first ever Euro denominated green-bond issuance from India. It is also the first ever Euro issuance by an Indian NBFC and the first Euro bond

- issuance from India since 2017. It is an Indian financial institution under Ministry of Power.
10. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Telecom sector under the automatic route -- **100%**.
Note: Govt has approved 9 structural and 5 process reforms in Telecom sector to provide relief to ailing telecom service providers, struggling with high levels of debt. They are: Definition of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) has been changed and now all non-telecom revenue will be removed from AGR
 11. According to **All India Debt & Investment Survey** conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO) **84%** is average debt shooting in rural India 2012 and 2018.
Note: Number of indebted households: It has risen sharply in rural India with average debt shooting up by 84% between 2012 and 2018, and COVID-19 has likely further doubled all households' borrowings by 2021. Rural households' average debt grew from ₹32,522 in 2012 to ₹59,748 by June 2018, while urban households' average debt increased by 42% in the same period to little more than ₹1.20 lakh.
 12. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has declared **Kushinagar Airport, Uttar Pradesh** airport as a Customs notified airport.
Note: It will facilitate international passenger movements including that of Buddhist pilgrims. Kushinagar: Town in Kushinagar district of Uttar Pradesh. It is an important Buddhist pilgrimage site, where Buddhists believe Gautama Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana after his death.
 13. **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB)** has got approval from Reserve Bank of India to form a special committee of directors to oversee operations in the absence of an MD and CEO.
Note: The RBI in a letter has approved the constitution of 'Special Committee of Directors' with three independent directors as its members. The committee will "oversee the operations and administration of the bank in the absence of the Managing Director and CEO with effect from September 16, 2021.
 14. In September 2021, **HDFC Bank** and Paytm announced plans for launching a comprehensive range of credit cards powered by VISA.
Note: In a first-of-its-kind alliance, the partnership aims to provide one of the widest range of offerings across customer segments, with special focus on millennials, business owners and merchants. The credit card will offer, EMIs and Buy Now Pay Later options, with the full suite of products to be on offer by the end of December 2021
 15. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has agreed to acquire 9.9% stake in KFin Technologies, a leading investor and issuer servicing platform, at an investment of ₹310 crore.
Note: Fin provides financial technology solutions across a broad spectrum of asset classes spanning mutual funds, alternatives, insurance, and pension. It serves 25 out of the 44 Indian mutual fund AMCs, which have over \$148 billion in AUM and 35% market share in equity AUM (up from 27% in March 2019).
 16. According to latest Global Trade Outlook issued by the UK's Department of International Trade, by **2050** India will become the world's third largest importer.
Note: Increasing middle class spending will help the country have a share of 5.9% of global imports. At present, India is ranked eighth among largest importing nations with a 2.8% import share and is set to become the fourth largest importer by 2030.
 17. In partnership with **Kotak Mahindra Bank**, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) announced to set up a state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (AI-ML) Centre at the IISc campus in Bengaluru.
Note: The Centre will offer Bachelor's, Masters and short-term courses in areas such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, deep learning, fintech, reinforcement learning, image processing, computer vision, natural language processing, speech understanding, robotics, computational finance and risk management, cyber security, fraud analytics, blockchain, biomedical engineering and technology, healthcare, etc.
 18. **Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd** has launched first of its kind digital banking scheme called 'Loan Against Mutual Funds' (LAMF).
Note: Customers can avail of quick and hassle-free loans ranging from ₹5 lakh and ₹2 crore. Tata Capital's digital loan offering is provided against a wide range of equity and debt schemes across mutual funds. The loan amount is customized based on the value of the units in the mutual fund folio and tenure.
 19. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has launched new mobile app named as '**PRAGATI for Development Officers**'.
Note: PRAGATI stands for Performance Review Application, Growth and Trend Indicator. Pragati app will help Development Officers to get near real-time information about the performance of their agency force in critical areas of business performance like premium collection, agency activation, prospective outperformers, etc apart from monitoring their team on activities such as usage of agents mobile app and NACH validation.
 20. The IIFL Home Finance Limited (IIFL HFL) has signed a co-lending agreement with **Punjab National Bank**.
Note: Objective of the agreement is to increase the penetration of affordable housing loans and secured MSME (Micro Small and Medium Enterprises) loans. The co-lending agreement with the PNB, India's 2nd largest public sector bank where 80 percent of loan will be provided by PNB and IIFL HFL will manage the loan sourcing, documentation collection and servicing work
 21. Global motor company **Ford Motor** has announced to close manufacturing plants in India due to the loss of more than USD 2 billion over the past 10 years.

- Note:** Ford has two integrated manufacturing facilities in India one at Chennai, Tamil Nadu, and another at Sanand, Gujarat. Manufacturing of vehicles for exports in Sanand, Gujarat will be shut by fourth quarter of 2021 and vehicle and engine manufacturing in Chennai will be stopped by the second quarter of 2022. Ford will now only offer high-end cars via Completely Built-Up (CBU) Route.
- 22. Power Finance Corp. Ltd.** is set to become the 11th Maharatna central public sector enterprise (CPSE).
Note: The Maharatna dispensation was ushered in by the Union government for mega CPSEs to become global giants. PFC, India's largest non-banking financial company (NBFC) and among the 14 Navratna CPSEs, can invest up to ₹5,000 crore, or 15% of its net worth, in a single project apart from being granted enhanced powers by the government for undertaking mergers and acquisitions once it gets the Maharatna status. Navratna and Miniratna CPSEs can invest up to ₹1,000 crore and ₹500 crore, respectively.
- 23. India Post Payments Bank** has announced a strategic alliance with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance to distribute their non-life insurance products across the country.
Note: The scope of products will include healthcare and medical products, personal accidents, and motor insurance, amongst other innovative tailor-made products to address the protection needs of Bharat. The Gramin Dak Sevaks or postmen have been certified for Point of Sales Person or POSP (under POSP Model) and trained for products allowed for sale through point of sale.
- 24. Bharti AXA Life Insurance** has announced the launch of a single premium group credit protection plan that offers customers the opportunity to safeguard their loved ones against a loan liability.
Note: This plan acts as a flexible, convenient and affordable risk solution that offers multiple coverage options. Level cover: Under this option, the sum assured will remain constant throughout the coverage term
- 25.** According to the Agricultural minister **Narendra Singh Tomar, ₹14 lakh crore** amount of loans have been given under Kisan Credit Card.
Note: While addressing the conference of Lt Governors/Administrator of all the Union Territories, Narendra Singh Tomar, emphasizing on KCC drive, said that the Kisan Credit Card cover has been provided to the farmers even under the shadow of Covid.
- 26.** The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has cut India's growth projection for financial year 2021-22 to **10 per cent**.
Note: The downward revision in growth forecast has been a result of India's economic recovery getting impacted due to spike in Covid-19 cases in May. Because consumption will recover only gradually, government spending and exports will contribute
- more to FY2021's growth than they did in the previous fiscal year.
- 27. Piyush Goyal** has launched 'National Single Window System (NSWS)' for the investors and businesses.
Note: NSWS: single window portal that will act as a one-stop-shop for investors or entrepreneur, to get approvals and clearances needed from Government. It shall give freedom from legacy of running to government offices for approvals and registrations needed by investors, entrepreneurs, and businesses in India. Currently, portal hosts approvals across 18 Central Departments and 9 States.
- 28.** As per the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), **9.7 per cent** will be the growth rate of Indian Economy the current financial year (2021-22).
Note: For financial year 2022-23 (FY23), OECD has projected Indian economy to grow by 7.9%, as compared to 8.2% pegged earlier. Global economy: OECD has projected strong growth rate of 5.7% in 2021 and 4.5% in 2022, as compared to 5.8% and 4.4%, respectively, estimated earlier.
- 29. Yes Bank** has partnered with Visa to offer credit cards to its customers on the payment platform.
Note: Visa co-branded cards come with 9 credit card variants covering all segments, consumer cards, business cards, and corporate cards across YES First, YES Premia and YES Prosperity. Yes Bank has achieved transition to Visa as payment network within a record time of less than 60 days, post the bank imposed on Mastercard.
- 30.** BLS International Services has been selected as National Business Correspondent for India's largest bank, State Bank of India to deliver banking services in urban, semi-urban and rural areas across the country.
Note: It would deliver last mile banking services to support the financial inclusion mission of Indian government. BLS will soon initiate banking services like savings bank deposits, fixed deposit, recurring deposit, remittances, micro pension, micro insurance, account open with e-KYC, AEPS mini statement, passbook printing for SBI account holders spread across India.
- 31.** PayPoint ties up with BoB to **Bank of Baroda** bank's network
Note: Commercial banks have been finding it unviable to set up owned branches at remote locations and smaller centres, but with PayPoint India's proven expertise in taking financial and payment products to the remotest locations through its vast and ever-expanding distribution network. Almost all essential banking services can be delivered through BC customer service points. Besides commercial banks, many renowned service providers, including insurance companies, Telcos, Electricity boards, and even IRCTC, use the PayPoint India network to reach out to their customers across India.

- 32. Bank of Baroda** and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have launched an international co-branded RuPay NCMC Platinum contactless debit card. **Note:** This personalised RuPay platinum international debit card comes with various benefits including 5 per cent cashback up to ₹50 on the first 2 transactions at BPCL outlets. The BoB BPCL RuPay co-branded debit card is powered with the “National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)” feature that enables contactless transactions across all the public transport systems in the country such as metros, buses, cabs suburban railways, toll, parking, and topping-up FASTags and for retail purchases.
- 33. TRIFED** has entered an MoU with e-grocery platform **BigBasket** for the promotion and sale of natural Van Dhan products. **Note:** With this, Big Basket will be able to enrich its portfolio through the of hand-made authentic forest products sourced by the tribal population. These strategic collaborations of TRIFED – TRIBES INDIA will help Van Dhan tribal beneficiaries in remote areas to overcome challenges restricting their access to domestic and international markets.
- 34.** The government imposed a limit on the total entitlement under the Services Export from India Scheme (SEIS) for shipments made during 2019-20, at Rs 5 crore per exporter. **Note:** The move is expected to benefit small businesses in the services sector. SEIS was rolled out six years ago, as part of the foreign trade policy 2015-2020, to promote export of services from India. Under the scheme, the government gives 3-5 per cent incentive on net foreign exchange earned in the form of duty-credit scrips. Scrips can be used for payment of basic and additional Customs duties on goods imported.
- 35.** The authorized capital of the India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL), set up the government of India to clean up bad loans -- **Rs 50 crore**. **Note:** IDRCL will work in collaboration with National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) to clean up bad loans. Shareholders of IDRCL: Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, SBI, Union Bank of India, Canara Bank, Indian Bank and IDBI Bank.
- 36.** As per the new guidelines issued by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** regarding Securitization of Standard Assets and loan transfer, **Rs 1 crore** will be the minimum ticket size for issuance of securitization notes. **Note:** As per the guidelines of RBI, minimum ticket size for issuance of securitization notes will be Rs.1 crore. Minimum holding period for different categories of loans after which they shall become eligible for transfer has been prescribed in it.
- 37.** According to ICRA, India’s real GDP growth for India in financial year 2021-22 will be **9.0 percent**. **Note:** It can be noted that after the 7.3 per cent contraction in 2020-21, there were expectations of a higher growth number in 2021-22. However, the second wave of COVID-19 infections early into the fiscal year, which spread even in the hinterland, made analysts more circumspect. The RBI expects the economy to grow at 9.5 per cent.
- 38.** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has set the limit for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for the second half of financial year 2021-22 at **Rs 50,000 crores**. **Note:** RBI may trigger fresh floatation of market loans when the Government of India utilizes 75% of the WMA limit.
- 39. Federal Bank** has partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch the 'RuPay Signet Contactless Credit Card'. **Note:** It comes with the lowest Annual Percentage Rate (APR) starting from just 5.88 per cent per annum. The Federal Bank RuPay Signet credit cardholders will gain access to a wide variety of offers and deals across categories including travel, food and dining, shopping, sports, entertainment, lifestyle and much more.
- 40.** E-commerce company **Amazon** has launched a future engineer program in India, its global computer science education programme. **Note:** According to the company, the programme will enable access to quality computer science education and career opportunities for students from underrepresented and underserved communities. In the first year of its launch, Amazon aims to enable and deliver learning opportunities to more than 1 lakh students from 900 government and aided schools across seven states in India.
- 41. Around Rs. 4,400 crores** has been approved by the union cabinet in ECGC Ltd. (formerly known as Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd.) in five years to provide support to exporters as well as banks. **Note:** Capital Infusion and planned IPO are to increase ECGC’s underwriting capacity up to 88,000 crore and propel additional exports of 5.28 lakh crore over a five-year period. It will help create 59 lakh new jobs including 2.6 lakh in formal sector. This decision is part of a series export related schemes and initiatives taken by the Government over the last few years. These measures will provide a boost to the exports sector.
- 42. Federal Bank** has tied-up with OneCard for a mobile-first credit card that targets the country’s young, tech-savvy population. **Note:** It will target young working professionals aged 23-35, primarily representing the millennials and Gen Z. The mobile-first credit card offers in-app onboarding, whereby the virtual card can be activated and used instantly, while the metal card is delivered to the customer in three to five days. The cards will be powered by Visa.
- 43. RBL Bank** and Mastercard announced the launch of a new festive campaign, #UseBefikar, which rewards existing cardholders with exciting shopping offers and rewards. **Note:** Backed by renowned personalities including Riteish Deshmukh, Mirabai Chanu and Vikrant Massey, the campaign is running through a video series that

aims to strike a chord with cardholders at the start of the festive season. These videos will highlight the card's versatile offerings for every family member, focusing on categories such as health and fitness, e-commerce, online bill payments and food delivery.

44. **Telangana** has entered into an agreement with Wingsure, an insurtech venture spin-out of SRI International.
Note: As a part of the agreement, Wingsure will provide deep-tech-based personalised crop insurance products and advisory services to small, underserved farmers in the State. The alliance is among the first in the global farming ecosystem and will help Telangana

to promote social inclusion and digital transformation in Indian agriculture.

45. According to the data released by the **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI), bank deposits grew by what on a year-on-year basis during the financial year 2020-21 -- **11.9 per cent.**

Note: The share of CASA deposits increased to 43.7 per cent in March 2021 from 41.7 per cent a year ago. Individuals were the major constituent of the household sector and contributed 55.8 per cent in aggregate deposits. Bank deposits of non-financial corporations surged by 18.8 percent during 2020-21 and their share in total deposits increased to 16.2 percent in March-2021.

August 2021

1. e-voucher-based digital payment solution, e-RUPI has been developed by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** that was launched by the prime minister Narendra Modi.

Note: The e-RUPI initiative will be one of the programmes launched over the years to limit touch points between the government and the beneficiary and "ensure that the benefits reach its intended beneficiaries in a targeted and leak-proof manner". e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payments. It acts as an e-voucher based on a QR Code or SMS string, which is delivered to the mobile phones of the beneficiaries. e-RUPI connects the sponsors of the services with the beneficiaries and service providers in a digital manner without any physical interface.

2. **Walmart** ranked first in the 2021 Fortune Global 500 list released recently.
Note: China National Petroleum was ranked fourth and Sinopec Group fifth. Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd slipped 59 places to rank 155th on the 2021 Fortune Global 500 list. Reliance took a beating on the rankings as revenues dropped owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)** are not included in the 2021 Fortune Global 500 list released recently.
Note: China National Petroleum was ranked fourth and Sinopec Group fifth. Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd slipped 59 places to rank 155th on the 2021 Fortune Global 500 list. Reliance took a beating on the rankings as revenues dropped owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. **State Bank of India** has launched a 'SIM Binding' feature in its digital banking platforms to protect customers from various frauds.
Note: Under this, YONO and YONO Lite apps will work only on those devices which have SIM of mobile numbers registered with the Bank. Aim: To provide enhanced security to customers and help them with convenient and safe online banking experience.

5. **DBS Bank** has been awarded as the global winner for Most Innovative in Digital Banking by Financial Times publication, The Banker in its 2021 Innovation in Digital Banking Awards.

Note: He was also recognised as Asia-Pacific winner and won in the Cyber Security category for its Secure Access and Remote Working Solution. Banker's Innovation in Digital Banking Awards: It recognise the most innovative banks across the world for their digital banking initiatives, strategy, and overall commitment to digital transformation.

6. **IndusInd Bank** has been empanelled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to act as an 'Agency Bank' to facilitate transactions related to government businesses.
Note: After being an agency bank, IndusInd becomes eligible to carry out transactions related to all kinds of government led businesses. The Bank can carry out general banking business on behalf of the central and state government, apart from its normal banking business. It can handle transactions pertaining to revenue receipts under CBDT, CCBIC and GST on behalf of the state/central government.
7. **HDFC Bank** has launched an overdraft facility for small retailers titled as 'Dukandar Overdraft Scheme' to help shopkeepers and merchants in easing their cash crunch.
Note: It has been launched in partnership with Common Service Centres Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC SPV) Eligibility: Retailers operating for a minimum of 3 years. Beneficiaries need to provide six months bank statement from any bank.
8. **\$650 billion** has been approved by the Board of Governors of International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help boost global liquidity.
Note: Aim: To support member countries, especially emerging and developing nations, battling the coronavirus pandemic and the economic downturn it has caused. The allocation will become effective from August 23, 2021. The newly created SDRs will be credited to member countries in proportion to their existing quotas shareholding in the Fund.

9. As per the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment Bill), 2021 – The minimum threshold for initiating pre-packaged insolvency resolution has been increased to **Rs 1 crore**.
Note: The bill seeks to replace the IBC Amendment Ordinance, 2021 promulgated in April which introduced pre-packs as an insolvency resolution mechanism for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with defaults up to Rs 1 crore. As per the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the bill, it seeks to specify a minimum threshold of not more than Rs 1 crore for initiating the pre-packaged insolvency resolution process as well as provisions for disposal of simultaneous applications for initiation of the insolvency resolution process and pre-packaged insolvency resolution process, pending against the same corporate debtor.
10. **World Bank** has approved USD 250 million project in India titled as Second Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP-2) agreement for long-term dam safety program and performance of existing dams of India.
Note: The agreement was inked between World Bank, Govt of India, Central Water Commission (CWC), and government representatives from 10 participating states. Implementing agency: CWC. At state level, approximately 120 dams will be undertaken across the states.
11. The Securities and Exchange Board of India has allowed **Payments Banks** to carry out the activities of investment bankers to provide easy access to investors to participate in public and rights issues by using various payment avenues, markets regulator.
Note: Non-scheduled payments banks, which have prior approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), will be eligible to act as a banker to an issue (BTI). This is subject to fulfilment of the conditions stipulated in the BTI rules. Further, payments banks registered as a BTI will also be permitted to act as self-certified syndicate banks, subject to the fulfilment of the criteria laid down by the Sebi in this regard from time to time.”
12. According to the bi-monthly monetary policy released by the RBI in August 2021 **9.5%** is the GDP growth forecast for FY22.
Note: RBI keeps the GDP growth forecast for FY22 unchanged at 9.5%. RBI to conduct two more auctions of ₹25,000 crores each on August 12 and August 26 under the G-sec Acquisition Programme (GSAP). CPI inflation is projected at 5.7 % during 2021-22 – this consists of 5.9% in Q2, 5.3% in Q3 and 5.8% in Q4 of 2021-22 with risks broadly balanced.
13. The government has inked a USD 250 million loan pact with **World Bank** to make the existing dam infrastructure safe in the country.
Note: The Central Water Commission as well as the government representatives from 10 participating states are also part of the loan agreement. The USD 250 million project for the long-term is for dam safety programme and improving the safety and performance of existing dams across various states of India.
14. **SBI General Insurance** announced a partnership with Manipal Business Solutions, the promoter of SahiPay to increase non-life insurance penetration in the rural market.
Note: Through this partnership, SBI General will provide a bouquet of non-life insurance solutions to SahiPay customers, the insurer said in a release. The tie-up is a right fit to support the company’s endeavour to maximise its reach to rural segments.
15. Multilateral funding agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) has okayed an over Rs 831 crore (USD 112 million) loan to finance water supply infrastructure in **Jharkhand**.
Note: The project will cover four towns in the state, ADB said in a release. The project supports the Jharkhand Vision and Action Plan 2021 to improve the quality of life of its urban residents through better quality urban infrastructure.
16. **Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB)** has launched ‘Health and Wellness Savings Account’ to help customers grow their wealth and also take care of their family’s health amid the covid-19 pandemic.
Note: The account offers an attractive interest rate and comes with three major benefits for a family of four — top-up health insurance of ₹25 lakh, annual healthcare package and on-call emergency ambulance medical care services. Top-up health insurance and healthcare package are free of charge for one year after opening the account. Free ambulance service up to a distance of 20 km will be available at 102 locations across the country till March-end 2022.
17. National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has entered into an MoU with **Punjab National Bank** to extend financial assistance through the Bank.
Note: The government created the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) in 2018-19 and is being implemented with a total fund size of Rs 7,522.48 crore comprising Rs 5,266.40 crore to be raised by Nodal Lending Entities (NLE), like NABARD, NCDC & all scheduled banks.
18. **SBI General Insurance** company has partnered with the Manipal Business Solutions, to tap customers of fintech platform SahiPay, in a bid to increase its non-life insurance penetration in the rural market.
Note: Manipal Business Solutions is the promoter of SahiPay, which provides digital and financial services in the semi-urban and rural parts of the country, to different business entities. Under this, SBI General will provide a range of non-life insurance solutions to SahiPay customers. This initiative is part of the strategy of SBI General in strengthening its distribution

footprints in the country and becoming the most trusted general insurer for India.

19. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to provide the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) AUTOPAY facility to customers.

Note: It will allow customers to buy insurance policies and make premium payments digitally, from their homes - a facility that assumes relevance amid the COVID-19 pandemic. With this tie-up, ICICI Prudential Life has become the first such life insurance company to provide the UPI AUTOPAY facility. To avail the facility, customers can link their bank accounts with UPI AUTOPAY and make premium payments, at the time of purchasing a life insurance policy.

20. CoinDCX became India's first cryptocurrency unicorn after the exchange raised 6.70 billion rupees (\$90 million) from investors led by Facebook Inc.

Note: The latest funding round values the firm at \$1.1 billion. Other investors include existing partners Coinbase Ventures, Polychain Capital, Block.one, and Jump Capital. The 30-year-old engineer from the elite Indian Institute of Technology spent several hours daily reading about blockchain and cryptocurrencies before setting up CoinDCX in 2018.

21. Central Bank of India has entered into a strategic co-lending partnership with Dhanvarsha Finvest Ltd (DFL) to offer loans against gold ornaments under priority sector to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) borrowers at competitive rates.

Note: Under this partnership, DFL will originate and process loans against gold ornaments as per jointly formulated credit parameters and eligibility criteria and CBoI will take into its book 80 per cent of the gold loans under mutually agreed terms, as per the public sector bank's stock exchange filing. DFL will service the loan account throughout the life cycle of the loan.

22. Asian Development Bank has approved an additional USD 300 million loan for rural roads in **Maharashtra**.

Note: The ongoing project, approved in August 2019, has been improving and maintaining the condition and safety of 2,100 kilometres (km) of rural roads across Maharashtra. The additional financing will improve an additional 1,100 rural roads and 230 bridges for a total length of 2,900 km in 34 districts, the Multilateral funding agency added.

23. Indian Bank has signed up with NSRCEL, the incubation arm of IIMB, for extending exclusive credit to startups.

Note: NSRCEL is known for bringing up start-ups, industry mentors and eminent academicians from the parent institution, IIM Bangalore and researchers who thrive on continuous interaction of theory and practice. IIMB also nurtures technology and knowledge-based ventures. Startups require funding to expand and grow.

One of the most common problems they face is maintaining a positive cash flow.

24. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to levy monetary charges of **Rs 10000** on ATMs that run out of cash, starting 1 October, 2021.

Note: Therefore, been decided that the banks/ White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs) shall strengthen their systems/ mechanisms to monitor availability of cash in ATMs and ensure timely replenishment to avoid cash-outs. Any non-compliance in this regard shall be viewed seriously and shall attract monetary penalty. Launching the 'Scheme of Penalty for non-replenishment of ATMs', the central bank said that a penalty of ₹10,000 per ATM will be levied in the event of a cash-out situation for more than 10 hours in a month.

25. SIDBI in partnership with Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK (FCDO UK) has launched 'Swavalamban Challenge Fund' (SCF).

Note: A challenge fund is a fund support mechanism to allocate funds for specific purposes using competition among organisations. Suppose there is an idea which needs to be piloted or scaled up, but funds are an issue, challenge fund provides solution platform to present the idea in prescribed theme, implement and validate it. Later the same can be scaled up by leveraging other donor / financier support.

26. The Reserve Bank of India has raised the limit for collateral free loans to Self-Help Groups (SHG) under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) from Rs 10 lakhs to **Rs 20 Lakhs**.

Note: Generally, commercial banks provide loans to SHG. No collateral and no margin will be charged will be there for SHGs loan of up to 10 Lakhs. For SHGs loans of 10 lakh to 20 lakh: No collateral should be charged and no lien should be marked against savings bank account of SHGs.

27. The Indian Navy has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **IDFC FIRST Bank** to initiate 'Honour FIRST', a premium banking solution for serving personnel and veterans of the Indian Navy.

Note: The Honour FIRST Defence Account is specially designed keeping in mind the needs of the Armed Forces and its veterans. Account holders of Honour FIRST are supported by a dedicated team of defence veterans. The Honour FIRST Defence account comes with a range of privileges and features such as a zero balance salary account that earns up to 5 per cent interest per annum and a netbanking and mobile App that offers superior user interface and experience.

28. SIDBI has launched an app-based digital-lending platform named as 'Digital Prayaas' to sanction loans to entrepreneurs from low-income groups.

Note: Loan will be sanctioned by the end of the day. SIDBI has tied up with BigBasket to cater to the needs of aspiring youth in urban areas and will on board

- BigBasket's delivery partners and provide loans at an affordable interest rate for purchase of environment friendly e-Bikes and e-Vans.
- 29. RBL Bank** has chosen Amazon Web Services (AWS), an Amazon.com company, as its preferred cloud provider.
Note: RBL Bank has chosen Amazon Web Services (AWS), an Amazon.com company, as its preferred cloud provider. AWS helps RBL bank to strengthen its AI-powered banking solutions and drive digital transformation at the Bank, adding significant value to the Bank's innovative offerings, saving costs, and tightening risk controls.
- 30. State Bank of India** has inked an MoU with NABARD and Jammu and Kashmir Gramin Bank (JKGB) for Joint Liability Groups financing.
Note: Aim of the MoU is to finance 1000 Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) and to enhance the flow of credit to tenant farmers, oral lessees, sharecroppers, Small and Marginal farmers (SF/MF), etc. The MoUs on JLG financing were signed and exchanged between NABARD J&K Regional Office, SBI, and JKGB.
- 31.** In August 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on **Co-operative Rabobank U.A.**
Note: The penalty has been imposed for contravention of certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and directions related to 'transfer to reserve funds'. Examination of the risk assessment report pertaining to the same, revealed contravention of the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act and the directions issued by RBI.
- 32. Paytm Payments Bank Ltd** became the first bank in India to achieve the milestone of issuing 1 crore FASTags.
Note: It has 28 percent share as FASTag issuer bank. As per the data of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), around 3.47 crore FASTags were issued by all banks together till the end of June 2021. PPBL also exists as India's largest acquirer of toll plazas under the National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) program.
- 33.** Partnering with **HDFC Bank** the Government of Punjab introduced online payment of water supply bills in villages.
Note: The information for the same was provided by Punjab Water Supply and Sanitation Minister Razia Sultana who launched an online billing and revenue monitoring system (RMS) for online payment of water supply bills in the villages of district SAS-Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali). This system is being implemented in collaboration with HDFC (Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd) bank which has provided a technological and banking platform.
- 34. Indian Bank** has launched a flagship Business Mentoring Programme "MSME Prerana" in West Bengal.
- Note:** MSME Prerana is a unique and innovative business mentoring programme in collaboration with Poornatha and Co. to empower MSME entrepreneurs in driving business more efficiently by optimizing value and capacity. The programme will be in the local language of the state which is Bengali. "MSME Prerana" has been launched with an aim to develop managerial and financial capabilities of MSME entrepreneurs besides creating awareness on various initiatives taken by Union and state governments and other regulators.
- 35.** The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the license of Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited. The bank is located in **Maharashtra**.
Note: Order has been issued for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank. RBI has informed that 95% of depositors will receive full amounts of their deposits. On liquidation, every depositor will be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakhs
- 36.** Digital lending platform, **KreditBee** in partnership with RuPay and RBL Bank launched a virtual prepaid card in RuPay platform.
Note: It will provide the unserved and underserved banking customers with an access to short-term liquidity with multiple repayment options. Features of KreditBee Card: Under the card, the customers could avail credit limit of up to Rs 10,000, which has to be repaid in a single billing cycle within 45 days.
- 37. DBS Bank India** has made a partnership with ODeX India Solutions Pvt. Ltd to introduce 'ODeX Pay Later Solutions' to provide credit solutions to Freight forwarders in shipping industry.
Note: To enable the ODeX customers to access comprehensive payment and financing solutions for all their ocean shipping transaction. The ODeX Pay Later Solutions will allow freight forwarders to make direct payments to ship liners. Businesses with a turnover of Rs 3 Crore to Rs 200 Crore and have completed over 5 years in the same industry and are eligible to avail unsecured loan of up to Rs 50 lakhs from DBS Bank.
- 38. Kotak Mahindra Bank** has launched DIY repayment platform for missed loan repayments.
Note: Kotak Mahindra Bank has deployed a secure, Do It Yourself Digital Repayment Platform for missed loan repayments, in a tie-up with Creditas Solutions. Powered by artificial intelligence and machine learning, the 'Neo Collections' platform delivers a personalised and non-intrusive experience thereby enabling customers to manage their dues seamlessly on their own through an intuitive repayment platform. Using data analytics to target the right customer segments, the 'Neo Collections' platform creates hyper-personalised scenarios to connect with each customer.
- 39. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank** has launched 'Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System' (FRUITS) portal.

- Note:** The Dharwad-headquartered Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB), in association with the Karnataka government, has launched 'Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System' (FRUITS) portal. In this latest initiative by the Karnataka government, all the farmers will be registered and given a FRUITS ID (FID) number. Using this number, the financial and lending institutions can access the land details of farmers as well as their borrowings and take a quick decision on lending to them depending on their requirements
40. India has signed a USD 500 million loans agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in order to expand metro rail network in **Bengaluru**.
Note: An agreement in this regard was signed between the Government of India and the ADB. The project will construct two new metro lines, mostly elevated, along Outer Ring Road and National Highway 44 between Central Silk Board and Kempegowda International Airport with 30 stations.
41. An ambitious 'Ubharte Sitaare Fund' has been launched for **Export-oriented firms and startups**.
Note: The fund has been set up by Exim Bank and SIDBI. It will be launched in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. In her Budget speech last year, Sitharaman had mentioned that MSMEs are vital to keep the wheels of economy moving. They also create jobs, innovate and are risk takers.
42. According to the India Ratings (Ind-Ra) **9.4%** will be the growth rate of Indian GDP for FY22.
Note: It would be 15.3 per cent in the first quarter, 8.3 per cent in the second quarter and 7.8 per cent in each of the remaining two quarters of the year. The agency's estimate suggests that 5.2 million daily doses would have to be administered from now on to fully vaccinate more than 88 per cent of the adult population as well as to administer single doses to the rest by March in the current financial year.
43. **Apple** has been declared as the World's most valuable company with USD 2,443 billion according to the Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021.
Note: Apple is followed by Microsoft and Amazon. India: Reliance Industries (USD 188 billion) is ranked at 57 and is the top Indian company in the list. There are total 12 Indian companies in this list with WIPRO, HCL and Asian Paints.
44. Social media giant, **Facebook** in partnership with online lending platform Indifi has launched Small Business Loans Initiative in India.
Note: India is the first country where Facebook is rolling out this programme to help small and medium businesses (SMBs) that advertise on Facebook to get quick access to credit/loans through independent lending partners. This will make business loans more easily accessible to small businesses, and reduce the credit gap within India's MSME sector.
45. NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has tied-up with **Mashreq Bank** to launch payment system facility of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the UAE.
Note: This move will benefit the Indian tourists and who travel to UAE for business or leisure purposes to pay for their purchases using UPI-based mobile applications across shops and merchant stores in the UAE. Mashreq Bank is the oldest privately owned bank in the United Arab Emirates.
46. USAID and the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) would jointly sponsor a \$50 million loan portfolio guarantee to **Kotak Mahindra Bank** to support increased financial access to women borrowers, and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India.
Note: This comes against the backdrop of the covid-19 pandemic, a statement from the US embassy said adding that the partnership will help MSMEs impacted by the pandemic to easily access loans to rebuild and scale up their businesses. Under the program, Kotak Mahindra Bank will provide loans to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) operating in the MSME and Microfinance (MFI) space.
47. NTPC Ltd has commissioned the largest floating solar PV project of 25MW on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal power station in **Visakhapatnam**.
Note: This is also the first solar project to be set up under the Flexibilisation Scheme, notified by the Government of India in 2018. The floating solar installation has a unique anchoring design and is spread over 75 acres of reservoir.
48. **World Bank** has launched a new 'Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund', to better roll out cybersecurity development agenda in a systematic manner.
Note: The new fund has been developed as an associated trust fund under the broader Digital Development Partnership (DDP) umbrella program. World Bank has partnered with four countries, namely Estonia, Japan, Germany, and the Netherlands, to launch the fund.
49. **AU Small Finance Bank** has unveiled a mega Brand Campaign titled 'BADLAAV Humse Hai'.
Note: This is the first integrated marketing communication campaign from AU Bank since its inception – a creative endeavor that will showcase the bank's passion for innovation. As a part of this campaign, AU will release a series of ad films on products and practices such as monthly interest, anywhere banking, Video banking, UPI QR and new age Credit Cards to bring alive the proposition of BADLAAV through tangible offerings.
50. **Indian Bank** has signed an MOU with Paralympic Committee of India to become one of the Banking Partners ahead of the Paralympic Games, Tokyo 2020.
Note: The Paralympic Games are scheduled to start from the 24th of August, 2021. In an year-long

association, the bank will provide financial assistance to Paralympic athletes to prepare for the coveted sporting events in domestic arena as well as global platforms.

- 51. Bank of Maharashtra** has been emerged as the top performer among public sector lenders in terms of loan and savings deposit growth during the first quarter of the current financial year.
Note: The Pune-headquartered lender recorded 14.46 per cent increase in gross advances at Rs 1,10,592 lakh crore in April-June period of 2021-22, as per the published data of BoM. It was followed by Punjab & Sind Bank which posted 10.13 per cent growth in advances with aggregate loans at Rs 67,933 crore at the end of June 2021.
- 52. PayNearby** has partnered with Visa and **RBL Bank** to launch SoftPoS and mPoS for its over 1.5 million retail network.
Note: With the addition of these options, PayNearby said it is the first company to launch an all-inclusive digital package for retailers that is form-factor agnostic and provides a wide choice to end consumers. Its upgraded digital payment package now supports QR code payment, UPI payment, Aadhaar Pay, SMS payment, and card payment through mobile tokenization.
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- 56. Bharat Petroleum Corporation** has launched an AI-enabled chatbot, named as 'URJA' to provide a platform for seamless self-service experience and faster resolution of queries/issues to its customers.
Note: URJA is the first AI chatbot in oil and gas industry in India. It has been launched under Project Anubhav of BPCL and currently supports 13 languages
- 57. Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has imposed a penalty of Rs. 200 crores on **Maruti Suzuki India Limited** for restricting discounts by dealers.
Note: The CCI passed the order against the company for indulging in anti-competitive conduct of Resale Price Maintenance in passenger vehicle segment by implementing discount control policy.
- 58. HDFC Bank** has partnered with the Paytm to share their network and provide digital lending and payment solutions for consumers and merchants across India.
Note: Under the partnership, HDFC Bank will act as the payment partner, while Paytm will be the distribution and software partner. A co-branded point of sale (POS) product in the retail segment was jointly launched by Paytm and HDFC Bank. The product would be offered by Paytm to its customer base.
- 59. Citibank NA** received the approval from International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to open a banking unit at India's GIFT IFSC to carry out offshore transactions.
Note: In 2020, Citibank received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to start a banking unit after which it has waited for the final nod from IFSCA to start operations. Recently, Deutsche Bank became the 1st German bank to set up its IFSC banking unit at GIFT IFSC.
- 60. BharatPe** has launched peer-to-peer (P2P) lending app titled as '12% Club' that will allow consumers to invest and earn up to 12% annual interest or borrow at a similar rate.
Note: BharatPe has partnered with LenDenClub for this app and lending arrangement. Under this, consumers can invest their savings anytime by choosing to lend money. Apart from this, consumers can avail collateral-free loans of up to Rs 10 lakh on the 12% Club app for a tenure of 3 months.
- 61. Infosys** becomes the 4th Indian company to touch a market capitalization (m-cap) of USD 100 billion.
Note: Prior to Infosys, TCS, Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank are the first three companies to cross the market capitalization of USD 100 billion. According to the latest m-cap data, RIL is the most-valued firm at Rs 13.7 trillion, followed by TCS at Rs 13.4 trillion and HDFC Bank at Rs 8.42 trillion.
- 62. Bajaj Finserv Ltd** has got in-principle approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for launching the mutual fund (MF) business.
Note: As per the SEBI's regulations, the company would now set up an Asset Management Company (AMC) and

the Trustee Company directly or indirectly (i.e by itself or through its subsidiary) to sponsor MF. In December 2020, SEBI has eased the MF business regulations and allowed the sponsors who do not fulfill profitability criteria at the time of making an application will also be considered to be eligible to sponsor a MF.

63. The Central Govt has approved Indian Banks' Association's (IBA) proposal to increase the family pension to **30** per cent of the last salary drawn.
Note: After this, family pension would go up to as much as Rs 30,000 to Rs 35,000 per family of bank employees. Govt has also approved the proposal to increase employers' contribution under the NPS to 14% from the existing 10%.
64. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a mobile app ANANDA.
Note: ANANDA stands for Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital Application or ANANDA, the paperless solution for new business processes that the insurance major had unveiled last year. This digital application will help in onboarding process to get insurance policy by a paperless module with the help of agent or intermediary.
65. **HDFC Bank** becomes the first Indian bank to list its \$1 billion foreign currency additional tier-I (AI-1) bonds.
Note: Global Securities Market, the primary market platform of India INX, has received significant interest since it was established in 2018 and has over \$55 billion medium term notes and over \$28 billion of bond listings till date. India INX, BSE's international arm, began trading activity on 16 January 2017 and is India's first international exchange set up at the GIFT IFSC.
66. **Apple** has been declared as the World's most valuable company with USD 2,443 billion according to the Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021.
Note: Apple is followed by Microsoft and Amazon. India: Reliance Industries (USD 188 billion) is ranked at 57 and is the top Indian company in the list. There are total 12 Indian companies in this list with WIPRO, HCL and Asian Paints.
67. **Facebook** in partnership with online lending platform Indifi has launched Small Business Loans Initiative in India.
Note: India is the first country where Facebook is rolling out this programme. Aim: to help small and medium businesses (SMBs) that advertise on Facebook to get quick access to credit/loans through independent lending partners.
68. NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has tied-up with **Mashreq Bank** to launch payment system facility of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the UAE.

Note: This move will benefit the Indian tourists and who travel to UAE for business or leisure purposes to pay for their purchases using UPI-based mobile applications across shops and merchant stores in the UAE. Mashreq Bank is the oldest privately owned bank in the United Arab Emirates.

69. According to the ministry of finance, as on August 2021, the number of bank accounts under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna (PMJDY) have increased to **43 crores**.
Note: It is government's flagship financial inclusion scheme completes seven years of implementation. The PMJDY was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address on August 15, 2014 and was simultaneously launched on August 28 to foster financial inclusion.
70. The Reserve Bank of India has increased the limit of fund transfer under Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility Scheme from Rs 50,000 per transaction to **Rs 2 lakh**.
Note: Earlier, there was a ceiling limit of 12 transactions in a year. Now, this limit has also been removed. However, for cash-based transfers under Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility, the per transaction limit of Rs 50,000 will still be present with a maximum number of transfers in a year allowed at 12.
71. Digital payments platform, **PhonePe** has been issued an insurance broking license from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
Note: Last year, PhonePe entered insurtech sector with a limited insurance 'corporate agent' license which restricted the company to partnering with only three insurance companies per category. Now, with this new 'direct broking' license, PhonePe can distribute insurance products from all insurance companies in India.
72. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has increased the entry age for National Pension System (NPS) to **70 years**.
Note: Prior to this, eligible age to invest in NPS was 18-65 years which has now been revised to 18-70 years. As per the revised norms, any Indian Citizen, resident or non-resident and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) between 65 to 70 years can join NPS and continue or defer their NPS Account till 75 years.
73. **IDBI Bank's** board has approved to divest its entire stake of 19.18% in Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited (ARCIL).
Note: Board has approved proposal for sale of IDBI Bank's entire holding of 6,23,23,800 fully paid-up equity shares of ARCIL. ARCIL: Oldest ARC entities operating in India and was founded in 2002.

July 2021

1. **Axis Bank** has partnered with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to accelerate its digital transformation programme.
Note: Axis bank and AWS signed a multi-year agreement, under which the bank will use AWS to build a portfolio of new digital financial services and modernise core banking applications. Axis Bank has deployed over 25 mission-critical applications on AWS, including a Buy Now Pay Later product and a new loan management system to support it, Account Aggregator, Video-Know Your Customer, and WhatsApp banking.
2. **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** has partnered with digital lender LoanTap to provide personal loans to salaried professionals.
Note: This move comes as part of Ujjivan's Small Finance Bank's API banking initiative. Through this initiative over 150 APIs will be made available, which in turn will offer fast and secure tie-ups for the purposes of digital lending, digital liabilities and payments to fintechs. This move also serves a dual purpose of extending the bank's financial services to a larger array of customers through LoanTap's platform, which will make these activities smoother and more convenient for their salaried class customers who are seeking loans.
3. **Reliance Industries** has signed an agreement with the UAE's state-run oil giant Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) to form a mega petrochemical joint venture in Al Ruwais city, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
Note: This project, a joint venture of ADNOC and ADQ (formerly known as Abu Dhabi Development Holding(ADDH) Co), will be constructed at the TA'ZIZ Industrial Chemical Zone in Ruwais Abu Dhabi, UAE. This is the first investment by Reliance in UAE. This agreement enhances the ADNOC's downstream and industry growth plans in line with ADNOC's 2030 strategy. Contracts have been awarded for the first stages of development of the TA'ZIZ site.
4. According to the Financial Stability Report (FSR), released by the Reserve Bank of India, the Gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) of banks may rise to **9.8 per cent** by March 2022.
Note: According to the Financial Stability Report (FSR), released by the RBI the Gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) of banks may rise to 9.8 per cent by March 2022 under a baseline scenario, from 7.48 per cent in March 2021. Under a severe stress scenario, GNPA of banks may increase to 11.22 per cent.
5. According to the report "COVID-19 and Tourism: An Update" jointly released by UNCTAD and the UN World Tourist Organisation, India experienced a drop in tourist arrivals in 2020 by **54%**.
Note: According to report tourism will at least \$4 trillion in terms of global GDP for 2020 and 2021 due to pandemic. India experienced a 54% drop in tourist arrivals in 2020. Some 100 -120 million tourism jobs are at stake as per the report.
6. **\$20 billion** of funding in total has been announced by the World Bank for Covid-19 vaccines for developing countries.
Note: The World Bank is expanding its financing available for Covid-19 vaccine financing to \$20 billion over the next 18 months, adding \$8 billion to the previously announced \$12 billion. Further, the Bank also provided over \$4 billion for the purchase and deployment of Covid vaccines for 51 developing countries, half of which are in Africa.
7. e-commerce company **Flipkart** has launched Shopsy, an app that will enable Indians to start their online businesses without any investment.
Note: Flipkart aims to enable over 25 million online entrepreneurs by 2023 with the help of Shopsy. Users of Shopsy will be able to share catalogues of a wide selection of 15 crore products offered by Flipkart sellers.
8. NABARD has sanctioned Rs 388 crore under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for four drinking water and 20 rural road projects in **Odisha**.
Note: The RIDF assistance is for setting up of four mega piped drinking water supply projects, one each in Boipariguda block of Koraput district, Nilgiri block of Balasore district and two in Malkangiri district. The water supply projects are intended to provide 70 litre per capita per day safe and portable drinking water at the consumer-end through functional household tap connection.
9. The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 25 lakh on **Punjab and Sind Bank** for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions on 'Cyber Security Framework in Banks'.
Note: The state-owned bank had reported a few cyber incidents to the RBI on May 16 and 20, 2020. Examination of the incident reports and the report of the forensic analysis of the said incidents, revealed, non-compliance with aforesaid directions. The RBI issued a show-cause notice to the bank.
10. **HDFC Bank** has launched 'Salaam Dil Sey' initiative to pay tribute and show gratitude to doctors across the country for their tireless service during the pandemic at the risk of their own lives.
Note: Under this, bank has created a web platform www.salaamdilsey.com. Using this platform, general public can logon on and share the thank you message for doctors which can be immediately shared via e-mail, social media, and WhatsApp to acknowledge and celebrate doctor's contribution.
11. **ICICI Bank** has launched 'Salute Doctors', a comprehensive banking solutions for doctors.
Note: The solution will provide customized banking as well as value-added services for every doctor, beginning from a medical student to a senior medical consultant to an owner of a hospital or a clinic. It consists of Salute Doctors Savings Account, Salute Doctors Current Account, Home loans, Medical

- equipment loan, Business Loan, Personal Loan, Education Loan, etc.
- 12.** As per the new auction methodology of Reserve Bank of India for the benchmark securities of **30-year & 40-year both** tenor the auction will continue to be multiple price-based auction.
Note: For other benchmark securities i.e. 30-year and 40-year, the auction will continue to be multiple price-based auction, as hitherto. The above arrangement will continue till further review. This was noted by the regulator while reviewing market conditions and market borrowing program of the govt.
- 13.** digital payments and financial services platform **Paytm** has launched 'Postpaid Mini', a small ticket loans that will give users flexibility to access loans ranging from Rs 250 - Rs 1,000, in partnership with Aditya Birla Finance Ltd.
Note: It is a small ticket loans that will give users flexibility to access loans ranging from Rs 250 - Rs 1,000, in partnership with Aditya Birla Finance Ltd. The product is an extension of its Buy Now, Pay Later service, driving affordability amongst those new to credit.
- 14.** With **Aditya Birla Finance Ltd** the digital payments and financial services platform Paytm launched a small ticket loans 'Postpaid Mini' that will give users flexibility to access loans ranging from Rs 250 - Rs 1,000.
Note: It is a small ticket loans that will give users flexibility to access loans ranging from Rs 250 - Rs 1,000, in partnership with Aditya Birla Finance Ltd. The product is an extension of its Buy Now, Pay Later service, driving affordability amongst those new to credit. These small ticket instant loans will give flexibility to users and also help manage their household expenses to maintain liquidity during the ongoing Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.
- 15.** **PhonePe** has partnered with Flipkart to launch contactless 'Scan and Pay' feature for the e-commerce major's pay-on-delivery orders.
Note: PhonePe's QR code solution will now enable customers who earlier opted for cash on delivery to pay digitally through any UPI app at the time of delivery. This is intended to help reduce personal contact while ensuring safety, and drive contactless payments for customers who are traditionally more comfortable with cash on delivery.
- 16.** State-run power giant NTPC has partnered with another Public Sector Undertaking **ONGC** to boost the development of offshore wind energy in India.
Note: India is blessed with a coastline of about 7,600 km surrounded by water on three sides and has good prospects of harnessing this clean source. Earlier in May last year, NTPC and ONGC had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to accelerate their footprint in the renewable energy space.
- 17.** **PayU** provider has partnered with WooCommerce to enable WooCommerce merchants with digital payments infrastructure, and end-to-end digitalization of business processes.
Note: WooCommerce merchants is an open-source, customizable e-commerce platform. The partnership will offer merchants exclusive pricing on transactions, no hidden charges, and contactless payment solutions to scale growth and profitability. A recent survey has shown 82 percent of small businesses have experienced a negative impact due to the pandemic and adoption of technology can aid in the revival of up to 35 percent SMBs, post-pandemic.
- 18.** As per the provisional data released by the coal ministry India's total coal production registered a marginal decline of **2.02%**.
Note: Of the total output, a chunk of 685.951 MT was produced by the public sector, and the remaining production of 30.133 MT was from the private sector. In FY 21, Chhattisgarh registered the highest coal production followed by Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, and Jharkhand. Jharkhand was the top producer of coking coal.
- 19.** **Aeldra Financial Inc** is offering a unique US bank account to the students gearing up for admissions in the US.
Note: It also provides a Mastercard Global Debit Card that can be opened and operated from India, even before students get an F-1 visa. Aeldra is a Silicon-valley based pioneering 'digital neo bank'. It has no minimum balance requirement and it doesn't have foreign currency mark-up fees.
- 20.** Fitch Ratings has cut its projection for India's real GDP growth in 2021-22 to **10%** percent from 12.8%.
Note: The ratings agency also warned that banks' asset quality challenges have increased and will remain under threat due to mobility restrictions, medical exigencies and rising job losses, with MSME and retail loans to low- and moderate-income borrowers most likely at risk. Indian economy contracted by 7.3 per cent in fiscal 2020-21 as the country battled the first wave of Covid, as against a 4 per cent growth in 2019-20. RBI too earlier this month cut India's growth forecast to 9.5 per cent for this fiscal, from 10.5 per cent estimated earlier.
- 21.** The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) has been brought under the administrative control of **Ministry of Finance** to facilitate govt's ambitious disinvestment programme.
Note: Earlier, DPE was part of Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. The other 5 departments under the Finance Ministry are Economic Affairs, Revenue, Expenditure, Investment & Public Asset Management and Financial Services. The government has budgeted Rs 1.75 lakh crore from stake sale in public sector companies and financial institutions during 2021-22.

22. Neobank FREO has partnered with **HDB Financial Services** to offer a credit line and high-ticket personal loans to customers across multiple cities in India.
Note: Through this association, FREO will be providing customers with two innovative credit products: a credit line and a high-ticket personal loan across multiple cities in India. HDBFS in partnership with FREO will offer a credit line that enables consumers to get access to credit anywhere, anytime via a smartphone. An individual will get a personalized amount approved which they can start using immediately. As they repay the borrowed amount, the credit limit is replenished and they can continue withdrawing as much as they need.
23. With **Bank of India** the Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has entered into a corporate agency agreement for the distribution of its insurance products through the bank's network.
Note: Under the agreement, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance will offer a number of personal lines of products such as – motor insurance, health insurance, home insurance, travel insurance to the bank's customers. It will also offer the commercial line of products such as – engineering insurance, marine insurance, etc. The agreement will enhance the distribution of Bajaj Allianz's products to remote areas of the country.
24. Fintech Company, Drip Capital has collaborated with **SBM Bank India** to offer customised trade financing solutions to empower Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) exporters in India.
Note: Under the partnership, Drip Capital will provide collateral-free working capital to MSME exporters at competitive rates through its invoice discounting facility. Unlike traditional financial institutions, Drip Capital leverages data analytics and technology to underwrite its transactions, allowing it to provide a seamless financing experience to MSME businesses.
25. With **Razorpay** the payment technology company Mastercard has launched a recurring payment interface named 'MandateHQ', to support card-issuing banks that wish to enable recurring payments for its customers.
Note: MandateHQ is an API (Application Programming Interface)-based plug-n-play solution, which would reduce the go-live time of card-issuing banks. It will also help the banks to implement the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) new framework on automatic debit and recurring payments. It would also support the banks to send a 24-hour pre debit notification (mandated by RBI) via electronic e-mail, SMS, and WhatsApp.
26. Amazon India has launched its first 'Digital Kendra' in **Surat**, as part of its commitment to digitise 10 million Indian micro, small and medium enterprises by 2025.
Note: Amazon Digital Kendras are brick and mortar resource centres that will provide MSMEs information about the benefits of e-commerce and help avail third-party services such as shipping and logistics support, cataloguing assistance, digital marketing services, GST and taxation support to start their digital journey.
27. NIIT Institute of Finance Banking and Insurance (NIIT IFBI) and **Axis Bank** have launched a fintech professional programme to build future-ready professionals for the private sector lender.
Note: The programme offers graduates with zero to three years of experience an opportunity to join Axis Bank as a deputy manager (IT). NIIT the programme is immersive in nature where the learners perform tasks of similar complexity as they would face in their role.
28. **Axis Bank** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army to offer a defence service salary package to the Indian Army under its 'Power Salute' initiative.
Note: The MoU will cover all ranks of army officers viz. serving Defence personnel as well Defence pensioners under its ambit. During the signing ceremony Indian Indian Army was represented by Lt Gen (Lieutenant General) Rana Pratap Kalita, and Axis Bank was represented by Reynold D' Souza, Executive Vice President and Lt Col MK Sharma National Accounts Head, Axis Bank.
29. **Axis Bank** has entered into a bancassurance partnership with Max Bupa Health Insurance to provide comprehensive health insurance solutions to its customers and employees.
Note: Under the partnership, Max Bupa will offer indemnity as well as fixed benefit products, and their customizable variants to the bank's customers across the country. The Axis Bank customers are also enabled to get access to quality healthcare solution products that are offered by Max Bupa through the tie-up. The Health Insurance would cover medical emergencies in Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
30. **SBI General Insurance** has launched a comprehensive health insurance plan named 'Arogya Supreme' with multiple benefits and coverages.
Note: Under the policy the insured persons will get a wide range of sum insured options up to Rs 5 crore for their medically necessary hospitalization due to illness or accident that occurred during the policy period. Options: Based on the sum insured and coverage features, 3 different options viz Pro, Plus, and Premium were provided for the customers to choose under the plan. Policy Term: Customers also have a facility to choose the policy tenure ranging from 1 to 3 years i.e. 1year/2years/3years.
31. Under the modified risk management guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the bank staff working in sensitive positions like treasury operations and currency chests will get **10 days** mandatory leave in a single spell every year.
Note: RBI has given banks six months to comply with these directions. It asked banks to ensure that employees, while on 'mandatory leave', do not have

- access to physical or virtual resources related to their work responsibilities, with the exception of internal/corporate email which is usually available to all employees for general purposes. Mandatory leave for staff was first introduced in May 2011 after the RBI saw a sharp increase in frauds in banks following forensic studies.
- 32. IDFC First Bank** has launched unique Employee-funded program titled as 'Ghar Ghar Ration' for its low-income customers who were affected by Covid-19.
Note: Under this scheme, employees of the bank have contributed their personal income to help such customers who are affected by COVID. It is a first such employee-led initiative by any bank. Ghar Ghar Ration program will supply ration kits to 50,000 low-income customers whose livelihood have been impacted by COVID.
- 33.** To facilitate investment in **Government Securities** by individual investors the RBI has introduced RBI Retail Direct facility.
Note: Under this facility, retail investors will have the facility to open and maintain the Retail Direct Gilt (RDG) Account with RBI. RDG account can be opened through an Online portal provided for the scheme. Saving Account holders in India with PAN, Valid KYC documents, email ID and Registered number are eligible to open this account.
- 34.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved **Equitas Small Finance Bank** to apply for the amalgamation of its promoter into itself.
Note: As per the RBI's SFB licensing guidelines, the promoter of SFB should exit or cease to be a promoter after a lock-in period of 5 years. In the case of Equitas SFB, the initial promoter lock-in period for Equitas Holdings expires on September 4, 2021, hence the Equitas SFB requested RBI for amalgamation of its promoter before completion of the lock-in period. Now RBI has approved the bank to apply for amalgamation of its promoter into itself.
- 35.** International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has issued framework for Setting up and operating International Trade Finance Services Platform (ITFS). The IFSCA is situated in **Gandhinagar**.
Note: It will enable Exporters and Importers to avail various types of trade finance facilities at competitive terms for their international trade transactions through a dedicated electronic platform. This will help in their ability to convert their trade receivables into liquid funds and to obtain short-term funding. ITFS will provide Trade Finance Services at IFSC.
- 36. Axis Bank** has tied up with Mumbai Metro to launch 'One Mumbai Metro Card' powered by Mastercard, to ensure contactless and cashless travel for Mumbaiers.
Note: It is a prepaid, open loop contactless card which can be used as a part of the daily transit journey with just a tap. With this solution, Mastercard has continued to contribute in changing the way India commutes and helping the transit eco-system go completely digital. This is a card that can be used for all daily purchases from food, groceries, medicines as well as tickets.
- 37. IndusInd Bank** has partnered with TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha to launch a fully digital network for facilitating electricity bill payment across the state.
Note:
- 38. Airtel Payments Bank** has launched 'Pay to contacts' which allows customers to initiate a UPI payment by selecting the receiver's mobile number from their phonebook.
Note: 'Pay to Contacts' displays the valid UPI ID associated with the selected contact, irrespective of the UPI app used by the receiver. This eliminates the need to enter the UPI ID or bank account details to process the payment and saves time.
- 39.** The Reserve Bank of India has imposed restrictions on **Mastercard** for adding new domestic customers with effect from 22nd July 2021.
Note: This means MasterCard will not be allowed to add customers, be it for debit, credit or pre-paid cards onto its network as the entity has failed to comply with the directions on Storage of Payment System Data. It will not impact existing Mastercard customers. It may be recalled that RBI had issued a circular in April 2018, directing all system providers to ensure that all information related to payments systems operated by them are stored in India.
- 40.** In July 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the license of **Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar Urban Co-operative Bank**.
Note: Bank ceases to carry on banking business with effect from the close of business on July 14, 2021. RBI cancelled the license of the bank as the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects and does not comply with the provisions of section 11(1) and section 22 (3) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- 41.** BUSY, a business accounting software, partners with **ICICI Bank** for banking solutions.
Note: The integration will help BUSY users gain better accessibility in managing their banking, improving their business efficiencies. Under this partnership, ICICI Bank's current account holders can securely connect their bank account to BUSY Accounting Software. This integration will allow BUSY users to reconcile their bank statements automatically, do accounting, fetch bank details, make payments, etc.
- 42.** The government notified a hike in the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in pension fund management to **74 percent** under the national pension system (NPS).
Note: The higher foreign investment limit in pension fund managers (PFMs) follows a Parliament nod in March to hike FDI limit in insurance business to 74% from 49%. The Pension Fund Regulatory and

- Development Authority (PFRDA) Act links the FDI ceiling in the sector to the same in the insurance sector. Four out of seven PFM's managing the NPS corpus namely HDFC Pension Management, ICICI Prudential Pension Funds, Kotak Mahindra Pension Fund and Aditya Birla Sun Life Pension Management have significant foreign investments.
- 43. RBI** is the regulator of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) launched by the government as Bad Bank to clean up bank books.
Note: It was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget Speech 2021-22. RBI is the regulator of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs). RBI has already prescribed a regulatory framework for the functioning of ARCs and there are well-laid norms for transfer of stressed assets by banks and non-banking finance companies to ARCs.
- 44.** The duration of Stand-Up India Scheme has been extended till **2025**.
Note: Centre has extended the duration of 'Stand Up India Scheme' up to the year 2025. The scheme was launched in 2016 to facilitate loans to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and women borrowers promoting entrepreneurship among them.
- 45. 100 crore** is the authorized capital of the recently incorporated National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL).
Note: The National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) is a legal entity now and has been registered with the Registrar of Companies (RoC) Mumbai. According to data available with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), NARCL was incorporated on July 7 with an authorised capital of Rs 100 crore and paid-up capital of Rs 74.6 crore. The Indian Banks Association (IBA) is likely to approach the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) this week to seek an ARC (asset reconstruction company) licence.
- 46. Reliance Retail Ventures** has Acquires 40.95% Stake in Just Dial for Rs 3,497 Crore.
Note: RRVL will make an open offer to acquire additional up to 2.17 crore equity shares of Just Dial, representing 26 per cent stake, in accordance with Sebi Takeover Regulations, a regulatory filing said. VSS Mani will continue as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Just Dial through the next phase of growth, it added.
- 47. Bank of Maharashtra** has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NABARD to boost ongoing developmental initiatives linked to priority sector lending in Maharashtra.
Note: Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) to boost ongoing developmental initiatives linked to priority sector lending in Maharashtra. The MoU envisages joint initiatives for the benefit of farmers, farmer producer organisations, joint liability groups, self help groups, rural artisans, weavers, agripreneurs, agri start-ups, micro, small and medium enterprises in the State
- 48. Microsoft** has acquired the RiskIQ, a San Francisco-based provider of cybersecurity services, including malware and spyware monitoring and mobile app security.
Note: RiskIQ's services and solutions will join Microsoft's suite of cloud-native security products, including Microsoft 365 Defender, Microsoft Azure Defender, and Microsoft Azure Sentinel. While Microsoft hasn't valued the deal, Bloomberg reported that the company is said to be paying more than \$500 million for RiskIQ.
- 49. Razorpay** has acquired artificial intelligence (AI)-based risk analysis platform TERA Finlabs, marking its third acquisition since inception.
Note: Bengaluru-based TERA Finlabs provides risk management software, along with customized credit offerings to make lending more affordable for consumers and profitable for lenders.
- 50. China** is the world's largest consumer of gold.
Note: India is the world's second largest consumer of gold after China. Swiss gold accounted for almost half of India's imports of the yellow metal, at \$16.3 billion, in 2020-21. India imported gold worth \$34.6 billion last fiscal against \$28.2 billion in the previous year despite the raging Covid-19 pandemic.
- 51.** The Asian Development Bank has downgraded India's economic growth forecast for the current financial year to **10 per cent**.
Note: The projection for FY2022 (ending in March 2023), by which time much of India's population is expected to be vaccinated, is upgraded from 7 per cent to 7.5 per cent as economic activity normalises.
- 52.** Banking and financial services major Goldman Sachs has opened a new facility in **Hyderabad**.
Note: The new office is expected to have about 800 people by year-end and grow to over 2,500 people by 2023. The new office will host functions across engineering, finance, human capital management, and support for consumer banking, and specialise in digital banking, artificial intelligence and machine learning areas.
- 53. LIC** institution has launched new health insurance plan called Arogya Rakshak.
Note: Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has launched new health insurance plan called 'Arogya Rakshak', which is a non-linked, non-participating, regular premium and individual health insurance plan. It will provide fixed health insurance cover against certain specified health risks and provides timely support in case of medical emergencies.
- 54. SBI** has selected Paisalo Digital as its National Corporate Business Correspondent.
Note: SBI has selected Paisalo Digital as its National Corporate Business Correspondent in order to boost

financial inclusion drive with the help of kiosk-based banking services. Paisalo Digital Limited is systemically important Non-Deposit taking NBFC registered with RBI.

- 55. Rs. 6322 crores** is the budgetary outlay of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for specialty steel.
Note: Speciality Steel is value-added steel, which is made by processing normal finished steel. It is done by converting normal finished steel into high value-added steel by way of coating, plating and heat treatment. In order to boost domestic manufacturing and cut down on import bills, the central government in March 2020 introduced a PLI scheme that aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units. Duration of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for specialty steel is 5 years from 2023-24 to 2027-28
- 56.** Indian Navy has signed MoU with **Kotak Mahindra Bank** for salary account.
Note: The bank will offer special salary account benefits to the Indian Navy like enhanced complimentary personal accident insurance cover, special education benefit for children, etc.
- 57.** International Finance Corporation (IFC), the investment arm of the World Bank Group has provided \$250 million loan to **HDFC Ltd** for green housing.
Note: Green housing is regarded as a luxury market in the country, but has climate benefits. Green affordable housing can help India on its path to deliver on its commitments under the Paris Agreement, to reduce a third of its carbon emissions by 2030 from 2005 levels. Green and energy-efficient housing can help cut emissions, as residential housing accounts for about 24 percent of the nation's electricity consumption.
- 58.** Sunseap Group, a solar energy system developer, owner, and operator in Asia plans to build the world's largest floating solar farm in **Indonesia**.
Note: The floating photovoltaic system is expected to have a capacity of 2.2 gigawatts (peak). It will cover 1600 hectares (4000 acres) of the Duriangkang Reservoir on Batam Island and cost about \$2 billion to construct. An agreement between Sundeap and the Batam Indonesia free zone authority (BP Batam) to move forward with the project was signed on July 19.
- 59.** The Reserve Bank of India has raises limit for loan to other banks' directors up to **Rs 5 crore**.
Note: As per the amendments, the central bank has allowed banks to extend personal loans up to ₹5 crores to directors of other banks and directors' relatives other than spouses without board approval. The earlier limit for such loans was ₹25 lakh. The regulations apply to directors, including the Chairman/Managing Director, of other banks.
- 60.** Export Import (Exim) Bank of India said it has extended a USD 35.26 million loan for a power

transmission project being executed by Kalpataru Power Transmission in **Senegal**.

Note: The buyer's credit facility was extended under the National Export Insurance Account (NEIA) scheme, which provides a safe mode of financing option to Indian project exporters backed by cover from NEIA Trust. The bank signed a credit agreement with the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Co-operation of the Republic of Senegal for the purpose of construction and installation of 225 kV overhead transmission line from Tanaff to Ziguinchor (approximate distance 92 km) and bay extensions in Tanaff and Ziguinchor in Senegal.

- 61.** According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) **9.5 per cent** will be the economic growth of India in the financial year 2021-22 (FY22).
Note: The downward revision in the GDP growth rate is due to a lack of access to vaccines and the possibility of renewed waves of coronavirus. For FY23 (2022-23), IMF has estimated the gross domestic product (GDP) of India at 8.5 per cent, which is 160 basis points higher than its earlier projection of 6.9 per cent. In the case of the global economy, IMF has projected 6.0 per cent growth in 2021 and 4.9 per cent in 2022.
- 62.** The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 5 crore on **Axis Bank**.
Note: Penalty has been imposed for contravention of certain provisions of directions issued by RBI on 'Strengthening the Controls of Payment Ecosystem between Sponsor Banks and SCBs/UCBs as a Corporate Customer', 'Cyber Security Framework in Banks', 'RBI (Financial Services provided by Banks) Directions, 2016' 'Financial Inclusion- Access to Banking Services; and 'Frauds – Classification and Reporting'.
- 63.** According to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **30.19 percent** of growth in digital payments in India have been recorded during the financial year 2020-21.
Note: The newly constituted Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) in its report said that at the end of March 2021, the index rose to 270.59 from 207.84 the previous year. The RBI-DPI index has shown the significant growth in its index represents the rapid deepening and adoption of digital payments across India in the recent few years.
- 64.** In July 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of **Madgaum Urban Co-operative Bank Limited**.
Note: The RBI further said that as per the data submitted by the bank, about 99 per cent of the depositors will receive full amounts of their deposits from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakh only from the DICGC.

65. Health insurer Max Bupa Health Insurance has rebranded itself to **Niva Bupa Health Insurance**.
Note: The company is backed by private equity firms True North and Bupa. Max India, which owned 51 percent of the insurer sold its stake to True North. True North now owns 55 percent, while Bupa owns 44 percent in the new legal entity Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Ltd.

66. **Indian Bank** signed an MoU with IIT Guwahati Technology Incubation Centre for funding eligible Startups under the “IND SpringBoard” scheme of the Bank.
Note: Indian Bank supports start-ups by extending credit facilities up to Rs 50 crore for working capital requirements. IITG-TIC is a space for new-age entrepreneurs and young minds to transform their innovative ideas into viable business propositions. It is one of its kind in the North-Eastern part of India.

June 2021

1. According to the revenue-expenditure data of the **Union government for 2020-21** released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) **9.3 percent of GDP** was the Fiscal deficit of the union government for 2020-21.
Note: Unveiling the revenue-expenditure data of the Union government for 2020-21, the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Monday said that the revenue deficit at the end of the fiscal was 7.42 per cent. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit works out to be Rs 18,21,461 crore. For this financial year, the government had initially pegged the fiscal deficit at Rs 7.96 lakh crore or 3.5 per cent of the GDP in the budget presented in February 2020.
2. **53** horticulture clusters have been identified by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**, of which 12 have been selected for the pilot launch of the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP).
Note: In a pilot phase, the programme will be implemented in 12 horticulture clusters out of the total 53 clusters selected for the programme. A central sector programme implemented by the National Horticulture Board (NHB) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, CDP aims at growing and developing identified horticulture clusters to make them globally competitive.
3. **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd** has introduced the **world's first Nano Urea Liquid** for farmers.
Note: Scientists have developed indigenous Nano Urea Liquid at Nano Biotechnology Research Centre, Kalol, Gujarat in line with 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Atmanirbhar Krishi'. Nano Urea Liquid will be efficient for plant nutrition which increases the production with improved nutritional quality. It will create a huge positive effect on the quality of underground water, very significant reduction in the global warming with an impact on climate change and sustainable development.
4. **Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad** has topped among the Indian Universities in the CWUR's (Centre for World University Ranking) **World University Rankings 2021-22**.

- Note:** Harvard University topped globally. Jadavpur University ranks 18th among Indian higher educational institutions in CWUR rankings. Among the top 2,000 institutions across the globe, 68 Indian institutions have made the positions in this list.
5. The **Reserve Bank of India** has cancelled the license of **Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank** in June 2021.
Note: And also the bank does not comply with the certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. According to the data provided by the bank, Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) will provide a full deposit amount to more than 98 percent of the depositors. A liquidator will be appointed and the bank will be wound up by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Maharashtra.
 6. Indian Banks' Association and **State Bank of India announced** that all **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** will provide unsecured personal loans between Rs 25,000 to Rs 5 lakh to salaried, non-salaried and pensioners for COVID-19 treatment cost.
Note: The repayment tenure of those loans will be 5 years and SBI would charge interest of 8.5 percent per annum and other banks are made free to decide their interest rate. PSB will also provide loans for healthcare facilities, firms in Metro cities could avail upto Rs 100 crore to setup/expand healthcare infrastructure and to manufacturers vaccine and ventilators. Loans of up to Rs 20 crore could be availed by firms in Tier 1 and urban centres, and firms in Tier II to Tier IV could avail up to Rs 10 crore. For all categories, the loan tenure is about 10 years.
 7. According to Moody's Investors Service, India's economy will rebound in the current financial year to mark a growth of **9.3 per cent**.
Note: The economy rebounded quickly from a steep contraction in 2020, it said. But risks to India's credit profile including a persistent slowdown in growth, weak government finances and rising financial sector risks have been exacerbated by the shock of coronavirus second wave.
 8. According to the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** **5.7%** will be the global unemployment rate in 2022.

Note: Further, compared to 2019, an additional 108 million workers worldwide are now categorized as poor or extremely poor which means that the five years of progress towards the eradication of working poverty have been undone rendering the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goal of eradicating poverty by 2030 even more elusive. The report projects the global crisis-induced 'jobs gap' to reach 75 million in 2021 before falling to 23 million in 2022.

9. **ICICI Lombard General Insurance** has partnered with **Microsoft to strengthen** and automate the quality control processes.
Note: India's largest private sector general insurer ICICI Lombard has partnered with Microsoft to strengthen and automate the quality control processes. Everyday service calls made by customer support reps will be screened by ICICI Lombard with the help of Microsoft's Azure Speech Providers and Pure Language Processing (NLP).
10. **ICICI Bank** becomes the first bank in Asia-Pacific and the second globally to offer the facility called 'SWIFT gpi Instant', for cross border inward payments.
Note: The beneficiary gets the credit to the bank account instantly. This makes ICICI Bank the first bank in Asia-Pacific and the second globally to offer the facility, called 'SWIFT gpi Instant', for cross border inward payments.
11. Private sector life insurer Bharti AXA Life Insurance has entered into a bancassurance partnership with **Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SFB)** for the distribution of its life insurance products through the bank's pan-India network of branches.
Note: Private life insurer Bharti AXA Life Insurance has entered into a bancassurance partnership with Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SFB) for the distribution of its life insurance products through the bank's pan-India network of branches.
12. **Paytm** provider is going to launch its Initial Public Offering (IPO) and raise about \$3 billion, which would be India's largest IPO debut ever.
Note: Paytm backed by Softbank commonly called One97 Communications Private Limited has targeted around \$25 Billion to \$ 30 Billion from an IPO. Paytm IPO will break the record of Coal India Limited IPO offering which raised more than Rs 15000 crore that was launched in 2010.
13. **NTPC Ltd** has become a signatory to the prestigious United Nations Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate.
Note: The CEO Water Mandate is a UN Global Compact initiative to demonstrate commitment and efforts of companies to better their water and sanitation agenda as part of long term Sustainable Development Goals. It is designed to assist companies in the development, implementation, and disclosure of NTPC is India's largest power utility under Ministry of Power.
14. The **Asian Development Bank and the Government of India** has signed a \$2.5 million project readiness

financing loan to support preparation and design activities to upgrade major district roads in **Sikkim**.

- Note:** The aim of the MoU is to help improve connectivity to important towns, rural areas, and pilgrimage and tourist destinations in the northeastern state and to upgrade to all-weather roads as frequent landslides and erosion damage the roads and disrupt intra-state connectivity. PRF will help to boost the state's economy and improve accessibility for people in remote villages.
15. **HDFC Bank** has planned to become carbon neutral by 2031-32.
Note: The bank is working on a framework of issuing green bonds. As part of this initiative, the bank is looking at reducing its emissions, energy, and water consumption. It will continue to incorporate and scale up the use of renewable energy in its operations.
 16. **Manipal Hospitals** to acquire 100 per cent stake in Bengaluru-based multi-specialty hospital Vikram Hospital for a consideration of ₹350 crore.
Note: Set up in 2009, Vikram Hospital is a 200-bed tertiary care facility located in the central business district and is best known for its clinical expertise in the fields of cardiac and neuro sciences.
 17. **World Bank** has approved a USD 500 million program to **support India's nationwide initiative to revitalize** the MSME sector, which has been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.
Note: The program targets improvements in the performance of 555,000 MSMEs and is expected to mobilise financing of USD 15.5 billion, as part of the government's USD 3.4 billion MSME Competitiveness - A Post-COVID Resilience and Recovery Programme (MCRRP). The USD 500 million Raising and Accelerating Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Performance (RAMP) Program is the World Bank's second intervention in this sector, the first being the USD 750 million MSME Emergency Response Program, approved in July 2020 to address the immediate liquidity and credit needs of millions of viable MSMEs severely impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
 18. The **Public sector banks** have sanctioned **95 percent** of the total loans under PM SVANidhi scheme to Street Vendors.
Note: PSU Banks have sanctioned 23,16,207 loans under this scheme as on 31st May 2021. The Government of India launched the PM Street Vendors' Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme on June 1,2020. Under the scheme, collateral-free working capital loan of up to Rs 10,000 of one-year tenure is being provided. The scheme aims at financing approximately 50 lakh street vendors.
 19. The domestic credit rating agency CRISIL has revised the GDP growth estimate for India in FY 2021-22 to **9.5 percent**.

- Note:** The rating agency joins other watchers who have cut their FY22 growth projections, with some pegging it as low as 7.9 per cent. The economy had contracted by 7.3 per cent in FY21.
- 20.** The Central government increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of kharif crops for the 2021-21 crop season (July-June) recently, maximum hike reserved for **pulses and oilseeds**.
Note: The maximum hike reserved for pulses and oilseeds to encourage farmers to shift from paddy. The MSP of tur and urad has been increased by Rs 300 per quintal in absolute terms for 2021-22 to Rs 6300 per quintal while the MSP of groundnut seed has been increased by Rs 275 per quintal in 2021-21 to Rs 5550 per quintal. The MSP of sesame seed has been raised by Rs 452 per quintal to Rs 7307 per quintal.
- 21. HDFC Bank** has signed an MoU with **Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB)** to provide a wide range of financial products and services to its customers.
Note: As part of the MoU, HDFC Bank will provide a wide range of financial products and services to its customers through an extensive network of branches across the country. As per the MoU, KIADB shall accord approvals related to handing over possession of land and project-related construction as per agreed terms between such allottees/customers and KIADB and take up expediting measures in case of delays.
- 22. Central Bank of India** announced co-lending partnerships with NBFC players Indiabulls Housing Finance and IIFL Home Finance.
Note: Under this arrangement, non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) will originate and process retail home loans while Central Bank of India will take into its book 80 per cent of the housing loan under direct assignment transactions, the lender said in separate regulatory filings. The partnership will result in a greater disbursement of housing loans by Central Bank of India, Indiabulls HFL and IIFL HFL.
- 23.** According to a release by commerce ministry, during 2020-21, **India's export of agricultural** and allied products grew by **17.34 per cent**.
Note: The largest markets for India's agricultural products are the US, China, Bangladesh, UAE, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Nepal, Iran and Malaysia. Further, as many as 18 states -- including Maharashtra, Kerala, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Punjab, and Karnataka -- have finalised their specific action plan to implement the Agri export policy.
- 24.** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** raised the interchange fee on each financial transaction at ATM from Rs 15 to **Rs 17**.
Note: Banks will be able to raise ATM transaction charges from August 1, 2021. Customers are still eligible for five free transactions — inclusive of financial and non-financial transactions — every month from their own bank ATMs and three transactions from other bank ATM.
- 25.** According to a release by commerce ministry the Exports of India's organic farm products surged by **61 percent** in 2020-21.
Note: Outbound shipments of organic products hit 1,040 million dollars last fiscal compare with 689 million dollars a year before. Farm exports rose over 17 percent last fiscal to 41.25 billion dollars. Even in volume term, exports of organic products grew at 39 per cent to 8 lakh 88 thousand 179 tonnes last fiscal.
- 26. Indian Bank** has partnered wealth-tech company **Fisdom** to offer a comprehensive suite of wealth management products and services to the bank's 10 crore customers.
Note: The partnership will focus on enabling large-scale facilitation and distribution of wealth products and services through Indian Bank's network. In phase one of the partnership, Indian Bank's customers can access and invest in any mutual fund of choice and the National Pension System through the lender's IndOASIS mobile banking application and its internet banking portal. Indian Bank is the seventh largest public sector bank in India.
- 27. DBS Bank** has been named by Forbes in their list of World's Best Banks 2021 in India.
Note: DBS was ranked #1 out of 30 domestic and international banks in India for the second consecutive year. This is the third edition of the 'World's Best Banks' list by Forbes, conducted in partnership with market research firm Statista. Recently, DBS Bank India was recognised as 'India's Best International Bank 2021' by Asiamoney.
- 28. State Bank of India** has introduced a collateral-free offering scheme called 'Kavach Personal Loan' to provide financial assistance to its customers to manage the COVID-19 treatment-related expenses.
Note: Loan Amount: Rs 5 lakh loan at an interest rate of 8.5% per annum. Tenure: 5 years It is a collateral-free offering that will also provide reimbursement of expenses, which has already been incurred for Covid medical expenses It will be under Covid loan book that has been launched by RBI
- 29.** India's position as Foreign Exchange Reserve holder is **4th**.
Note: As on June 4, 2021 the foreign exchange reserves stood at \$605 billion, almost tying with Russia as the fourth largest reserve holder in the world. While India's forex reserve was \$605.008 billion, Russia's was \$605.2 billion. It took just about a year for the reserves to rise by \$100 billion.
- 30.** e-Commerce company **Flipkart** has partnered with the Telangana govt to lead the "Medicines from the Sky" project which is meant to deliver medical supplies to remote areas.
Note: Walmart-owned Flipkart will deploy drones and enable deliveries of vaccines and medical

supplies. These efforts will be complemented with technologies such as geo mapping, routing of shipments. A combination of these technologies will then be used to conduct 'Beyond Visual Line of Sight' (BVLOS) deliveries in remote areas of the state where the road infrastructure is not conducive for fast delivery of vaccines.

- 31. IDFC FIRST Bank** has launched 'Ghar Ghar Ration' Program, an employee-funded program for its low-income customers whose livelihoods are affected by COVID-19.
Note: The bank has also announced a comprehensive program for the families of employees who unfortunately lost their lives due to COVID-19, and a number of other social responsibility initiatives. "Ghar Ghar Ration" is a unique program where employees have contributed from their personal income to set up a Customer COVID Care Fund to provide relief to 50,000 COVID affected low-income IDFC FIRST Bank customers. Employees of the Bank contributed one day to one month's salary for the purpose.
- 32. Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)** will be expanded by 31st August 2021. BBPS functions under the aegis of the **NPCI**.
Note: Also, 'mobile prepaid recharges' are added as a biller category. It will help millions of prepaid phone subscribers in the country. BBPS is an integrated bill payment system that offers interoperable bill payment service to customers online as well as through a network of agents on the ground.
- 33. Canara Bank** will be the lead sponsor of National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) or bad bank with 12 per cent stake in the entity.
Note: The board of Canara Bank has given in-principle approval for taking stake in NARCL. The IBA was appointed nodal agency to constitute the Asset Reconstruction and Asset Management Companies designated as NARCL and India Debt Management Company Ltd (IDMCL) respectively. Bad bank refers to a financial institution that takes over bad assets of lenders and undertakes resolution.
- 34. The Reserve Bank of India** proposed to remove interest rate caps for **Microfinance Institutions**.
Note: Microfinance institutions will get the freedom to set rates and end regulatory cap on interest rates. Microfinance is a form of financial service which provides small loans and other financial services to poor and low-income households.
- 35. According to global consultancy BCG report**, the financial wealth in India grew by **11 percent**.
Note: This growth was at par with the compounded annual growth rate for the five years to 2020. Financial wealth is defined as the total wealth excluding real assets and liabilities held by adult individuals. As per the report India is expected to lead the percentage growth of individuals with fortunes of over USD 100 million till 2025.

- 36. 78,000 tonnes** of rice has been allocated by the central government at a subsidized rate of Rs 20 per kg to distilleries for ethanol production for 2020-21.
Note: As per Food Ministry figures, a quantity of 12,956 metric tonnes of rice has been lifted by six distilleries till April 30, 2021. The government has set a target of blending 20-percent ethanol with petrol by 2025-26. To achieve that target, over 1,000 crore liters of ethanol will be required to blend with the petrol.
- 37. SJVN Limited** has signed a pact with **National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE)** to develop solar and wind energy projects.
Note: SJVN has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Institute for 'technical consultancy services' for development of solar, wind, hybrid (wind and solar) and hybrid (wind, solar and battery storage) energy projects of SJVN, according to a statement. NIWE will support SJVN to assess the feasibility and techno-commercial aspects of the projects and preparation of detailed project reports, estimates and bid documents covering all relevant aspects from the concept to the commissioning of these projects.
- 38. Ambuja Cement Foundation** has joined hands with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for the implementation of its 'Employability through Skill Initiative Project (ESIP) Phase II'.
Note: The foundation received grant assistance from NABARD under the Gramya Vikas Nidhi, a fund created for the development of off-farm sector activities. The project will provide skill training across 19 locations for two years in 12 trades. It has already reached over 4,000 youth despite the pandemic, the foundation said in a statement. Besides skill training, the course also includes soft skills and leadership skills as part of the training module.
- 39. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** has collaborated with **MoEngage to drive digital banking experiences** in the unserved and underserved areas of the country.
Note: MoEngage is a leading customer engagement platform. This will foster a holistic customer experience across all organic channels, like the website, app, email, text message, social media, and branches to drive business growth. Utilizing MoEngage's expertise, the SFB will target SMS campaigns to encourage digital repayments.
- 40. Asian Development Bank the Government of India** has signed a \$484 million loan to improve transport connectivity and facilitate industrial development in the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu.
Note: CKIC is part of India's East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC). ADB is the lead partner of the Government of India in developing ECEC. The project will upgrade about 590 km of state highways in the CKIC influence areas that cover 23 of the 32 districts between Chennai and Kanyakumari.

- 41. Google Pay** has tied up with a clutch of leading Indian banks to offer tokenized card services to customers on its UPI app.
Note: It has now added debit cards by SBI, IndusInd Bank and Federal Bank and Credit cards by IndusInd Bank and HSBC India to its tokenized offerings. It is a feature that enables users to make debit or credit card payments through a secure digital token attached to their phone. The network partner for these transactions is Visa.
- 42.** According to '**UNESCO Science Report 2021: The race against time for smarter development**', India's Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research & Development (GERD) remained at **0.7%**.
Note: India's Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research & Development (GERD) remained at 0.7% of the GDP for several years. India has one of the lowest GERD/GDP ratios among the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) nations.
- 43.** RBI ranked **2nd** in terms of reserves transferred to the government as a percentage of **gross domestic product** (GDP) for the fiscal year 2020-21.
Note: In FY20, the RBI stood fourth when ranked by the ratio of surplus as a percentage of GDP. The RBI transferred a Rs 99,122-crore surplus to the government — 73% higher than the Rs 57,128 crore paid out in 2019-20. The surplus transferred by RBI constitutes 0.44% of GDP, while that of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey constitutes 0.5% of GDP.
- 44.** In the last one year, the country's foreign exchange reserve rose by **US\$ 103 Billion**.
Note: According to the RBI, Foreign exchange reserves of the country reached an all-time high of US\$ 605.0 billion on June 4, 2021. RBI estimated that, in terms of projected imports for 2021-22, the current level of reserves provides cover for less than 15 months. In the foreign exchange market Indian rupee appreciated against the US dollar in May 2021 and gained further in June.
- 45.** For **Bangladesh** the Asian Development Bank has approved USD 250 million loans for improving the inclusiveness and responsiveness of the country's social development and resilience program.
Note: The Strengthening Social Resilience Program will include institutional and policy reforms to address cross-sector issues of social development in Bangladesh.
- 46. Centrum Financial Services Ltd** financial institutions got RBI's "in-principle" approval to set up a small finance bank to take over Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC Bank).
Note: Then, the SFB will take over the beleaguered Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC Bank). Centrum Capital, the holding entity for CFSL, and its partner BharatPe, a payments system company, will infuse Rs 1,800 crore into the small finance bank.
- 47. Adani Power Limited** will acquire the **1,200 MW Essar Power's Mahan Project** located at Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh.
Note: Resolution Professional of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) issued a Letter of Intent to Adani Power. Essar Power's Mahan power plant supplies power through the Mahan-Sipat transmission line and is also connected with a railway siding 18 km away from the plant for the supply of coal and other raw materials. Adani Power will shell out close to Rs 3,000 crore for the Mahan Project.
- 48.** Financial Technology company **PayPoint India** has signed 'lead generation agreements' with 12 financial institutions.
Note: The aim of the deal is to assist with loans to the underserved using technology, and to generate leads for housing, personal and business loans through the partnership with banks and NBFCs. Under the agreement, PayPoint India will help the financial institutions to get access to the remote locations where they are unable to reach on their own, and provide capital.
- 49. Muthoot Fincorp** has acquired 54% stake in fintech startup Paymatrix by buying out existing investors.
Note: The takeover is as part of its added focus on digital payments segment. Paymatrix was set up in 2016 with a vision to streamline property rent payments and rent collections for tenants and landlords.
- 50.** According to World Investment Report 2021, released by the N Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) India is 5th largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
Note: As per the report, India becomes the fifth largest recipient of FDI inflows in 2020. It received a total of \$ 64 billion as FDI an increase of 27% from USD 51 billion in 2019. The US with 156 Billion was the top destination for FDI in 2020 followed by China (USD 149 billion) & Hong Kong, China (USD 119 billion).
- 51. Union Bank of India** has entered into an MoU with National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) under the 'NSIC Bank Credit Facilitation Scheme' to support MSMEs with credit requirements.
Note: Under the MoU, the NSIC branch offices which are also functioning as Finance Facilitation Centers (FFCs) will assist MSMEs in getting their loan requirements from Union Bank of India. The agreement was signed by PK Das, FGM-Delhi on behalf of Union Bank of India and PR Kumar, CGM, NSIC.
- 52.** All housing finance companies with asset size of **Rs 100 crore** has now allowed by the Finance Ministry to use SARFAESI law to recover dues.
Note: SARFAESI law, enacted in 2002, empowers lenders to attach the pledged assets of the borrowers in the event of non-payment of dues. Till now, HFCs

- with assets over ₹500 crore and notified by the Finance Ministry, were allowed to use SARFAESI law to recover dues. Currently, there are nearly 100 HFCs that are registered with NHB.
- 53.** SBI General Insurance has signed a corporate agency agreement with **IDFC FIRST Bank** for distribution of non-life insurance solutions.
Note: Under this strategic agreement, SBI General Insurance will offer insurance products such as health, personal accident, home, motor and travel to the bank's customers. It will also offer the commercial line of insurance products such as property, marine and engineering insurance.
- 54.** **ICICI Bank** has introduced the instant 'Cardless EMI' facility to online purchases made on e-commerce platforms.
Note: It will allow the bank customer to buy products or services online through EMIs in only a few clicks using their mobile phone and PAN. The Bank has tied up with digital lending platforms namely FlexMoney and ShopSe to offer this facility across 2,500 brands.
- 55.** Bharti Airtel has partnered with **Tata Group** for 'Made in India' 5G network solutions.
Note: The partnership with Tata Group allows telecom operator Airtel to take head-on, rival Jio's pitch on homegrown 5G solutions. Tata Group has developed O-RAN (Open Radio Access Network) based Radio and core elements and integrated a totally indigenous telecom stack.
- 56.** According to the Moody's Investors Service's revised estimate **9.6%** will be the growth rate of Indian GDP in FY 2021-22.
Note: This prospect was published in the 'Macroeconomics India: Economic shocks from second COVID wave will not be as severe as last year's' report. Indian economy contracted by 7.3 per cent in fiscal 2020-21 as against a 4% growth in 2019-20.
- 57.** Lending marketplace Paisabazaar.com and **SBM Bank India** announced the launch of Step Up Credit Card – a credit builder product designed for consumers with limited access to formal credit, due to ineligible credit score.
Note: It is a credit builder product designed for consumers with limited access to formal credit, due to ineligible credit score. The Step Up Credit Card, built in partnership with SBM Bank India, is the first product to be launched under Paisabazaar's neo-lending strategy.
- 58.** Digital payment company **PhonePe** has launched India's first Wallet Auto Top-up feature using UPI e-mandates for its customers.
Note: The amount for Auto top-up ranges from Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000. Under this feature, when a customer will set up a UPI e-mandate the PhonePe will automatically top up the wallet balance when it drops below a minimum level.
- 59.** As per the new definition of small and medium sized companies (SMCs) by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) **Rs 250 Crore** should be the sale limit of the company.
Note: The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has expanded the definition of small and medium sized companies (SMCs) by raising their turnover and borrowing limits. The move is to simplify accounting processes and lessen compliance burden for small firms.
- 60.** S&P Global Ratings cut India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to **9.5 per cent** from 11 per cent earlier.
Note: The agency lowered the growth outlook saying that a severe second COVID-19 outbreak in April and May led to lockdowns imposed by states and sharp contraction in economic activity. It projected India's growth at 7.8 per cent in the next fiscal ending March 31, 2023.
- 61.** World Bank has signed a \$32 million loan agreement with the Government of India (GoI) and **Mizoram** for healthcare projects in the state.
Note: The project will strengthen the governance and the management structure of the Department of Health and Family Welfare (DoHFW) and its subsidiaries, improve the quality and coverage of services delivered by the state government health systems, and invest in a comprehensive Quality Assurance program which would enable quality certification of health facilities.
- 62.** **State Bank of India** has launched Aarogyam Healthcare Business Loan under that the entire healthcare ecosystem such as hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic centres etc can avail loans of up to ₹100 crore repayable in 10 years.
Note: Under this facility the entire healthcare ecosystem such as hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic centres etc can avail loans of up to ₹100 crore repayable in 10 years. The loan can be availed either as term loan to support expansion/modernisation or as working capital facilities such as cash credit, bank guarantee/letter of credit.
- 63.** **SBI Card** in partnership with Fabindia has launched a co-branded contactless credit card to offer a rewarding shopping experience to its premium customers.
Note: The contactless credit card provides reward points for the premium cardholders on their retail spending with the value back on varied spending categories. The cards offer 10 percent value back to customers for buying in-stores at Fabindia along with complimentary domestic airport lounge access.
- 64.** The Athonia Lab private Limited has announced a strategic partnership with **Yes Bank** to support the fintech companies in India.
Note: The partnership will also support the efforts to innovate and inject new ideas to transform the financial sector of India. Under this partnership, the Athonia Lab's portfolio startups will develop APIs in a sandbox environment, enabling the startups to

experiment with innovative ideas and test their solutions in real time.

65. **6, 28, 993 crores** of stimulus package has been announced by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to boost economy during the fight against COVID-19 pandemic in June 2021.

Note: Finance Minister announced 1.1 lakh crore rupee Loan Guarantee Scheme for COVID affected sectors. Also announced 1.5 lakh crore rupees for Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme. Credit Guarantee Scheme which is a new scheme to facilitate loans to 25 lakh people through Micro Finance Institutions, MFI.

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- The Ministry of Finance is set to provide **Rs. 15,000 Crore** additional amount to State Governments as Interest free 50-year loan under Scheme of Financial Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure'.
Note: The loan will be provided to the States under 'Scheme of Financial Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure'. The Scheme was launched in 2020. It aims to nudge States to spend more on infrastructure and incentivize disinvestment of State Public Sector Enterprises (SPSEs). The Guidelines for the scheme were released by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
- 307.31 MT** target has been set up by the central government for the food grain production in the crop year 2021-22 starting from July 2021.
Note: The target of total food grains production for 2021-22 is set at a record 307.31 MT, comprising 151.43 MT in kharif season and 155.88 MT during rabi. In 2020-21, production was 303.34 MT, against the target of 301 MT. For 2021-22, the target for rice production has been fixed at 121.1 MT, wheat at 110 MT, pulses at 25MT, coarse cereals at 51.21 MT and oilseeds at 37.5MT.
- Mastercard** has partnered with Cryptocurrency exchange, Gemini & WebBank to launch a 1st of its kind, Cryptocurrency rewards credit card.
Note: Using this card, Clients will earn up to 3% in cryptocurrencies depending on their purchase. The rewards will be automatically deposited in the cardholder's Gemini account in real time. There will be no annual fee for the card and there is a 24/7 live customer support. This is a small metal card with only the cardholder's name on it.
- Central Bank of India** has launched the "Immune India Deposit Scheme" a special deposit scheme to provide an additional interest rate of 25 basis points in addition to the applicable card rate for the vaccinated people.
Note: The Immune India Deposit Scheme has a maturity of 1111 days. The senior citizens are also eligible for the extra interest as applicable.
- According to a report by Brand Finance Insurance 100 2021 LIC is the **10th** most valuable insurance brand globally.
Note: As per the report, the total value of the world's top 100 most valuable insurance brands declined by 6% from \$462.4 billion in 2020 to \$433.0 billion in 2021. However, LIC's brand value increased by almost 7% to \$8.65 billion Brand Finance is a London-based brand valuation consultancy.
- Wipro** becomes the 3rd largest Indian IT services company by market capitalization of Rs 2.65 trillion.
Note: TCS remains at the top of the list with a market cap of Rs. 11.51 trillion followed by Infosys. Wipro has also announced its commitment to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2040, in line with the objective of the Paris Agreement to cap temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius. The country's third-largest largest software services company has set an intermediate target of 55 per cent reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 in absolute emission levels compared to its base year of 2016-17 (April-March).
- Motilal Oswal Private Equity (MOPE) has acquired a minority stake in **Fincare Small Finance Bank** for \$ 25 million through a secondary acquisition.
Note: The key investor in Fincare SFB, True North Fund V LLP got a partial exit from the firm after the deal of MOPE with Fincare SFB. The deal was done by one of the growth capital funds of MOPE called India Business Excellence Fund-III (it was managed and advised by MOPE). Secondary Acquisition - It means the acquisition of existing shares of the company by the trust on the platform of a recognised stock exchange for cash consideration.
- Public sector company **SAIL** has entered into the league of top 100 most valued companies in terms of market capitalization globally.
Note: It regained market capitalisation (m-cap) of Rs 50,000 crore, after its stock climbed over 80 per cent in the past one and half month. SAIL stood at 78th position in the overall m-cap ranking with a market cap of Rs 55,529 crore. SAIL is one of the leading steel producers in India, which has 5 large integrated steel plants (Bhilai steel plant, Rourkela steel plant, Durgapur steel plant, Bokaro steel plant and IISCO) spread across 4 states in eastern India (Chattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand).
- JSW Renew Energy** has signed a Power Purchase Agreement with Solar Energy Corporation of India for supplying 540MW out of the total awarded capacity of 810 MW of blended wind power capacity.

- Note:** It is the single largest PPA for wind/blended wind power capacity awarded to a company. JSW Renew Energy won the contract for 810 MW of blended Wind Power Project in a competitive bidding done by SECI in September, 2020. India has set a target to raise the capacity of installed Renewable Energy (RE) generation plants to 450 GW by 2030.
10. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a Rs 3 crore monetary penalty on ICICI Bank for contravention of certain directions issued by the RBI on 'Prudential Norms for Classification, Valuation and Operation of Investment Portfolio'.
Note: Cause for the Penalty: For shifting of securities in May 2017 from HTM (held to maturity) category to AFS (available for sale) without explicit permission. The penalty is intended only over the ICICI bank's insufficiency in regulatory compliance and not over any agreement by the bank with its customers.
 11. World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) has decided to make a debt investment of \$150 million in **Bajaj Finance Limited** in India.
Note: The loan is sanctioned for five years to essentially support micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME). Bajaj Finance will direct 3 times of its IFC's loan towards the MSME segment thus enabling combined funding of \$600 million/INR 4,530 crore towards MSME.
 12. According to a new set of data released by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), India's position as a recipient of FDI inflows in 2020 is **Third**.
Note: It dropped to USD 846 Billion, which is a 15-year low (lowest since 2005). India became the 3rd Largest Recipient of FDI inflows in 2020 with an inflow of USD 64 Billion. China became the largest Recipient of FDI (USD 212 Billion) overtaking the United States (USD 177 Billion) for the 2nd time in six years, while Luxembourg finished 4th.
 13. According to a new set of data released by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), **Luxembourg** is the largest sources of FDI outflows in 2020.
Note: It dropped to USD 846 Billion, which is a 15-year low (lowest since 2005). India became the 3rd Largest Recipient of FDI inflows in 2020 with an inflow of USD 64 Billion. China became the largest Recipient of FDI (USD 212 Billion) overtaking the United States (USD 177 Billion) for the 2nd time in six years, while Luxembourg finished 4th.
 14. **Essar Steel** company has been selected by the Andhra Pradesh government as Joint Venture partner to set up a steel plant in the Kadapa district.
Note: The AP government has previously selected Liberty Steel India Limited as the JV partner for construction and development of the YSR Steel Plant. But that was cancelled based on the recommendation of SBICAP as Liberty steel India Limited was facing some financial issues. The steel plant will be set up with a capacity of 3 million tonne per annum for producing high grade Steel products.
 15. **10,000 crores** will be provided by the Reserved Bank of India for three years at the repo rate to small finance banks (SFBs) to lend individuals, small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
Note: The RBI incentivised SFBs to lend microfinance institutions (MFIs) by granting priority sector lending status to such exposures. Credit will be up to 10 per cent of a bank's priority-sector portfolio as of March 31, 2021. While the facility is there until March 31, 2022, loans disbursed will continue to be classified as priority-sector lending till the date of repayment/maturity, whichever is earlier.
 16. The Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) of **Rs. 500 crores** asset size will be eligible for Small Finance Banks' priority sector lending (PSL).
Note: Currently, the SFB's PSL is not permitted for MFIs for on-lending. This facility is made to be available up to March 31, 2022.
 17. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has been selected as the digital payments partner by the National Agriculture Market (eNAM) to facilitate online transactions for all stakeholders on the eNAM platform.
Note: Under this partnership, the bank will provide payment, clearing and settlement services by integrating its payment system and portal directly with the payment interface of the eNAM platform to enable a trade facility between a buyer and seller (of agri produce). The eNAM online ecosystem will enable farmers with more power over pricing decisions, greater transparency and availability of financial support.
 18. According to UN Study, Online share of retail sales jumps to **19 percent** amid lockdowns.
Note: Online sales accounted for 19% of overall retail sales in 2020, up from 16% a year earlier, according to estimates from the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) based on national statistical offices in major economies. South Korea reported the highest share at 25.9%, up from 20.8% the year before. China had a 24.9% share, Britain 23.3% and the United States 14.0%.
 19. The Reserve Bank of India has joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as a member. The network is located in **Paris, France**.
Note: The Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) is a network of 83 central banks and financial supervisors that aims to accelerate the scaling up of green finance and develop recommendations for central banks' role for climate change. The NGFS was created in 2017 and its secretariat is hosted by the Banque de France. Its current chair is Dutch central banker Frank Elderson. The NGFS has been awarded best green initiative of the year 2020 by Centralbanking.com.

- 20. Tata Digital** got the CCI nod to acquire 64.3% stake in BigBasket's B2B arm Supermarket Grocery Supplies.
Note: The commission said Supermarket Grocery Supplies may acquire sole control of Innovative Retail Concepts that operates BigBasket's online retail unit.
- 21. Lakshmi Vilas Bank** bank has been excluded from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
Note: A bank mentioned in the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act is known as 'Scheduled Commercial Bank'. Last year in November, the government had approved the merger of crisis-ridden Lakshmi Vilas Bank with DBS Bank India.
- 22.** Under the chairmanship of **S Janakiraman** the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0) has constituted a 6-member Advisory Group.
Note: On April 15, 2021, RBI formed the RRA 2.0 for a period of 1 year from May 01, 2021 to Streamline RBI's Regulations and Reduce Compliance. M. Rajeshwar Rao, Deputy Governor, RBI was the RRA (head).
- 23. Bajaj Finserv** has launched 'Savdhan Rahein, Safe Rahein', a public awareness campaign on financial fraud risks to educate customers and public at large on financial fraud risks.
Note: The campaign also alerts the customers to be mindful of the various signs and means to differentiate between the genuine Bajaj Finserv entity and a fake one, whether on web or social media platforms. The brand has also gone live with the campaign on other infotainment and entertainment apps like Chingari, Josh and Jio Saavn, to effectively reach out to the regional audiences, present on these platforms.
- 24. The NITI Aayog**, in association with Mastercard has released a report titled 'Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat'.
Note: The report identifies challenges in accelerating digital financial inclusion in India and provides recommendations for making digital services accessible to its 1.3 billion citizens. Based on five roundtable discussions held in October and November 2020, the report highlights key issues and opportunities, with inferences and recommendations on policy and capacity building across agriculture, small business (MSMEs), urban mobility and cyber security.
- 25. 7.5%** is India's growth forecast for the year 2021, as per the World Economic Situation and Prospects report released by the United Nations recently.
Note: However, the country's outlook for the year remained "highly fragile". The World Economic Situation and Prospects report also projected India's GDP to grow by 10.1% in 2022.
- 26. United Nations** has releases the World Economic Situation and Prospects Report.
Note: The World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021, produced by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). The World Economic Situation and Prospects report also projected India's GDP to grow by 7.5% in 2021. It also projected India's GDP to grow by 10.1% in 2022.
- 27. Asian Development Bank** has launched the 'Asia Pacific Tax Hub' to enhance International Tax Cooperation.
Note: The Hub will create an open and inclusive platform for promoting strategic policy dialogue, improving knowledge sharing & strengthening coordination on tax policy and administration among ADB members and development partners. It will maximise the regional and international resources to strengthen domestic resource mobilisation and international tax cooperation among ADB's Developing Member Countries (DMCs).
- 28. Muthoot Finance Ltd** has collaborated with NIRA, a Bangalore-based fintech start-up to strengthen its digital footprint and enhance the personal loans growth.
Note: Loan Benefit under the partnership: The salaried customers could avail personal loan up to Rs 1 lakh from Muthoot Finance through the NIRA app (downloadable from Google's Play store). NIRA fintech is offering small ticket personal loans to salaried customers of India's middle class.
- 29. Federal Bank** has entered into a strategic tie-up with Mashreq Bank of UAE, to facilitate money transfers from the UAE to India.
Note: The partnership will support Mashreq's payment product "QuickRemit", which was launched in 2017. The agreement made Mashreq bank as the first bank in the UAE to offer instant and same day credit facility to so many places, including the UK, Singapore, Philippines, Australia, Canada, Sri Lanka and majority of European countries.
- 30. Geojit Financial Services** has entered into an agreement with **Punjab National Bank** to provide the advantage of a three-in-one account to the customers of the bank.
Note: The Three Accounts are, Savings Account, a Demat Account and a Trading Account. The new service gives all the customers who have a savings account with PNB, a PNB demat account and Geojit trading account. It helps to diversify investments and manage it all through one account.
- 31.** In partnership with remittance firms – Wise and Western Union, **Google Pay** has launched International Money Transfers for its United States (US) users to transfer money to app customers in India & Singapore.
Note: Using the feature, Google Pay users in the US can transfer money to app customers in India & Singapore. Google is planning to expand the feature to around 80 countries through Wise, and around 100 through Western Union by the end of 2021.
- 32.** According to HDFC Bank **10%** will be India's growth rate in the year 2021-22.
Note: HDFC Bank has cut India's growth projection to 10 per cent from 11.5 per cent for the current financial year, citing the adverse effect of the second Covid-19

- wave. In a worst-case scenario of COVID-19, the bank has predicted the GDP rate to be at 8%.
- 33.** According to revised estimate of Care Ratings, the GDP growth forecast of India for the current fiscal year 2021-2022 (FY22) is **9.2%**.
Note: The domestic rating agency, Care Ratings, has revised the GDP growth forecast of India for the current fiscal year 2021-2022 (FY22) to 9.2 per cent. This is lower than 10.2 per cent estimated earlier in April 2021.
- 34. Jana Small Finance Bank** has launched the “I choose my number” feature for all its customers across India select their favourite numbers as their savings or current account number.
Note: Jana Small Finance Bank has announced the launch of the “I choose my number” feature for all its customers across India. This new feature gives the bank’s existing and new customers the option to select their favourite numbers as their savings or current account number.
- 35. Paytm** has launched ‘COVID-19 Vaccine Finder,’ an integrated platform to help citizens check the availability of vaccination slots – on its Mini App Store.
Note: The platform will help citizens to check the availability of vaccination slots for a specific date by individually entering different pin codes or district details along with age group (18 or 45).
- 36.** As per the World Economic Situation and Prospects report released by the United Nations recently, **10.1%** is India’s growth forecast for the year 2021.
Note: However, the country’s outlook for the year remained “highly fragile”. The World Economic Situation and Prospects report also projected India’s GDP to grow by 10.1% in 2022.
- 37.** Japanese brokerage Nomura revised its GDP growth estimate for India for the current 2021-22 fiscal to **10.8%**.
Note: It said the activity levels have dropped further to 64.5 per cent of the pre-pandemic levels in the week to May 9 as per a proprietary index, after a further 5 percentage points drop in the week. The activity levels, at present, are at par with those seen in June 2020.
- 38.** Moody’s Investors Service slashed India’s growth forecast for the current financial year to **9.3%**.
Note: Moody’s Investors Service slashed India’s growth forecast for the current financial year to 9.3 per cent saying that the second wave of coronavirus infections hampers economic recovery and increases risk of longer-term scarring. Moody’s, which has a ‘Baa3’ rating on India with a negative outlook, said obstacles to economic growth, high debt and weak financial system constrain sovereign credit profile.
- 39. HDFC Bank** has acquired a 10% stake in CSC Grameen e-Store, a special purpose vehicle run by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
Note: The partnership between the country’s largest private bank and CSC Grameen aims to deliver and scale access to financial services and banking products to semi-urban and rural customers.
- 40. Airtel Payments Bank** has launched “DigiGold”, a digital platform for customers to make investments in gold.
Note: This has been rolled out in partnership with SafeGold, a provider of digital gold. With DigiGold, Airtel Payments Bank’s saving account customers can invest in 24K gold using the Airtel Thanks app. Customers can also gift DigiGold to their family and friends, who have a savings account with Airtel Payments Bank.
- 41.** The Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance jointly organized a virtual seminar on Social Infrastructure Financing and the use of Digital Technologies with **New Development Bank**.
Note: This is a part of the Economic and Financial Cooperation Agenda under the Indian BRICS Chairship 2021. High-level participants from both the public and private sector were engaged in the seminar. Important issues regarding the use of Digital Technologies in the 21st century and social infrastructure financing were the key focus under the seminar.
- 42.** An amount of **\$3.92 billion** of sovereign loans has been committed by the Asian Development Bank to India during 2020 which was ADB’s highest-ever annual lending commitment to India.
Note: Since the start of its lending operations in 1986, this 2020 lending was ADB’s highest-ever annual lending commitment to India. ADB also committed \$356.1 million through its non-sovereign operations to India, including 3 COVID-19 support projects to contain the disease and establish social protection measures for relief to the poor and other vulnerable groups.
- 43. Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)** the subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India is building a next-generation Digital Financial Infrastructure named National Digital Financial Infrastructure (NADI).
Note: NADI will be owned by the Government of India, with NADI’s high-speed network, the government could monitor and control all financial activity, and it will also make security easier. Its modern network infrastructure includes 5G/Edge Cloud with SDNs (software-defined networking) for connecting to the critical data centre infrastructure at the back-end.
- 44. Bank of Baroda** has recently launched a Micro-website that will serve as an emergency networking platform for all employees amid the second wave of COVID-19.
Note: Indian Public sector bank, Bank of Baroda recently launched a Micro-website that will serve as an emergency networking platform for all employees amid the second wave of COVID-19. It provides Various data, like network of plasma donors to employees and Recovered employees can also enroll themselves voluntarily as donors.

45. In partnership with NABARD the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce Industries & Agriculture (MCCIA) has launched India's 1st Agriculture Export Facilitation Center (AEFC) in **Pune**.
Note: AEFC will help in boosting Maharashtra's agricultural and food exports and will help in meeting Global Standards. It will act as a one-stop-shop for the export of agri-food productions. The center was virtually inaugurated by Dr G.R. Chintala, Chairman of NABARD.
46. **Digit General Insurance** has partnered with PayPoint India to provide affordable COVID-19 Health Insurance policy to its customers in India's underserved regions.
Note: Post 24-hour ICU or HDU hospitalization, the COVID-19 hospitalization insurance policy offers a minimum of Rs. 1 lakh at a premium rate starting as low as Rs 487. The policy offers options of choosing a sum insured of Rs 1 lakh or Rs 2 lakh for individuals up to 65 years of age. The policyholder could avail of the Cashless claims by displaying the e-health card at the network hospitals.
47. **Edelweiss General Insurance** has launched, Integrated Partner Onboarding Solution (IPOS) an industry-first digital end to end partner onboarding solution.
Note: IPOS is an onboarding solution for all its existing and prospective partners including Agents, Brokers and Web Aggregators. This unified, fully automated portal is dedicated to all partner-related onboarding requirements and it has multiple features like easy visualisation capabilities, a built-in learning system where partners can take up practice tests.
48. Telecom company **Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd** is constructing the largest international submarine cable system with India as the center of the submarine cable system.
Note: It is the 1st time in history of Fiber optic submarine telecommunications that India will be at the centre of the International network map. The submarine cable system will consist of 2 subsea cable systems – India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) connecting India to Singapore, and India-Europe-Xpress (IEX) connecting India to the Middle East and Europe. The subsea system will provide more than 200 TBPS (TeraBytes Per Second) of capacity spanning over 16, 000 Kilometres.
49. The Competition Commission of India approved the acquisition of 100% equity shares of YES Asset Management Ltd and YES Trustee Ltd by **GPL Finance and Investments Ltd**.
Note: YES AMC and YES Trustee were the wholly-owned subsidiaries of YES Bank. Through these acquisitions, GPL will acquire Yes Mutual Fund and become its sole sponsor and it marks the exit of the YES bank from the mutual fund market.
50. **Adani Green Energy Limited** to acquire the 100 percent stake of SB Energy Holdings Limited at an enterprise valuation (EV) of \$3.5 billion, the largest acquisition in the renewable energy sector in India.
Note: Through this acquisition, AGEL will achieve a total renewable capacity of 24.3 GW and an operating renewable capacity of 4.9 GW, and it demonstrates AGEL's intent to become the world's largest solar player by 2025 and thereafter the world's largest renewable company by 2030. SB Energy is a joint venture between Japan-based SoftBank Group Corp (80%) and Bharti Group (20%) and houses 4,954 MW of renewable assets in India.
51. According to the Reserve Bank of India interoperability amongst Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) issued by banks and non-banks should be enabled by **31st March 2022**.
Note: Also, customers of full KYC-compliant PPIs issued by non-bank PPI issuers can withdraw a maximum of Rs 2,000 per transaction and Rs 10,000 per month per PPI. PPIs are instruments that facilitate purchase of goods and services, including financial services, remittances, funds transfers, against the value stored in/on such instruments. The maximum amount outstanding in respect of full-KYC PPIs (KYC-compliant PPIs) has been increased from ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakh.
52. According to a report released by the S&P Global Market Intelligence India's position as insurance-technology market in Asia-Pacific region is **second largest**.
Note: Around 335 private insurtechs are operating in AP, in which 122 of them disclose fundraise, amounting to a total of USD 3.66 billion. Almost half of them are headquartered in India and China and have collectively attracted about 78 percent of the total investment. The report stated India as the world's 3rd largest startup ecosystem, as it has at least 66 insurtech startups.
53. **IDBI Bank** has announced to launch its fully digitized, end-to-end, Loan Processing System (LPS) for its Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Agri products.
Note: This new loan processing system seamlessly integrates with data fintechs, bureau validations, document storage/retrieval, account opening/management, customer notifications, and portfolio management capabilities along with embodied policy/knock off parameters. These features of the fully digitised and automated loan processing system are further aimed at providing a superior tech-enabled banking experience to bank's MSME & Agri customers.
54. With **Dun & Bradstreet Information Services India** the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to create an ecosystem for promoting, aiding and fostering the growth of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME).
Note: Under this partnership, Dun & Bradstreet will provide business information services at a special price to SMEs and startups who are currently listed on

- BSE SME & Startups platform, or expected to be listed. Dun & Bradstreet India is a leading global provider of B2B data, insights and AI-driven platform.
- 55. State Bank of India** has partnered with HyperVerge to obtain its technology called 'Video KYC solution' for onboarding customers online under COVID-19 _____.
Note: Video KYC solution will be used by SBI to achieve the 10x improvement over the regular video KYC checks performed per day per agent. HyperVerge's Video KYC solution is assisted with a high accuracy level of 99.5 percent will enable SBI to provide convenient digital banking services to citizens of India. The Video KYC solution is 100 percent compliant with Reserve Bank of India(RBI) regulations and can be supported on multiple platforms.
- 56.** The Mahindra Rural Housing Finance (MRHFL) has partnered with **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** for a cash management solution.
Note: Under the partnership, IPPB will be offering cash management and collection services to MRHFL through its access points and postal service providers. IPPB's large national network has facilitated the deployment of cash management solutions to meet the requirements of MRHFL. Using the cash management service, MRHFL customers could able to repay their monthly or quarterly loan instalments at over 1.36 lakh post offices.
- 57. Kotak Mahindra Bank** bank has issued the first-ever foreign portfolio investor (FPI) licence to the GIFT IFSC alternative investment fund (AIF) of True Beacon Global.
Note: This is the first FPI licence issued to an AIF incorporated in GIFT IFSC by any custodian bank or designated depository participant (DDP) in the country. AIF is an important business vertical at GIFT IFSC and offers huge benefits and a competitive edge for setting up a fund in IFSC at GIFT City.
- 58.** PayCore is global payment solutions company of **Turkey** that has been onboarded by NPCI as one of the certified partners for 'RuPay SoftPOS' to drive cashless payments across the country.
Note: Along with PayCore, NPCI aims to reduce the investment cost required by banks to reach over the MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) and intends to increase the spread of 'RuPay SoftPOS' across India with its network of banks. NPCI partnered with SBI Payments and launched 'RuPay SoftPoS' to transform NFC enabled smartphones into Point of Sale (POS) terminals for merchants and retailers.
- 59. FlexiLoans.com** fintech startup has partnered with financial services company Vivriti Capital to provide working capital financing to MSMEs.
Note: The partnership will be powered by FlexiLoans.com's technology and credit underwriting platform 'BiFrost', which has been integrated with Vivriti's Co-lending platform 'CredAvenue'. The aim of this initiative is to reach out to more than 10,000 MSMEs in the next 12-18 months.
- 60.** According to ministry of Commerce and Industry the Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in the country grew by **19 per cent** during 2020-21.
Note: Total FDI, including equity, re-invested earnings and capital, rose 10 per cent to the "highest ever" of USD 81.72 billion during 2020-21 as against USD 74.39 billion in 2019-20. In terms of top investor countries, Singapore is at the top with 29 per cent share. It was followed by the US (23 per cent) and Mauritius (9 per cent) during the last fiscal.
- 61.** According to ministry of Commerce and Industry **Singapore** is the top investor with 29 per cent share.
Note: Foreign direct investments (FDI) into the country grew 19 per cent to USD 59.64 billion during 2020-21 on account of measures taken by the government on the fronts of policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business, the commerce and industry ministry.
- 62.** According to 3rd Advance Estimates of production of major agricultural crops for 2020-21 the total foodgrain production in India is estimated to rise by **2.66%**.
Note: It is an increase of 7.94 MT than the production of foodgrain of 297.50 MT achieved during 2019-20. The 305.44 MT estimate is higher by 26.66 MT compared to average production of foodgrains of the previous five years (2015-16 to 2019-20). The assessment is based on data received from States.
- 63.** Yes Bank has digitized onboarding of credit card customers by implementing TransUnion's Onboarding Solution.
Note: This solution will enable YES BANK to onboard its credit card customers seamlessly, efficiently, and quickly. TransUnion's seamless onboarding delivers a full range of identity, fraud, decisioning and credit solutions through a single platform and API calls to make integration easy and convenient for the lender.
- 64.** In collaboration with the NPCI **ICICI Bank** has launched a facility for linking an UPI ID with its digital wallet, 'Pockets' and become the first to link e-wallet with UPI Network.
Note: By linking Pockets with UPI, ICICI enables its customers to undertake UPI transactions from their wallet balance instead of their savings account, as the users can directly use the balance in the wallet for smaller transactions. The current initiative marks a departure from the current practice which demands UPI IDs to be linked with a savings bank account.
- 65.** The size of the Reserve Bank's balance sheet, which is reflective of activities carried out by it in pursuance of currency issue function as well as monetary policy and reserve management, has increased by **6.99 per cent** during the nine-month period ended March 31, 2021.
Note: While income for the year decreased by 10.96 per cent, the expenditure decreased by 63.10 per cent, as per the RBI's Annual Report for 2020-21. The year ended with an overall surplus of Rs 99,122 crore as

against Rs 57,127.53 crore in the previous year, representing an increase of 73.51 per cent, it added.

- 66. Equitas Small Finance Bank** has become the first Small Finance Bank to offer its NRI customer segment the ease of account opening online.
Note: The company will also be the only one in the Small Finance Bank sector to have Virtual Relationship Managers based on time zones. The online process of account opening for NRIs can be done via smartphone or computer connected to the Internet.
- 67.** The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a fine of Rs 10 crore on **HDFC Bank** for deficiencies in regulatory compliance found in the auto loan portfolio of the bank.
Note: As per the RBI, HDFC Bank has violated the provisions of section 6(2) and section 8 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. After receiving a complaint from a whistleblower, RBI conducted an examination in the marketing and sale of third-party non-financial products to the bank's auto loan customers and found that the bank was in contravention of regulatory directions.
- 68.** Lending platform **ZebPay** has launched India's 1st lending platform under the cryptocurrency exchange for the investors to invest their coins and earn returns.

Note: Under the ZebPay Lending Platform, the investors could deposit their Bitcoins/other coins and earn returns like the bank's fixed deposits (FD). The platform will generate returns on users' crypto investments based on their selected cryptos, their token and the time period for which it is loaded.

- 69. Canara Bank** has launched 3 categories of loan schemes to offer healthcare credit, business and personal loan to individuals.
Note: Canara Chikitsa healthcare credit facility offers loans from over Rs 10 lakh to Rs 50 crore to registered hospitals, nursing homes, medical practitioners, diagnostic centres, pathology labs that are engaged in servicing healthcare infrastructure. Under the Canara Jeevanrekha healthcare business loan, the bank will offer loan up to Rs 2 crore at a concessional interest rate for manufacture and supply of healthcare products viz, medical oxygen and oxygen cylinders, and oxygen concentrators to registered hospitals and nursing homes or other manufacturers, and suppliers. Canara Suraksha personal loan scheme will provide loans from Rs 25,000 – Rs 5 lakh as immediate financial assistance for COVID-19 treatment.

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- Facebook** has partnered with **Google** to connect the United States of America with Southeast Asian countries through undersea cables.
Note: At the initial stage, 2 undersea cables: Echo and Bifrost, will be connecting the US with Indonesia through a diverse sea route in the Trans-pacific region. Note- Facebook deploys 3000 Kms of fibre in Indonesia to develop public Wi-Fi hot spots. "Echo" – Constructed by Facebook in partnership with Google & XL Axiata, an Indonesian telecom company. It is expected to get completed by 2023.
- NITI Aayog** has released a report titled 'Investment Opportunities in India's Healthcare Sector' that highlighted the range of investment opportunities in different segments of India's Healthcare sector.
Note: The report highlights the range of investment opportunities in different segments of India's Healthcare sector. Investments in the Healthcare sector are expected to reach USD 372 Billion in 2022. The FDI inflows in the sector increased from USD 94 million in 2011 to USD 1, 275 million in 2016 (a jump of over 13.5 times).
- RBL Bank** has collaborated with UK based business banking fintech Tide Platform Limited (Tide) to provide bank account infrastructure to Tide's India platform, which is focused to serve mainly small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
Note: Tide's first market outside the UK, is India due to its vast SME population of around 63 million, and the people's entrepreneurial spirit. Gurjodhpal Singh the former vice president of PayU (Payment Service Provider) will lead Tide's business in India.
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** partnered with **nStore Technologies Private Limited** (nStore) to digitise offline retailers and small businesses in India.
Note: Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Ujjivan SFB) partnered with nStore Technologies Private Limited (nStore) to digitise offline retailers and small businesses in India. Under this collaboration, Ujjivan SFB will offer the mobile application 'nLincs', to its current account holders who own local businesses and enable them to sell their products online.
- State bank of India** has signed a loan agreement of \$1 billion with the **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)** to provide loans for the whole range of business operations of the Japanese automobile manufacturers in India.
Note: In October 2020, SBI similar \$1 billion loan agreement with JBIC. After the current loan agreement, the total loan facility is now about \$2 billion. The financing will assist the Government's 'Make in India' initiative. SBI will provide the loan with refinancing for the funding support to the manufacturers, suppliers and dealers of Japanese automobiles in India.
- According to the report titled "**Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021**" released by

- the UN-ESCAP, the Indian Economy will grow by **7 per cent** in financial year 2021-22.
- Note:** The report has forecasted the Indian economy to grow at 7% in FY21 against a contraction of 7.7%(-7.7%) in FY20. It reported a “K-shaped recovery” in the economics of the Asia Pacific region, including India.
7. **ICICI Bank and Axis Bank** have tied up to launch a New Umbrella Entity (NUE) for retail payments along with global e-commerce major Amazon and cards major Visa as their partners.
- Note:** ICICI Bank and Axis Bank will be co-leading with each having a 20% stake (40%) and the other partners including Amazon, Billdesk, Pine Labs and Visa will be holding a stake of 15% each (60%) RBI allowed other organisations to set up umbrella entities for payments systems to create an alternate mechanism(rivalry) to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for speeding up the cashless payment. RBI has fixed March 31, 2021, as the deadline for making application to form NUEs.
8. According to the **South Asia Economic Focus Spring** update report published by the World Bank, **10.1%** will be the growth rate of Indian economy in FY 2021-22.
- Note:** Real India GDP growth will be in the range from 7.5% to 12.5%. As per World Bank, government consumption is expected to rise by about 16.7% during the reported fiscal. Report forecast growth for the South Asia region at 7.2% in 2021 and 4.4% in 2022.
9. **Rs 14,500 crore** has been announced by the government to infuse in the in 4 state-owned banks in 2020-21, by issuing non-interest-bearing bonds to these banks.
- Note:** Four Banks are Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of India and UCO Bank Recapitalisation bonds will be issued with six different maturities, and special securities will be at par for the amount as per eligible bank application. This infusion will complete govt's total capital infusion of Rs 20,000 crore in PSBs for 2020-21.
10. RBI has extended the timeline for processing recurring online transactions till **September 30, 2021**.
- Note:** Prior to this, in December 2020, RBI had directed all banks including RRBs, NBFCs, and payment gateways that processing of recurring transactions (domestic or cross-border) using cards or Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) or Unified Payments Interface will not be continued beyond March 31, 2021 if they do not comply with Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA).
11. **Nirmala Sitharaman** represented India in the **6th annual meeting of the Board of Governors of New Development Bank (NDB)**.
- Note:** Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs and India's Governor in New Development Bank (NDB), Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman attended the 6th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of New Development Bank through video-conference in New Delhi today. The meeting was also attended by Governors/Alternate Governors of Brazil, China, Russia and South Africa.
12. The **National Investment & Infrastructure Fund Ltd** (NIIFL) invested Rs 2100 crore in **Manipal Hospitals** that is its first investment in the Indian healthcare sector.
- Note:** NIIFL will get a minority stake in Manipal Hospitals as Chairman of Manipal Education and Medical Group Ranjan Pai is selling a small percentage of his stake in the company. In January 2021 Manipal Health Enterprises Private Limited acquired the Columbia Asia Hospital. This investment will support Manipal Hospitals' journey of growth to become one of India's largest hospital chains. NIIFL manages over \$4.5 billion of equity capital commitments across three funds (master fund, fund of funds and Strategic Opportunities Fund).
13. **Yes Bank** has bought the Reliance Centre of Reliance Infrastructure Limited (RInfra) at Santacruz, Mumbai, Maharashtra for Rs.1200 crores.
- Note:** This sale of the office building of 21432.28 square meter plot in Santacruz is utilized to repay the debt of YES Bank. Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002, The YES bank has issued the demand notice to Reliance Infrastructure Ltd on 6th May 2020, for non-payment of loans amounting to Rs. 2,892 crore.
14. Digital Payment company **PhonePe** has become the first company to cross one billion transactions on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) infrastructure.
- Note:** The company achieved the feat in March 2021, when the total transactions clocked around 1.3 billion on its platform, across the payment instruments offering of wallet, cards as well as UPI. PhonePe, which first achieved market leadership on UPI in December, last year, has seen its transaction count grow steadily, on the back of rising merchant payments.
15. **ICICI Bank** has partnered with PhonePe for the issuance of FASTags using UPI on the PhonePe app.
- Note:** This integration allows over 280 million registered users to order and track FASTag conveniently on the app. PhonePe users, who may be customers of any bank, will have a fully digitised experience as they don't have to visit physical stores or toll locations to buy a FASTag. ICICI Bank is the first bank to partner with PhonePe for the issuance of FASTag.

16. According to latest World Economic Outlook report released by IMF **12.5%** is India's growth projection for India.
Note: International Monetary Fund (IMF) has upgraded its growth projection for India to 12.5% for Financial Year 2021-22 in its latest World Economic Outlook report. IMF projected global economy to expand 6% this year, up from the 5.5% pace estimated in January.
17. **Rs 75 lakh** is the new loan limit under Priority Sector Lending (PSL) against the Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs)/electronic-NWRs(e-NWRs) as prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India.
Note: With a view to ensure greater flow of credit to the farmers against pledge/hypothecation of agricultural produce, and to encourage use of NWR/eNWR issued by regulated warehouses as a preferred instrument for availing such finance by the farmers, it has been decided to enhance the PSL limit for loans against NWRs/eNWRs from ₹50 lakh to ₹75 lakh per borrower. The PSL limit backed by the warehouse receipts other than NWR/eNWR will continue to be ₹50 lakh per borrower.
18. The Reserve Bank of India has enhanced the limit of maximum balance at end of the day maintained in Payments Bank from Rs 1 lakh to **Rs 2.0 lakh**.
Note: Earlier, the limit was ₹1 lakh. Payments bank aims to further financial inclusion, especially through savings accounts and payments services. The central bank introduced payments banks in the country to enhance financial inclusion.
19. **Rs. 47,010 crore** is the increased limit of the Way and Means Advances (WMA) for the State Governments/UTs as on April 2021.
Note: The central bank provides this support to governments under its ways and means advances (WMA) mechanism. The new limit has been fixed at Rs 47,010 crore, compared with the previous Rs 32,225 crore. There are two types of WMA – normal and special. While normal WMA is clean advances, special WMA is secured advances provided against the pledge of government securities.
20. On the recommendation of **Sudhir Shrivastava committee**, the RBI has increased the he limits for Way and Means Advances (WMA) for the State Governments/UTs from Rs. 32,225 crores (fixed in February 2016) to Rs. 47,010 crores
Note: This represents an increase of about 46%. There are two types of WMA – normal and special. While normal WMA is clean advances, special WMA is secured advances provided against the pledge of government securities. Earlier in the month, RBI fixed the WMA limit for the central government at Rs 1,20,000 crore for the first half of the financial year 2021-22.
21. **RBI** has proposed to construct and publish a Financial Inclusion Index (FI Index) based on multiple parameters.
Note: The RBI proposes to construct and publish a Financial Inclusion Index (FI Index) based on multiple parameters. This will be published in July every year for the financial year ending previous March. Over the past few years, the banking regulator has announced several measures to step up financial inclusion and reach the unbanked. Last year, the RBI had released the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion for India 2019-2024.
22. **Indian Bank** is the technical and banking partner for development of “**मधुक्रान्तिपोर्टल**” launched by the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar to enable traceability source of honey and other beehive products.
Note: 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. An MoU between NBB and Indian Bank was signed for this project.
23. Maruti Suzuki has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Karnataka Bank** to offer auto finance deals to customers.
Note: Under the purview of this tie-up, people buying a Maruti Suzuki car will be able to avail this car loan offer across 858 branches of Karnataka Bank all over India. This partnership is aimed to make the vehicle buying journey easy and affordable for our customers. Rapid technological development and new digital consumer behaviours are determining auto sales across India.
24. **Axis Bank** has become co-promoters of Max Life Insurance Company Limited, after completion of the acquisition of 12.99% stake collectively by the bank in the company.
Note: The lender said that Axis Bank and its two subsidiaries—Axis Capital Limited and Axis Securities Limited – will collectively own 12.99% stake in Max Life after the consummation of the deal. With the conclusion of this transaction, Max Life's Board will be strengthened further, with co-option of three nominee directors of Axis Entities on its Board.
25. **HDFC Bank** gives grants to 21 startups working in the social sector under its SmartUp Grants 2021.
Note: 21 startups working in the social sector were selected through a rigorous screening process from 300 applicants. The bank instituted SmartUp grants in 2017 and It has supported 87-number of startups from various cities across India so far. HDFC Bank has partnered with IIT Delhi, IIM Kashipur, AIC-

- BIMTECH, IIT BHU, GUSEC, C-CAMP, Banasthali University etc. to shortlist the winner.
- 26. Asian Development Bank** has approved a USD 484-mn to improve transport connectivity and road maintenance in the Chennai -Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu.
Note: The CKIC is part of India's East Coast Economic Corridor. It stretches from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu and connects India to the production networks of Southeast and East Asia. The project will upgrade about 590 km of state highways in the CKIC influence areas.
- 27. Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation** has issued country's first green bonds.
Note: Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation, a civic body in Uttar Pradesh, has raised Rs 150 crore through the issuance of green bonds and the proceeds will be utilised for the tertiary water treatment plant to benefit industries in Ghaziabad. The corporation also received Rs 19.5 crore incentive from the Union government for raising funds through municipal bonds.
- 28. FlexiLoans.com**, a digital lending platform has partnered with **PayPal** to offer collateral free loan to MSME's and Freelancers.
Note: FlexiLoans.com, a digital lending platform focused on Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) partnered with PayPal, a leading digital payments company to offer collateral-free business loans to MSMEs, freelancers, women entrepreneurs and sole proprietors. This partnership is in line with PayPal's commitment to provide innovative credit solution capabilities to Indian merchants who sell cross-border using PayPal.
- 29. Bharti Axa Life insurance** has partnered with **Fincare Small Finance Bank** for a bancassurance partnership under which the bank will sell insurance policies to its customers.
Note: Under the partnership, Bharti AXA Life Insurance will offer its comprehensive suite of life insurance products, including protection, savings and investment plans, to the customers of Fincare Small Finance Bank across its 747 branches and digital network presence across the country. This alliance will make life insurance solutions reachable to over 26.5 lakhs customers of Fincare Small Finance Bank and provide financial security to them.
- 30. Airtel Payments Bank** launched its new 'Rewards123' savings account, which provides customers with perks and rewards.
Note: The Rewards123 Savings Account is built specifically that allows you to get access to a variety of perks when you save and transact digitally. The company claims that its newly introduced saving account is designed to offer consistent value, with assured rewards on different types of digital transactions throughout the year.
- 31. In association with ICICI Bank** the NITI Aayog has developed first of its kind Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Handbook that was launched by the Supreme Court Justice DY Chandrachud.
Note: Supreme Court Justice DY Chandrachud released the first of its kind Online Dispute Resolution(ODR) Handbook developed by Agami and Omidyar Network India. The handbook was developed in association with (National Institution for Transforming India) NITI Aayog with the support of ICICI Bank, Ashoka Innovators for the Public, Trilegal, Dalberg, Dvara and NIPFP. ODR Handbook features the insights and learnings to equip a person to successfully adopt ODR.
- 32. According to International Monetary Fund (IMF)** report, India's debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio at the end of 2020 is **90 percent**.
Note: The International Monetary Fund(IMF) reported an increase in India's debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio from 74 percent (at the end of 2019) to 90 percent (at the end of 2020) during the COVID-19 period. Based on the IMF's baseline forecast, it expects a further drop in India's 'Debt to GDP ratio' to 80 percent due to the recent Indian economy recovery. IMF suggested India to support people and firms, and, in particular, the most vulnerable.
- 33. SwitchON Foundation** has partnered with **Punjab National Bank** to offer finance to the marginal farmers for buying solar pumps.
Note: PNB will be financing solar pumps through the SwitchON Foundation's - First Loss Default Guarantee Fund. The basic aim of this fund is to help unbanked small marginal farmers without any collateral and to promote clean energy.
- 34. The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** has secured a Rs 600 crore loan from **Deutsche Bank** for onward lending to cooperatives in the country.
Note: An agreement in this regard inked between NCDC and Deutsche Bank, Germany's largest bank. The farmer producer organisations being set up in the country would be able to access easier credit and market through the NCDC agreements with ICC and Deutsche Bank, which will help small and marginal farmers.
- 35. The National Housing Bank** recently allocated **Rs 10,000** under its "Special Refinance Facility", 2021 to provide short term refinance support to the housing finance companies and other eligible Primary Lending Institutions.
Note: The objective of the SRF 2021, is to provide short term refinance support to HFCs and other eligible PLIs on flexible terms and conditions. The

total amount allocated under this scheme shall be Rs.10,000 crore. The facility will aid in meeting the short-term liquidity requirement in the Public Lending Institutions.

36. The Government of India has announced mandatory hallmarking of gold artefacts and jewellery from **1st June 2021**.

Note: In November 2019, the govt had announced that hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts would be made mandatory across the country from 15 January 2021. But the deadline was extended for four months after the jewellers sought more time in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

37. As per the **IRDAI** (Regulatory Sandbox) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has extended the validity of Regulatory Sandbox for **2 years**.

Note: As most of the approved experiments may not be completed (due to COVID-19) within the scheduled time of July 25, 2021. This extension of the time period will enable the applicants to complete their existing sandbox experiments and new sandbox proposals also will be allowed.

38. The **Competition Commission of India** (CCI) approved the acquisition of **89.6 per cent** of equity shareholding of Gangavaram Port Limited (GPL) by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zones (APSEZ) Limited.

Note: The acquisition was approved under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. The APSEZ Ltd has acquired the controlling stakes of GPL from DVS Raju and Family for Rs.3604 crore. APSEZ acquired 58.1 per cent stakes of GPL from DVS Raju & Family and 31.5 per cent stake of Warburg Pincus.

39. e-commerce company **Flipkart** announced to acquire 100% stake in Cleartrip, one of the oldest travel booking portals in India.

Note: Cleartrip will continue to operate as a separate brand and will work closely with Flipkart to further develop technology solutions. While the terms of the acquisition were not disclosed, the deal is expected to be a mix of cash and equity, likely valuing the online travel agent at around \$40 million in what is considered to be a distress sale.

40. Social media giant **Facebook** has signed a deal to buy renewable energy in India from a local firm's wind power project that is companies first such deal in the country.

Note: The 32 megawatt wind power project, located in Karnataka, is part of a larger portfolio of wind and solar projects that Facebook and Mumbai-based CleanMax are working together on for supplying renewable power into India's electrical grid. CleanMax will own and operate the projects, while Facebook will buy the power off the grid using

environmental attribute certificates, or carbon credits.

41. **Oberoi Group** has signed an MoU with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) to reduce its overall carbon footprint by implementing clean energy efficiency initiatives across its properties.
Note: EESL will collaborate with Oberoi Group Hotels to evaluate opportunities for saving energy and lowering emissions. It is the Government of India's Energy Service Company (ESCO) and the world's largest ESCO. It is a joint venture of 4 public sector undertakings (PSUs) of NTPC Limited, Power Finance Corporation, REC Limited & POWERGRID Corporation of India Limited & EESL works under the Ministry of Power.
42. **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** will invest USD 100 million in J.C. Flowers India Opportunities Fund to help Indian financial institutions in resolving distressed assets.
Note: The investment is part of IFC's Distressed Asset Recovery Program's (DARP) work in India. Initially, IFC will invest USD 40 million. It will help the domestic lenders (Lenders in India) to resolve their distressed assets and free up the capital for new lending. It will allow mid-sized firms to preserve jobs and avoid insolvency during the pandemic.
43. **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** has partnered with fintech company, NIRA to strengthen its digital footprint and onboard its customers for Personal Loans.
Note: This was USFB's first Digital Lending Partnership. Salaried customers can apply for a personal loan by using the NIRA app, which will fund the low-income salaried class. The aim of the it is to serve the unserved and underserved customers through personal loans.
44. **Axis Bank** has allowed its customers to make International Fund Transfers (send money abroad) in over 100 currencies across 150 countries through the 'Send Money Abroad'.
Note: The users can send up to USD 25,000 (~18.63 Lakh) per transaction for any different purposes such as education fee payment, family maintenance, and health-related expenses. Axis bank transfers funds to global banks through the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT) mode. SWIFT is a cooperative that provides safe and secure financial transactions as it assigns a unique code of either 8 characters or 11 characters for each financial organization.
45. Tech giant **Microsoft** has bought AI speech tech firm Nuance for \$19.7 billion.
Note: The move will help Microsoft's prowess in voice recognition and will give it a boost in the health care market. Nuance is known for its Dragon software which helps to transcribe speech using deep

- learning. In 2016, Microsoft had purchased LinkedIn for \$26 billion.
- 46. RBL Bank** has partnered with **Mastercard** to launch a mobile-based consumer-friendly payment solution 'Pay by Bank App', a first-of-its-kind payment functionality in India.
Note: RBL Bank account holders can now enjoy contactless transactions across the world through their mobile banking application both in-store and online. This functionality will be available at all Mastercard accepting merchants, worldwide that accept contactless and online payments.
- 47.** Under chairmanship of **Sudarshan Sen** the Reserve Bank of India has set up a six-member committee to carry out a comprehensive review of the working of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) in the financial sector ecosystem.
Note: The six-member committee will be headed by Sudarshan Sen, former executive director, Reserve Bank of India (RBI). As per the terms of reference of the committee, the panel will review the existing legal and regulatory framework applicable to ARCs and recommend measures to improve efficacy of ARCs.
- 48.** Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has appointed **Paytm** to facilitate digital payments.
Note: The new contract requires a smoother payment process, wider variety of payment options and adding more players (banks, wallets, etc) in payment channels. LIC has seen a surge in digital payments after the pandemic. The corporation does Rs 60,000 crore of premium collections from the digital mode, which does not include the payment made through banks. It sees around 8 crore digital transactions — a number expected to go up sharply.
- 49. Asian Development Bank** has partnered with Habitat for Humanity International to help Microfinance Institutions (MFI) in providing housing loans to low income families in rural and semi urban areas of Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and Philippines.
Note: In order to improve the construction quality and climate resilience by upgrading semi-permanent structures and installing sanitation and water connections, loans will be given to around 20,000 households by partner MFIs in the first phase. In the first phase Commercial banks will provide \$30 million financing for housing loans to MFIs.
- 50.** Digital payments **PhonePe** and financial services company has become the first company to cross 1 billion transactions on Unified Payment Interface (UPI).
Note: The company has crossed over 1.3 billion transactions on its platform across payment offerings of wallet, cards and UPI in March 2021. PhonePe has seen a growth in UPI transactions to 975.53 million in February 2021 from 902.03 million in December 2020.
- 51.** With **Gramcovers**, the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited (AICIL) has partnered to develop the insurance penetration in rural India.
Note: The main objective of this partnership is to identify and develop useful rural insurance products that could help farmers. It also aims to increase the insurance coverage in rural parts of India. Under this partnership they have planned to reach around 25 million farmers.
- 52. SBI Capital Markets Ltd** has been appointed as transaction advisor by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) for the privatization of the J N Port Container Terminal (JNPCT).
Note: JNPT has planned to privatize the JNPCT through the public-private-partnership (PPP) route in December 2020, and it was evaluated by the standing finance committee (SFC) in the ministry of ports, shipping, and waterways (MoPSW). JNPT has appointed SBI Caps as the transaction advisor for the PPP project which is estimated to cost Rs 863.31 crores. It is one of the five container terminals at JNPT and it has handled 1.35 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) a year (544,027 TEUs in FY21 from 718,863 TEUs in FY20).
- 53.** The Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Ltd has entered into a strategic co-lending partnership with **Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd**, another housing finance company.
Note: The loans under the program will be in the funding ratio of 80:20 in which 80% of the loan is with HDFC's books and 20% with Indiabulls HFL's books). Indiabulls will service the loan account throughout the life cycle of the loan and it holds 20% of the credit risk by way of direct exposure.
- 54. FirstRand Bank** has decided to withdraw its banking services from India just within a week of Citi banks exit.
Note: It is the second largest bank in South Africa. FirstRand had started its banking service in India in late 2009 but it started lending to individual customers and small and medium enterprises only in 2012. The bank has its only office in Mumbai and acts as a branch of FirstRand Bank South Africa.
- 55.** In Partnership with **YES Bank and ICICI Bank** the Aceware FinTech Services launched Kerala's first neobank called Ace Money Neobank.
Note: Under Ace Money, the start-ups, merchants, and enterprise entities can open present accounts, in line with the corporate. Chqbook is India's first Neobank for small business owners like kiranas, merchants, chemists, and others running proprietorships.

- 56. Indian Overseas Bank** has appointed Ernst & Young Global Limited, a multinational professional services network as its digital consultant.
Note: This partnership is a part of IOB's growth strategy to transform its banking services into Digital format. The aim of the partnership is to increase IOB's digital share in the market and to attract millennial customers. The Digital consultant will support IOB to focus on utilizing and adopting the new technologies and enhance its service quality and delivery to its customers.
- 57. BCB Bank** has acquired 9 per cent equity stake in Techfino Capital Private Limited (TCPL), a non-banking financial company (NBFC).
Note: TCPL provides customized consumer loans in the education and healthcare sectors and is present in key metros and tier-II cities across India. The funds raised by TCPL will be used in the enhancement of its current Tech Stack, apart from on-lending to customers.
- 58. Tech Mahindra** has acquired the entire stake in US-headquartered hybrid cloud and DevOps services provider Digital OnUS for \$120 million, including retention bonus and earnout payments.
Note: IT major Tech Mahindra has acquired the entire stake in US-headquartered hybrid cloud and DevOps services provider DigitalOnUS for \$120 million, including retention bonus and earnout payments. The acquisition will strengthen Tech Mahindra's cloud-native development, hybrid cloud infrastructure and site reliability engineering automation. The transaction is expected to close by May 15.
- 59.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has restricted **American Express Banking Corp & Diners Club International Ltd** from on-boarding new domestic customers onto their card networks from May 1, 2021, due to the non-compliance with the directions on Storage of Payment System Data.
Note: American Express and Diners Club are authorized to operate card networks in India under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act). In April 2018, RBI has made certain regulation under PSS Act for the storage of payment system data to payment system providers such as. Directed to store all the data related to payment systems (full end-to-end transaction details/information collected/carried/processed as part of the message/payment instruction) in a system only in India (within October 2018).
- 60.** As per the RBI **15 years** should be the maximum tenure for the post of MD & CEO or Whole Time Director in banks, including private sector banks, small finance banks (SFBs) and wholly owned subsidiaries of foreign banks.
- Note:** As per the regulator, the post of MD & CEO or WTD (whole time director) can't be held by same incumbent for more than 15 years. The post of the MD & CEO or WTD cannot be held by the same incumbent for more than 15 years. Thereafter, the individual will be eligible for re-appointment as MD & CEO or WTD in the same bank, if considered necessary and desirable by the board, after a minimum gap of three years, subject to meeting other conditions
- 61.** In April 2021, the Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the license of **Bhagyodaya Friends Urban Co-operative Bank Limited**.
Note: On liquidation, every depositor is entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakhs from the DICGC subject to the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961. According to the regulator, the bank with its present financial position would be unable to pay its present depositors in the full and public interest would be adversely affected if the bank is allowed to carry on its banking business any further.
- 62.** e-commerce payment platform **Paytm** has launched a new video-based wealth community called Wealth Community.
Note: Paytm Wealth Community is an investing community based on video, and "will enable users to attend live sessions conducted by subject matter experts across an array of wealth topics like Stocks, F&O, IPO, ETFs, Mutual Funds, Gold, Fixed Income, and Personal Finance.
- 63.** In association with **Mastercard** the BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL) has launched ConQR - on Card solution to offer an easy payment solution for cardholders.
Note: This solution uses a Mastercard patented technology which enables cardholders/SMEs to accept cashless payments using their cards. By doing so, QR on card makes payments more flexible and empowers cardholders (mainly small merchants) to spend and earn on the same card.
- 64. Indian Bank** has entered into pact with Chennai-based angel investment group **'The Chennai Angles'** for financing start-ups under the bank's loan product Ind Spring Board.
Note: Under this project, Indian Bank will support start-ups by extending credit facilities up to ₹50 crore for working capital needs and also fund term-loan requirements for acquiring fixed assets for their units.
- 65.** The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the license of Bhagyodaya Friends Urban Co-operative Bank Limited based in **Maharashtra**.
Note: On liquidation, every depositor is entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakhs from

- the DICGC subject to the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961. According to the regulator, the bank with its present financial position would be unable to pay its present depositors in the full and public interest would be adversely affected if the bank is allowed to carry on its banking business any further.
- 66.** Axis Direct – the flagship brand of Axis Securities, a fully-owned subsidiary of Axis Bank has launched evolutionary mobile app- 'Axis Direct RING' to facilitate investment in **Stock Market**.
Note: RING is built on the latest Technology Stack above a robust Order Management and Risk Management system. RING technology scans over 25,000 stock market instruments in real-time and identifies opportunities for you to invest.
- 67.** The CII- Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) has set a target to achieve Net Zero Carbon Emission by **2050**.
Note: As part of this mission, more than 250 leading organisations from Indian building sector have committed to achieve Net Zero status for their new and existing buildings. CII demonstrated India's first platinum-rated green building – CII-Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre at Hyderabad in the year 2004, which triggered the green building movement in India.
- 68.** According to Asian Development Outlook, 2021 released by the Asian Development Bank **11 percent** will be the growth rate of Indian Economy in the current fiscal year (2021-22).
Note: For FY2022, India's GDP is expected to expand at 7%. Further, it said the gross domestic product (GDP) of South Asia is expected to rebound to 9.5% this year, following a contraction of 6% in 2020, before moderating to 6.6% next year (2022).
- 69.** Rs 200 crore capital has been infused in the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) through issue of equity shares by the Government of India.
Note: After the capital infusion, the government's holding in IFCI was increased from 61.02 per cent to 63.8 per cent. In the budget of FY21, the government had committed for funding Rs 200 crore to IFCI. In March 2020 also, the government infused Rs 200 crore.
- 70.** According to the Annual Report of Asian Development Bank (ADB) released in April 2021, **\$1.5 billion** ADB had provided to India in supporting the response to tackle covid-19.
Note: The \$1.5 billion financing to India is a part of the ADB's \$16.1 billion pandemic response in 2020 through a \$20 billion assistance package announced by ADB in April 2020 to help its 26 member countries in managing the pandemic. In 2020, ADB has committed to provide \$31.6 billion to help Asia and the Pacific to tackle Covid-19 outbreak and to support a green, sustainable recovery from the pandemic and address long term development challenges.
- 71. ICICI Bank** has launched a digital and contactless banking platform, especially for retail merchants named as 'Merchant Stack'.
Note: The service, christened 'merchant stack', is targeted at the over 2 crore retail merchants in the country to render banking services digitally. The banking services under Merchant Stack will include zero-balance current account, instant credit facilities, 'digital store management' facility, loyalty programme, and value-added services like alliances with e-commerce and digital marketing platforms.
- 72. HDFC Bank** has emerged as the top arranger of corporate bond deals in 2020-21 (FY21).
Note: However, for the last quarter of FY21, i.e January- March 2021, Axis Bank was the top arranger of corporate bond deals while HDFC was second in the last quarter. Axis Bank managed 16 deals worth Rs. 106.6 billion while HDFC Bank had 19 deals worth around Rs 70.4 billion.
- 73. Axis Bank** has approved the reclassification of New India Assurance Co Ltd (NIACL) from promoter category to public category investor.
Note: As of April 22, 2021, 0.67 per cent of the total issued and paid-up equity share capital of the Axis bank was held by NIACL. The approval of the stock exchanges, statutory/regulatory authorities and shareholders of the bank are also subjected to reclassification.
- 74. Indian Bank** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to provide telecom services to the bank at a competitive rate.
Note: The MoU was signed in the presence of the executive director of Indian Bank and chief general manager of BSNL Chennai Telephones. Indian bank already uses the service of BSNL and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL) for the Wide Area Network (WAN) across India.
- 75. By 2040** the IT major Wipro has announced its plan to achieve Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.
Note: The targets fixed by the company are in accordance with the Paris Agreement's objective to cap temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and the globally accepted Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi).

1. **AEPS** - Aadhar Enabled Payment System
2. **APBS** - Aadhar Payment Bridge System
3. **ATM** - Automated Teller Machine
4. **ALM** - Asset Liability Management
5. **AIIB** - Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
6. **AMFI** - Association of Mutual Funds in India
7. **BIS** - Bureau of Indian Standards
8. **BBPS** - Bharat Bill Payment System
9. **BCA** - Baseline Credit Assessment
10. **BHIM** - Bharat Interface for Money
11. **BLRA**: Bank Led Resolution Approach
12. **CBL** - Chest Balance Limit
13. **CMFRI** - Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
14. **CBS** - Core Banking System
15. **CIDR** - Central Identities Data Repository
16. **CTS** - Cheque Truncation System
17. **CDR** - Corporate Debt Restructuring
18. **CASA** - Current Account Saving Account
19. **CAD** - Capital Account Deficit
20. **CRA** - Counterparty Risk Assessment
21. **CRR** - Cash Reserve Ratio
22. **ECS** - Electronic Clearing Service
23. **DNS** - Domain Name System
24. **DEAF** - Depositor Education and Awareness Fund
25. **EFTPOS** - Electronic funds transfer at point of sale
26. **EFT** - Electronic Fund Transfer.
27. **FRBM** - Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management
28. **LGD** - Loss Given Default
29. **LTV** - Loan To Value
30. **LRS** - Liberalized Remittance Scheme
31. **LCR** - Liquidity Coverage Ratio
32. **GNFV** - Gross Negative Fair Value
33. **SFTs**: Securities financing transactions
34. **HCE** - Host Card Emulation
35. **PFE** - Potential Future Exposure
36. **IIP** - Index of Industrial Production
37. **IBBI** - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
38. **IFC** - International Finance Corporation
39. **IDRBT** - Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology
40. **Ind As** - Indian Accounting Standards
41. **ICAAP** - Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process
42. **IFSC** - Indian Financial System Code
43. **IMPS** - Immediate Payment Service
44. **IMPS** - Interbank Mobile Payment Service
45. **MMID** - Mobile Money Identifier
46. **MPIN** - Mobile Personal Identification Number
47. **NPA** - Non- Performing Assets
48. **NSFR** - Net Stable Funding Ratio
49. **NPCI** - National Payment Corporation of India
50. **NFS** - National Financial Switch
51. **NSFR** - Net Stable Funding Ratio
52. **NACH** - National Automated Clearing House
53. **NEFT** - National Electronic Fund Transfer
54. **NFC** - Near field communication
55. **NDTL** - Net Demand and Time Liabilities.
56. **NASSCOM** - National Association of Software and Services Companies
57. **NIIF** - National Investment and Infrastructure Fund
58. **OTC** - Over the Counter
59. **PIN** - Personal Identification Number
60. **PAC** - Personal Access Code
61. **PCA** - Prompt Corrective Action
62. **PCR** - Public Credit Registry
63. **PCR** - Provisioning Coverage Ratio
64. **PSPs** - Payment Support Providers
65. **TC-CCP** - Third-Country Central Counterparty
66. **TRR** - Temporary Recognition Regime
67. **TReDS** - Trade Receivables Discounting System
68. **RTGS** - Real Time Gross Settlement
69. **USSD** - Unstructured Supplementary Services Data
70. **UIDAI** - Unique Identification Authority of India
71. **VPA** - Virtual Payment Address.
72. **WMA** - Ways and Means Advances
73. **TIEA** - Tax Information and Exchange Agreement
74. **NRETP** - National Rural Economic Transformation Project
75. **IBC** - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code
76. **GSP** - Generalised System of Preferences
77. **IFFCO** - Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative
78. **PMJAY** - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
79. **NBFC** - Non-banking finance companies
80. **SWIFT** - Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications
81. **NHB** - National Housing Bank
82. **NGT** - National Green Tribunal
83. **DSIB** - Domestically Systematically Important Bank
84. **RWAs** - Risk Weighted Assets
85. **TCs** - Trade credits
86. **CSO** - Central Statistics Office
87. **ASSOCHAM** - Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India
88. **WPI** - Wholesale Price Index
89. **FTA** - Free Trade Agreement
90. **NHB** - National Housing Bank
91. **YONO** - You only need one
92. **ARC** - Asset Reconstruction Company
93. **D-SIBs** - Domestic Systemically Important Banks
94. **MFIs** - Micro Finance Institutions
95. **FPIs** - Foreign portfolio investors
96. **FVCIs** - Foreign venture capital investors
97. **PPF** - Public Provident Fund

- 98. NSC - National Savings Certificate
- 99. CbC - Country-by-Country
- 100. WEF - World Economic Forum
- 101. MPI - Multidimensional Poverty Index
- 102. UNDP - United Nations Development Programme
- 103. UPI - Unified Payments Interface

- 104. NPCI - National Payments Corporation of India
- 105. CII - Confederation of Indian Industry
- 106. NBCC - National Buildings Construction Corporation
- 107. NSSO - National Sample Survey Office
- 108. EMV - Europay, MasterCard, Visa.
- 109. FATF - Financial Action Task Force

Agreement & Deals

September

1. IIT Kanpur signs MoU with Indian Air Force for academic collaboration

Note: IIT Kanpur and the Indian Air Force have joined hands in their endeavour to build robust technologies both in the academic and research front in the domain of aerospace technology. This significant partnership between the IIT Kanpur and IAF will create new forefronts and strengthen the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Mission and pave the way towards a self-reliant India. It will facilitate development of training programmes for Indian Air Force personnel which will provide platforms for dissemination of knowledge and novel ideas to innovate new technologies.

2. India and Portugal Ink Pact on Recruitment of Indian Workers

Note: The Union Cabinet approved the signing of an agreement between India and Portugal on the recruitment of Indian citizens to work in that European country. The agreement would set an institutional mechanism for partnership and cooperation between India and Portugal on sending and accepting Indian workers. Under this agreement, a joint committee will be set up to follow up the implementation of the same.

3. Skyroot Aerospace first spacetechnology startup to formally sign up with ISRO

Note: A Hyderabad-based Space technology startup, Skyroot Aerospace has become the first private company to formally enter into an agreement with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The Framework MoU will allow the company to undertake multiple tests and access facilities at various ISRO centres and avail the technical expertise of ISRO for testing and qualifying their space launch vehicle systems and subsystems.

4. IIT Bombay, IIA sign MoU to extend operation of telescope in Ladakh

Note: The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) for extending the ongoing collaboration for operations and scientific utilisation of the GROWTH-India Telescope in Ladakh. The

GROWTH-India telescope was set up jointly by IIA and IIT Bombay under a project supported by DST-SERB and the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum, and became operational in 2018. Under this partnership, the organisations agreed jointly continue the operations of the project.

5. HDFC Bank signs pact with NSIC to provide credit support to MSMEs

Note: HDFC has signed a pact with the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) for providing credit support to the micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) sector. Under this, the country's largest private sector bank will also provide MSMEs with a set of specially-tailored schemes to enhance their competitiveness.

6. AIIA signs MoU with Western Sydney University to appoint academic chair for research into ayurvedic medicine

Note: The All India Institute of Ayurveda under the Ministry of Ayush signed an MoU with NICM Western Sydney University, Australia to appoint an Academic Chair in Ayurveda via virtual mode. The new Academic Chair will undertake academic and collaborative research activities in Ayurveda, including herbal medicine and Yoga, as well as design academic standards and short-term/medium-term courses and educational guidelines.

7. Cabinet approves MoU between ICAI and Chamber of Auditors of Azerbaijan

Note: Union Cabinet has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the Chamber of Auditors of the Republic of Azerbaijan. It will help in establishing the Mutual Cooperation in the areas of Member Management, Professional Ethics, Technical Research, Professional Accountancy Training, Audit Quality Monitoring, Advancement of Accounting Knowledge, Professional and Intellectual Development.

8. Coal India Ltd signs MoU with Dept of Sports for betterment of sports infrastructure

Note: Coal India Limited has signed an MoU with Department of Sports in New Delhi for betterment of sports infrastructure in the country. Under the MoU,

Coal India Limited, under its Corporate Social Responsibility program will contribute 75 crore rupees towards the National Sports Development Fund. The fund will be used for construction of three large hostels meant for sports persons.

9. Gujarat govt signs MoU with Amazon India to boost export of MSME sector

Note: The agreement would help the state's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector to reach the global market. This will also help to achieve the goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

10. Punjab signs MoU with Amcham India to promote investment, ease of business

Note: The Punjab government and the American Chamber of Commerce in India signed an to promote investment in the state as well as further increase the ease of doing business for US member companies. The first-of-its-kind MoU that Amcham India signed with any state will see the formation of a joint working group (JWG), which will include members from Invest Punjab and the American trade body. They will work together to support and develop investment cooperation, as well as for enhancing the ease of doing business in Punjab, India and the US.

11. NMCG signs MoU with SAIARD for 'Capacity Building on Integrated River Basin Management

Note: The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and South Asian Institute for Advanced Research and Development (SAIARD) have signed an MoU to create and enhance capacity building on integrated river basin management. With the signing of this MoU, SAIARD will also henceforth be considered as the regional capacity building centre for NMCG. Both NMCG and SAIARD will work together to create and enhance capacity building on integrated river basin management, with a focus on geospatial technology in riverine ecosystems.

12. Nasscom CoE-IoT partners Taiwan-India AI Technology Innovation Research Centre

Note: Nasscom Centre of Excellence for Internet of Things (CoE-IoT) said it has signed an intent of cooperation with Taiwan-India Artificial Intelligence Technology Innovation Research Centre, Taiwan's largest university and incubator of startups under the National Chung Cheng University. Aimed at incubation support, mentorship and market access, the collaboration between Nasscom CoE IoT and Taiwan-India Artificial Intelligence Technology Innovation Research Center will help Indian tech startups to source hardware components from Taiwan during their prototyping or production phases.

13. India, US sign pact for cooperation in development of air-launched UAV

Note: India and the US have signed an agreement for cooperation in the development of Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALUAV), in what is seen as a new step to further expand their bilateral defence and military cooperation. The pact falls under the ambit of the Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation (RDT&E) agreement between the two sides that was first signed in 2006 and renewed in January 2015. The PA outlines the collaboration between Air Force Research Laboratory, Indian Air Force, and Defence Research and Development Organisation towards design, development, demonstration, testing and evaluation of systems to co-develop an ALUAV prototype.

14. Chandigarh admn, IAF ink pact for Air Force Heritage Centre

Note: For setting up the country's first Air Force Heritage Centre, the Chandigarh administration and Indian Air Force signed an in-principle agreement. The centre will come up at the Government Press Building, Sector 18. The Indian Air Force will showcase its vintage aircraft, armaments and memorabilia and other IAF artefacts, including audio-video displays. The IAF will design the museum, for which it will hire a consultant. Depending upon the space and design, the number and type of vintage aircraft will be selected.

15. LIC ties up with Department of Post

Note: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Department of Post have entered into an agreement for "Print to Post" solutions. Print to Post solutions is provided by the Department of Posts for printing and dispatching of the policy booklet issued under a life insurance policy. LIC of India is now availing this solution.

16. Infosys to enter into MoUs with Karnataka to help achieve NEP objective

Note: For prioritising skill development among students as per National Education Policy (NEP-2020), Karnataka's Department of Higher Education and the Information Technology (IT) major Infosys would enter into three memorandums of understanding (MoUs) soon. The MoUs would help the Karnataka government utilise 'Infosys Springboard', comprising of over 3,000 skill development courses for college students, 'Campus Connect' for digital learning of college faculty and professional guidance for students, and for a donation of 15,000 de-bonded computers to colleges from Infosys.

17. MoD signs contract with Spain for acquisition of 56 C-295MW transport aircraft

Note: The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed an estimated ₹22,000-crore deal with Airbus Defence and Space S.A., Spain, for 56 C-295MW transport aircraft to replace the Indian Air Force's ageing 56 Avro aircraft that were procured in the 1960s. This is the first

project of its kind in which a military aircraft will be manufactured in India under technology transfer by the private sector. Of the 56 aircraft, 16 will be delivered in flyaway condition from Spain within 48 months and the remaining will be manufactured in India by the Tata Group within 10 years from the date of contract.

18. India, US sign two MoU for cooperation in Health and Biomedical Sciences

Note: Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya addressed the closing session of the 4th Indo-US Health Dialogue being hosted by India. The two-day Dialogue was leveraged as a platform to deliberate upon multiple ongoing collaborations in the health sector between the two countries. Two MoUs were also signed at the concluding session. One MoU was signed concerning cooperation in the field of Health and Biomedical sciences. The other MoU was signed for cooperation with International Centre for Excellence in Research (ICER).

19. India, Oman ink pact to boost maritime security cooperation

Note: India and Oman inked an agreement for exchange of white shipping information and to boost maritime security cooperation in reflection of growing cooperation between the two sides. It was signed during Admiral Singh's three-day visit to Oman. The information would be exchanged between the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre and the MSC (Maritime Security Centre), Oman, and contribute to enhanced maritime safety and security in the region. The Indian Navy cooperates with the Royal Navy of Oman on many fronts that include operational interactions and training.

20. ZSI signs MoU with Natural History Museum London

Note: The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has signed an MoU with the Natural History Museum (NHM) London to work together to collect, study and conserve faunal specimens for science and to create and exchange associated data and images. The MoU will be for five years. Through this MoU both the institutions are committed to implementing the 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Fauna (CITES), the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and relevant national and regional laws and regulations concerning biodiversity including laws relating to access to faunal specimens, associated benefit sharing and traditional knowledge.

21. India signs pact for social housing units in Maldives

Note: EXIM Bank of India has concluded Agreements with Fahi Dhiriulhun Corporation Limited (FDC) of Maldives to extend Buyers Credit of around \$228 million for the construction of 4000 Social Housing Units in Hulhumale' Phase II. The construction will be undertaken by National Buildings Construction Company (NBCC) and JMC Projects (India) Ltd. The companies have rich experience in real estate development and civil construction projects, both in India and abroad.

22. Telangana signed MoU with Wingsure for AI-driven personalised insurance

Note: The Telangana Government has entered into an agreement with Wingsure, an insurtech venture spin-out of SRI International. As a part of the agreement, Wingsure will provide deep-tech-based personalised crop insurance products and advisory services to small, underserved farmers in the State. The alliance is among the first in the global farming ecosystem and will help Telangana to promote social inclusion and digital transformation in Indian agriculture.

23. Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying signs MoU with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Note: Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying signed Memorandum of Understanding with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support India's livestock sector. Both will work together on sustainably improving India's livestock sector to support the nation's food and nutritional security, and protect the economic wellbeing of small-scale livestock producers.

24. Zee Entertainment & Sony Pictures signs merger deal

Note: The Board of Directors of ZEE Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL) has unanimously approved the merger of the company with Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI). As a part of the merger, shareholders of SPNI will also infuse growth capital into SPNI, which will make them the majority stakeholder in the merged entity. The merged entity will be listed on the Indian stock exchanges.

25. NITI Aayog tie-up with ISRO, CBSE launch 'Space Challenge' for school students

Note: Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission in collaboration with ISRO and CBSE has launched 'Space Challenge' for school students across India. 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. The aim of this challenge is to enable innovation among young school students to create something in the space sector that will not only help

them learn about the space but create something that the space programme can use itself.

26. TRIFED and Big Basket enter into MoU for promotion and sale

Note: The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) and e-grocery platform Big Basket, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the promotion and sale of natural Van Dhan products being made available to Big Basket from Van Dhan production units. With this, Big Basket will be able to enrich its portfolio through the of hand-made authentic forest products sourced by the tribal population.

27. IIFL Home Finance signs pact with PNB for co-lending

Note: IIFL Home Finance Ltd. (IIFLHFL) said it has signed an agreement with Punjab National Bank (PNB) for co-lending. It expects to grow its loan book by 25% with this association, IIFLHFL. The HFC said it will service the customers through the entire loan cycle, from sourcing, documentation, collection to loan servicing. This association will allow it to further penetrate into affordable home loan and secured MSME loan markets.

28. NITI Aayog ties up with Byju's to provide study material to schools

Note: The NITI Aayog launched an initiative in partnership with edutech giant BYJU'S, under which students of Classes 6-12 in government schools across 112 'Aspirational Districts' will get free access to the company's "premium learning resources". Under the initiative, BYJU'S will also provide "free" coaching classes to over 3,000 "meritorious" students of Classes 11 and 12, offered by Aakash Institute, for engineering and medical entrance examinations.

29. Agnikul Cosmos Signs MOU to Use ISRO Facilities to Develop Launch Vehicle

Note: Department of Space has signed a framework MoU with space technology start-up Agnikul Cosmos for granting access to the facilities and expertise of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in developing and testing systems and sub-systems of space launch vehicles. Under the agreement, the start-up can undertake multiple tests and access facilities at various ISRO centers for testing and qualification of their single-piece, 3D printed, semi-cryogenic engine and other systems. The MoU also enables Agnikul to avail technical expertise of the Indian space agency for testing and qualifying their space launch vehicle systems and sub-systems.

30. BLS International ties up National Health Authority to process Ayushman Bharat cards across India

Note: Tech-enabled services company BLS International said it has been empanelled for processing Ayushman Bharat cards under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) by the National Health Authority. 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.

31. DP World inks MoU with Tamil Nadu govt for Rs 2,000-cr projects

Note: UAE-based DP World is investing around Rs 2,000 crore for establishing a slew of projects in Tamil Nadu. The projects include a container terminal, cold storage and seafood processing zone, free trade zone with an integrated rail siding, minor port in the Eastern Coast of Tamil Nadu, inland container depots (ICDs) in Erode, Karur and Tiruppur. The projects are likely to create employment for 4,500 people including 1,500 direct and 3,000 indirect.

August 2021

1. India & Maldives inks pact on mega Greater Male Connectivity Project

Note: India and Maldives signed a contract on the mega Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP), the largest infrastructure project in the country. The Government of India is funding the implementation of GMCP through a USD 400 million Line of Credit (LoC) and USD 100 million grant. The USD 400 million LoC will be provided by the Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank). The project will be

developed by Indian construction and engineering firm, AFCONS, based in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

2. NITI Aayog partners with Cisco to foster women entrepreneurship in India

Note: Titled "WEP Next", this next phase of NITIAayog's flagship platform will leverage Cisco's technology and experience working with India's startup ecosystem to enable more women-owned businesses across the country. WEP, initially launched by NITI Aayog in 2017, is a first-of-its-kind, unified portal that brings together

women from diverse backgrounds and offers them access to a multitude of resources, support, and learning. WEP Nxt is a significant step to augment these efforts.

- 3. Paytm, HDFC Bank tie up to develop payment products for new online ventures**
Note: Digital payments firm Paytm and HDFC Bank, announced a strategic partnership to build comprehensive solutions across payment gateway, point of sale machines and credit products including Paytm Postpaid which is Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) solution, Eazy EMI and Flexi Pay. The partnership will aim to empower new businesses which have recently ventured online, and enable them to scale up.
- 4. BRICS signs deal on cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing**
Note: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) signed an agreement for cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing, according to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The pact inked on August 17 enables building a virtual constellation of specified remote sensing satellites of BRICS space agencies and their respective ground stations will receive the data.
- 5. Indian Bank signs MoU with Paralympic Committee**
Note: Public sector Indian Bank has signed an MoU with the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) as one of the banking partners of the Paralympic Games scheduled to commence from August 24 in Tokyo, Japan. The bank, through its year-long association with PCI, will provide financial assistance to paralympic athletes. The President of the Paralympic Committee of India is Deepa Malik.
- 6. Indian Navy, IDFC FIRST bank bring 'Honour FIRST' banking solutions**
Note: 'Honour FIRST' is a premium banking solution for serving personnel and veterans of the Indian Navy. Designed especially keeping in mind the needs of the Armed Forces and its veterans, the Honour FIRST Defence Account is supported by a dedicated team of defence veterans. With zero - balance salary account feature, Honour FIRST account holders will receive up to 5 per cent interest per annum and a net banking and customised mobile app that offers a superior user interface and experience
- 7. UNICEF India, Facebook collaborate to make a safer digital world for children**
Note: Facebook and UNICEF India joined hands to launch a one-year joint initiative on ending violence against children with a special focus on online safety. 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, and increase the skills of communities and frontline workers to better prevent and respond to violence.
- 8. Haryana govt signs MoU with Walmart Vriddhi to help MSMEs**

Note: Haryana Government signed MoU with 'Walmart Vriddhi' and 'Haqdarshak' company to ensure pathway for MSME products to the international market. To promote MSMEs apart from large industries, many important concessions have been given to investors in 'Haryana Enterprises and Employment Policy-2020'. This move will bring a big opportunity for the MSME sector, as their products will be displayed in 24 countries and will be available in 10,500 stores under 48 banners.

- 9. India wants to implement disaster management MoU with Bangladesh**
Note: India has emphasized the implementation of the recently-signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bangladesh over disaster management, resilience and mitigation on a priority basis. Bangladesh has decided to accept the invitation to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). CDRI is a coalition of national governments, UN agencies, multilateral development banks and the private sector which aims to promote resilience of new and existing infrastructure to climate and disaster risks.
- 10. ICICI Prudential Life partnered with NPCI for UPI Autopay**
Note: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance partnered with the NPCI to provide a Unified Payments Interface Autopay facility to its customers. This tie-up is another step in the company's digitalisation journey, which provides customers with a hassle-free and seamless experience across the policy lifecycle. While purchasing a life insurance policy, customers can link their bank accounts with UPI Autopay for payment of premium. The UPI Autopay e-mandate can be activated by customers by using their smartphones to make regular renewal premium payments in a paperless format.
- 11. India & World Bank sign \$250 million project to make existing dams safe and resilient**
Note: Government of India, the Central Water Commission, representatives of 10 participating states and the World Bank signed a \$250 million project for a long-term dam safety programme and improving the safety and performance of existing dams across various states. The Second Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP-2) will strengthen dam safety by creating dam safety guidelines, bringing global experience and introducing innovative technologies. The project will be implemented in about 120 dams in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu and through CWC at the national level.
- 12. Indian Bank signs MoU with IIT Bombay for startup financing**
Note: Indian Bank on Monday entered into an MoU with the Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT Bombay - an initiative of Indian Institute of Technology - for extending exclusive credit facility to startups and small businesses.

SINE, IIT Bombay, supports the MSME sector by providing joint research and development arrangements

and technical and financial support for incubation and acceleration of high-end technology products.

July 2021

1. Intel launches 'AI For All' initiative in collaboration with CBSE

Note: Intel in collaboration with CBSE, Ministry of Education launched the AI For All initiative with the purpose of creating a basic understanding of artificial intelligence (AI) for everyone in India. Based on Intel's AI For Citizens program, AI For All is a 4-hour, self-paced learning program that demystifies AI in an inclusive manner. It is as applicable to a student, a stay-at-home parent as it is to a professional in any field or even a senior citizen. The program aims to introduce AI to 1 million citizens in its first year.

2. IBM to set up 'Airport in a Box' at BIAL

Note: IBM and Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which operates Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (KIAB/BLR Airport), today announced a 10-year partnership under which IBM and Kyndryl will provide IT solutions to create a new "Airport in a Box" platform that will support transforming the end-to-end travel experience for passengers at BLR Airport. IBM and BIAL will work to ensure that the platform supports BIAL's commitment to sustainability and the community at large. BIAL recently achieved its goal of net energy neutral status in the financial year 2020-21, consuming energy from renewable sources.

3. Maruti Suzuki, Savitribai Phule Pune University tie-up to train youth

Note: Maruti Suzuki India Limited has announced a partnership with Maharashtra's Savitribai Phule Pune University to train youth in automobile retail. The aim is to offer a customised three years "Bachelor of Vocational Studies in Retail Management" course to students. The three-year curriculum will comprise one-year classroom training followed by two-year on-the-job training at Maruti Suzuki authorised dealerships.

4. CRPF signs MoU with C-DAC to train manpower of force in advanced technologies

Note: The MoU aims at augmenting the technical capabilities of CRPF by training its manpower in advanced areas like the Internet of Things (IoT), Cybersecurity, AI, etc. The agreement will also provide the expertise of C-DAC in the form of a Technology Partner and Knowledge Partner in developing various ICT solutions of CRPF. The MoU will go a long way in providing CRPF personnel with customised advanced courses aligned to the needs of the field and practical applications.

5. Dvara E-Dairy partners with IFFCO Tokio General Insurance for AI-led tag

Note: Dvara E-Dairy Solutions Pvt Ltd, a portfolio company of Dvara Holdings announced the launch of "Surabhi e-Tag", an AI powered digital tag to identify cattle based on muzzle identity. Muzzle images of the cattle are collected through the Surabhi mobile application and stored in hi-resolution images as a unique digital identity. The company has partnered with IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance Company Ltd, informed the company through a release.

6. U GRO Capital & Bank of Baroda in tie-up for MSME co-lending

Note: Under the co-lending programme Pratham, Bank of Baroda and U GRO will together disburse loans worth Rs 1,000 crore to MSMEs. The aim is to dispense the entire amount by the end of this financial year. The loan amount ranges from ₹50 lakh to ₹2.5 crores to be offered at an interest rate starting from 8% with a maximum tenure of 120 months. The programme is accessible to MSMEs across U GRO's over 200 channel touchpoints around nine locations in Delhi, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Pune, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Kolkata.

7. IAHE inks pact with University of New South Wales to set up CATTs in Noida

Note: The Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has inked an agreement with the University of New South Wales, Australia for setting up a Centre for Advanced Transportation Technology and Systems (CATTs) in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The Agreement was signed in a virtual ceremony in the presence of Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari. This CATTs will be a centre of excellence (CoE) to promote industries and startups from Australia and India in the transportation sector, and will also provide opportunities for innovation, research and development of advanced transport systems.

8. Ladakh signs MoU with Sikkim to turn UT organic by 2025

Note: The union territory of Ladakh organic, the administration of Ladakh, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency (SOCCA). A tripartite MOU has been signed between Ladakh and SOCCA regarding the implementation of Prampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana and Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI) in the

Ladakh region with the aim to convert Ladakh into organic by 2025. The main objective of this MOU is to get the organic certification after a tie-up with the Government of India.

9. Nepal Inks USD 1.3 billion mega-deal with India to develop Hydropower project

Note: Nepal has signed a USD 1.3 billion deal with India, to develop a 679-megawatt Lower Arun Hydropower project, located between Sankhuwasabha and Bhojpur districts in eastern Nepal. As per the deal, India's state-owned Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN), will develop the 679-megawatt hydropower project in the neighbouring Himalayan nation. This will be the second mega project undertaken by India in Nepal, after the USD 1.04 billion 900-MW Arun-3 hydroelectric projects.

10. Bharat Dynamics Ltd signs Rs 499-crore deal with Indian Air Force

Note: The Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has signed a contract with the Ministry of Defence for the manufacture and supply of Akash missiles to the Indian Air Force (IAF). The total worth of the deal is around Rs 499 crore. CMD, BDL Commodore Siddharth Mishra (Retd) stated that BDL is supplying Akash Missiles to the Indian Army and Indian Air Force. With the announcement from the Union Cabinet regarding clearance of Akash Weapon System for Export, the Company is exploring offering Akash for export to foreign countries.

11. Razorpay partners with Mastercard to launch 'MandateHQ'

Note: Razorpay has partnered with Mastercard to launch 'MandateHQ'. It is a payment interface that will help card-issuing banks to enable recurring payments for their customers. It must be noted that the Reserve Bank of India had issued a framework for processing e-mandates on recurring online transactions. The product by Razorpay is a step in this direction. The MandateHQ solution can be fully integrated with any bank within seven days. Razorpay's Mandate HQ is an API-based plug-n-play solution that reduces the go-live time for any card issuing bank that wishes to enable recurring payments for its customers.

12. Tourism Ministry signs MoU with Yatra to strengthen hospitality, tourism industry

Note: The tourism ministry signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Yatra to strengthen and enable the tourism and hospitality industry. The event

was organised under an arrangement between the Ministry of Tourism and the Quality Council of India (QCI), where the MoU for the Tourism Ministry Yatra tie-up was signed. While the MoU is meant to mainly strengthen tourism, it also takes into consideration and provides support for accommodation units.

13. Reliance inks pact with ADNOC to build mega chemical project in Abu Dhabi

Note: RIL and UAE's oil giant Abu Dhabi National Oil Company signed an agreement to form a mega petrochemical joint venture in Al Ruwais city. This will be the first investment by Reliance in UAE. RIL and ADNOC will construct an integrated plant with a capacity to produce chlor-alkali, ethylene dichloride, and polyvinyl chloride (PVC). The partnership utilizes the increasing demand for critical industrial raw materials and utilizes the strengths of ADNOC and RIL.

14. Singapore signs pact with Bhutan to establish technical training centres

Note: Singapore has signed an MoU with Bhutan to establish Model Technical Training Centres (MTTC). The ITE-Education Services of Singapore will provide technical assistance to Bhutan's Ministry of Labour and Human Resources in developing MTTC. MTTCs will offer high-quality practice-oriented skills training for Bhutanese youths. The King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck visited the Institute of Technical Education (ITE), Singapore, in 2015.

15. India, Kuwait sign MoU for cooperation on recruitment of domestic workers

Note: India and Kuwait signed an MoU to streamline the recruitment of Indian domestic workers. The MoU brings Indian workers in Kuwait within the ambit of a legal framework. It will streamline their recruitment and provides them the protection of the 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.

16. AJNIFM, Microsoft partner to build AI, emerging technologies

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

June 2021

1. Mastercard partners with Instamojo to help MSMEs, gig workers

Note: Mastercard has announced a strategic equity investment in Instamojo. This investment is aimed at empowering millions of MSMEs and gig workers by

providing easy-to-use solutions. It will help them to digitize and help setting up online stores, equip them with digital payment acceptance capabilities, and reach out to customers, even during the pandemic. Mastercard committed Rs 250 crores in 2020 to support small businesses in India.

2. India, Fiji sign MoU for cooperation in agriculture

Note: An MoU has been signed between India and Fiji for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and allied sectors. Under the MoU, a Joint Working Group (WG) will be established to set down procedures and plans. 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.

3. India extends \$ 100 million LoC to Sri Lanka for Solar Energy Projects

Note: India has signed an agreement extending a \$100 mn Line of Credit (LOC) to Sri Lanka for projects in the Solar Energy Sector. The agreement was signed between Sri Lanka and the EXIM Bank. This LOC will help finance various projects in the solar energy sector in Sri Lanka. Some of the projects were announced during the Founding Conference of the ISA held in March 2018 in Delhi. Thus far 89 countries, including Sri Lanka, have signed the Framework Agreement of the ISA.

4. ADB, India sign \$ 484 mn loan to upgrade road network in TN industrial corr

Note: The ADB and the GoI signed a \$484 million loan to improve transport connectivity and facilitate industrial development in the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu. CKIC is part of India's East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC). ADB is the lead partner of the Government of India in developing ECEC. The project will upgrade about 590 km of state highways in the CKIC influence areas that cover 23 of the 32 districts b/w Chennai and Kanyakumari.

5. Shipping Ministry, MoCA sign pact to develop seaplane services in India

Note: Ministry Shipping signed an MoU with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to start seaplane services across India. This MoU envisages the development of the Non-Scheduled/Scheduled operation of seaplane services within the territorial jurisdiction of India under the RCS-UDAN scheme. A total of 28 seaplane routes and 14 water aerodromes in Gujarat, Assam, Telangana, AP, Andaman-Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep are in various stages of development at a cost of ₹450 crores.

6. SJVN inks pact with National Institute of Wind Energy for energy projects

Note: State-owned SJVN Ltd has signed a pact with the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) to develop solar and wind energy projects. SJVN has entered into an MoU with the Institute for 'technical consultancy services for the development of solar, wind, and hybrid energy

projects of SJVN. The Government of India is targeting to achieve the installation of 175 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity by the year 2022 and 450 gigawatts by 2030.

7. India, Kuwait sign MoU for cooperation on recruitment of domestic workers

Note: India and Kuwait signed an MoU to streamline the recruitment of Indian domestic workers. The MoU brings Indian workers in Kuwait within the ambit of a legal framework. It will streamline their recruitment and provides them the protection of the 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.

8. JSCA, SAIL-BSL inks MoU for International Cricket Stadium in Bokaro

Note: The Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SAIL Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL), for the construction of an International Cricket Stadium in Bokaro city. Once the stadium is ready, Bokaro will become the third city in Jharkhand to have an International Cricket Stadium after Jamshedpur and Ranchi. The MoU is a lease agreement under which Bokaro Steel Plant will transfer 20.17 acres of its land to JSCA for 33 years, for the construction of an international cricket stadium in the Balidih area of Bokaro. The proposed stadium will also be the first stadium to be constructed in SAIL township.

9. Jio and Google Cloud to Collaborate on 5G Technology

Note: Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited and Google Cloud are embarking on a comprehensive, long-term strategic relationship with a goal of powering 5G in enterprise and consumer segments nationwide. In addition, Reliance will also take advantage of Google Cloud's scalable infrastructure thereby enabling its retail business to achieve better operational efficiency, modernize and scale for growth, and deliver better performance and experiences to customers.

10. NSDC And WhatsApp Launch "Digital Skill Champions Program"

Note: The National Skill Development Corporation and WhatsApp announced an alliance to launch the Digital Skill Champions Program that aims to train India's youth on digital skills, in order to make them employment ready. The partnership identifies two broad areas of collaboration viz., WhatsApp Digital Skills Academy and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) and WhatsApp Business App Training sessions. Through this program, school and university students would be coached to imbibe digital and online skills that would culminate with WhatsApp and NSDC awarding 'Digital Skill Champions' certification

11. Airtel, TCS partner for 5G network solutions

Note: Bharti Airtel and Tata Group have announced a strategic partnership for implementing 5G network

solutions for India, which will be available for commercial development from January 2022. Tata Group has developed an O-RAN (open-radio access network)-based radio and non-standalone architecture/standalone architecture (NSA/SA) core and has integrated a totally indigenous telecom stack, leveraging the capabilities of the group and its partners. Airtel will pilot and deploy this indigenous solution as part of its 5G rollout plans in India and start the pilot in January 2022, as per the guidelines formulated by the government.

12. CBSE collaborated with Microsoft to introduce coding, data science in curriculum

Note: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has collaborated with Microsoft to introduce Coding as a new subject for students of Class 6-8 and Data Science as the new subject for Class 8-12 in the 2021-2022 academic session. Both these new skilling subjects are being launched in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Coding and Data Science Curriculum are focused on building critical thinking, computational skills, problem-solving skills, creativity and hands-on exposure to new technologies. In keeping with the NEP 2020, the introduction of these courses aims to build next-generation skills in students.

13. ADB and India signed an agreement for road upgradation project in Sikkim

Note: The Asian Development Bank and the Government of India signed an agreement for financing road upgradation project in Sikkim. ADB will give a \$2.5 million project readiness financing (PRF) loan to support projects related to upgradation of major district roads in Sikkim. It will improve the connectivity and also boost the economic activities in the state. The project readiness financing (PRF) will help in connecting the major district and other roads with the national and state highway network.

14. SCO Agreement On Mass Media Cooperation Gets India's Retrospective Nod

Note: The Cabinet accorded an ex post facto approval for signing and ratifying an agreement on cooperation in the field of mass media between all member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). The agreement aims to promote equal and mutually beneficial cooperation among associations in the field of mass media. The agreement, which was signed in June 2019, would provide an opportunity for the member states to share best practices and new innovations in the field of mass media.

May 2021

1. TRIFED and NITI AAYOG to partner to implement the Van Dhan Yojana

Note: TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India), Ministry of Tribal Affairs is set to partner with NITI Aayog for implementation of Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) initiative under Van Dhan Yojna in 39 Tribal Aspirational districts identified by NITI Aayog. These include districts in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Telangana and Tripura.

2. India-Israel signs 3-year program for Cooperation in Agriculture

Note: India and Israel have inked a three-year joint work programme which will continue till 2023. A joint work programme was initiated with the aim of enhancing cooperation in agriculture. Under the new work programme, 13 Centres of Excellence (CoEs) were set up to make Indian farmers aware of Israeli farm and water technologies. A model ecosystem in agriculture called Villages of Excellence (VoE) will also be created across eight states within 75 villages.

3. SBI and HyperVerge Partner for AI-powered Online Account Opening

Note: HyperVerge announced its partnership with SBI, with one of its flagship products, the Video Banking solution, which aims to achieve a 10x improvement in the

number of account openings per day per agent. The new service will offer a quick and completely paperless experience to customers with minimal ID documents. Assisted by AI engines with an accuracy of 99.5%, HyperVerge's Video Banking solution enables SBI to provide convenient digital banking services to millions of Indians.

4. India-Microsoft MoU on Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools

Note: The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Microsoft signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the joint initiative for Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools. This includes the introduction of Ashram Schools and Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in tribal areas. Microsoft will make an Artificial Intelligence curriculum available for the tribal students in Hindi and English. In the first phase of the programme, 250 EMRS are to be established. Out of these 250 schools, 50 schools will be given intensive training. And five hundred master trainers will be trained in the first phase. The teachers are to be trained in a phased manner to use Artificial Intelligence application and production technologies such as Office 365.

5. Google Cloud partnered with SpaceX for providing satellite internet service

Note: Google Cloud and SpaceX signed a deal for providing internet service through Starlink satellite. Google will provide the Cloud infrastructure for this connectivity Project, while Space X will install ground terminals in

Google's cloud data centres for connecting Starlink satellites. It will help in providing fast internet service to the rural areas. This service will be available to customers before the end of 2021.

6. Geojit signed a pact with PNB to offer three-in-one account

Note: Geojit Financial Services has entered into an agreement with Punjab National Bank to provide a three-in-one account to the latter's customers. The new service gives customers who have a savings account with PNB, a PNB Demat account and a Geojit trading account. Saving and Demat accounts can be opened online in PNB with a hassle-free approach.

7. Rolls-Royce and HAL Sign MoU for Supporting MT30 Marine Engine Business

Note: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Rolls-Royce have signed an MoU to establish packaging, installation, marketing, and services support for Rolls-Royce MT30 marine engines in India. Through this MoU, Rolls-Royce and HAL will expand their long-standing partnership in India and work together in the area of marine applications for the first time. This partnership will leverage the rich experience of HAL's IMGT (Industrial and Marine Gas Turbine) Division that works on marine gas turbines with Indian shipyards.

8. Oil and Gas PSUs inks MoU for Shri Badrinath Dham

Note: The top Oil and Gas PSUs of India, including IndianOil, BPCL, HPCL, ONGC and GAIL, have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with the Shri Badrinath Utthan Charitable Trust, for Construction and Redevelopment of Shri Badrinath Dham in Uttarakhand as a Spiritual Smart hill Town. These PSUs will contribute Rs. 99.60 crore in the first phase of the project.

9. PepsiCo Foundation partners with SEEDS to set up COVID care centres

Note: PepsiCo Foundation, the philanthropic arm of PepsiCo, said it 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. To focus on Maharashtra, Punjab, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana. 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.

10. Facebook to introduces vaccine finder tool on mobile app in India

Note: Facebook has partnered with the Indian government to roll out a vaccine finder tool on its mobile app in India, which will help people identify places nearby to get inoculated. The social media giant had, earlier this week, announced a USD 10 million grant for emergency response efforts for the COVID-19 situation in the country. Partnering with the Government of India, Facebook will begin rolling out its Vaccine Finder tool on the Facebook mobile app in India available in 17 languages to help people identify places nearby to get the vaccine,".

11. Yono by SBI Joins Hands with Shivrai Technologies

Note: Shivrai Technologies partnered with leading digital banking platform, Yono SBI to help smallholder, marginal, and large-holder farmers by way of a free application. This will allow them to focus on their costs incurred, as well as the bookkeeping of total profits that are in line. The aim to help farmers across the country to manage their accounts efficiently, thus cutting down on losses. Shivrai also owns their own B2B brand, FarmERP.

12. TRIFED inks MoU with 'The LINK Fund' for tribal development

Note: TRIFED has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The LINK Fund, for a collaborative project titled "Sustainable Livelihoods For Tribal Households in India". Tribal Development and Employment Generation, by providing support to tribals for increasing value addition in their produce and products; Sustainable livelihoods and value addition, for the increase in income and employment generation through technological intervention for efficiency in value addition for MFPS, produce and crafts diversification, skill training and enhancement of value additions in minor forest produce.

April 2021

1. Indian Army signs MoU with HPCL & NIEDO for Ladakh Ignited Minds project

Note: Ladakhi youth Army under the aegis of Fire and Fury Corps signed MoU for Ladakh Ignited Minds project with corporate partner Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and executing agency National Integrity and Educational Development Organisation (NIEDO) HQ 14 Corps Leh.

2. Australia announces partnership with India for Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative

Note: Australia has announced a grant of Rs 81.2 million (AUD 1.4 million) under the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI). IPOI was proposed by Indian Prime

Minister Modi at the East Asia Summit in November 2019 and Australia is co-leading New Delhi in the marine ecology pillar of the initiative.

3. India-Germany enter into agreement to prevent plastic waste entering oceans

Note: The Government of India and Germany have signed an agreement for Technical Cooperation in enhancing practices to prevent plastic from entering the marine environment at a virtual ceremony in New Delhi. The project titled 'Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment' will be implemented for a period of three and a half years.

4. LIC ties up with Paytm to handle digital payments

Note: State-run Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has appointed homegrown payments player Paytm to facilitate its digital payments. Following a tie-up with another payment gateway earlier, the country's largest life insurer has sought a new deal as the majority of its payments have moved to digital modes.

5. India sign MoU with France for cooperation on Gaganyaan Mission

Note: The Indian space agency, ISRO has signed an agreement with the space agency of France CNES for cooperation in its first human space mission, Gaganyaan. CNES will train Indian flight physicians and CAPCOM mission control teams at French facilities. The Gaganyaan orbital spacecraft project was kicked off in August 2018. It originally intended to send astronauts from Indian soil to mark the 75th anniversary of India's independence in 2022.

6. Bharti AXA Life and Fincare SFB join hands for bancassurance partnership

Note: Bharti Axa Life and Fincare Small Finance Bank have joined hands for a bancassurance partnership under which the bank will sell insurance policies to its customers. This alliance will make life insurance solutions reachable to over 26.5 lakhs customers of Fincare Small Finance Bank and provide financial security to them.

7. India-Japan signed MoU for Academic and Research Cooperation

Note: The Union Cabinet recently apprised an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) signed between India and Japan. The MoU was signed between the National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL) that operates under the Department of Space, GoI and the Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere called the RISH that operates under the Kyoto University of Japan.

8. Bharti Airtel sells 800 MHz spectrum in three circles to Reliance Jio

Note: Bharti Airtel has entered into an agreement with Reliance Jio Infocomm to transfer 'Right to Use' for some of its 800 MHz spectrum in three circles to the Mukesh Ambani-led firm. Following this agreement, Bharti Airtel will receive a consideration of ₹1,037.6 crores from Reliance Jio for the proposed transfer. In addition, Reliance Jio will assume future liabilities of ₹459 crores relating to the spectrum.

9. AYUSH Ministry in collab with Vinoba Seva Pratishthan organizes 'Ayurveda Parav'

Note: In a bid to promote Ayurveda as the mainstream treatment for the prevalent lifestyle-related diseases, Vinoba Seva Pratishthan (VSP), in collaboration with the Ministry of AYUSH, has successfully organized a 3-day "Ayurveda Paravin Bhubaneswar. This unique initiative aims to not only ensure greater acceptance of Ayurveda among the masses but also to popularize Ayurveda as the main line of treatment for the current lifestyle diseases.

Obituaries

September

1. Renowned personality Yuriy Sedykh passed away recently, he was related to **Sports** field.

Note: Sedykh won gold at the 1976 and 1980 Olympics, but missed the 1984 Games because of a Soviet boycott. He claimed silver at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and won a world title in 1991. Sedykh threw a world record 86.74m at the European Championships in Stuttgart, a mark which still stands.

2. Eminent personality Professor **Thanu Padmanabhan** (64) passed away due to a massive cardiac arrest, he was a veteran **Physicist**.

Note: A distinguished professor at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Prof Padmanabhan had authored over 300 research papers and several books, with important contributions in areas of gravitation, quantum gravity, and structure and formation of the universe. His research in theoretical physics had the Stanford University name him among the top scientists in the world, with a rank of 24.

3. Jimmy Greaves of England was associated with **Football**.

Note: He scored 266 goals for Tottenham between 1961-1970 & his 37 league goals in the 1962-63 season remains a club record. He began his career with **Chelsea** and netted 124 league goals for the **London club(1957-61)**.

4. Renowned journalist and writer Manorama Mohapatra passed away recently, she used to write in **Odia** language.

Note: She was a former editor of Odia daily '**The Samaja**'. She had won the Sahitya Academy Award in 1984, Soviet Nehru Award in 1988, Critic Circle of India Award in 1990, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar Samman in 1991 and Rupambara Award in 1994.

5. Renowned **Footballer** Bhabani Roy passed away recently

Note: He represented India in the 1969 Merdeka Cup and played in three matches. Bhabani Roy helped Mohun Bagan win the Rovers Cup in 1968, 1970, 1971 and 1972 (Joint Winner). At the domestic level, he was part of the West Bengal team that won the Santosh Trophy in 1968 and 1971.

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

August 2021

1. Renowned personality Man Kaur passed away recently she was a veteran **Athlete**.
Note: She was diagnosed with cancer some months back. She was referred to as 'Miracle from Chandigarh'. She belongs to Patiala, Punjab and started as an athlete at the age of 93.
2. Classical exponent Nelliyou Vasudevan Namboothiri associated with **Kathakali** who passed away recently.
Note: He was 81 and was battling cancer for some time. Known for the portrayal of the negative 'chuvanna thadi' (red beard) characters in the classical dance drama, he also excelled in enacting the roles of "vattamudi" and "penkari."
3. Padma Shri awardee Padma Sachdev passed away recently, she was first modern woman poet of **Dogri**.
Note: Sachdev (81), who was born in Purmandal area of Jammu in 1940 in the house of Sanskrit Scholar Prof Jai Dev Badu. She authored many books in Dogri and Hindi, and her poetry collections, including 'Meri Kavita Mere Geet', won her the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1971.
4. Renowned personality Rashid Irani passed away recently, he was a veteran **film critic**.
Note: Irani, who had contributed several articles in national dailies like Times of India, Hindustan Times and the website Scroll.in, was "one of the pillars of the Mumbai Press Club Film Society.
5. Renowned sportsperson Subramaniam Sankar Narayan passed away recently he was associated with **Football**.
Note: He played at the 1956 and 1960 Olympics. He was famously known as S. S. Babu Narayan and had represented India as a goalkeeper at the 1956 (Melbourne) and 1960 (Rome) Olympic Games. He was also a part of Maharashtra's Santosh Trophy-winning campaign in 1964.
6. Renowned personality Kasargod Patnashetti Gopal Rao passed away recently he was a veteran **Navy Man**.
Note: He was a 1971 war hero and recipient of the Maha Vir Chakra, India's second highest military decoration. He was the commander of two Arnala-class anti-submarine corvettes INS Kiltan and INS Katchall which were part of the task group that attacked Karachi Harbour during Operation Trident on December 4, 1971 (Navy Day). He was commissioned into the Indian Navy on April 21, 1950.
7. Renowned personality P.S. Banarji passes away recently, he was a veteran **Cartoonist, Sculptor & Folk Singer**.
Note: A resident of Sasthamcotta in Kollam district, he was undergoing treatment for post-COVID-19 complications. A recipient of the Lalithakala Akademi Fellowship, Banarji was noted for his Ayyankali and Buddha sculptures at Venganur and Koduman. Known for his rendition of a string of folk songs, including the popular 'Tharaka Pennale', he was working as a graphic designer in an IT firm in the capital.
8. Renowned personality Anupam Shyam Ojha passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.
Note: He is known for his work on the TV show Mann Ki Awaaz: Pratigya where he played Thakur Sajjan Singh. He has also featured in Slumdog Millionaire, Bandit Queen Dil Se, Lagaan and Hazaaroon Khwaishein Aisi. Actor was undergoing dialysis thrice a week while shooting for Pratigya 2.
9. Renowned personality Balaji Tambe passed away recently, he was veteran **Ayurvedacharya**.
Note: The founder of 'Atmasantulana Village', a holistic healing centre near Lonavala, Dr Tambe had written several books on spirituality, Yoga and Ayurveda. He is survived by his wife, two sons and daughters-in-law as well as four granddaughters.

10. Veteran footballer Gerd Muller belonged to **Germany** who passed away recently.
Note: He represented West Germany at international level, scoring 68 goals in 62 appearances, and at club level, he played for Bayern Munich, with which he scored a record 365 goals in 427 Bundesliga games. He was nicknamed as 'Bomber der Nation' (the nation's Bomber) or simply Der Bomber for his scoring-provess.
11. Famous sports personality Chinmoy Chatterjee passed away recently, he was associated with **Football**.
Note: He played for the three Maidan heavyweights in his prime in 1970-80s and was a member of Indian team at 1978 Bangkok Asian Games where they finished 4th in quarterfinal league. He played for Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting, during his domestic career. He also represented Bengal in the Santosh Trophy four times.
12. Former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Kalyan Singh who passed away recently was former governor of **Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh**.
Note: Former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Kalyan Singh passed away. He had served as the CM of Uttar Pradesh twice — June 1991 to December 1992 and September 1997 to November 1999 and was the CM of UP during the demolition of the Babri Masjid.
13. Renowned sportsman Syed Shahid Hakim associated with **Football** who passed away recently.
Note: He is the son of legendary football coach Syed Abdul Rahim. He has served as the coach of several teams including the Mahindra & Mahindra (Now Mahindra United), Salgaocar and Hindustan FC and Bengal Mumbai FC(2004-2005).
14. Famous sportsman O Chandrasekharan, popularly known as Olympian Chandrasekharan passed away recently, he was associated with **Football**.
Note: He had been suffering from dementia for a decade or so. Chandrasekharan, who played as a defender, was a member of the Indian team in the 1960 Rome Olympics, the last time the country participated in football at the Games.
15. Renowned personality Pt Subhankar Banerjee passed away recently, he was a veteran **Percussionist**.
Note: Banerjee, who had done jugalbandi with all legendary classicists from Pt Ravi Shankar, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan to Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma had been admitted to the hospital on June 20 and was on oxygen support for months. He was a recipient of Sangeet Samman and Sangeet Maha Samman by the West Bengal government.
16. Renowned personality Naushad passed away recently, he was a veteran **Chef**.
Note: Naushad was introduced to the culinary world by his father who had a catering business in Thiruvalla. After completing his hotel management course, he became a full-time chef and shot into the spotlight by hosting cooking shows on television.
17. Renowned personality Buddhadeb Guha passed away recently was a noted author of **Bengali** language, who authored several popular books including Madhukari (Honey Gatherer).
Note: His novels and short stories have been highly acclaimed by critics which helped him win several awards, including the Ananda Purashkar and Sharat Puraskar. He was also a noted classical singer and proficient illustrator. Besides Madhukari, some of Guha's notable works include Koeler Kachhe, Sobinoy Nibedon and Baba Howa.

July 2021

1. Renowned personality Raj Kaushal passed away recently, he was a veteran **Film Maker**.
Note: He was married to actor-TV presenter Mandira Bedi. Apart from direction, Kaushal had also produced filmmaker Onir's 2005 acclaimed drama "My Brother... Nikhil", starring Sanjay Suri and Juhi Chawla. His last directorial was the 2006 thriller, "Anthony Kaun Hai?", starring Arshad Warsi and Sanjay Dutt.
2. Renowned personality K.V. Sampath Kumar has passed away recently, he was a veteran **Journalist**.
Note: He, along with his wife, was selected for the Padma Shri honour from the Government of India in 2020 for his contribution to the field of Literature & Education. He has also received several awards like the Siddarudha award, the Shivaratri Deshikendra Media award, the Abdul Kalam award and others.
3. Renowned personality Donald Rumsfeld passed away recently he was veteran **Politician**.
Note: He served two-time as defense secretary and a one-time presidential candidate of USA. Regarded by former colleagues as equally smart and combative, patriotic and politically cunning, Rumsfeld had a storied career under four presidents and nearly a quarter-century in corporate America.
4. Renowned sportsman M Prasannan passed away recently, he was associated with **Football**.
Note: He played for Kerala, Maharashtra and Goa in Santosh Trophy National Football Championship. He was part of the Indian team coached by PK Banerjee and captained by Inder Singh in the Merdeka Cup in 1973.
5. Legendary actor Dilip Kumar passed away recently.
Note: Legendary actor Dilip Kumar (98) passed away after a prolonged illness in Mumbai. Dilip Kumar made his Hindi film debut in 1944 with the movie 'Jwar Bhata'. In a career spanning over six decades, Dilip Kumar gave multiple hits such as 'Mughal-e-Azam', 'Naya Daur', 'Baabul', 'Deedar', 'Madhumati', 'Devdas', 'Ganga Jamuna', 'Ram Aur Shyam', 'Karma' and others.

- Dilip Kumar's portrayal in various doomed movies earned him the title of 'tragedy king'.
6. Renowned personality Richard Donner passed away recently he was a veteran **Film Maker**.
Note: He is known for directing blockbuster and classic films such as "Superman", "The Goonies" and "Lethal Weapon". Donner, whose real name was Richard Donald Schwartzberg, was born in New York to Jewish parents in 1931. Early in his career, Donner had aspired to be an actor but found his calling in direction.
 7. Renowned sportsperson Keshav Chandra Datt passed away recently, he was associated with **Hockey**.
Note: Born in Lahore Datt was part of the 1948 London Olympics Indian Hockey team. Later as Vice-Captain of Indian team he won Gold in 1952 Helsinki Olympics. In his autobiography Goal, Dhyan Chand rated Datt as one of the finest half-backs of that time.
 8. Recently, renowned sportsman Yashpal Sharma passed away, he was associated with **Cricket**.
Note: He was also a member of the Kapil Dev-led World Cup-winning team. He had got India off to a brilliant start in the 1983 World Cup as he scored a match-winning 89 against the West Indies in what was India's first match of the showpiece event. He scored 1606 runs at 33.45 in Test career and scored 883 runs at 28.48 in ODIs.
 9. Renowned personality Mahesh Kathi passed away recently, he was a veteran **Telugu film critic and actor**.
Note: He had last month met with an accident near Chandrasekharapuram village in Kodavalur Mandal of Nellore district. He was known for films like Nene Raju Nene Mantri, Hrudaya Kaleyam, Amma Rajyam Lo Kadapa Biddalu, and most recently Krack, which released in January this year. He also directed a movie in 2015 called Pesaratu.
 10. Renowned personality Mamnoon Hussain passed away recently, he was former President of **Pakistan**.
Note: He was born in 1940 in Agra, British India and migrated to Pakistan during the 1947 partition. Mamnoon Hussain served as the 12th President of Pakistan from 2013 to 2018. In 1999, he was appointed as the governor of Sindh by then-President Rafiq Tarar, later he was removed from the post when the Government of then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was overthrown by then Pakistan Army Chief General Pervez Musharraf in a military coup d'état.
 11. Tennis Player and Grand Slam winner Shirley Fry Irvin belongs to **USA** was inducted in the International Tennis Hall of fame in 1970 has passed away recently.
Note: She is one of the 10 women to win singles titles at all four major championships (championships of Australia, France, Britain (Wimbledon), and the United States). Shirley Fry Irvin won her first Grand Slam title(singles) at the 1951 French Open against her doubles partner Doris Hart. She was ranked among the world's top ten in 1946 and 1948 and from 1950 to 1956.
 12. Renowned personality Gautam Benegal passed away recently he was a veteran **Filmmaker**.
Note: At 16, Gautam illustrated for children's magazine Sandesh. He made films for the Films Division of India and his movies have also been nominated for film festivals in Teheran, Belarus, Hiroshima, and Cairo among other places. He had received the National award (Rajatkamal) Best animation Film for 2010: The Prince and the Crown of Stone.
 13. Satish Kalsekar was a renowned poet and writer of **Marathi** language who passed away recently.
Note: He was honored with Sahitya Akademi Award in 2014 for his collection of essays 'Vachanaryachi Rojanishee'. He is known for outstanding contribution in the fields of poetry, translation, prose writing and editing. Famous poem: Lenin (1977), Sakshat (1982), Vilambit (1997). His literary career started with collection of poems Indriyopanishad (1971)
 14. Renowned personality Jayanthi passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.
Note: She started her acting career in 1963 and had starred in over 500 films that span across five languages including Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi. She was fondly known as Abhinaya Sharadhe (Goddess of acting) in Kannada industry. Awards: Karnataka State Film Awards and Filmfare Awards
 15. Former cricketer Mike Hendrick passed away recently belongs to **England**.
Note: Hendrick, who played for Derbyshire, was suffering from liver and bowel cancer and featured in 30 Test matches for England. Playing at the highest level from 1974 to 1981, Hendrick took 87 wickets at an average of 25.83 in Test cricket
 16. Famous **badminton player** Nandu Natekar passed away recently.
Note: In the 1950s and 1960s, Natekar was a household name all over India, thanks to his exploits on the court across the globe. The first Indian shuttler to win a tournament overseas — the Selangor International crown in Kuala Lumpur in 1956, Natekar was among the first batch of the Arjuna Award recipients in 1961 when the awards were introduced.

June 2021

1. Renowned personality Poul Schluter passed away recently he was former Prime minister of **Denmark**.
Note: Former Denmark's prime minister Poul Schluter, who negotiated exemptions for his country to a key

- European Union (EU) treaty has passed away. He was born on 3 April 1929 in Tonder, Denmark. Schlueter served as the prime minister of the country from 1982-1993.
2. Renowned Indian-American Tejinder Singh passed away recently, he was a veteran **Journalist**.
Note: Singh founded India America Today, an independent media organisation and news provider based in Washington, DC. He launched IAT in 2012, and we will continue to carry on the work that he started. RIP Editor," the publication said on Twitter on May 29. He was the Vice-President (Print) for the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA-DC) 2011-12.
 3. The last surviving former member of the Indian Constituent Assembly **T.M. Kalliannan Gounder** passed away recently.
Note: He served as a Member of the Legislative Council in Tamil Nadu and also as an MLA thrice, between 1952 and 1967. He was reportedly the youngest member in the Constituent Assembly then and also a member of India's first provisional parliament.
 4. Renowned personality Anerood Jugnauth passed away recently, he was former prime minister of **Mauritius**.
Note: He is the country's longest-serving prime minister with more than 18 years of tenure. He was considered the **father of the Mauritian economic miracle** of the 1980s. Jugnauth held the post of Prime Minister between 1982 and 1995, then again between 2000 and 2003, and later between 2014 and 2017, before passing the torch to his son, Pravind Jugnauth, who is the current Prime Minister of Mauritius.
 5. Padma Shri Dr Lakshmi Nandan Bora passed away recently, he was a veteran **Litterateur**.
Note: Dr Lakshmi Nandan Bora was the first person to receive a doctoral degree in meteorology from Andhra University. He has served as the Chairman of the Assam Pollution Control Board from 1997 to 2003.
 6. Renowned personality Buddhadeb Dasgupta passes away recently he was a veteran **Filmmaker**.
Note: He was also a celebrated poet, had won several National Awards for his contribution to Bengali cinema. Buddhadeb Dasgupta was known for directing critically-acclaimed films like Uttara, Bagh Bahadur, Tahader Katha and Charachar. Of all the films he wrote and directed, five movies - Bagh Bahadur, Charachar, Lal Darja, Mondo Meyer Upakhyan and Kaalpurush.
 7. Asian Games gold medalist Dingko Singh passed away recently, he was associated with **Boxing**.
Note: The Manipur-based former boxer endured a long battle with cancer and even fought COVID-19 last year. Dingko won the Asian Games gold in 1998 and was bestowed the Arjuna award the same year. In 2013, he was honoured with the Padma Shri for his contribution to the sport. Dingko, who was employed with Navy, had taken to coaching after hanging up his gloves.
 8. Renowned sportsperson Nirmal Kaur passed away recently she was associated with **Volleyball**.
Note: She was wife of legendary Olympian Milkha Singh. Milkha Singh himself is being treated for Covid-related complications at the PGI Chandigarh. Milkha Singh has been under the observation of a medical team comprising senior doctors of the institute.
 9. Renowned personality Ashok Panagariya passed away due to COVID-19 complications, he was a veteran **neurologist**.
Note: He was known for his research on nerve cells and neuromyotonia. He was Vice Chancellor of Rajasthan University of Health Sciences, Jaipur and a member of Planning Board of the Government of Rajasthan. Awards: Dr. B. C. Roy Award, the highest Indian award in the medical category and Padma Shri in 2014.
 10. Renowned personality Prof. Radhamohan passed away recently, he was a veteran **environmentalist**.
Note: Padma Shir Radhamohan was one of the great proponents of organic farming. He was the first Information Commissioner of odisha. He was a professor of Economics, later, he practised sustainable agriculture.
 11. Renowned personality Sanchari Vijay passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.
Note: Vijay meet with a road accident and was in critical condition. Doctors performed an emergency brain surgery but could not save him. Vijay, who made his debut with Rangappa Hogbitna in 2011, appeared in many Kannada films such as Dasavala, Harivu, Oggarane, Killing Veerappan, Varthamana, and Sipaayi.
 12. Renowned personality Surat Singh Mathur passed away recently, he was a veteran **Sportsman**.
Note: He was marathon runner, complete the Olympic marathon race, at the 1952 Helsinki Games. Running with the legendary Emil Zatopek in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, Mathur completed the marathon in the 52nd place in 2:58.92s. He was a bronze medallist at the first Asian Games in 1951.
 13. Renowned personality Raghbir Singh has passed away recently, he was a veteran **Army man**.
Note: Brigadier Raghbir Singh was honoured with Maha Vir Chakra, the second highest gallantry award in India by the then President of India, Dr S Radhakrishnan. He is fondly called as "Dadosa". He served as the Provost Marshal in the Military police, during the 1971 Indo-Pak war. During the 1965 Indo Pak war, he was commanding his battalion, 18 Rajputana Rifles (later 11 Mechanised Infantry).
 14. Renowned personality Milkha Singh passed away recently, he was a veteran **Sportsman**.

- Note:** He is the only athlete to win gold in 400 metres race at the Asian Games as well the Commonwealth Games. He also won gold medals in the 1958 and 1962 Asian Games. He represented India in the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome and the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo
15. Renowned personality Kenneth Kaunda passed away recently, he was president of **Zambia**.
Note: Mr Kaunda served as the first President of independent Zambia from 1964 to 1991. In 1991, he was forced to hold the first multi-party elections for 23 years, which he lost to long-time foe, trade unionist Frederick Chiluba. Zambia gained independence from Britain in October 1964.
16. Renowned personality Guruprasad Mohapatra passed away recently, he was former **DPIIT Secretary**.
Note: Before serving as DPIIT secretary, he served as **Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI)**. He was a **Gujarat cadre 1986 batch IAS officer**, who had earlier served as joint secretary in the Department of Commerce. He was also a **member of Gujarat Electricity Board** between 2002 and 2004.
17. Renowned personality Benigno Aquino passed away recently, he was former president of **Philippine**.
Note: Known popularly as Noynoy, he rode a wave of public emotion all the way to the presidency after his mother, Corazon Aquino, died in 2009. He was a three-term member of the House of Representatives between 1998 and 2007, representing the sugar-growing Tarlac province north of Manila.
18. Renowned personality John McAfee passed away recently, he was a pioneer of **Antivirus software**.
Note: A court in Spain had approved the extradition of McAfee to the U.S., where he was set to stand trial on federal tax-evasion charges. Authorities are investigating the cause of death. He was known widely for his eponymous antivirus software.
19. Renowned personality Sivan passed away recently, he was a veteran **cinematographer**.
Note: The ace cinematographer rose to fame in the Malayalam film industry with the photographs, he took for a film titled Chemeen. He has won a National Award three times in his career. His popular films include Abhayam, Yagam, Keshu, Kochu Kochu Mohangal, Oru Yathra, etc.

May 2021

1. Renowned personality Soli J Sorabjee passed away recently, he was former **Attorney General of India**.
Note: Sorabjee was awarded Padma Vibhushan in 2002 for his defence of the freedom of expression and the protection of human rights. He was known for his contribution to the field of constitutional law. He had also helped India win in the International Court of Justice against Pakistan in the Atlantique downing case of 1999.
2. Renowned personality Pandit Debu Chaudhuri has passed away following COVID-19 related complications, he was a prominent **sitar maestro**.
Note: Pandit Debu Chaudhuri had been awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1992 for his contribution to arts. He has also won the Padma Shri and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award. He was also a teacher and writer, who penned six books. Apart from being an artist he was a disciple of Mushtaq Ali Khan.
3. National Awardee Karimanal Venkatesan Anand passed away at the age of 54 due to COVID-19 related complications, he was a veteran **cinematographer**.
Note: KV Anand started his career as a photojournalist and later joined as an assistant of award-winning cinematographer PC Sreeram. He was the founding member of the Indian Society of Cinematographers (ISC). In 1994, He debuted as the cinematographer for the Malayalam film "Thenmavin Kombath" and won the National Film Award for Best Cinematography.
4. Renowned personality Amit Mistry passed away recently, he was a veteran **Film Actor**.
Note: Actor Amit Mistry worked in TV shows like Tenali Rama, Madam Sir and played roles in many films like Yamla Pagla Deewana, Shor In The City. He was also actively involved in the theatre circuit especially in Gujarati shows. He had also acted in Gujarati films. Besides acting, he was also a dialogue writer and director. He was most recently seen playing the role of the protagonist's uncle in the web series Bandish Bandits.
5. Renowned personality Manas Bihari Verma passed away recently, he was a veteran **Aeronautical Scientist**.
Note: He worked as a scientist at the Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) for 35 years in the aeronautical stream. He was given the responsibility for the design of the Tejas aircraft mechanical system, where he led the team responsible for the full-scale engineering development of the Tejas aircraft in the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA).
6. Former Union minister Jagmohan Malhotra passed away recently he also served as governor of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
Note: Jagmohan served two terms as the governor of Jammu and Kashmir. He had also served as the lieutenant governor of Delhi and governor of Goa. He belonged to BJP and served as the Union Minister for

- Urban Development and Tourism in Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government.
7. Oscar-winning 'Moonstruck' actress Olympia Dukakis passed away, she held from **USA**.
Note: Olympia Dukakis was an American actress, director, producer, teacher and activist who performed in over 130 stage productions, over 60 films and in 50 television series. She won an Oscar award in 1987 and won an Academy Award and a Golden Globe for her performance in Moonstruck. She has also won an Obie Award for Best Actress in 1963 for her performance in Bertolt Brecht's Man Equals Man.
 8. Renowned personality Abhilasha Patil passed away recently, she was veteran **Actor**.
Note: Actress Abhilasha Patil, who featured in films like 'Good Newwz', 'Badrinath Ki Dulhania' and 'Chhichhore', passed away due to Covid-19 complications. Apart from Bollywood movies, Patil also appeared in Marathi films such as 'Te Aath Diwas', 'Bayko Deta Ka Bayko', 'Prawaas', 'Pipsi' and 'Tujha Majha Arrange Marriage'.
 9. Former Union Minister Ajit Singh has passed away recently, he was associated with **Rashtriya Lok Dal**.
Note: He was the son of former Prime Minister of India, Chaudhary Charan Singh. Ajit Singh had served as Minister of Commerce & Industry under Prime Minister V. P. Singh; Minister of Food Processing Industries in P. V. Narasimha Rao's cabinet; Minister of Agriculture in Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government and Minister of Civil Aviation in Manmohan Singh's cabinet.
 10. Renowned personality V Kalyanam passed away recently, he was former personal secretary of **Mahatma Gandhi**.
Note: Kalyanam was preserving letters written by Gandhiji, a cheque bearing his sign and other literature associated with him. He was proficient in Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Tamil and English. A staunch follower of Mahatma Gandhi, he was also associated with Rajaji in the 1960s.
 11. Rajya Sabha member, Raghunath Mohapatra has passed away recently, he was a veteran **Sculptor**.
Note: Hailing from Odisha, Mohapatra was awarded Padma Shri in 1975, Padma Bhushan in 2001 and Padma Vibhushan in 2013 for his pioneering contributions to the world of art, architecture and culture.
 12. Renowned personality Shesh Narayan Singh has passed away recently, he was veteran **Journalist**.
Note: Veteran senior journalist Shesh Narayan Singh has passed away while undergoing treatment for COVID-19. He was 70. A columnist, political commentator and an expert on foreign policy, Shesh Narain Singh had a career spanning over two decades.
 13. Arjuna Awardee Venugopal Chandrasekhar passed away due to COVID-19 related complications, he was associated with **Table Tennis**.
Note: He was born in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. V Chandrasekhar is popularly known as a 3 times national champion. V Chandrasekhar represented India in the Commonwealth Games in 1982. e has also served as a coach. He was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 1982.
 14. Renowned personality Homen Borgohain passed away recently, he was a veteran litterateur of **Assamese**.
Note: His body of work includes 11 novels and four non-fictions. He won the Sahitya Akademi in 1978 for his novel Pita Putra but returned the award in 2015 to protest the growing intolerance in India. The late writer was serving as the editor-in-chief of Assamese daily Niyomiya Barta until his death.
 15. Renowned sportsperson Fortunato Franco passed away recently, he was associated with **Football**.
Note: One of India's finest mid-fielders, Franco was a part of Indian football's golden era between 1960-64. Franco was a part of the 1960 Rome Olympics squad but didn't get a game. However, he was an integral part of the 1962 Asian Games gold winning team in Jakarta.
 16. Renowned personality KR Gouri Amma passed away recently she was a veteran **Politician**.
Note: The senior-most communist leader of Kerala, KR Gouri Amma, who was the first Revenue Minister in the first communist ministry of the state in 1957, has passed away due to age-related ailments. She was 102. She was the second longest-serving MLA in Kerala Legislative Assembly and also the last surviving member of the first Kerala government.
 17. Freedom fighter Anup Bhattacharya passed away recently, by profession he was a **musician**.
Note: Freedom fighter and Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra musician, Anup Bhattacharya passed away. During the liberation war of Bangladesh, he worked as the composer and music director at Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. He is also a founder member of the Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha.
 18. Padma Shri awardee Gutha Munitratnam passed away recently he was a veteran **Social Activist**.
Note: He was a disciple of Acharya N.G. Ranga and former Member of Parliament. He founded the Tirupati-based Rayalaseema Seva Samithi (RASS) as a social organisation with diverse activities in the form of reaching out to the mentally challenged, caring for the children, support to widows, tribal welfare, drug addiction victims and special care to senior citizens.
 19. Renowned personality Professor MS Narasimhan has passed away recently, he was a veteran **Mathematician**.
Note: He is the only Indian to receive the King Faisal International Prize in the field of science. He was

- graduated from Loyola College, Chennai, and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay Narasimhan had also obtained PhD from Mumbai University.
- 20. Veteran Media Person** Indu Jain passed away recently. **Note:** She was the chairperson of the Times Group. After becoming chairman of the Times Group in 1999 she evolved a distinctive leadership style, characterised by compassion and inclusiveness, that helped propel the group to new heights. She set up The Times Foundation in 2000, with sustainable development and transformational change as its key goals.
- 21. Renowned personality Sunil Jain** passed away recently she was a veteran **Media Person**. **Note:** Jain has been with Financial Express for over a decade. He finished his Masters from the Delhi School of Economics in 1986 and started his career as a consultant. He then took charge of the export policy desk at FICCI, before getting into journalism with India Today magazine in 1991.
- 22. Renowned personality Dr. Krishan Kumar Aggarwal** has passed away recently, by profession he was a veteran **Doctor**. **Note:** He was former National President of the Indian Medical Association (IMA). In 2010, the Government of India honoured Dr.KK Aggarwal with the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian award, for his contributions to the field of medicine. He was a renowned cardiologist and has been working as the Head of the Heart Care Foundation of India.
- 23. Renowned personality Chaman Lal Gupta** passed away recently, he was a veteran **Politician**. **Note:** He was born on 13th April 1934 in Kaleeth, Jammu, J&K. Chaman Lal Gupta served as a member of the J&K legislative Assembly in 1972 and between 2008 and 2014. He was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Udhampur constituency (Jammu) in 1996, 1998 and 1999.
- 24. Sahitya Akademi awardee Rayangala Shri Krishna Raja Narayana Perumal Ramanujam Naicker** passed away recently, he was writer and novelist of **Tamil**. **Note:** He was born on 16 September 1923 in Kovilpatti, Tamil Nadu. Rajanarayanan was honored with Sahitya Academy award in 1991 for his novel 'Gopalla Purathu Makkal'. He is famously called by his Tamil initials as KiRa, he was known as the pioneer of 'Karisal Literature'.
- 25. Veteran Congress leader Jagannath Pahadia** passed away recently he was former chief minister of **Rajasthan**. **Note:** Jagannath Pahadia served as the Chief Minister of Rajasthan in 1980-81. He was the first Dalit chief minister of the Rajasthan. He was also a former Governor of Haryana and Bihar. He served as a member of the Lok Sabha for four times.
- 26. Renowned personality J.K. Dutt** passed away recently he was former Director-General of **National Security Guards (NSG)**. **Note:** The NSG condoled the death of the 1971 batch IPS officer of the West Bengal cadre who served the force from August 2006 to February 2009. Mr. Dutt had served the CBI and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). Mr. Dutt, along with about 200 "black cat" commandos, had boarded an IL-76 aircraft of the Aviation Research Centre (ARC) to fly the first batch of the counter-terrorist strike force to Mumbai soon after the western metropolis reported multiple shootouts and public killings in the night of November 26, 2008.
- 27. Renowned personality Sundarlal Bahuguna** passed away recently he was a veteran **Environmentalist**. **Note:** The Garhwali environmentalist and Chipko movement leader was undergoing treatment at AIIMS, Rishikesh. For years, Bahuguna has been fighting for the preservation of forests in the Himalayas. Known for spearheading Chipko movement in the 1970s and anti-Tehri Dam movement in 1980s, he was awarded Padma Shri in 1981 and Padma Vibhushan in 2009.
- 28. Renowned personality Rajkumar Keswani** passed away recently, he was a veteran **Journalist**. **Note:** He had warned about irregularities that led to the Bhopal gas tragedy much before the world's worst industrial disaster took place in 1984. After starting his career as sub-editor of Sports Times during college days, Keswani went on to be associated with prominent outlets like New York Times, NDTV, Dainik Bhaskar, The Illustrated Weekly of India, Sunday, India Today and The Week.
- 29. Renowned personality Pandit Rewa Prasad Dwivedi** passed away recently, he was a veteran **Sanskrit scholar**. **Note:** His original works include poetry as epics and lyrics, plays, and prose. He wrote new literature under the pseudonym "sanatana", meaning 'the eternal'. His most significant works, Sitacaritam and Svatantryasambhavam are two epic poems. He has written extensively on Sahityasastra (Poetics) and produced such great works as Kavyalankarakarika, Natyanusasanam, and Sahityasarirakam. In the early 1980s, Dwivedi organized the World Sanskrit Conference at Banaras Hindu University.
- 30. Former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission Srikumar Banerjee** passed away recently (May 2021). **Note:** He retired as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy in 2012. Banerjee also served as the director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) for six years till 2010. A metallurgy engineer from the IIT

Kharagpur, Banerjee joined the BARC after completing his B Tech degree, and rose to become the director of the premier scientific institution.

31. Former Indian Olympian Sakti Mazumdar passed away recently, he was associated with **Boxing**.
Note: Sakti Mazumdar had represented India in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics in the men's flyweight event. In his first fight he beat Nguyen Van Cua of Vietnam by walkover. But he was defeated by Han Soo-ann of South Korea in the next round.
32. Renowned personality O P Bhardwaj, passed away recently, he was a former coach of **Boxing**.
Note: Bhardwaj, India's first Dronacharya awardee coach in boxing had served as a national selector and was the coach of the national side from 1968 to 1989.
33. Renowned sportsman Max Mosley passed away recently, he was associated with **Formula One**.
Note: The youngest son of Oswald Mosley, the leader of the British fascist movement in the 1930s. Mosley was a racing driver, team owner and lawyer before becoming president of the International Automobile Federation (FIA) in 1993.
34. Motorcycle rider Jason Dupasquier passed recently following a crash during Moto3 qualifying race for the Italian Grand Prix he held from **Switzerland**.

Note: Dupasquier was involved in an accident with Ayumu Sasaki and Jeremy Alcoba toward the end of Saturday's session, which was immediately red-flagged. Dupasquier was only 19 years old at the time of his passing.

35. Renowned personality Eric Carle passed away recently, he was veteran **Children's author**.
Note: His classic "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and other works gave millions of kids some of their earliest and most cherished literary memories. His famous picture book "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" has been translated into about 66 languages. His career as an illustrator and children's author gained pace when he collaborated on "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?".
36. Renowned personality H S Doreswamy passed away recently, he was a veteran **Freedom fighter**.
Note: He ran the publication house of 'Sahitya Mandira' and the Indian nationalist newspaper 'Pauravani' that voiced the aspirations of an independent India. He joined the freedom struggle at a young age and participated in the Quit India movement. He was jailed for 14 months from 1943 to 1944.

June 2021

1. Japanese Nobel Laureates, Isamu Akasaki passed away recently, he had won the prize in **Physics**.
Note: Akasaki, a professor at the university, had been recognized for the invention which has contributed to bright and energy-saving white light sources, widely known as LED lamps. He was honoured in 1997 by the Japanese government with the Medal with Purple Ribbon, an honour bestowed on those who have made contributions to academic and artistic developments.
2. Renowned personality Shashikala Om Prakash Saigal passed away recently, she was veteran **Actress**.
Note: She was featured in over 100 popular movies like Bimla, Sujata, Aarti, Anupama, Gumrah, Khubsoorat, Mujhse Shaadi Karogi and Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham. She was awarded with Padma Shri in 2007
3. Renowned personality P Balachandran passed away recently, he was a veteran **Malayalam Actor**.
Note: About 50 Malayalam film fall under his credit as an actor and screenwriter. His character in the film 'Trivandrum Lodge' was noteworthy. He is noted for his works like Punaradhivasam and Kammatipaadam. Punaradhivasam has won a national award and two state awards, while critically acclaimed Kammatipaadam grabbed four state awards. He won two major awards, the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award

and Kerala Professional Nataka Award for his play 'Paavam Usman' in 1989.

4. Renowned politician Bhagwati Singh passed away recently, he was associated with **Samajwadi Party**.
Note: A Samajwadi Party member of the Rajya Sabha from July 2004 to 2010, Bhagwati Singh joined the socialist movement following inspiration from the socialist ideologue Ram Manohar Lohia. Bhagwati Singh was a member of Mulayam cabinet and later stood by Akhilesh Yadav when he was elected as the SP national president. He led the management of Chandrabhanu Gupta Agriculture College in Bakshi ka Talab.
5. **Chandra Naidu was** India's first female cricket commentator who passed away recently.
Note: She had done her first commentary during a match between national champions Bombay (now Mumbai) and MCC in Indore in 1977. She had also penned a book titled 'CK Nayudu: A Daughter Remembers' on her late father, who was a distinguished cricketer.
6. Renowned personality Fatima Rafiq Zakaria passed away recently he was a veteran **Journalist**.
Note: She was awarded the Padma Shri in recognition of her work in education in 2006. Ms Zakaria, who had played an eminent role in the field of education, was

- also honoured with the Sarojini Naidu Integration Award for Journalism in 1983.
7. Renowned personality Ramsey Clark passed away recently, he was a former Attorney General of **USA**.
Note: Clark, one of the architects of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965 and Civil Rights Act of 1968. In a lengthy career of representing unpopular causes, Clark defended or gave advice to Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, Liberian political figure Charles Taylor and Iraq's Saddam Hussein.
 8. Renowned personality Satish Kaul passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.
Note: The actor began his career in the early '70s, juggling between Hindi and Punjabi films. While his popular Bollywood films include Ram Lakhan, Pyaar Toh Hona Hi Tha and Auntie No 1 etc.
 9. Renowned sportsman and coach Sanjay Chakravarty passed away recently, he was associated with **Shooting**.
Note: Legendary shooting coach Sanjay Chakravarty passed away due to Covid-19. The Dronacharya awardee had trained some of the finest Indian shooters including Abhinav Bindra, Gagan Narang, Anjali Bhagwat and Suma Shirur, Deepali Deshpande, Anuja Jung and Ayonika Paul.
 10. Renowned sportsperson Balbir Singh Junior passed away recently, he was associated with **Hockey**.
Note: Born on May 2, 1932, at Sansarpur in Jalandhar, also known as the nursery of Indian hockey, Balbir Singh Junior had played alongside legends like Balbir Singh Senior, Leslie Claudius, Prithipal Singh, Balkishan and Charles Stephen among others. He was part of the Punjab state hockey team and also captained Panjab University team.
 11. Ramon Magsaysay awardee Ibn Abdur Rehman passed away recently, he was a veteran **Human rights activist**.
Note: Rehman spent his life defending human rights, opposing military dictators, fighting for the rule of law and democracy. He was also a strong voice for the country's minorities, including Christians and Hindus. Rehman worked as an editor for various newspapers before joining the commission. He regularly contributed articles for several Pakistani newspapers.
 12. Renowned personality Yogesh Praveen passed away recently, he was a veteran **Historian**.
Note: Because of his immense knowledge about the history of Lucknow, Yogesh Praveen is known as the Encyclopedia of Awadh and Lucknow history. He wrote many books including 'Shantranj ke khiladi' and 'Umrao Jaan' which was later taken as a movie. Apart from being an author, he had also written lyrics for the movie Junoon.
 13. Famous sportsman Ahmed Hussain Lala has passed away due to COVID-19, he was associated with **Football**.
Note: He represented India in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, where India finished fourth. Besides, he was also part of the Indian team that won the gold medal in the 1951 Asian Games. Ahmed also took part in the 1958 Asian Games in Tokyo, Japan, in which India finished fourth.
 14. Famous Dr Kakarla Subba Rao, who served as the first director of Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), Hyderabad, passed away recently, he was a veteran **Radiologist**.
Note: Rao was conferred Padma Shri in 2000, by the Government of India for his contributions to the field of medicine. He was the founder president of the Telugu Association of North America (TANA), an umbrella organisation for Telugu speaking people in the United States.
 15. Former Union Minister Bachi Singh Rawat has passed away recently, he was associated with **BJP**.
Note: He was a four-time MP from the Almora-Pithoragarh constituency in Uttarakhand. He had served as the Union Minister of State for Science and Technology in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.
 16. National Awardee Sumitra Bhave has passed away recently, she was a veteran **Filmmaker**.
Note: She was known for her out-of-the-box content and also for the way she handled social issues in her films. The duo of Sumitra and Sunil together directed several popular films like Doghi, Dahavi Fa, Vastupurush, Devrai, Badha, Ek Cup Chya, Samhita, Astu, Kaasav, among others.
 17. Veteran writer Ganjam Venkatasubbiah passed away recently; he was a writer of **Kannada** language.
Note: He was commonly known as a walking encyclopedia of Kannada language and culture, in his literary circles. Professor G Venkatasubbaiah had compiled 12 dictionaries and had authored around 60 books. He received the Padma Shri in 2017 for his proficiency in Kannada literature, poetry, essays and translations.
 18. Renowned personality Charles Geschke passed away recently he was a computer scientist and founder of **Adobe Inc**.
Note: American computer scientist Charles Geschke, best known as the co-founder of graphics and publishing software company Adobe Inc, has passed away. Geschke co-founded Adobe company in 1982 with fellow mate John Warnock. Geschke, who was widely known as Chuck, also helped in developing the popular Portable Document Format (PDF).
 19. Former governor of the Reserve Bank of India also known as "Father of Indian Banking Reforms", **Maidavolu Narasimham** passed away recently.
Note: He was the 13th Governor of RBI and served from May 2, 1977, to November 30, 1977. He was known for being the chair of two high-powered committees on banking and financial sector reforms.

20. Renowned politician, diplomat, and lawyer Walter Mondale passed away recently, he was former vice president of **USA**.
Note: Former American politician, diplomat, and lawyer Walter Mondale, who served as the 42nd Vice President of the United States, has passed away. He served as Vice President from 1977 to 1981 under President Jimmy Carter. He also served as U.S. ambassador to Japan from 1993 to 1996 under Bill Clinton.
21. Renowned politician Bhumidhar Barman passed away recently, he was former chief minister of **Assam**.
Note: Bhumidhar Barman had served as CM of Assam twice. His first term was between April 22, 1996 to May 14, 1996 and second term was during 2010. During both periods he acted as an interim CM. He belonged to Indian National Congress (INC) and had also represented the Barkhetry Constituency.
22. Renowned personality Sankha Ghosh passed away recently, he was a veteran **Poet**.
Note: Ghosh was one of most important names in Bengali poetry and, together with Shakti Chattopadhyay, Alokeranjan Dasgupta and Sunil Gangopadhyay, was said to have carried on the baton from the poets of the early part of the 20th century, such as Jibanananda Das and Buddhadev Basu. He was awarded the Jnanpith Award in 2016 and the Padma Bhushan in 2011. Considered an authority on Tagore, Ghosh was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1977 for his poetry collection Babarer Prarthana.
23. Famous Table Tennis player **Suhas Kulkarni** passed away recently.
Note: After his retirement from active sports he contributed to the sport as a Coach. He has played in the Masters Table Tennis Tournaments at National and International level. He won the national Masters TT Championship 2019 held in Indore.
24. Padma Bhushan awardee Rajan Mishra passed away recently he was a veteran **classical singer**.
Note: Rajan Mishra was a famous classical singer from 'Banaras Gharana' of India. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in the field of art in 2007. Their proclaimed works include 'Bhairav Se Bhairavi Tak', 'Bhaktimala', 'Durgati Nashini Durga', 'Aarti kijai hanuman lala ki', and more.
25. National award winner Waman Bhonsle passed away recently he was a veteran **Film Editor**.
Note: He won the best editing award at the 25th National Film award for "Inkaar". In his four-decade-long career, he worked with several noted filmmakers including Subhash Ghai, Shekar Kapur, Mahesh Bhatt, Gulzaar, Raj Sippy, Anil Ganguly, Sunil Dutt, others.
26. Renowned personality Jagdish Khattar passed away recently, he was former Managing Director of **Maruti Suzuki**.
Note: Khattar (79), a former bureaucrat, was considered as one of the most high profile leaders of the Indian automotive industry, laying the foundation for Maruti's future growth after the government began its disinvestment in 2002 and gradually exited from its joint venture with Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC). He had joined the then Maruti Udyog Ltd in July 1993 as director (marketing) and went on to become executive director (marketing) in the next six years.
27. Renowned personality Krishnamurthy Santhanam passed away recently he was a veteran **Nuclear scientist**.
Note: He was deeply associated with DRDO, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA). Santhanam was the field director of Defence Research and Development Organization during the tests of Pokhran-II. He was awarded with the Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award, in 1999 by the Government of India.
28. Renowned personality and Padma Shri awardee Manzoor Ahtesham passed away recently he was a veteran **Hindi litterateur**.
Note: Incidentally, Ahtesham's first story was titled "Ramzan Ki Maut" and he died in the holy month currently underway.
29. Renowned personality Michael Collins passed away recently; he was a famous **Astronaut**.
Note: He stayed behind in the command module of Apollo 11 on July 20, 1969, while Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin traveled to the lunar surface to become the first humans to walk on the moon. Often described as the "forgotten" third astronaut on the historic mission, Collins remained alone for more than 21 hours until his two colleagues returned in the lunar module.
30. Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awardee Manoj Das passed away recently he was a veteran **writer**.
Note: Manoj Das was awarded Padma Shri in 2001 and Padma Bhushan in 2020 for his contribution in the field of Literature & Education. He was teaching English Literature and the Philosophy of Sri Aurobindo at the Sri Aurobindo International University.

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. Subrahmanyam 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 Bhupender 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 and Minister of Mines.	Dharwad(Karnataka)
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)

List of Ministers of State (Independent Charge)

S. No	Name of the Minister	Portfolio	Constituency
1	Rao Inderjit Singh	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs	Gurugram (Haryana)
2	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space	Udhampur (Jammu & Kashmir)

List of Ministers of State

S. No	Name of the Minister	Portfolio
1.	Shri Shripad Yesso Naik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
2.	Shri Faggansingh Kulaste	Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development

3.	Shri Prahalad Singh Patel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries
4.	Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
5.	Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture
6.	General (Retd.) V. K. Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation
7.	Shri Krishan Pal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Power; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries
8.	Shri Danve Raosaheb Dadarao	Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways; Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines
9.	Shri Ramdas Athawale	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
10.	Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
11.	Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
12.	Shri Nityanand Rai	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
13.	Shri Pankaj Chaowdhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
14.	Smt. Anupriya Singh Patel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
15.	Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice
16.	Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
17.	Sushri Shobha Karandlaje	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
18.	Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
19.	Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways
20.	Shri V. Muraleedharan	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
21.	Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture
22.	Shri Som Parkash	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
23.	Smt. Renuka Singh Saruta	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

24.	Shri Rameswar Teli	Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Employment
25.	Shri Kailash Choudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
26.	Smt. Annpurna Devi	Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
27.	Shri A. Narayanaswamy	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
28.	Shri Kaushal Kishore	Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
29.	Shri Ajay Bhatt	Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
30.	Shri B. L. Verma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Cooperation
31.	Shri Ajay Kumar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
32.	Shri Devusinh Chauhan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications
33.	Shri Bhagwanth Khuba	Minister of State in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
34.	Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil	Minister of State in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj
35.	Sushri Pratima Bhoumik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
36.	Dr. Subhas Sarkar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
37.	Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
38.	Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
39.	Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
40.	Shri Bishweswar Tudu	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti
41.	Shri Shantanu Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
42.	Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai	Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development; and Minister of State in the Ministry of AYUSH
43.	Shri John Barla	Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs
44.	Dr. L. Murugan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
45.	Shri Nisith Pramanik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

National and International Appointment

September 2021

Name of the Person	Designation
Kailash Satyarthi	Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocate - UN now has total 16 SDG Advocates
Vivek Ram Chaudhari	Chief of the Air Staff succeeding RKS Bhadauria
Justin Trudeau	Third term as Prime Minister of Canada
Alka Nangia Arora	Chairman cum Managing Director (CMD) of National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)
Indu Malhotra	Ombudsman cum Ethics Officer of Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) for 1 year
Ravindra Narayan Ravi	Governor of Tamil Nadu succeeding Banwarilal Purohit
Raninder Singh	President of National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) for the fourth term
Gurmit Singh	Governor of Uttarakhand
Pawan Kumar Goenka	Chairperson of Indian National Space Promotion Authorization Centre (In-SPACE)
Justice M. Venugopal	Acting Chairperson of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)
Bhupendra Patel	Chief Minister of Gujarat
Sanjeev Barnwal	Chief Executive Officer of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
Vijay Goel	Vice Chairman of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti
Arvind Kejriwal	National Convenor of Aam Aadmi Party
GC Murmu (CAG)	Chairman of Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) from 2024 to 2027
Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura	Chairman of National Commission for Minorities (NCM)
Banwarilal Purohit	Governor of Punjab
Jagdish Mukhi	Governor of Nagaland
V. Vaidyanathan	MD & CEO of IDFC First Bank
Harsha Bhupendra Bangari	MD of Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM) Bank
Vartika Shukla	First woman CMD of Engineers India Ltd
Piyush Goyal	India's Sherpa for G20
S.L.Tripathy	Chairman-cum-Managing Director of United India Insurance Company Limited
S Ramesh	MD of Bharat Petro Resources Limited (BPRL)
Suman Sharma	MD of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)
Raja Randhir Singh	Acting President of Olympic Council of Asia
Cyrus Poncha	Vice-President of Asian Squash Federation (ASF)
Pankaj Kumar Singh	Director General (DG) of Border Security Force
Dorje Angchuk	Member of International Astronomical Union (IAU)

August 2021

Name of the Person	Designation
Vice Admiral SN Ghormade	Vice Chief of Naval Staff
Deepak Das	Controller General of Accounts (CGA)
Guido Bellido	New Prime Minister of Peru
Min Aung Hlaing	Prime Minister of Myanmar
Nikol Pashinyan	Prime Minister of Armenia
Lt Gen Tarun Kumar Chawla	Director-General of Artillery
Justice V M Kanade	New Lokayukta of Maharashtra
MS Dhoni	Brand Ambassador for HomeLane
Mini Ipe	MD of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
Prakash Chandra	Non-Executive (Part-time) Chairman of RBL Bank
Dr Dhriti Banerjee	First Women Director of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)
Ebrahim Raisi	New President of Iran
Anthony Heredia	CEO of BOI AXA Investment Mangers Private Limited
John Abraham	Indian brand ambassador for MotoGP
Rajiv Gauba	Cabinet Secretary of India
Rekha Sharma	Chairperson of the National Commission for Woman (NCW)
Vandana Kataria	Brand Ambassador of Uttarakhand Department of Women Empowerment and Child Development
Neeraj Chopra	Brand Ambassador of RBI's public awareness campaign to warn people against digital banking frauds
Mohammad Mokhber	First Vice-President of Iran
Kamlesh Kumar Pant	New chairman of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)
Rajkummar Rao	Brand Ambassador of Cashify
RK Vishnoi	CMD of THDC India Limited (THDCIL)
BD Mishra	Additional Charge of Governor of Mizoram
Ganga Prasad	Additional charge of Governor of Manipur
Noopur Chaturvedi	CEO of NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL) by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
Hakainde Hichilema	President of Zambia
Priyanka Chopra Jonas	Chairperson of Jio MAMI (Mumbai Academy of Moving Image) Film Festival
Mirabai Chanu	Brand ambassador for Amway India
Shanti Lal Jain	MD and CEO of Indian Bank
MS Dhoni	Brand Ambassador of Neuberg Diagnostics
NK Singh	New President of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) Society
Dr Tejendra M Bhasin	Chairman of the Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF)
Ismail Sabri Yaakob	New Prime Minister of Malaysia
La. Ganesan	New Governor of Manipur
Nakul Chopra	CEO of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC)
Sandeep Bakhshi	MD & CEO of ICICI Bank
Alia Bhat	Brand Ambassador of Samsung India
Ajay Kumar	Executive Director of RBI
Carol Furtado	Interim CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
Hitendra Dave	CEO of HSBC Bank (India)

Mansukh Mandaviya	Chairperson of the Stop TB Partnership Board
Sonu Sood	Brand ambassador of the Delhi government's 'Desh Ke Mentors' programme
Banwarilal Purohit	Additional charge of Governor of Punjab and Administrator of UT of Chandigarh
Leander Paes	Strategic Advisor and Brand Ambassador for India's sports edtech startup named 'Sporjo'
Amit Banerjee	CMD of BEML (Bharat Earth Movers Limited)
Rajnish Kumar	Independent director of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Asia

July-2021

Name of the Person	Designation of the Person
Amitabh Kant	CEO of NITI Aayog
Apurva Chandra	Chairman of Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO)
Justice Ravi Vijaykumar Malimath	Chief justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court
Advocate Kalyan Narayan Bhattacharya	New Lokayukta of Tripura
Pushkar Singh Dhami	Chief Minister of Uttarakhand
Shambhu Nath Srivastava	Chairman of the Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA)
Satish Agnihotri	MD of National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd. (NHSRCL)
Andy Palmer	Executive Vice Chairman and CEO of electric vehicle arm Switch Mobility of Ashok Leyland
Sudhanshu Mittal	President of Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) during the Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Nilotpal Gupta	Head of Data Science Unit of ICICI Securities (I-Sec)
Thawarchand Gehlot	Governor of Karnataka
Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel	Governor of Madhya Pradesh
Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati	Governor of Mizoram
Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar	Governor of Himachal Pradesh
P.S. Sreedharan Pillai	Governor of Goa
Satyadev Narayan Arya	Governor of Tripura
Ramesh Bais	Governor of Jharkhand
Bandaru Dattatraya	Governor of Haryana
Union Minister Nitin Gadkari	Brand Ambassador of Khadi Prakritk Paint
Neha Parikh	CEO of Waze
PVSLN Murty	Chairman and MD of Northeastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFi)
Stefan Lofven	Prime Minister of Sweden
Pawan Singh	Joint Secretary of NRAI (National Rifle Association of India)
Vinay Prakash	Resident grievance officer for India by Twitter
Shyam Srinivasan	MD and CEO of Federal Bank
Sher Bahadur Deuba	Prime Minister of Nepal
NS Srinivasa Murthy	Honorary Consul General of Vietnam for Bangalore
Cleopas Dlamini	Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Eswatini
Jose Pedro Castillo Terrones	President-Elect of the Republic of Peru
Ariel Henry	Prime Minister of Haiti

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Deputy leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha
Rasmi Ranjan Das	Member of the UN tax committee from 2021-2025
C Vijayakumar	MD of HCL Technologies
Nasir Kamal	Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)
Sanjay Rai 'Sherpuria'	Brand Ambassador for SDG Choupal
M A Yusuff Ali	Vice-Chairman of Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ADCCI)
Basavaraj S Bommai	New Chief Minister of Karnataka
Najib Mikati	New Prime Minister-Designate of Lebanon
Rakesh Asthana	Commissioner of Delhi Police
Abdulla Shahid	Presidency of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
Pham Minh Chinh	Prime Minister of Vietnam
Ramesh Nair	CEO for India and managing director, market development, for Asia for Colliers
Noopur Chaturvedi	CEO for Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)

June 2021

Name of the Person	Designation of the Person
Kuldiep Singh	Additional charge of DG of National Investigation Agency (NIA)
J B Mohapatra	Additional charge of Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)
T V Narendran	President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2021-22
Isaac Herzog	President of Israel
A K Mishra	Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
Vikramjit Sen	Chairman of Digital Media Content Regulatory Council (DMRC) by Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF)
Patrick Amoth	Chairman of WHO Executive Board
Adar Poonawalla	Chairman of Magma Fincorp
Paresh B Lal	Grievance Officer for India by WhatsApp
Pradeep Chandran Nair	DG of Assam Rifles
R S Sodhi	Board of International Dairy Federation (IDF)
Vishwavir Ahuja	Managing Director and CEO of RBL Bank
Ranjitsinh Disale	World Bank Education Advisor from June 2021 to June 2024
Hitendra Dave	CEO of HSBC India
Sanjeev Sahai	Chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)
Abdulla Shahid	President of the 76th session of United Nations General Assembly
Anup Chandra Pandey	Election Commissioner of India
Girish Chandra Chaturvedi	Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank by RBI
Chandra Shekhar Ghosh	MD and CEO of Bandhan Bank by RBI
M K Jain	Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India
António Guterres	UN Chief for the second term in United Nations Security Council
Choguel Kokalla Maiga	Transitional PM of Mali
Ukhnaa Khurelsukh	6th President of Mongolia

M R Kumar	Chairman of LIC
Benedetto Vigna	CEO of Ferrari
Debbie Hewitt	First Chairwoman of England's Football Association
Rebeca Grynspan	Secretary-General of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
Sanjay Yadav	Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court
Naftali Bennett	13th Prime Minister of Israel
Satya Nadella	CEO and Chairman of Microsoft Corporation
Yuvraj Singh	Brand Ambassador of PUMA India
Antonio Guterres	Secretary of United Nations for the 2nd term
Ebrahim Raisi	President of Iran
Mawya Sudan	First woman from Jammu and Kashmir to be inducted as a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force
Pratima Murthy	Director of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS)
Manpreet Singh	Captain for India's Men's Hockey Team for Tokyo Olympics
Rani Rampal	Captain for India's Women's Hockey Team for Tokyo Olympics
Suresh N Patel	Acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) of India
Karnam Malleswari	First Vice-Chancellor of Delhi Sports University
Meenesh Shah	Chairman of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) for 6 months
Praveen Sinha	Special Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
Jeremy Kessel	Grievances Officer for India by Twitter
Shambhu Nath Srivastava	Chairman of Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA)

May

Name of the Person	Designation of the Person
Niraj Bajaj	Chairman of Bajaj Auto
Mahesh Balasubramanian	MD of Kotak Mahindra Life insurance Company Limited (KLI)
T Rabi Sankar	4th Deputy Governor of RBI
M K Stalin	23rd Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
N Rangasamy	Chief Minister of Union Territory of Puducherry
RM Sundaram	Director of Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR)
Biswa Sarma	New Chief Minister of Assam
Ujjwala Singhania	38th National President of FLO (FICCI Ladies Organisation)
Bill Nelson	14th Administrator of NASA
Jose J Kattoor	Executive Director of RBI
Arun Kumar Singh	CMD of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
Padmakumar Nair	CEO of National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd
Yoweri Museveni	President of Uganda for 6th term
KP Sharma Oli	Prime Minister of Nepal
Ramesh Powar	Head Coach of Indian Women's Cricket Team

Gunjan Shah	CEO of Bata India
Abhay Tewari	MD and CEO of Star Union Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company Ltd (SUD LIFE)
Neera Tanden	Senior Advisor to US President Joe Biden
Himanta Biswa Sarma	Badminton World Federation (BWF) council for the period 2021-25
Narinder Batra	President of International Hockey Federation (FIH)
Anatole Collinet Makosso	Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo
Rajesh Bansal	CEO of Reserve Bank of Innovation Hub (RBIH)
Subodh Kumar Jaiswal	Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
Fiams Naomi Mata'afa	First Female Prime Minister of Samoa
Guillermo Lasso	President of Ecuador
Andy Jassy	CEO of Amazon
Penpa Tsering	President of Tibetan Government-in-exile
Bashar Hafez al-Assad	President of Syria for the fourth term
Aashritha V Olety (Squadron Leader)	First female flight test engineer in the Indian Air Force
Jagjit Pavadia	President of International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)
Laurence Des Cars	First Female President of Musee Du Louvre

April 2021

Name of the Person	Designation of the Person
Subhash Kumar	Chairman and MD of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
Mukhmeet S Bhatia	DG of Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)
R K Chhibber	Chairman and MD of Jammu and Kashmir Bank
Urjit Patel	Additional Director of Britannia Industries
Mallika Srinivasan	Chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)
Eduard Heger	Prime Minister of Slovakia
Amit Chadha	MD and CEO of L&T Technology Services
Tarun Bajaj	Revenue Secretary under Finance Ministry
Ajay Seth	Economic Affairs Secretary
Shabir Hussein Shekhadam Khandwawala	BCCI Anti-Corruption Unit Chief
Vjosa Osmani Sadriu	President of Kosovo
Nguyen Xuan Phuc	President of Vietnam
Pham Minh Chinh	Prime Minister of Vietnam
Chintan Vaishnav	Mission Director of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog
Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou	Prime Minister of Niger
S Ramann	CMD of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
Siddharth Logjam	DG of NADA (National Anti-Doping Agency)
Sushil Chandra	Chief Election Commissioner of India
Guillermo Lasso	President of Ecuador
Claude Joseph	Prime Minister of Haiti
Murali M Natrajan	MD and CEO of DCB Bank
Miguel Diaz Canel	President of Cuba
Kim Boo Kyum	Prime Minister of South Korea
Atanu Chakraborty	Part-Time Chairman of HDFC Bank for 3 years

Rekha Menon	1st woman Chairperson of National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)
Arun Raste	MD and CEO of National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX)
Ajay Seth	Director of Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
Rajesh Bindal	Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court
Vaishali Hiwase	First Woman commanding officer in BRO (Border Roads Organisation)
TV Somanathan	Finance Secretary for 2 years
Amitabh Chaudhry	MD and CEO of Axis Bank
Vimla Singh Kapoor	Judge of Chhattisgarh High Court

Books and Authors

September 2021

- Vir Sanghvi** has authored the book titled 'A Rude Life: The Memoir'.
Note: Through this book, the author has shared his views and experience of the most eventful careers in Indian journalism, including his personal life, stories of and about celebrities and politicians, middlemen and behind-the-scene actors.
- Angelina Jolie** has authored the book titled "Know Your Rights and Claim Them: A Guide for Youth".
Note: Angelina Jolie recently took to her official Instagram handle and informed everyone about the release of her upcoming book, Know Your Rights and Claim Them: A Guide for Youth. She further added pictures of people from different parts of the world with whom she will be interacting with on a Zoom call.
- Tamanna Bhatia** has authored the book titled 'Back to the Roots'.
Note: The book is based on intensive research and mentions India's ancient secrets of health and wellness. All the chapters in 'Back To the Roots' are complete with tried-and-tested secrets that have served generations of this country."
- Subramanian Swamy** has authored the book titled 'Human Rights and Terrorism in India'.
Note: He has come out with a book "Human Rights and Terrorism in India" which traces how the combating of terrorism can be harmonised with human and fundamental rights within reasonable restrictions that are permitted by the Constitution and upheld by the Supreme Court.
- Uday Bhatia** has authored the book titled "Bullets Over Bombay: Satya and the Hindi Film Gangster".
Note: The Book deals with the testimonies from Ram Gopal Varma, Anurag Kashyap, Manoj Bajpayee, Vishal Bhardwaj, Saurabh Shukla. Uday Bhatia is a film critic with Mint Lounge in Delhi. He has previously worked with Time Out Delhi and The Sunday Guardian. His writing has appeared in The Caravan, GQ, The Indian Quarterly, The Indian Express and The Hindu Business Line.
- Dr Utpal K. Banerjee** has authored the book titled "Gita Govinda: Jaydeva's Divine Odyssey".
Note: The book is the first-ever fully-rhymed translation of the book GeetaGovindam by great 12th-century poet Jayadeva. Union Minister also launched a programme named 'BujurgonkiBaat-DeshKeSaath' that aims at enhancing the interaction between the youth and the elder persons who are 95 years and above and thus have spent around 18 years in India before independence.
- Subramanian Swamy** has authored the book titled 'Human Rights and Terrorism in India'.
Note: He has come out with a book "Human Rights and Terrorism in India" which traces how the combating of terrorism can be harmonised with human and fundamental rights within reasonable restrictions that are permitted by the Constitution and upheld by the Supreme Court.
- Jhumpa Lahiri** is the author of the book titled "Translating Myself and Others".
Note: This book is planned to be out in Spring 2022. It will be a collection of essays that reflect Lahiri's experiences on the meaning of translation, translating her own writing, and writing across languages. She won Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for her debut collection of short-stories Interpreter of Maladies (1999).
- The author of the book titled 'Dancing with Dreams,' -- **Adityanath Das**.
Note: The poems reflect the inner journey of the poet. They assert that whatever may be the tensions and turbulence, inside or outside, one can still remain humane.
- The author of the book titled '400 Days' -- **Chetan Bhagat**.

Note: It is the third novel in Keshav-Saurabh series, after 'The Girl in Room 105' and 'One Arranged Murder'. 400 Days is a tale of suspense, human relationships, love, friendship, the crazy world we live in and, above all, a mother's determination to never give up. It will be published by Westland.

11. **Kulpreet Yadav** has authored the book titled "The Battle of Rezang La".
Note: The book was published under Penguin Random House's "Veer" imprint. A new book tells the story of 120 Indian soldiers who put up a valiant fight against the 5,000-strong Chinese military troops in the 1962 Indo-China war, preventing a possible occupation of the entire Ladakh region.
12. The book titled 'My Life in Full: Work, Family and our Future' is a memoir of business-women **Indira Nooyi**.

Note: In her book Indra Nooyi focusses on the importance that organisational support plays in working women's lives. She tells that how did a middle-class girl from Chennai who went to business school "with men, was taught by men and studied the work of men to enter industries dominated by men" become the global chief executive of PepsiCo in 2006 and only the 11th woman to lead a Fortune 500 company.

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

August 2021

1. **Kunal Basu** is the author of the book titled 'In An Ideal World'.
Note: The novel will be published by Penguin Random House India. The novel is a powerful, gritty and fast-paced literary novel with a variety of themes like college, politics, family, crime investigation and fanaticism. Kunal Basu is best-known for The Japanese Wife, The Opium Clerk, The Miniaturist, Racists, The Yellow Emperor's Cure and Sarojini's Mother.
2. **Manan Bhatt** has authored the book titled "Balakot Air Strike: How India Avenged Pulwama".
Note: According to the publisher, the book, "a racy thriller" with "adrenalin-pushing action", would make readers' patriotism brim over, while filling them with a sense of gratitude and pride towards the armed forces. The book, in its detailed account of the "two epochal events", claims to capture everything "from moments before the ill-fated CRPF bus was hit, to the cockpits from where precision bombs were triggered and what transpired in those 12 momentous, expectation-filled days.
3. **Harshaa Bharatula** has authored the book titled "The Khan of Khel Khudai".
Note: The book gives readers an insight into the culture and the complex manoeuvres of multiple entities – Afghan and non-Afghan. The story captures readers' attention, especially now when political conditions in Afghanistan have made headlines worldwide.
4. **Sanjay Gubbi** has authored the book titled "Leopard Diaries: The Rosette in India".
Note: The book titled "Leopard Diaries: The Rosette in India" book written by Wildlife Biologist Sanjay Gubbi has been released recently. In this book, he says about the food habits, ecological context, and conservation of Leopard along with the suggestions to overcome leopard-human conflict.
5. **Ramesh Babu** has authored the book titled "My Own Mazagon".
Note: The book published by Indus Source Books features the history and story of Mazagon, the island which was merged into a single entity as Bombay. The Book rediscovers the forgotten history of Mazagon and resurrects the identity of Maza Gaon, or 'My own Village'. Captain Ramesh Babu retired from Mumbai after serving the Indian Navy at Mazagon Dock.
6. The book titled 'A Begum and A Rani' book has been authored by **Rudrangshu Mukherjee**.
Note: This book was published by Penguin House. This book tells the story of two women in a rebellion. The afterlives of the begum and the rani took on very different hues.
7. **Sudha Murty** has authored the book titled 'How the Earth Got Its Beauty'.
Note: Book has been published by Penguin Random House imprint Puffin, and features illustrations by Priyanka Pachpande. Book introduces the works of some of the finest storytellers of India to young, emerging readers in beautiful pictorial editions. Sudha Murthy is the chairperson of Infosys Foundation
8. **Rijula Das** has authored the book titled 'A Death in Shonagachhi'.
Note: The book is published by Picador India, an imprint at Pan Macmillan India. The World English rights outside India are sold to Amazon Crossing, for publication in June 2022 with the title "Small Deaths". Rijula Das is a short story author from West Bengal based in Wellington, New Zealand. She has taught writing at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.
9. **Brisha Jain** has authored the book titled "The Year That Wasn't – The Diary of a 14-Year-Old".
Note: Veteran actor Shabana Azmi has launched the book titled "The Year That Wasn't – The Diary of a 14-

- Year-Old”, which is penned by Kolkata girl Brisha Jain. The book was written by a 14-year-old girl, which chronicles the lockdown days seen through her eyes as the Covid-19 pandemic spreading last year.
10. **Manreet Sodhi Someshwar** is the author of the book ‘Lahore: Book 1 of the Partition Trilogy’.
Note: The book published by HarperCollins Publisher India traces back the turbulent years of India’s Independence. The Lahore: Book 1 of the Partition Trilogy, the first book of the Trilogy is set in Lahore discussing the effects of the partition on ordinary people and women.
 11. **Jaideep Hardikar** has authored the book titled ‘Ramrao: The Story of India’s Farm Crisis’.
Note: This book was published by HarperCollins India, the book released on ‘SoftCover’, ThePrint’s e-venue to launch select non-fiction books. This book aims to contextualise India’s ongoing farmers’ agitation and farm suicides by centring it around the experience of an individual.
 12. The book titled “The Dream of Revolution: A Biography of Jayaprakash Narayan” has been authored by **Bimal Prasad and Sujata Prasad**.
Note: The book marks the biography of revolutionary leader and independence activist Jayaprakash Narayan, popularly referred to as JP or Lok Nayak. The book will be published by the Penguin Random House India.
 13. **Subhadra Sen Gupta** has authored the book titled “Let’s Go Time Travelling Again: Indians Through the Ages’.
- Note:** The book was released by Puffin Books, the children’s imprint of Penguin Books. Sen was the winner of Sahitya Akademi’s Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2015 award. Famous Books-Mystery of the House of Pigeons ,Twelve O’Clock Ghost Stories, ‘Jodh Bai’ and ‘A Clown for Tenali Rama.
14. **Boria Majumdar & Kushan Sarkar** has authored the book titled “Mission Domination: An Unfinished Quest”.
Note: The Book Published by Simon & Schuster Publisher India Private Limited. The Book talks about the short story of several Indian cricketers life events such as Rishabh Pant, Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, R. Ashwin, Cheteshwar Pujara.
 15. The book titled ‘Battlefield’ has been authored by **Vishram Bedekar**.
Note: A book titled ‘Battlefield’ has been authored by Vishram Bedekar, translated from the Marathi original Ranaangan by Jerry Pinto. The book is the story of a shipboard romance between an Indian man and a German-Jewish woman, both fleeing Europe before the Second World War.
 16. **Ritu Menon** has authored the book titled ‘Address Book: A Publishing Memoir in the time of COVID’.
Note: Menon, who co-founded Kali for Women, India’s first feminist press in 1983, is founder-director of Women Unlimited, an associate of KfW. Weeks after the March 2020 lockdown began, Menon started to write a diary.

July 2021

1. **Dhaval Kulkarni** has authored the book titled ‘Nathuram Godse: The True Story of Gandhi’s Assassin’.
Note: It is the biography of Nathuram Godse, the assassin of Mahatma Gandhi. Pan Macmillan India will the book by 2022. The book features the unknown aspects of Godse’s life, his ideologies and other factors that led to the assassination of Gandhi.
2. **Shruthi Rao & Sushant Singh** has authored the children’s book titled “India To The Rescue”.
Note: The illustrations of the book were done by Shangnik Chakraborty. The book features the rescue operation “Operation Cactus” which averted the Maldives crisis on 3rd November 1988. Operation Cactus is India’s one of the quickest and most successful missions.
3. **Rajpal Punia & Damini Punia** has authored the book titled “Operation Khukri” which is set to release on 15th July 2021.
Note: The book is published by the Penguin Random House India (PRHI). The book is dedicated to Havildar Krishan Kumar, Sena Medal (posthumous), the only Indian soldier who died in Operation Khukri. The book is the first-hand account of Major General Rajpal Punia, the Commanding Officer (CO) of the 58th Gorkha Rifles, who orchestrated “Operation Khukri”.
4. **Kaushik Basu** has authored the book titled “The Republic of Beliefs: A New Approach to Law and Economics”.
Note: In the book he argues that the traditional economic analysis of the law has significant flaws and has failed to answer certain critical questions satisfactorily. Recently, Kaushik Basu conferred with the Humboldt Research Award for 2021 by Dr Hans-Bernd Schäfer of Bucerius Law School Hamburg, Germany. 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.
5. **Kaushik Basu** has authored the book titled “Policymaker’s Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, D.C.”.
Note: The book features the journal records of his career of 7 years, during which he served as the Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) to the Indian Government and the Chief Economist at the World Bank in Washington D.C., The book is published by Simon & Schuster Publishers India Pvt Ltd.

6. **Baljit Kaur Tulsi** has authored the book titled 'The Ramayan of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji'.
Note: The book has been authored by Late Baljit Kaur Tulsi. The book has been published by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi. Guru Gobind Singh: He was the tenth and last of Sikh gurus in human form. He was a spiritual master, warrior, poet, and philosopher, who was enthroned at the 'Guru Gaddi'.
7. **J.S. Iftekhar** has authored the book titled 'Urdu Poets and Writers - Gems of Deccan' which was received by the Vice President, Venkaiah Naidu.
Note: It is authored by senior journalist, J.S. Iftekhar. The book is an anthology of prose and poetry that encapsulates the life and works of 51 outstanding poets and writers of the Deccan region. The book traces the rich literary and cultural traditions of Deccan, right from the time of Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, the founder of Hyderabad, to the present times.
8. **Jairam Ramesh** has authored the book titled 'The Light of Asia'.
Note: This book is a biography of an epic bio-poem on the Buddha. Ramesh, the author, Member of Parliament, former Union Minister, and Congress leader, digs deep in his new book to bring out the fascinating story behind the epic 1879 poem, "The Light of Asia" by Sir Edwin Arnold, that took the world by storm and in some ways, brought the Buddha's story to the world at the turn of the last century.
9. **Ashok Chakravarti** has authored the book titled "The Struggle Within: A Memoir of the Emergency".
Note: The Book is Published By HarperCollins India. The Struggle Within: A Memoir of the Emergency book deals with one of independent India's darkest hours during the emergency period. The Emergency (1975-1977) was one of independent India's darkest hours. In that period, over 150,000 people were imprisoned without trial; as many as eleven million forcibly sterilized, and countless killed in police firings or otherwise eliminated.
10. **Bimal Jalan** is the author of the book titled 'The India Story'.
Note: The book focuses on India's economic history and aims to provide lessons for the future of India's political economy. The India Story is published by Rupa Publications India. He has previously written three books namely 'India Then and Now' (2020), 'India Ahead' (2018) and 'Politics Trumps Economics' (2012).
11. **Imtiaz Anees** has authored the book titled 'Riding Free: An Olympic Journey'.
Note: HarperCollins announced to present the story of an Indian equestrian rider and his Olympic dream 'Riding Free: My Olympic Journey' by Imtiaz Anees. Imtiaz Anees is an equestrian Olympian, trainer, competitor, NBC commentator, qualified Level 2 instructor and coach educator. As the only equestrian Olympian in India, he wants to share his knowledge and experience with all other riders and offers internship programmes to teach equine management through the book.
12. **Vijay Gokhale** has authored the book titled "The Long Game: How the Chinese Negotiate with India".
Note: India and China have had a fractured relationship since the 1950s. **The Long Game by Vijay Gokhale**, published by Penguin Random House, details the various diplomatic strategies and tactics used by the Chinese for negotiation. Gokhale, who has spent nearly four decades in the Indian Foreign Service before retiring as foreign secretary in January 2020, is an expert on Chinese diplomacy.
13. **Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra** is the author of the book titled as 'The Stranger In The Mirror'.
Note: It is published by Rupa Publications. The book features accounts of noted personalities from cinema and advertising world like A R Rahman, Bajpayee, Abhishek Bachchan, etc.
14. **Dr. C K Garyali** has authored the book titled 'Bank with a Soul: Equitas'.
Note: Dr. C K Garyali is a founder trustee of EDIT (Equitas Development Initiative Trust) and the book chronicles the journey of Equitas and EDIT in transforming the lives of women with frequent social reform initiatives helping them setup micro-enterprises and pioneering financial inclusivity right from its inception. The book documents the journey of Equitas & EDIT in transforming the lives of women with frequent social reform initiatives and how they helped in establishing micro-enterprises and in pioneering financial inclusivity.
15. **Ashok Lavasa** has authored the book titled 'An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation'.
Note: In this book, he narrated about his father, Udai Singh, and his own experience on how his father's principles served as a moral compass in his life, and can in ours too. He resigned as election commissioner in 2020 to become vice-president of the Asian Development Bank

June 2021

1. **Salman Rushdie** has authored the book titled "Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020".
Note: He suggests his work has been misunderstood and mistreated because the literary culture has turned

from brio-filled imaginative writing toward the humbler delights of "autofiction," as exemplified by the work of Elena Ferrante and Karl Ove Knausgaard.

2. **Supriya Paul** has authored the book titled 'All You Need Is Josh: Stories of Courage and Conviction in 21st-century India'.
Note: This book has been published by Bloomsbury. It contains stories of some unique individuals with an aim to reach those who are searching for hope and comfort during trying times.
3. **Amartya Sen** has authored the book titled 'Home in the World'.
Note: Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has penned his memoir 'Home in the World'. The book will be published in July by Penguin Random House. In 'Home in the World', Sen shares details from his life and explores the idea of 'home'. In this book, Sen shares how it was Rabindranath Tagore who gave him his name Amartya.
4. The book titled "Beyond Here and Other Poems", released by Naveen Patnaik has been authored by **Bishnupada Sethi**.
Note: The book was published by Har Anand Publications. The poems featured in the book reflect the experiences of life, perception of death, and philosophical contemplation. The preface of the book was written by noted Odia poet Haraprasad Das.
5. **Amitav Ghosh** has authored the book titled 'The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis'.
Note: This Book is Published by John Murray and will be released on October 14, 2021. This book is about the history of the influence of colonialism on the world today, told through the story of the nutmeg. It discusses everything from the global history of the oil trade to the migrant crisis and the animist spirituality of indigenous communities around the world.
6. **Tahira Kashyap Khurrana** has authored the book titled 'The 7 Sins of Being A Mother'.
Note: This is her fifth book and the second she wrote amid the pandemic. Last year, the filmmaker had released 12 Commandments of Being A Woman, which she finished writing during the coronavirus-induced lockdown. The writer has also penned books like Cracking The Code: My Journey in Bollywood and Souled Out.
7. The book titled 'Will' is a memoir of **Will Smith**.
Note: His book will be published by Penguin Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House and co-authored by Mark Manson. Smith will also narrate the audiobook of Will from Penguin Random House Audio. Will looks to tell a story about Smith's life and career. The book will delve into him being raised in West Philadelphia to entering superstardom as an actor and rapper.
8. The book titled 'Monk in a Merc' is memoir of Indian Neurologist **Ashok Pangariya** to be released Posthumously.
Note: The book gets released after the demise of Dr. Ashok Pangariya who passed away in June 2021. The book talks of his life and experience in achieving eternal happiness and mental peace while pursuing all of life's luxuries and professional success. Ashok Pangariya was a Neurologist and previously served as the vice chancellor of Rajasthan University of Health Sciences.
9. **Ruskin Bond** has authored the book titled "It's a Wonderful Life".
Note: This book is written in a Perceptive, uplifting, deeply moving and in a non fictional way. It is about the joys and positive truths to be found in the smallest of incidents that occur in our lives. Ruskin Bond, Indian author of British descent, is one of India's most well-known children's writers.
10. **R V Raveendran** has authored the book titled "Anomalies in Law and Justice".
Note: The book has been authored by former Supreme Court Judge Justice (retd) R V Raveendran. He explains the various deficiencies in the law which needs to be overcome. The book is an attempt to explain to a common man that the law and the legal system is still evolving.
11. **Sundeep Mishra** has authored the book titled 'Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story'.
Note: The Book chronicles Chand's journey with a detailed narrative of the gender-identity controversy that made her an iconic figure in Indian sport. Dutee Chand, the first openly homosexual athlete from India, scripted history in 2019 when she became the first Indian to win a gold in a 100 metre event at the World Universiade in Naples.

May 2021

1. **Indrani Majumdar** translated Satyajit Ray's book titled "Another Dozen Stories" from Bengali to English.
Note: The book was released on 2nd May 2021, the 100th Birth anniversary of Satyajit Ray, one of India's greatest filmmakers. The foreword of the book was written by veteran actress Sharmila Tagore. The book was published by Penguin India.
2. **Meghan Markle** has authored the book titled "The Bench".
Note: The book is published by Random House Children's Books. The illustrations of the book are done by award-winning artist Christian Robinson. The book was inspired by the relationship between fathers and sons. The audiobook edition of the book narrated by Meghan will also be released in June.
3. **Deep Halder** has authored the book titled Bengal 2021, An Election Diary.
Note: This book speaks about the electrifying election that took place in West Bengal, amid the times of Covid-19. Deep Halder is the author of Blood Island: An Oral History of the Marichjhapi Massacre. He has been a journalist for almost two decades, writing on issues of

development at the intersection of religion, caste and politics.

4. **Kalki Koechlin** has authored the book titled “Elephant In The Womb”.

Note: The book, which is yet to be released, is an illustrated non-fiction book on motherhood. It is illustrated by Valeriya Polyanychko and published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI). The book narrates about pregnancy and parenting for mothers, expectant mothers, and “anyone even thinking about motherhood”.

5. **Shakoar Rather** has authored the book titled “Life in the Clock Tower Valley”.

Note: The book is published by Speaking Tiger, it talks about Kashmir’s pristine past, its grievous present and always-uncertain future. It also includes historical and political information about Kashmir as well as environmental issues that are seldom talked about.

6. **Paul Pickering** has authored the book titled “Elephant”.

Note: This book is about the love story between Natasha and the man in Paris and it explores the interface between fact and fiction. The elephant culturally symbolises India more than any other country. According to the author, his book ‘Elephant’ is an affirmation of ‘I am my voice’. And my voice is as big as an elephant, which in turn is as big as creation.

7. **Boria Majumdar & Gautam Bhattacharya** has authored the book titled 1971: The Beginning of India’s Cricketing Greatness”.

Note: It is the story of a young country (India) ready and eager to make an impression on the world stage. Boria Majumdar, a Rhodes Scholar, is the author of multiple books on Indian sport and its history, and the co-author of Sachin Tendulkar’s autobiography Playing It My Way. Gautam Bhattacharya, currently the Joint Editor of Kolkata’s leading daily Sangbad Pratidin, has been a longstanding cricket writer and commentator and is the author of several books.

8. **Preet Mohan Singh Malik** has authored the book titled ‘Sikkim: A History of Intrigue and Alliance’.

Note: The book’s objective is to clarify the strategic issues behind India’s decision to accept Sikkim’s demand to be merged with India. The book focuses on the history of Sikkim along with the story of how it merged with India in 1975.

9. **Ruskin Bond** is the author of the book titled “All Time Favourites for Children”.

Note: It will be published by **Puffin**, children’s imprint of Penguin Random House. Illustrations of the book was done by Kashmira Sarode. It is a collection of short stories which will feature some of his most celebrated characters and stories like ‘Rusty’s Adventures’, ‘Grandfather’s Stories’ as well as new stories like ‘Goldfish Don’t Bark’, ‘Friends from the Forest’ and many more. Ruskin Bond is an Indian author of British

descent. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 and the Padma Bhushan in 2014 for his contribution to the field of literature.

10. **Kazuo Ishiguro** has authored the book titled “Klara and the Sun Novel”.

Note: Klara and the Sun is a thrilling book that offers a look at our changing world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator, and one that explores the fundamental question: what does it mean to love. Kazuo Ishiguro, a British novelist was born in Nagasaki, Japan, in 1954 and moved to Britain in 1960. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2017 & also won the Man Booker prize in 1989 for his novel ‘The Remains of the Day’.

11. The book titled ‘Sach Kahun Toh’ is an autobiography of Indian actor **Neena Gupta**.

Note: The book was written by Neena Gupta in 2020 during the lockdown, and now it is available for pre-order. In the book, she shares her life story, details the life’s many choices, big milestones in her life, and her battles against stereotypes, then and now. About Neena Gupta: She won the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actress in Woh Chokri (1994).

12. **Shivshankar Menon** has authored the book titled ‘India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present’.

Note: He was the Prime Minister’s National Security Adviser and Foreign Secretary, is exploring these phases in their historical context to tell the story of how India weathered the many geopolitical storms of the past in his latest book. Menon has taken a different approach to history. He underscores the seriousness of China taking Tibet in 1950, which, according to him, was a pivotal moment in India-China relations, but challenges the argument that India failed to stop the Chinese invasion.

13. **Avtar Singh Bhasin** has authored the book titled “Nehru, Tibet and China”.

Note: The book based on years of meticulous archival research, this book in fascinating detail, analyses the events from 1949 to the Indo-China war in 1962 and its aftermath to explore the answers to these burning questions. On 1 October 1949, the People’s Republic of China came into being and changed forever the course of Asian history.

14. **S Prakash** has authored the book titled “The Spiritual CEO”.

Note: The book was published by Westland Publication. In this book, Prakash explores, in the context of Korporate Karma, Korporate DNA and spiritual alchemy, how a CEO can metamorphosis and become a “spiritual CEO”.

15. **Aditya Gupta** has authored the book titled “7 Lessons from Everest – Expedition Learnings from Life and Business”.

Note: The proceeds from the book will be given to NGO Child Rights and You (CRY). The campaign is initiated by The Rug Republic (a brand owned by Aditya Gupta) to

extend support in ensuring care, protection and education to children amidst these trying times. It is a coffee-table book, with 350 stunning images spread over 250 pages.

- 16. Ravi Shastri** has authored the book titled 'Stargazing: The Players in My Life'.
Note: The Book is about some 60 extraordinary talents that Ravi Shastri has met from across the world who have inspired him. It is co-authored by Ravi Shastri and sports journalist Ayaz Memon and illustrations are

featured by Shiva Rao and it is expected to be out in 2021.

- 17. Vikram Sampath** has authored the book titled "Savarkar: A Contested Legacy (1924-1966)".
Note: The release of the book was announced on the occasion of the 138th birth anniversary of Veer Savarkar, the Hindutva ideologue. The book is published by the Penguin Random House India. The book covers the life story of Veer Savarkar, one of the most contentious and iconoclastic political thinkers from 1924 to his death in 1966.

April 2021

- 1. Jeet Thayil** has authored book titled 'Names of the Women'.
Note: This book depicts extraordinary reimagining of the New Testament from the points of view of the women who became the disciples of Jesus Christ - and whose roles have been erased from the Gospels Jeet Thayil: Renowned author, best known for his book 'Narcopolis' which was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2012 and won the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature.
- 2. Nitin Gokhale** has authored the book titled 'Manohar Parrikar: Brilliant Mind, Simple Life'.
Note: The book is published by Bloomsbury. It is an attempt to capture Parrikar's persona — the man, the politician and the patriot. Gokhale is a renowned author, media trainer and founder of a specialised defence related website BharatShakti.in. and StratNewsGlobal.com.
- 3. Shailendra Kumar Joshi** has authored the book titled "Suparipalana" released by the Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu.
Note: M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India released the book "Suparipalana" authored by Dr Shailendra Kumar Joshi(SK Joshi), the former Chief Secretary of Telangana. This is the Telugu translation of SK Joshi's book "Echo T Calling: Towards People Centric Governance". The book was translated by AnnavarapuBrahmaiah and published by Maruthi.
- 4. Sanjaya Baru** has authored the book titled "India's Power Elite: Class, Caste and a Cultural Revolution"
Note: The book discusses the socio-cultural changes that happened in India after the 2014 General Elections. The book analyses the regime of Prime Minister Narendra Modi & Bharatiya Janata Party, on how the party wins state elections in places where it had no footprint. He served as Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's media advisor and chief spokesperson (PMO) between May 2004 and August 2008.
- 5. "Believe — What Life and Cricket Taught Me"** is memoir of Indian cricketer **Suresh Raina**.
Note: The Book is all about the Suresh Raina, it describes about his life, challenges he faced as a young cricketer. He hails from Uttar Pradesh. He is the first Indian batsman to hit a century in all three formats (Test, ODI, T20I) of international cricket.
- 6. JK Rowling** has authored the children story book titled "The Christmas Pig".
Note: The story is about a boy named Jack and his toy Dur Pig, who goes missing on Christmas Eve. "The Christmas Pig" is Rowling's first children's novel since Harry Potter. Rowling returned to writing with the release of "The Ickabog" last year during the pandemic.
- 7. Peggy Mohan** has authored the book titled "Wanderers, Kings, Merchants: The Story of India through its Languages".
Note: The book was published by Penguin Random House India. The book argues that all Indians are of Mixed origins, through the inclusive study of languages like the story of early Sanskrit, the rise of Urdu, language formation in the North east. The book connects linguistics and history to explore the migration impacts on communication language.
- 8. Sutapa Basu** has authored the novel titled "The Cursed Inheritance" that contributes toward the importance of the conservation of heritage through the stories.
Note: The book is published by Readomania Publishing. The book provides an overall view of the heritage of Kolkata through architecture, social customs, modes of transportation and food. Sutapa Basu is the director of Learning Solutions at Eupheus Learning
- 9. Amitav Ghosh** has authored the book titled "The Living Mountain: A Fable for Our Times".
Note: It will be Published by Harper Collins India. The Book is written in the Structure of a fable about Mahaparbat,the living mountain. It is a cautionary tale of how humans have systematically exploited nature leading to an environment collapse. The book will also

be published simultaneously in Hindi and as an ebook

and an audio book.

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**

1. Central & South Asia connectivity conference 2021

- Host: **Uzbekistan**
- Title: **'Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities'**
- Venue: **Tashkent**

- 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

- 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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

4. 42nd FAO Conference

- **Addressed by:** Union Minister for Agriculture, Narendra Singh Tomar
- **Aim:** To support Sustainable Development through the agri-food systems for Better Production, Better

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 Bhusan Harichandan has virtually inaugurated 2-day International Education e-Conference
- Theme: 'Holistic Education for Excellence in Life'.
- Organised by: Prajapita Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalyaya.

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

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.

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

- Head of the session: Rita Teatota (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.

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

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

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.

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)

- 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.

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.

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.

- 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-Netherland 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. Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla inaugurated a parliamentary outreach programme in **Jammu and Kashmir** for the empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institution.
Note: The programme was also attended by lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha and Union ministers. Empowered panchayats under the programme will help in making democracy stronger and increase confidence of people. Parliamentary Outreach Programme for Empowerment of PRIs is a unique initiative of Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla.
2. **Parshottam Rupala** has launched E-GOPALA web version to aid dairy farmers.
Note: It has been developed by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). Along with this, i-MAP web portal has also been launched that provides real-time information to dairy farmers for better productivity of dairy animals.
3. **18th** is the rank of Amul in the Rabobank's 2021 Global Top 20 Dairy Companies.
Note: Amul was placed at 16th spot in 2020. French-based dairy company Lactalis has topped the list as the world's largest dairy company with turnover of US \$23.0 billion, followed by Nestle. Rabobank's Global Dairy Top 20 Report is released annually to rank the dairy industry upon their sales data and financial statements.
4. The Central government has launched POSHAN Abhiyan in **2018** to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers, since then, the month of September is observed as POSHAN Maah.
Note: She urged all aspirational districts of the country to make a commitment to establish a 'Poshan Vatika'. Irani held a consultation with states and union territories on three key areas – Poshan 2.0, Vatsalya mission and Shakti mission. Centre had launched POSHAN Abhiyan in 2018 to combat malnutrition. Since then, the month of September is observed as POSHAN Maah.
5. **FICCI** institution has organized the first ever BRICS Film Technology Symposium along with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and FTII.
Note: It is being jointly organized by FICCI, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and FTII. It is a step in this direction to bring the people from all member states together. The focus of the BRICS Film Technology symposium is to acknowledge the service sector.
6. Under the chairmanship of **Ashok Kumar Tandon** the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting constituted a committee to review the existing guidelines of Journalist Welfare Scheme and make appropriate recommendations for changes to the guidelines.
Note: The committee will be headed by Prasar Bharati Board Member Ashok Kumar Tandon. The committee will have nine Members from different print and electronics media and an Additional Director General of PIB as members. Director (IP) in the Ministry will be Convener of the committee.
7. **Nirmala Sitharaman** chaired the 24th meeting of the Financial Stability and development Council in New Delhi.
Note: The meeting deliberated on the various mandates of the FSDC, Financial Stability, Financial Sector Development, Inter-regulatory Coordination, Financial Literacy and Financial Inclusion. FSDC is an apex-level body that was set by the government of India in order to create a super regulatory body.
8. **Chandigarh Railway Station** became the fifth one to get 5- star 'Eat Right Station' certification from Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.
Note: The certification was awarded by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. The 5-star rating indicates exemplary efforts by stations to ensure safe and hygienic food is available to passengers. Others are: Anand Vihar; Delhi, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus; Mumbai, Mumbai Central, and Vadodara Railway Station.
9. **Third** is India's position as a startup ecosystem in the world.
Note: Over the last year, India has added three unicorns every month taking the total count to 51, ahead of the UK (32) and Germany (18). A privately held startup company valued at over \$1 billion is called a unicorn. The US tops the list with 396 unicorns, while China is at the second spot with 277, showed data from Hurun Research Institute.
10. **University of Oxford** tops in the Times World University Rankings 2022 for the sixth consecutive year.

- Note:** In the overall category, UK's University of Oxford has topped the list, while California Institute of Technology, Harvard University and Stanford University stand at 2nd, 3rd and 4th positions, respectively. IISc Bengaluru, at 301-350 position, is the only Indian institute in the top 350, followed by IIT Ropar, JS Academy of Higher Education and Research, IIT Indore, Allagappa University and Thapar University.
- 11. Indian School of Science, Bengaluru** institution emerged as the best institutions in India in the Times World University Rankings 2022.
Note: In the overall category, UK's University of Oxford has topped the list, while California Institute of Technology, Harvard University and Stanford University stand at 2nd, 3rd and 4th positions, respectively. IISc Bengaluru, at 301-350 position, is the only Indian institute in the top 350, followed by IIT Ropar, JS Academy of Higher Education and Research, IIT Indore, Allagappa University and Thapar University.
- 12. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** joined hands with World-Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF India) to develop a platform, 'India Plastic Pact,' to promote a circular system for plastics _____.
Note: The new platform called, the 'India Plastic Pact,' was launched by British High Commissioner to India, Alexander Ellis. The pact works to create a world where Plastic is respected and does not contaminate the environment. India generates 9.46 million tonnes of plastic waste annually, of which 40% is not collected.
- 13. Smriti Zubin Irani** inaugurated Nurti Garden at All India Institute of Ayurveda.
Note: Plantation of Shigru (Sahijan) and Amla, saplings were also carried out by the both Ministers. All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi (AIIA) under the direction of the Ministry of Ayush initiated the celebration of Poshan Maah - 2021.
- 14. Ayush Ministry** has launched AYUSH AAPKE DWAR campaign from more than 45 locations across country.
Note: The campaign aims to distribute medicinal plant saplings to 75 lakh households in one year. The medicinal plants include Tejpatta, Stevia, Ashoka, Giloy, Ashwagandha, Lemongrass, Tulsi, Sarpagandha and Amla.
- 15. Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** has launched a lab to design and develop a pan-India integrated alert system for disaster management.
Note: It is being administered by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). C-DOT has been running a pilot to send alerts to people at the time of Cyclone Yaas in affected areas as well as for Covid-19 to manage isolation zones in selected states. C-DOT was established in August 1984.
- 16. IIT Hyderabad** gets India's first building made of bio-bricks from agro-waste to counter the air pollution caused by stubble burning.
Note: Sample building is made up of bio-bricks supported by a metal framework, along with roof over PVC sheets to reduce heat. It is part of Bold Unique Idea Lead Development (BUILD) project to demonstrate the strength and versatility of the material.
- 17. TRIFED** in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs will setup an Atmanirbhar Bharat corner in 75 Indian Missions/ Embassies across the world.
Note: First Atma Nirbhar Bharat corner was successfully inaugurated at Indian Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand on August 15, 2021. Purpose: It will be an exclusive space to promote GI-tagged tribal art and craft products besides natural and organic products.
- 18. G Kishan Reddy** launched the programme 'Bujurgon ki Baat-Desh Ke Saath' to enhance the interaction between the youth and the elder people who are 95 years and above and have spent around 18 years in India before independence.
Note: Aim: At enhancing the interaction between the youth and elder people who are 95 years and above and have spent around 18 years in India before independence. The video of the programme should preferably be kept below 60 seconds and can be uploaded at www.rashtragaan.in
- 19.** The government of India has constituted an expert committee to Prepare Road Map for Coal based Hydrogen Production under **R.K. Malhotra**.
Note: The Task Force will be headed by Additional Secretary in the Ministry. Its broad terms and reference include identification of role to be played by each stakeholder Ministry, monitoring of activities towards achieving coal based Hydrogen production and setting up sub committees to achieve the objective. On the other hand, the Expert Committee will be headed by Director General of the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry, R.K. Malhotra.
- 20.** The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a MoU with **USA** for cooperation in the field of geosciences.
Note: The decision was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The main objective of this MoU is to extend mutual cooperation for technological collaboration on exploration for deep-seated and/or concealed mineral deposits, analysis and interpretation of the aero-geophysical data and joint development of the Indian Geoscience Data repository with the Russian state-of-the-art information technology.
- 21. Bhupender Yadav** has launched a portal titled as 'PRANA' for regulation of air pollution in 132 cities across India.
Note: PRANA stands for Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities. It can be accessed

- at prana.cpcb.gov.in. It will cover cities that comes under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
22. Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has launched the first functional Smog Tower in **New Delhi**.
Note: Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav virtually inaugurated the smog tower at Anand Vihar. The smog tower is a structure designed as large-scale air purifiers to reduce pollution particles in surrounding areas. Built by Tata Company, the tower has a capacity of 1,000 cubic metres per second.
23. **IIT Madras** topped in the India Rankings 2021 instituted by the National Institutional Ranking Framework in the overall category.
Note: The Rankings have been released under various categories, including, Engineering, Pharmacy, Management, Overall, Research etc. IIT Madras has topped the Rankings in the overall category, while IISc Bengaluru has come second, which is followed by IIT Bombay at the third place. This year NIRF has released the sixth annual ranking list of higher educational institutes of the country.
24. **VG Somani** will chair the 8-member committee constituted by the ministry health and family welfare for framing new laws for drugs, cosmetics and medical devices.
Note: The new law will replace existing Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 that regulates only import, manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs and cosmetics. The new Drugs, Cosmetics and Medical Devices Act will incorporate regulation of medical devices as well. It will be chaired by Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) Dr VG Somani.
25. India has launched the 'Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind' with **Denmark** as part of the green strategic partnership between the two nations.
Note: It may help provide a push to India's offshore wind power generation plans. This assumes significance, given that the ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE) has set a target of adding 30 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind energy projects by 2030. India plans to leverage scale to lower offshore energy tariffs by harnessing the enormous wind power potential along its 7,600km coastline.
26. Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia has launched the Medicines from the Sky project to send medicines to Primary Health Care Centres using drones. It is an initiative **Telangana**.
Note: The project was launched at Vikarabad in Telangana. Drones carry a payload of vaccines and other medicines to Public Health Centers under the project. The first sortie was carried out by a drone built by SkyAir Mobility for its Consortium partner Blue Dart Express and delivered a five-kg box of vaccines to a community Health Care Center located 3 kms away. The 'Medicine from the Sky' project is an initiative of the Government of Telangana led by the emerging technologies wing of state IT department in association with World Economic Forum, NITI Aayog, and HealthNet Global.
27. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Sardardham Bhavan through video conferencing at **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.
Note: He also laid the foundation stone of Sardardham Phase-II Kanya Chhatralay on this occasion. The Sardardham has been constructed at the cost of 200 crore rupees. It has modern facilities like a hostel, library, career guidance and training center for boys and girls coming from rural areas and a multipurpose auditorium.
28. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the setting up of chair in memory of Tamil poet Subramania Bharati at **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** for Tamil studies.
Note: The Chair will be established in the faculty of arts at the BHU. PM Modi made the announcement on the 100th death anniversary of Subramania Bharati. The Tamil poet passed away on 11 September 1921. The great Tamil poet fondly called Mahakavi (great poet) has a connection with Varanasi. He had obtained his early education from the city.
29. **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** would be responsible for the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojna to be started in 36000 villages of India.
Note: Under the scheme, villages having 50 percent tribal population would be given priority. This scheme would be started by Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Around 1700 tribal villages in Assam will be converted into model village under the scheme. Apart from model villages, 184 new Van Dhan Kendra will also be set up in Assam in order to benefit 60 thousand people.
30. Union government has revised Transport and Marketing Assistance scheme for specified agriculture products and included dairy products in its purview and increases the rates of assistance. The scheme has been administered by **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
Note: It included dairy products in its purview and increases the rates of assistance. Enhanced assistance under the revised scheme is expected to help Indian exporters of agricultural products to meet rising freight and logistics costs. The scheme has been extended till March 31, 2022.
31. **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** has organised a webinar on POSHAN Abhiyaan– Sahi Poshan Desh Roshan.
Note: POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Abhiyaan is Government's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescent Girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
32. Central Institute of Tool Design (CITD) is located in **Hyderabad** has obtained patent for the invention

- entitled Automatic Machine for Production of Conical Shaped Fireworks (Anaar) for 20 years.
Note: CITD signed an MOU with Standard Fireworks Pvt Ltd (SFPL) for automation processes. As a first project, CITD has taken up for Module-1 for flower pot chemical filling-packing. It consists of 10 different stations like paper cutting, pasting, chemical filling, etc.
- 33.** According to G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of Tourism, Culture and DoNER, **Rs 200 crore** amount has been sanctioned by the union government under PRASHAD scheme to boost tourism in North-East Region.
Note: G. Kishan Reddy said that under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, which focuses on integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits, the Ministry has sanctioned 16 projects in the North Eastern region. Under the PRASHAD schemes the ministry has sanctioned number of projects in the region. Approximately Rs 200 crore has been sanctioned for these projects
- 34. BLS International** has partnered with National Health Authority as service provider for processing the cards issued under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) scheme.
Note: BLS will start processing Ayushman Bharat cards across India for the people to avail healthcare services at any of the empanelled hospitals in their respective regions, effective immediately. The cover includes cashless and paperless access to healthcare services for the beneficiary at the point of service in any of the empanelled hospitals. The AB-PMJAY scheme offers financial security against medical treatment costs, medicines, diagnostics, and pre-hospitalization expenses.
- 35. NITI Aayog** has tie-up with ISRO, to launched 'Space Challenge' for CBSE.
Note: This challenge has been designed for all the school students, mentors and teachers across the country who not only are associated with schools having Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) labs but for all the non-ATL schools as well. This is to ensure that students of classes 6 to 12 are given an open platform where they can innovate and enable themselves to solve digital age space technology problems.
- 36.** PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh State University in **Aligarh** Uttar Pradesh.
Note: Uttar Pradesh govt is establishing the university in the memory and honor of noted Jat figure, Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh, who was a great freedom fighter, educationist and social reformer. University will be spread over an area of over 92 acres at Lodha village and Musepur Kareem Jarouli village of Kol tehsil in Aligarh. It will provide affiliation to 395 colleges of the Aligarh division.
- 37.** In collaboration with US-based Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and RMI, **NITI Aayog** has launched a campaign named Shoonya, to promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles by working with consumers and industry.
Note: The campaign aims to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the urban delivery segment and raise consumer awareness of the benefits of pollution-free delivery. Industry stakeholders such as e-commerce companies, fleet aggregators, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), and logistics companies are expanding their efforts to electrify last mile deliveries.
- 38.** Union Cabinet has approved the production linked incentive scheme for auto, auto-component, and drone industries worth **₹26,058 crores**.
Note: The PLI scheme will incentivise the emergence of advanced automotive technologies' global supply chain in India. Incentives worth Rs. 26,058 crore will be provided to industry over five years. The PLI scheme for automobile and drone industries is part of the overall announcement of PLI schemes for 13 sectors made earlier during the Union Budget 2021-22, with an outlay of Rs. 1.97 lakh crore.
- 39.** India will host the first-ever Global Buddhist Conference in November 2021 -- **Nalanda, Bihar**.
Note: It is being organized by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). It focuses on making India the center of Buddhism, by promoting Buddhist activities, like academic, cultural, seminars, people traveling for festival like Buddha Purnima, Vesak. Theme: **Buddhism in Literature**
- 40. Tata Steel** has commissioned India's first carbon capture plant that extracts CO₂ directly from the blast furnace gas.
Note: With this, Tata Steel has become country's first steel company to adopt such a carbon capture technology. It can capture 5 tonnes of CO₂ per day (5-tonne per day (TPD)). The company will reuse the captured CO₂ on site to promote circular carbon economy.
- 41.** Union Minister, Nitin Gadkari has launched an Artificial Intelligence-powered project, titled as 'iRASTE' to help reduce road accidents.
Note: iRASTE has been launched on a pilot basis in Nagpur, Maharashtra with the aim of reducing accidents by 50 percent in the city. The project is launched jointly by the Centre, Intel, INAI, IIIT-Hyderabad, CSIR-CRRI (Central Road Research Institute), Mahindra & Mahindra and Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC).
- 42.** Under chairmanship the Ministry of Defence **Baijayant Panda** has constituted a 15 member High-Level Expert Committee for a comprehensive review of National Cadet Corps (NCC).
Note: Chairperson of the committee: Former MP Baijayant Panda. It will also include Cricketer MS Dhoni and Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra as members. Committee will suggest measures to

- empower NCC cadets to contribute more effectively towards nation building
43. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with **Dassault Systèmes** to support various current and future initiatives of AIM programs and AIM beneficiaries in India that will rave up the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem across the country.
Note: Under this SoI, Dassault Systèmes will support and promote AIM beneficiaries including Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs), AIM incubators (AICs and EICs), Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACIC), grantees under Atal New India Challenge (ANIC), and Atal Research & Innovation for Small Enterprise (ARISE). It will open a new window for select Indian startups as they get access to the Dassault Systèmes global start up ecosystem.
44. As a part of “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav” **Ministry of Law and Justice** has launched “Ek Pahal” drive across the country **Note:** The initiative will encourage mass registration under Tele-Law. The medium of Tele Law effectively provides pre-litigation advice / consultation to beneficiaries by Panel Lawyers through a huge network.
45. NITI Aayog has partnered with education firm **Byju’s** to provide free education to children in 112 Aspirational Districts.
Note: Under this, dedicated working group will be established that will create knowledge, innovation, and strategy support system, as well as actively monitor and evaluate programme implementation to enable efficacy and ensure better scope of delivery. It will empower the children from underserved communities and locations with tech-enabled learning and access to quality education.
46. **MyGov** has launched Planetarium Innovation Challenge for Indian start-ups and tech entrepreneurs.
Note: **Aim:** to bring together the Indian Startups and tech entrepreneurs to develop state-of-the-art technology for Planetariums. It will build an indigenous planetariums system software using the latest technologies including Augmented Reality (A.R.), Virtual Reality (V.R.) and Merged Reality (M.R.).
47. **Rajnath Singh** will chair the group of ministers (GoM) constituted by the central government to look into better implementation of various welfare schemes meant for Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), minorities and women.
Note: It will improve their implementation and effectiveness. **Aim:** to work for empowerment and prosperity of backward classes and minorities. Panel comprises of Home Minister Amit Shah, FM Nirmala Sitharaman, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and other Union ministers.
48. India’s rank in the Global Innovation Index 2021 rankings published by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) -- **46th**.
- Note:** India was ranked 48th in GII 2020. Switzerland topped in the Global Innovation Index 2021 rankings, followed by Sweden, the US, UK and South Korea. Among Asian economies, South Korea jumped to the fifth position, up from 10 last year. China was in the 12th position.
49. The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has launched the country’s first indigenous cruise liner in partnership with private company **Cordelia Cruises**.
Note: This luxurious cruise will take the passengers on-boards to tourist destinations like Goa, Diu, Kochi, the Lakshadweep islands, and Sri Lanka. Cruise will have its base from Mumbai, and will sail to the Indian destinations only in Phase I. Phase II will start from May 2022, whose base will be shifted to Chennai and it will sail to Sri Lanka
50. **NITI Aayog** has released a report titled ‘Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India’, on measures to ramp up urban planning capacity in India, recommending ‘Healthy City for All’ by 2030.
Note: The report has been developed by NITI Aayog, in consultation with concerned ministries and eminent experts in the domain of urban and regional planning. It presents a condensed outcome of the extensive deliberations and consultations conducted over a period of 9 months. The report recommends a Central Sector Scheme ‘500 Healthy Cities Programme’, for a period of 5 years, wherein priority cities and towns would be selected jointly by the states and local bodies.
51. Larger states in the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)’s 3rd State Food Safety Index (SFSI) to measure the performance of States across five parameters of food safety -- **Gujarat**.
Note: Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Shri Mansukh Mandaviya released Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)’s 3rd State Food Safety Index (SFSI) to measure the performance of States across five parameters of food safety. Among the smaller states, Goa stood first followed by Meghalaya and Manipur. Among UTs, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and New Delhi secured top ranks.
52. **Ajay Seth** will head the task force constituted by the central government to firm up recommendations to further strengthen the resilience of the country’s financial sector against risks emanating from various climate and environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues.
Note: It will be headed by Economic Affairs Secretary, Ajay Seth. The panel will look out at ways to further strengthen the resilience of the country’s financial sector against risks emanating from various climate and environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues. It will also look after sustainable finance in India.
53. Two more beaches in India have been accorded the coveted ‘Blue Flag’ certification by Foundation for

- Environment Education (FEE), taking the total number of such beaches in the country to **ten**.
- Note:** Foundation for Environment Education (FEE) in Denmark awarded the certification to Kovalam in Tamil Nadu and Eden in Puducherry beaches. The foundation also given re-certification for 8 beaches that were awarded the Blue Flag certificate last year, namely Shivrajpur in Gujarat, Ghoghla in Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri in Karnataka, Kappad in Kerala, Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh, Golden in Odisha, and Radhanagar in Andaman and Nicobar.
- 54.** Under chairmanship of **K Kasturirangan** the union education ministry constituted a 12-member committee to develop new curriculums for school, early childhood, teacher and adult education.
- Note:** The panel tasked with developing four national curriculum frameworks (NCFs) will be headed by National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020) drafting committee chairperson K Kasturirangan. Kasturirangan is also a former chief of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- 55.** Union Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal has virtually flagged off dwarf container train service from **Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT)** port.
- Note:** This is the first consignment of laden dwarf containers from Mumbai-based JNPT port, biggest container port in India. Consignment was moved by train to Inland Container Depot (ICD) Kanpur. Main benefit of dwarf containers are that they are shorter in size due to which they can be double-stacked, as well as easily run on electrified tracks.
- 56.** The 45th Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting was held in **Lucknow**.
- Note:** A GoM led by Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj S. Bommai has been tasked to propose rationalisation of tax rates and considering the merger of different tax slabs within two months. This marks the first steps taken by the government towards a complete overhaul of the indirect tax regime to augment revenue. The GoM's terms of reference on rate rationalization said that it would be reviewing inverted duty structure in all items except where the Council has already announced its decision to fix the inverted structure.
- 57. Narendra Modi** launched Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission through video conferencing.
- Note:** "This Mission has potential to bring revolutionary changes in our health facilities. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission will play a big role in eliminating problems in medical treatment of poor and middle class.
- 58. National Commission for Women** has launched a country-wide training and capacity building programme for women in dairy farming.
- Note:** NCW is collaborating with agricultural universities all across India to identify and train women associated with dairy farming and allied activities in different aspects such as value addition, quality enhancement, packaging and marketing of dairy products among others.
- 59.** Under '**People First theme**' the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the seventh consecutive edition of Swachh Survekshan (SS) 2022.
- Note:** Designed with 'People First' as its driving philosophy, Swachh Survekshan 2022 is curated towards capturing the initiatives of cities for the overall welfare and well-being of frontline sanitation workers. With this launch, MoHUA also kicks off the week-long celebrations of 'Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- 60.** Along with **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has virtually launched Seed Capital Module under Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme.
- Note:** It was launched on Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) MIS Portal to members of urban Self-Help Groups working in the food processing sector. The portal can be accessed at <https://nulm.gov.in/Auth/Login.aspx> to avail seed capital assistance of Rs 40,000 per SHG member under PMFME Scheme. PMFME Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme to enhance the competitiveness and promote formalization of the unorganized micro-food processing enterprises in India.
- 61. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has launched the Planetarium Innovation Challenge for Indian start-ups and tech entrepreneurs.
- Note:** The challenge aims to bring together the tech firms and Start-ups (based out of India) with the potential to build an indigenous planetariums system software using latest technologies including Augmented Reality (A.R.), Virtual Reality (V.R.) and Merged Reality (M.R.).
- 62. Narendra Singh Tomar** has launched 'Amul Honey', product of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. under active cooperation with National Bee Board.
- Note:** It launch saw the importance of National Beekeeping and Honey Mission for doubling income of farmers and beekeepers through beekeeping with the budgetary allocation of Rs 500 crores. Quality of honey is a major concern in the country for which 5 large scale Regional Honey Testing Labs and 100 Mini Honey Testing Labs are being set up all over the country.
- 63.** Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju inaugurated country's first "Sports Arbitration Centre of India" **in Gujarat** that will serve as an independent body to fast-track disputes in the sports sector.
- Note:** This centre will have "a far-reaching impact" and play an important role in expanding the country's sports sector. The SACI is promoted by Ahmedabad-based SE TransStadia Pvt Ltd as an independent body to fast track disputes in the sports sector.

- 64. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved the continuation of the national scheme of “PM POSHAN in schools”, earlier known as 'National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools till **2025-26**.
Note: The Union Cabinet approved the roll-out of the 'PM POSHAN in Schools' scheme that will provide hot

cooked meal to students of elementary classes in government and government-aided schools across the country. This is a centrally-sponsored scheme which covers all school children studying in classes 1 to 8 in government, government-aided schools.

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- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 their judicial system.
- 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 Vidyalyas 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.
- 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.
- 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 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 (MoSJ&E), 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 imbuing 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 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 Sahasrabudhe 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 and 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Rijju** 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 'Vasudhaive 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 **Paris** 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.
- 35. N K Sodhi** is the chairman of the reconstituted Takeover Panel by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
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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, Bhubaneswar 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 (WSHG's). **Note:** This was done reaching thousands of state-supported Women's Self-Help Groups (WSHG's). 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: NDDB 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 Bibhutibhushan 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 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 was 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 help 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 Mokedatu 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), Anameya' 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 the 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 – State

September 2021

- Jammu & Kashmir** has launched Rural Enterprises Acceleration Programme titled 'Saath' for Self Help Group (SHG) women.
Note: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched Rural Enterprises Acceleration Programme titled 'Saath' for Self Help Group (SHG) women. This Saath initiative will stress on mentoring and market linkages of products created by these women. This will transform the lives of these women and make them independent and strong in social and financial aspects.
- Assam** has decided to rename Rajiv Gandhi National Park as Orang National Park.
Note: The Assam cabinet passed a resolution regarding this. Covering an area of 79.28 sq km, it was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1985, and a national park in 1999. The Orang National Park is often referred to as mini Kaziranga of Assam is also a Tiger reserve.
- Ladakh** has declared the black-necked crane and snow leopard as their state bird and animal respectively.
Note: Black-necked crane, only found in Ladakh region was previously the state bird of the former state of J&K, along with Hangul as the state animal. The crane was chosen as the state bird since it is only found in the eastern region of Ladakh. The snow leopards are mainly found in the western and eastern regions of the Himalayas, including Ladakh, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.
- Arunachal Pradesh** govt has launched two ambitious schemes; 'AtmaNirbhar Krishi Yojna' and 'AtmaNirbhar Bagwani Yojna'.
Note: A total amount of 120 cr – 60 crore rupees for each scheme – has been allocated to the two concerned departments of Agriculture and Horticulture. These 2 schemes are unique as these are both based on front-ended subsidies. Credit link will be provided to the beneficiaries by SBI, Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank and Arunachal Pradesh Cooperative Apex Bank.
- Sikkim** has launched an e-ILP platform to regulate entry and exit.
Note: The e-ILP platform will play a vital role in regulating the entry, exit and tracking of visitors who are overstaying beyond the permitted duration. The e-ILP tracking system had been developed to mend the loopholes in the procedures adopted to issue the permit and its tracking system.
- Tamil Nadu** state government plan to set up India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve.
Note: The reserve will span the northern part of the Palk Bay from Adiramapattinam to Amapattinam.

- Marine biologists and conservationists have long demanded a reserve as the population of dugongs, as known as sea cows, in Indian waters has been dropping to dangerous levels.
7. **Gujarat** state government has launched Vatan Prem Yojana.
Note: The governing body of the Vatan Prem Yojana's society had met in Gandhinagar under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Vijay Rupani. A presentation of details of the scheme was made before Rupani. A project management unit has been formed for the smooth implementation of the scheme
 8. **Haryana** state government to set up International Education Department.
Note: The State Government will fulfill the dream of the youth of the state to study and get job abroad. The International Haryana Education Society has been founded by Rohit Ahlawat a youth from London.
 9. **Tamil Nadu** state govt has decided to celebrate 17th September as Social Justice Day every year the birth anniversary of reformist leader E V Ramasamy Periyar.
Note: Periyar's ideology was all about social justice, self-respect, rationalism and equality, which laid the foundation stone for the Tamil society's growth during the last century and it would also pave the way for the future
 10. India's tallest air purification tower has been inaugurated in **Chandigarh**.
Note: The tower has been installed at the initiative of the Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee (CPCC) at Transport Chowk, Sector 26, by Pious Air Pvt Limited. This is the highest air purifier tower of the country and covers an area of around 500-metre radius and is 24-metre-high. The purification tower will clean 3.88 crore cubic ft of air from the surrounding environment.
 11. **Delhi** state government has launched the 'Business Blasters' programme for developing young entrepreneurs at the school-level.
Note: The programme that will be implemented in all Delhi government schools under the "entrepreneurship mindset curriculum", is aimed at developing young entrepreneurs at the school-level. As part of the programme that was "successful as a pilot project", students of classes 11 and 12 will be provided seed money of Rs 2,000 to start a business.
 12. Global port operator DP World has signed a facilitation MoU with **Tamil Nadu** government for a slew of projects it is establishing in the State at an investment of ₹2,000 crore.
Note: DP World signed an MoU in UAE with the Tamil Nadu Government in September 2019 to invest ₹1,000 crore in establishing a Free Trade Warehousing Zone (FTWZ) and subsequently, Integrated Chennai Business Park (ICBP) in Vallur, Ponneri Taluk, Tiruvallur District was established over an area of 125 acres. DP World's FTWZ was inaugurated on July 20, 2021. These projects are expected to create employment opportunities for 4,500 people (1,500 direct and 3,000 indirect).
 13. **Haryana** state has been ranked as the first state of India in installation of off-grid solar pumps under PM-KUSUM, as per the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy data.
Note: The state has installed 14,418 pumps against 15,000 sanctioned pumps for the year 2020-21. PM-KUSUM scheme: It is a centrally-sponsored scheme, that was launched in 2019 with target to install 20 lakh standalone solar pumps. Haryana was given a target of 15,000 pumps for the year 2020-21 with a total cost of Rs 520 crore.
 14. **Chhattisgarh** state government has launched 'Millet Mission' to provide proper price rate to farmers for minor cereal crops.
Note: The step is in line with Chief Minister's vision for the state becoming India's millet hub. Other important benefits under Millet Mission to includes input assistance for millet, procurement arrangements, aid farmers in the processing of crops and ensure that the farmers get benefit of the expertise of experts.
 15. **Skyroot Aerospace** has become the first private company to formally enter into an agreement with ISRO to get access of their facilities and expertise for the development and testing of subsystems and systems of space launch vehicles.
Note: Skyroot Aerospace is building Vikram series of rockets to carry small satellites into space. First launch vehicle in the series, Vikram-1 is scheduled to be launch in 2022. The agreement will enable Skyroot to undertake multiple tests and access facilities at various ISRO centres and get all help in building the launch vehicle.
 16. India's largest open-air fernery has been inaugurated in **Uttarakhand**.
Note: It will serve the dual objective of conservation of fern species as well as creating awareness about their ecological role, promoting further research. It has around 120 different types of ferns, covering an area of over 4 acres of land at an altitude of 1,800m. Fernery has been developed under Govt's Compensatory Afforestation Management Funds Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) scheme.
 17. Recently SIDBI collaborated with **Assam** government for development of MSMEs.
Note: SIDBI has been dovetailing its promotion and development initiatives on soft side with hard infrastructure through its latest offerings such as cluster development fund. SIDBI looks forward to deepening its footprint in the state of Assam by contributing to livelihood and micro enterprise value chain as also innovation and startup ecosystem
 18. **Tamil Nadu** government is celebrating the 143rd birthday of E.V. Ramasamy as Social Justice Day on September 17,2021.

- Note:** Tamil Nadu government celebrated the birthday of reformist leader E V Ramasamy Periyar as 'Social Justice Day' in the state. Periyar laid the foundation for the growth of Tamil society in the last century and his teachings will continue to pave the way for the future.
- 19. Tamil Nadu** State Assembly passed a bill making the encroachment of properties belonging to religious institutions a cognisable and non-bailable offence.
Note: The Bill that seeks to amend the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 was tabled in the Assembly and was passed unanimously. The law empowers anyone who is having interest in the affairs of the religious institution matters to lodge a complaint against encroachers and temple land encroachment.
- 20.** Union territories **Jammu and Kashmir** has launched new mission titled as 'One Gram Panchayat-One DIGI-Pay Sakhi'.
Note: Aim: to promote door-to-door digital banking and financial services in remote areas of the Union Territory. Initially, it will be provided in 2,000 remote villages of the UT. First phase will cover 80 women from Self Help Group (SHG) from across Jammu and Kashmir division to promote financial inclusion within UT's SHG ecosystem, and create financial access points with greater transparency even in the remotest of the areas.
- 21.** Sirarakhong chilly and Tamenglong Orange are two agricultural product of **Manipur** state have been awarded Geographical Index (GI) tag recently.
Note: GI tag is a name given to certain products that have a specific geographical location or origin and gets global recognition. Hathei chilly: It is a good anti-oxidant and possesses high calcium and Vitamin C levels. Tamenglong mandarin orange: It is bigger in size, weighing 232.76 grams on average. It is a unique sweet and sour flavour.
- 22.** Uttar Pradesh govt. has cleared proposal to develop '**Electronic Park**' in **Noida** to promote electronics industry.
Note: Park is proposed to be developed in an area of 250 acres near Jewar Airport. It will be built at an investment of around Rs 50,000 crore as well as generate employment for thousands of local youths. National and international companies manufacturing mobile phones, TVs and other electronic devices and accessories will establish their units in the park.
- 23. Delhi** government has launched a mobile music classroom and recording studio which aims to assist children of government schools in pursuing their passion for music.
Note: The Delhi government claimed that it is India's first 'Mobile Music Bus' and aims to train children through a media-based curriculum, including audio production and film production, to help them build sustainable careers in these fields. The project is likely to benefit 5,000 children. Under this project, a bus has been transformed into a moving music class, a high-quality music recording studio and a performing stage.
- 24. Odisha** government roped in UNICEF and Centre for Policy Research (CPR) for urban-rural convergence on Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) and Plastic Waste Management (PWM).
Note: A Letter of Understanding (LoU) was signed between the departments of Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) and the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water (PR&DW) and Unicef and CPR. The initiative aimed at strengthening the efforts of both departments to ensure district-wide FSSM and PWM through urban-rural convergence will be piloted in seven districts in the first phase. The Gram Panchayats will now be tagged to urban facilities like faecal sludge treatment plants (FSTPs) and material recovery facilities for effective faecal sludge and plastic waste management.
- 25.** Sweet Cucumber from **Nagaland** has officially been certified by India's Registrar of Geographical Indications (GI) as an agricultural good unique to the state.
Note: It is the third agricultural products and fourth overall to be granted GI tag from Nagaland. GI tag has been granted under Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. Naga cucumber are mostly cultivated in Mon, Mokokchung, Peren and Wokha districts of the state.
- 26.** Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has recently set up a 'Tussar Silk Yarn Production Centre' in **Odisha**.
Note: This silk yarn production centre will ensure local availability of Tussar Silk yarn, create local employment and reduce the silk production cost. Tussar silk is one of the finest varieties of Silk that is distinguished by its coarseness and porous weave that give it a rugged and rustic appearance.
- 27.** Judima rice wine from **Assam** has been awarded geographical indication (GI) tag.
Note: Judima: Local fermented drink made with rice, brewed by Dimasa community in Assam. It derives its name from words ju which means wine and Dima means 'belonging to the Dimasa'. It is the first traditional brew of northeast to bag GI tag.
- 28.** Sojat Mehndi (Henna) from **Rajasthan** has been awarded geographical indication (GI) tag.
Note: Sojat tehsil of Pali district, Rajasthan has suitable geological structure, topography and drainage system, climate, and soil for naturally cultivating the mehndi leave crop.

August 2021

1. In **Ladakh** the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed the highest motorable road in the world at the height of 19,300 feet at Umlingla Pass.
Note: The BRO has constructed a 52-km long black-topped road through Umlingla Pass, bettering the previous record of a road in Bolivia connecting to its volcano Uturuncu at 18,953 ft. The road at Umlingla Pass now connects the important towns in the Chumar sector of Eastern Ladakh.
2. **Uttarakhand** govt has launched earthquake early warning mobile application, titled as 'Bhookamp Alert'.
Note: It is India's first earthquake early warning' app for notifying people about earthquake alerts. It has been developed by IIT Roorkee, in association with Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA). It can detect the onset of the earthquake and issue warnings regarding an earthquake occurrence in the neighbourhood and the expected time of arrival and intensity at the location to prevent any loss of life.
3. **Madhya Pradesh** govt has won five Skoch Awards 2021 (a platinum, a gold and three silver awards) in four categories of governance.
Note: The MSME & textile department led from the front and won four out of the five awards, including the top two. The department's single-window system called Shilpa Sathi was selected for the highest award category, platinum. Another MSME project, auto-renewal of certificate of enlistment through online system for urban areas, won the gold award.
4. **Manipur's** Investment Promotion Society signed an MoU with Invest India of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to boost trade and industries in the state.
Note: The objective of the MoU is to leverage investment opportunities in key development sectors to boost trade and industries in the state. The targets will be focussed on both short term and long term plans. This will enhance the entrepreneurial system in the state while also focussing on promoting one product-one district programme.
5. **Haryana** state creates history by securing first place in Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System (CCTNS) system with 100 percent score.
Note: It is for the first time that Haryana Police has secured the first position in the country with 100 percent marks under this system, while Gujarat has secured the second position with 99.9 per cent marks and Himachal Pradesh has got the third position with 99.6 per cent marks.
6. **Telangana** Government's Information Technology, Electronics and Communication (IT,E&C) department has won 'AI Gamechanger' Award in the Xperience-AI Summit.
Note: The summit was organised by National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), NASSCOM AI Gamechangers was conceptualised to seed awareness and enthusiasm around this wonderful technology and encourage others to emulate the successes in the ecosystem.
7. **Gujarat** has launched eNagar mobile application and portal.
Note: The eNagar covers 10 modules with 52 services including property tax, professional tax, water & drainage, Complaints and grievance redressal, building permission, fire and emergency services. Gujarat Urban Development Mission has been appointed as a nodal agency for eNagar project. Total 170 locations including 162 municipalities and 8 Municipal Corporations are covered under the eNagar project.
8. **Delhi** state government has launched faceless transport services that will bring all the driving licences, registration and services related to permit online.
Note: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also launched 33 faceless services, in a function at I.P. Estate office. Four zonal offices namely, IP Estate, Sarai Kale Khan, Janakpuri and Vasant Vihar will be closed. Motor licensing offices (MLOs) of South zone, Raja Garden and Dwarka, respectively, will look after their Vahan and Sarathi related work.
9. **Nagaland** state government has been conferred with seven national awards on the first Van Dhan Annual Awards 2020-21, during the celebration of the 34th foundation day of the TRIFED.
Note: Nagaland has been conferred with seven national awards on the first Van Dhan Annual Awards 2020-21, during the celebration of the 34th foundation day of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED). The awards were presented by Union tribal minister, Arjun Munda through a Zoom webinar.
10. **Maharashtra** state government has announced Rajiv Gandhi Award for Excellence in Information Technology (IT).
Note: The award would be announced on August 20, birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister. The award, which will be announced on August 20, will be a lasting tribute to Late Shri Rajiv ji for his pioneering work in the technology sector in India. The award would be given before October 30.
11. Bhindawas is located in **Haryana** has been recognized as a Ramsar site.
Note: Four more wetlands from India have been added to the list of Ramsar sites, giving it the status of 'Wetland of International Importance'. These sites are:
 - Thol, Gujarat
 - Wadhvana, Gujarat
 - Sultanpur, Haryana
 - Bhindawas, Haryana

- With this, the total number of Ramsar sites in India have reached 46, covering a surface area of 1,083,322 hectares.
- 12. Investor Summit 2021 was held in Gujarat.**
Note: The Investor Summit is being organised to invite investment for setting up vehicle scrapping infrastructure under the Vehicle Scrapping Policy. The summit is being organised by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the Gujarat government in Gandhinagar.
- 13. Assam state assembly passed the Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021 aimed at regulating slaughter, consumption and transportation of cattle in Assam.**
Note: The Assam Assembly passed the Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021 aimed at regulating slaughter, consumption and transportation of cattle in the state. The Assam Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021 — which prohibits the sale and purchase of beef in areas inhabited by non-beef-eating communities and within a radius of 5 km of a temple or a satra (Vaishnavite monastery).
- 14. Kerala's police have launched "country's first-of-its-kind" Drone Forensic Lab & Research Centre.**
Note: This lab-cum-research centre will look into both utility and threat aspects of a drone. It's a public partnership initiative. Cyberdome is a tech research and development centre set up by the Kerala Police.
- 15. Sultanpur National Park is located in Haryana that has recently been included in Ramsar site of international importance.**
Note: The Ramsar list aims to conserve an international network of wetlands that are important for sustaining biological diversity. The wetlands that received the tag are Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary and Sultanpur National Park from Haryana; and Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary and Wadhvana Wetland from Gujarat. While these are the first two wetlands in Haryana to be recognised under the Ramsar Convention, Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary from Gujarat was given the tag in 2012.
- 16. Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of Ramsar site of international importance.**
Note: With eight wetlands, Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of Ramsar site of international importance. After the Centre declared Agra's Keetham Lake a 'Ramsar site', UP now has eight Ramsar wetlands.
- 17. Maharashtra state government has launched e-crop survey initiative with effect from August 15.**
Note: This project was initially introduced as a pilot in two districts. It is jointly implemented by the departments of revenue and agriculture along with Tata Trust. It will reduce the hardships of the farmers as it would provide them crop-related information without hassles.
- 18. The State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) of Odisha and Telangana have been ranked 1st in the** Transparency Index: Rating of Pollution Control Boards on Public Disclosure report released by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a Delhi based non-profit Organisation.
Note: It aims to encourage SPCBs/PCCs to disclose their information in the public domain. The report assessed 25 indicators of the data disclosure performance of 29 SPCBs and 6 Pollution Control Committee's (PCCs) from across India during the period of 2016-2021.
- 19. Chhattisgarh has launched 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Majdur Nyay Yojana'.**
Note: The Chhattisgarh government has launched the 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Majdur Nyay Yojana', with the provision of ₹200 crores benefiting 12 lakh landless families. The scheme was announced in the state legislature on July 28, by the Chief Minister of Chattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel. The amount has been included in the supplementary budget of the financial year 2021-2022.
- 20. Uttar Pradesh state government has decided to set up training centre for Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) commandos.**
Note: The UP government has decided to set up new training and operational centres for Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) commandos in Saharanpur's Deoband – known for its Islamic seminary Darul Uloom, and four other places in UP. The government has allotted 2,000 sq m land for the purpose. The other strategic places where the commando operational centres will be set up include Jewar (Gautam Buddh Nagar), where new international airport is coming up and Meerut district in west UP. Similar centres will come up in Bahraich and Shravasti districts on the Indian-Nepal border.
- 21. Odisha state has launched Smart Health Cards to provide healthcare facilities to all.**
Note: Through this, all the beneficiaries can avail treatment up to Rs 5 lakh per annum and Women can avail benefits up to Rs 10 lakh every year.
- 22. India's highest altitude herbal park has been inaugurated in Uttarakhand.**
Note: It has been developed in 3 years under central government's Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) scheme. This herbal park is situated at a height of 11,000 feet was and is close to the Indo-China border. Mana: Last Indian village in Chamoli bordering China and is adjacent to Badrinath temple
- 23. Madhya Pradesh state government has launched comprehensive Talent Search Campaign in the field of sports to search for new talented players and train them in 18 sports academies of state.**
Note: CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has appealed to the youth interested in sports to register themselves in the Talent Search Campaign of the state. So far, more than 50,000 play/ rs have applied for online registration of talent search.

24. **Manipur** state government has launched Chief Minister's COVID-19 Affected Livelihood Support Scheme to provide assistance to those who had severely affected the COVID-19 pandemic in the State.
Note: The scheme was launched today by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in a function held at Imphal. The Government is for the people and is always ready to serve them.
25. **Delhi** state government has inaugurated India's first smog tower to improve air quality ____ **Delhi**.
Note: The over 20-metre-tall structure, being set up to improve air quality in a radius of around 1 km, will "operate at full capacity" after the monsoon season. This smog-tower was built at the cost of Rs 20 crores.
26. **Karnataka** becomes the first state in the country to officially implement the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020.
Note: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the NEP in the state virtually. Admission process under the new policy will be initiated by the Universities in the state.
27. Wanchuwa Festival is celebrated in **Assam** to mark a good harvest.
Note: It comes with songs, dances, a bunch of rituals and people clad in their native attires. The people of Tiwa tribe associate the bountiful harvest with the higher power from nature. This takes the form of pigs' skulls and bones which act as deities and are preserved through many generations.
28. US-based Ohmium International Ltd has started India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer manufacturing unit in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
Note: The unit will manufacture India-made Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) hydrogen electrolyzers. It has a capacity of manufacturing approximately 0.5 GW per year
29. **Maharashtra** state government has launched a special mission called "Mission Vatsalya" in order to help women who lost their husbands to COVID-19.
Note: Mission Vatsalya will provide several services and some 18 benefits under one roof to those women. It been designed for widows, with special focus on widows coming from rural areas, poor backgrounds and deprived sections.
30. India's highest altitude herbal park has been inaugurated in **Uttarakhand**.
Note: It has been developed in 3 years under central government's Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) scheme. This herbal park is situated at a height of 11,000 feet was and is close to the Indo-China border.
31. **Madhya Pradesh** state government has launched comprehensive Talent Search Campaign in the field of sports to search for new talented players and train them in 18 sports academies of state.
Note: CM has appealed to the youth interested in sports to register themselves in the Talent Search Campaign of the state. So far, more than 50,000 players have applied for online registration of talent search.

July 2021

1. **Andhra Pradesh** government has unveiled the new 'AP Information Technology Policy 2021-24', that is expected to generate more than 55,000 jobs over the next three years.
Note: It is expected to generate more than 55,000 jobs over the next three years. New policy is also expected to create 1.65 lakh indirect employment thereby ensuring a holistic eco system development. The policy would be in force till March 31, 2024.
2. **Delhi** state government has launched 'Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojna, a social sector scheme for COVID 19 affected families.
Note: It is a social security scheme for COVID-19-affected families. Under the scheme, Delhi government will disburse an ex gratia payment of ₹50,000 for each death to the family of the deceased and ₹2,500 monthly to those families who have lost breadwinners. Children who were orphaned would be provided ₹2,500 monthly till they turn 25.
3. Panchmuli lake is located in **Gujarat** from where as many as 194 crocodiles have been relocated for the safety of tourists.
Note: The Panchmuli lake, situated near the 182-meter tall statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Kevadia. The Panchmuli lake, also known as 'Dyke-3' of the Sardar Sarovar Dam, was developed for tourists visiting the Statue of Unity. There are still many crocodiles in the lake
4. MoEFCC approved the conversion of the Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary Tiger Reserve is located in **Rajasthan** that becomes the 4th Tiger Reserve in the state.
Note: Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary will link Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in the Northeast & Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve on the southern side. According to a 2018 tiger census, there are 102 tigers in three reserves -- Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Sawai Madhopur, Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar, and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve in Kota.
5. **Andhra Pradesh** has launched the 'YSR Bima' scheme with new guidelines, where the government itself will directly pay the insurance amount to the family of the deceased to make the insurance claims easier.
Note: In order to support **1.32 lakh families** through the YSR Bima scheme, the State government allocated **Rs 750 crores** for the year 2021-22. In the

- last two years, the State government had spent **Rs 1307 crore for YSR Bima**.
6. **West Bengal** government has launched 'Students Credit Card' an education loan scheme for the students aiming for higher studies.
Note: The scheme will provide soft loan upto Rs. 10 lakh with simple annual interest. The loan will be available for undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral and postdoctoral studies within the country or abroad. Students residing in the state for at least 10 years will be eligible for the scheme till 40 years of age and can repay the loan in 15 years.
 7. **Karnataka** government is planning to introduce the Model Tenancy Act in the state, aimed at ending tenant-owner disputes within two months and aiding the rental housing sector.
Note: The tweaked tenancy law — once brought in — will help owners get tenants and rentals will soften a bit. The Centre sent the law to states either to enact fresh legislation based on the template or suitably amend the existing laws. Without a valid notice, tenants cannot be evicted during the agreement period.
 8. **Uttar Pradesh** government has formulated a proposal for population control and welfare, rewarding couples that adhere to a 'two-child policy'.
Note: The policy will be voluntary — it will not be enforced upon anyone. However, if any person decides to "voluntarily" keep the number of their family members limited, they will be eligible for government schemes. On the other hand, if someone doesn't follow the policy, they will face restrictions in government jobs, availing ration, and other benefits.
 9. Assam state government announced to create an independent department to protect and preserve the "faith, culture and traditions of tribes and indigenous communities" of the state.
Note: The Department of Indigenous Faith and Culture is aimed to preserve set of beliefs, customs and practices of tribal communities. The new 'Department of Indigenous Faith and Culture' will mainly focus on area dominated by illegal immigrants.
 10. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India partnered with **Rajasthan** to improve the Targeted Public Distribution System (TDPS) in the state.
Note: The partnership entails, among other things, the use of digitisation, data aggregation, performance dashboards for monitoring of the TDPS, thus providing a real-time and long-term solution to improve the food and nutritional security for millions. This partnership between the WFP and the Department of Food and Civil Supplies of the Rajasthan government is part of a wider strategic Memorandum of Understanding signed late last year.
 11. The National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY) at Dirang in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh has tied up with **National Insurance Company Ltd** for insuring yaks.
Note: This is the first such instance in the country that an insurance policy for highly valuable Himalayan cattle/yak have been approved. The insurance policy will be a big boon for the yak owners, as it will shield them against a number of risks posed by weather calamities, diseases, in-transit mishaps, surgical operation, strike or riots and permanent total disability for breeding or stud yaks
 12. NTPC signs MoU with **Ladakh** to set up country's first Green Hydrogen Mobility Project.
Note: MoU was also marked with the inauguration of NTPC's first solar installations in Leh in form of solar trees and a solar car port. It will enable NTPC to help Ladakh develop a carbon free economy based on renewable sources and green hydrogen.
 13. India's first cryptogamic garden housing nearly 50 species of lichens, ferns and fungi was inaugurated in **Uttarakhand**.
Note: India's first cryptogamic garden housing nearly 50 species of lichens, ferns and fungi was inaugurated in Uttarakhand's Dehradun district's Chakrata town. Around 50 species have been grown in the garden at Deoban in Chakrata at a commanding height of 9,000 ft.
 14. **Ladakh** signed an MoU with 'Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency' regarding the implementation of 'Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana' and Mission Organic Development Initiative in the region.
Note: Aim is to convert Ladakh into a certified organic UT by 2025. 3 Phases: The UT plans to achieve the organic status through 3 phases, in the first phase, 85 villages will be identified to convert 5000 hectares of land into organic and in the 2nd phase, 82 villages will be covered with 10,000 hectares and under the 3rd phase, 79 villages (the remaining areas) will be covered. Sikkim was declared as the 1st '100 percent organic state' in the world by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO).
 15. India's 1st Grain ATM called 'Automated, Multi Commodity, Grain Dispensing Machine' has been installed in **Haryana**.
Note: It has been set up as part of a pilot project under the 'World Food Programme' of the United Nations. The machine which works like Bank ATMs can dispense approximately 70 kg of grains in 5-7 minutes' It will dispense the quantity of ration as allocated by the Haryana government per individual family in the respective food bag designated at the ATM machine.
 16. Annual month-long festival 'Asha Bonalu' is celebrated in **Telangana**.
Note: During this, Ministers of State Talasani Srinivas Yadav for Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Cinematography of Telangana and Allola Indrakaran Reddy for Endowments, Law and Forest, Environment, Science and Technology presented the silk robes to the

- goddess on behalf of the state government. The festival will culminate on August 8, 2021.
- 17. Karnataka** government has unveiled an Electric Bike Taxi scheme-2021 to ensure affordable first-and last-mile connectivity in major cities in the state.
Note: This will serve as a bridge between public transport and daily commuters. It will boost self-employment, promote eco-friendly environment, fuel conservation, reduce travel time and inconvenience, strengthen public transport and encourage establishing related industries. The distance between the origin and destination for a trip shall not be more than 10 km.
- 18. Maharashtra** govt has launched the new Electric Vehicle Policy -2021 to accelerate the adoption of Battery Electric Vehicles in the country.
Note: This new EV policy is a revision of the 2018 policy and will exempt EVs from road tax and registration charges. It is introduced with an aim to make Maharashtra the topmost producer of battery-powered electric vehicles in India. It also aims for electric vehicles (EVs) to make up 10% of all new vehicle registrations, by 2025.
- 19. Zurich Airport** international airport has signed a shareholder agreement with Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) for the development of the Noida International Airport at Jewar.
Note: As per the agreement, NIAL will hold one golden share in Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd (YIAPL) and the right to nominate two directors to the board. Two directors who will be part of the airport board are Arun Vir Singh, chief executive of NIAL, and Vishak Iyer, Director Civil Aviation, UP.
- 20. India's 1st Pod taxi service to be launched in Uttar Pradesh.**
Note: 'Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority' (YEIDA) has reported about the final Detailed Project Report (DPR) about the Project. The project will cost Rs.862 crore and it will run around 14.5 km between the airport and film city. On July 17, 2021, Zurich Airport International AG, the Swiss company, signed a shareholder agreement with Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) for the development of the NIA in Jewar, UP.
- 21. 'Shravan Harela' festival celebrated in Uttarakhand.**
Note: The word Harela means "Green Leaves". The day also symbolises the new harvest and it is celebrated by planting the saplings. The Harela festival also commemorates the wedding of Hindu Gods Shiva and Parvathi.
- 22. Maharashtra** state will be the first Indian state to issue educational documents using blockchain technology.
Note: Currently only Singapore, Malta and Bahrain are the only other countries using this technology. For this, Maharashtra government has partnered with LegitDoc and Each student will receive a "certificate_LegitDoc.zip" digital file containing the original PDF diploma certificate
- 23. Gujarat** state has recently held first ever elections of Balika Panchayat that will take up issues pertaining to adolescent girls and women in the village.
Note: Young females aged between 10 to 21 years contested elections for this unique Panchayat. This Panchayat will be run by the girls and for the girls.
- 24. Uttar Pradesh** state announced to set up panchayat secretariat in all panchayats of the state.
Note: Panchayat secretariat will be established in all gram panchayats for the first time in the state. Panchayat assistant will be given Rs 6,000 as remuneration.
- 25. Jivlag Yojna** scheme is associated **Covid-19 orphans** field that has been launched by the NCP MP Supriya Sule.
Note: The scheme will take care of children who have lost both parents during Covid-19 pandemic. Under this, NCP and its welfare trust will take care of 450 Covid orphans and have deputed 450 individuals to connect with these children.
- 26. Kakatiya Rudreswara Temple** is located in **Telangana** state that has been inscribed by UNESCO as Indian 39th World Heritage Site.
Note: Also known as Ramappa temple, it is located in Palampet village in the newly formed Mulugu District in Telangana. The 13th century temple is probably the only temple known by its chief sculptor, Ramappa. This is the first site which got heritage tag from UNESCO ever since Telangana state formed in 2014.
- 27. Global agricultural firm Corteva Agriscience** has signed a 3-year project with the 2030 Water Resources Group (2030 WRG) hosted by the World Bank Group, to promote sustainable rice cultivation in **Uttar Pradesh.**
Note: The project provides a framework for Corteva, 2030 WRG and a task force of multiple stakeholders to work towards transforming 40,000 acres of land from traditional methods of transplanting rice to the Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) technique. This practice will reduce agricultural water consumption by 35-37% thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20-30%.
- 28. Arunachal Pradesh** state government has signed an MoU with Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis-IIM Shillong for collaborating as a knowledge partner _____.
Note: The MoU was signed between Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar and Prof. D. P. Goyal, Director IIM Shillong in presence of Chief Minister Pema Khandu. The MoU aims at promoting mutual agreement between the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research Analysis of IIM Shillong and the Finance Planning and Investment Department of the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

29. The Ministry of Science & Technology will set up a first-of-its-kind Centre of Excellence for Northeast in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
Note: It was sanctioned by Department of Biotechnology. Location of the project: Kimin, Papum Pare in Arunachal Pradesh. Entire North-eastern Region will be able to use its fruit and organic food potential to the maximum extent. It will also help in exploring many vast areas and to find hitherto lesser known or unknown new species including diverse habitats and diverse flora.
30. **Uttar Pradesh** govt has launched the 'MyGov-Meri Sarkar' portal through which the people of the state can give various feedbacks to the government.
Note: Through this portal, the people of the state can give various feedbacks to the government and the UP government can also inform them about the various schemes of the state. The portal will be used efficiently to further enhance the engagement of the common citizens of the state with the Uttar Pradesh state government.
31. **Delhi** govt has partners with Google to Give Real-time Info About Buses to Commuters.
Note: The Delhi government joined hands with tech giant Google to provide real-time information about buses to commuters and make public transport in the national capital more user friendly. With this partnership with Google Maps, Delhi joins the league of global cities that provide seamless, real-time information about public transport.
32. **Madhya Pradesh** state government has prepared the Ayush-based economic upgradation scheme 'Devaranya Yojana' with the twin objectives of improving people's health and livelihood of tribals.
Note: For this, medicinal plants should be cultivated in the beautiful plains of the villages. Ayush Super Specialty Hospitals are being constructed in Indore and Bhopal. AYUSH and tourism will be brought together to boost employment opportunities in tribal areas under the scheme.
33. Recently the foundation stone of a Bamboo Industrial Park laid down in **Assam**.
Note: The project will be implemented with Rs. 50 crores from DoNER Ministry. The project, once completed, would usher in a new era in the economy of the region and create vast employment opportunities for the local youths.
34. **Karnataka** becomes the first state in the country to provide one per cent reservation for the 'transgender community in all the government services.
Note: The government submitted a report to the High Court in this regard informing that a notification had already been issued after amending the Karnataka Civil Service (General Recruitment) Rule, 1977. The specifies one per cent reservation in all general as well as reserve categories for the third gender.
35. **Kerala** state police launched a new initiative called the Pink Protection project for the protection of women in public, private and digital spaces.
Note: The Pink Protection project aims to prevent dowry-related issues, cyber-bullying & humiliation in public places. It has 10 components, one of which is activating the existing Pink Police Patrol system, named Pink Janamaithri Beat.
32. **Punjab** state government has launched the women-empowerment oriented "UDAAN Scheme" to distribute sanitary pads to women every month.
Note: Under this scheme sanitary pads would be distributed free of cost to needy women and girls of the state every month. A fund of Rs 40.55 crore per annum has been allocated for this scheme.
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Note: Under the scheme agriculture power consumers will get Rs 1,000 every month and a maximum of Rs 12,000 per year. Central and state government employees and other income tax payers will not be eligible for the subsidy.
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Note: The campaign will be launched with the help of youth power. In the Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan, college teachers and around 16 lakh students will be made aware of corona infection by learning Covid appropriate behavior and vaccination. This campaign will be run by the Higher Education and Technical Education Department in collaboration with the Public Health and Family Welfare Department.
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Note: Aim of this is to revive the knowledge of ancient Sanskrit scriptures and connect the learnings of the Vedas with science and yoga. The board is likely to be set up in the coming four to five months. The State, at present, has about 20 residential Vedic schools, including 'Gurukuls'.
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Note: The programme was organised by **Union Culture Ministry** and **IGNCA** as part of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** to commemorate 75 years of Country's independence. It reminisces the historic moments of **Jhanda Satyagraha held in Jabalpur in 1923** when the immortal martyrs first unfurled the flag at the Town Hall with great courage.
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Note: Children who lost their parents or main earning person of the family on April 1, 2020 or thereafter to Covid-19 will be eligible to be covered under the scheme. Such children under distress have been divided into three categories. Those who have lost both their parents, those who have lost either father or mother and those whose main earning member of family, either father or mother have died.
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Note: The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj, and Assam Government's Department of Revenue and Disaster Management will implement the scheme with the support of the Panchayat and Rural Development. Survey of India, as the technology partner, will take steps for survey of inhabited rural land by drone as well as establishment of ground based control stations to enable a detailed spatial database of properties in rural areas.
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Note: It was developed by Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII), Kottayam, Kerala. This GM rubber sapling is expected to grow well under the climatic conditions of the north east. This is the first time any GM crop is developed exclusively for this region.
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Note: It will benefit vanbandhu- farmers in tribal areas. The scheme will benefit more than 1.26 lakh farmers from 14 tribal districts of the state. Under this scheme tribal farmers will get fertilizer-seed assistance of Rs 31 crores in which 45 kg of urea, 50 kg of NPK and 50 kg of ammonium sulphate will be provided.
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May 2021

1. The Indian Army has Inaugurated its first Green Solar Energy Harnessing Plant of 56 KVA (KiloVolt-Ampere) in **Sikkim**.
Note: The Plant uses Vanadium based battery Technology and is situated at an Altitude of 16000 Ft. The project has been completed in collaboration with IIT Mumbai. It was completed by a team from IIT Mumbai which was led by Professor Prakash Ghosh and troops of the Indian Army.
2. **Himachal Pradesh** government has initiated 'Parvat Dhara Yojana' to revive, recharge aquifers and conserve natural resources of water in the state.
Note: It is set to be implemented in 10 districts of Himachal Pradesh. An outlay of INR 20 Crore has been set aside for implementation of the scheme. Forest Department of Himachal Pradesh will implement the scheme in forest areas. The scheme was announced in the Himachal Pradesh State Budget for the FY 2021-22.
3. **Odisha state government** has declared working journalists as Frontline Covid Warriors and have been covered under Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana.
Note: This announcement was made under the Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana. With these more than 6,500 journalists are to be benefitted in the state. Launched in 2018, Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana is a health insurance scheme that was introduced for the journalists by the Odisha state government.
4. **Tripura** state government has launched the first of its kind Auro Scholarship Programme of Sri Aurobindo Society for all the students of state.
Note: Auro Scholar is the World's first Micro Scholarship programme aimed to encourage the students to improve their learning. Sri Aurobindo Society partnered with the Government of Tripura to make the scholarship accessible to all the students of Tripura.
5. **Madhya Pradesh** State government has launched the Corona Warriors Scheme.
Note: The government will take the responsibility of family members of health workers who have passed away while on Corona duty. Their families will be given honorarium of Rs 50 lakhs by the government.
6. With **UNICEF** the **Assam State Disaster Management Agency** has jointly developed an Online Flood Reporting System, thus Assam becomes the first state to adopt digital reporting system to find out impact indicators during floods.
Note: The FRIMS jointly developed by ASDMA & UNICEF will replace the present manual system with the web cum mobile application-based technology driven system. It will help in efficient delivery of relief, ex-gratia, rehabilitation grants to the flood affected people

- besides tracking of damages to agricultural crops, loss of livestock, infrastructure damages etc.
7. Under the chairmanship of **Dilip Bhosale** the Maharashtra government has constituted an eight-member committee to study the Supreme Court's order striking down quota for the Maratha community.
Note: The Committee will be headed by former Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court Dilip Bhosale. Other members of the panel include former state advocate general Darius Khambata, senior advocate Rafique Dada and a few serving and former government officials.
 8. **Haryana** state police has come up with "COVID-19 Hospital Transport Service" for free transportation of needy infected patients from their homes to hospitals or nursing homes and back.
Note: A total of 440 vehicles are being provided for this service and every police district would get 20 SUVs for this purpose. These vehicles are being provided after the instances of either shortage of ambulances or overcharging by private ambulance service providers came to the notice of the police.
 9. Rupsi airport has started its Commercial operations recently, the Airport is located in **Assam**.
Note: A trial flight was conducted on the Guwahati-Rupsi-Guwahati route by private Flybig airlines. The airport in Assam's Kokrajhar district has been developed at a cost of Rs 69 crore under the Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (RCS-UDAN) scheme. It is northeast India's 15th and Assam's 7th airport.
 10. Madhya Pradesh state government has launched the 'Mukhyamantri COVID Upchar Yojana' amid a rise in cases in the state.
Note: The scheme has been divided into three sections. 'Under the first section, hospitals run by state medical colleges, district and civil hospitals and community health centres will give free treatment to COVID-19 patients. In the second section, 20 per cent ICU/HDU and isolation beds will be reserved in hospitals run by private medical colleges to give free treatment,'.
 11. **Puducherry** becomes the fourth state/UTs to implement the '**Har Ghar Jal**' Yojna.
Note: Puducherry has become the 'Har Ghar Jal' Union Territory by ensuring that every rural home gets a household tap connection. Puducherry has now become the fourth state or UT after Goa, Telangana and Andaman and Nicobar Islands to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under Central Government's flagship programme, Jal Jeevan Mission, JJM.
 12. **Odisha** state government has announced 'Manoj Das International Literary Award' in memory of eminent litterateur Manoj Das.
Note: The award will be conferred on litterateurs from Odisha for their creative contribution to English literature every year. It will carry a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh.
 13. **Chhattisgarh** government has developed a web portal 'CGTeeka' for systematic vaccination of people in the age group 18-44 years.
Note: This web portal, developed by CHiPS, was launched by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. CGTeeka web portal has been developed on the basis of social and geographical conditions in the state. This initiative of the government would save the people from waiting in long queues.
 14. **Manipur** state government has launched MOMA Market Mobile application to solve the issues of home delivery of fresh vegetables.
Note: The application was introduced by the Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA), Department of Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Manipur. MOMA is assigned to channelize the farm producers to consumers through home delivery. Under this initiative the vegetables from various farms will be collected by the Farmers Producer Companies (FPCs) working with MOMA.
 15. **Uttarakhand** state police has launched a drive called "Mission Hausla" to help people get oxygen, beds and plasma for COVID-19 patients.
Note: The Uttarakhand Police has launched a drive called "Mission Hausla" to help people get oxygen, beds and plasma for COVID-19 patients. Besides this, the police are also helping the public in getting ration, ambulance, cremation of bodies as part of the mission.
 16. **Himachal Pradesh** state government has launched the 'Ayush Ghar-Dwar' program to keep the home isolated Covid-19 positive patients healthy by practising Yoga.
Note: This program has been started by the Department of AYUSH in collaboration with the Art of Living organisation. Yoga Bharti's instructors would provide their services in the program. During the launch, about 80 home isolated Covid positive patients from all over the state were also connected virtually.
 17. **Bihar** state government has launched "HIT (Home Isolation Tracking) Covid App" to monitor and track the COVID-19 patients who are in home isolation across the state.
Note: The app was developed by the Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (BELTRON) under the guidance of the Department of Health and the Department of Information Technology (DIT). The app was used on a pilot basis in five district of Bihar – Supaul, Aurangabad, Bhagalpur, Gopalganj and Nalanda.

- 18. Tripura** state government has launched 'Jagrut' app where people get to know about various Central Government and State Government Schemes.
Note: The project was developed by EasyGov, a Jio Group company, and it will be available to all the residents of Tripura. The 'Jagrut Tripura' will empower citizens of Tripura.
- 19.** "Vaidya Aapke Dwar" scheme has been launched in **Madhya Pradesh** by the Department of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy (AYUSH).
Note: Through this scheme free medical consultation is given at home through live video call by AYUSH medical specialists. The scheme was virtually launched by the Madhya Pradesh State Minister for AYUSH, Shri Ramkishore Kaware on May 7, 2021. This scheme is made available through the telemedicine app named "AyushQure", so that it is accessible to the common people even at home.
- 20. Karnataka** state has been ranked as the Number One state in establishing a Health & Wellness Centre (HWC) under the Ayushman Bharat project for the year 2020-21.
Note: HWCs are established to provide comprehensive primary healthcare in rural areas. Ayushman Bharat was launched in 2018 with its two main pillars of HWCs & Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).
- 21. Chhattisgarh** state government has a new scheme named 'Mahtari Dular Yojna' through which the government will pay for the education for those children who lost their parents due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
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- 24.** West Bengal state government has approved the formation of the Legislative Council.
Note: At present, only Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh have Legislative Council. Previously, West Bengal had a bicameral legislature but it was abolished by the United Front government in 1969.
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Note: The scheme is scheduled to be implemented by May 30, 2021. The State Government proposed to make arrangements for their maintenance, education and training for employment for those orphaned children up to the age of 21 years.
- 26. Haryana** state government launched 'Sanjeevani Pariyojana' to provide for supervised and quick medical care at home for people in rural areas with mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19.
Note: The pilot project is supported by Deloitte, and the implementation of the initiative will begin from Karnal district. The initiative will raise awareness about the second wave of COVID-19 and ways to treat it. The initiative will help in transforming the healthcare services provided to the people of Haryana.
- 27. Maharashtra** state government has launched the "Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance" scheme to meet the state's oxygen needs.
Note: Units set up in Vidarbha, Marathwada, Dhule, Nandurbar, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg regions will be eligible for incentives up to 150 per cent of their eligible fixed capital investments and units set up in the rest of Maharashtra will be eligible for up to 100 per cent general incentives. The government will also give a refund on gross SGST, stamp duty, electricity duty and unit subsidy of power cost for five years and interest subsidy for MSME units with a fixed capital investment of up to Rs 50 crore.
- 28. Karnataka** state government has launched an online portal named 'Akanksha' to provide comprehensive details on all the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities in the state.
Note: The portal was created by the Department of Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics, Karnataka in collaboration with UNDP's (United Nations Development Programme) Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC). NITI Ayog (The National Institution for Transforming India) Chief Executive Officer, Amitabh Kant also participated in the launch virtually.

29. Madhya Pradesh state government has launched Ankur scheme under which citizens will be awarded for planting trees during monsoon.
Note: The Award named “Pranvayu” will be given to People who take the initiative to plant saplings. People can participate in the tree plantation drive by registering themselves on the Vayudoot app. A picture has to be uploaded while planting the sapling and another photograph after taking care of the sapling for 30 days.

30. Goa state government has launched solar-based electrification programme for rural households in the state.
Note: This project will bring electricity through renewable energy to areas in Goa where grid connectivity is not feasible. The solar PV-based home lighting systems for households was inaugurated only two days after the agreement was signed between Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL) and Goa Energy Development Agency (GEDA).

May 2021

- The Indian Army has Inaugurated its first Green Solar Energy Harnessing Plant of 56 KVA (KiloVolt-Ampere) in **Sikkim**.
Note: The Plant uses Vanadium based battery Technology and is situated at an Altitude of 16000 Ft. The project has been completed in collaboration with IIT Mumbai. It was completed by a team from IIT Mumbai which was led by Professor Prakash Ghosh and troops of the Indian Army.
- Himachal Pradesh** government has initiated ‘Parvat Dhara Yojana’ to revive, recharge aquifers and conserve natural resources of water in the state.
Note: It is set to be implemented in 10 districts of Himachal Pradesh. An outlay of INR 20 Crore has been set aside for implementation of the scheme. Forest Department of Himachal Pradesh will implement the scheme in forest areas. The scheme was announced in the Himachal Pradesh State Budget for the FY 2021-22.
- Odisha state government** has declared working journalists as Frontline Covid Warriors and have been covered under Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana.
Note: This announcement was made under the Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana. With these more than 6,500 journalists are to be benefitted in the state. Launched in 2018, Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana is a health insurance scheme that was introduced for the journalists by the Odisha state government.
- Tripura** state government has launched the first of its kind Auro Scholarship Programme of Sri Aurobindo Society for all the students of state.
Note: Auro Scholar is the World’s first Micro Scholarship programme aimed to encourage the students to improve their learning. Sri Aurobindo Society partnered with the Government of Tripura to make the scholarship accessible to all the students of Tripura.
- Madhya Pradesh** State government has launched the Corona Warriors Scheme.

- Note:** The government will take the responsibility of family members of health workers who have passed away while on Corona duty. Their families will be given honorarium of Rs 50 lakhs by the government.
- With **UNICEF** the **Assam State Disaster Management Agency** has jointly developed an Online Flood Reporting System, thus Assam becomes the first state to adopt digital reporting system to find out impact indicators during floods.
Note: The FRIMS jointly developed by ASDMA & UNICEF will replace the present manual system with the web cum mobile application-based technology driven system. It will help in efficient delivery of relief, ex-gratia, rehabilitation grants to the flood affected people besides tracking of damages to agricultural crops, loss of livestock, infrastructure damages etc.
 - Under the chairmanship of **Dilip Bhosale** the Maharashtra government has constituted an eight-member committee to study the Supreme Court’s order striking down quota for the Maratha community.
Note: The Committee will be headed by former Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court Dilip Bhosale. Other members of the panel include former state advocate general Darius Khambata, senior advocate Rafique Dada and a few serving and former government officials.
 - Haryana** state police has come up with “COVID-19 Hospital Transport Service” for free transportation of needy infected patients from their homes to hospitals or nursing homes and back.
Note: A total of 440 vehicles are being provided for this service and every police district would get 20 SUVs for this purpose. These vehicles are being provided after the instances of either shortage of ambulances or overcharging by private ambulance service providers came to the notice of the police.
 - Rupsi airport has started its Commercial operations recently, the Airport is located in **Assam**.
Note: A trial flight was conducted on the Guwahati-Rupsi-Guwahati route by private Flybig airlines. The airport in Assam’s Kokrajhar district has been

- developed at a cost of Rs 69 crore under the Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (RCS-UDAN) scheme. It is northeast India's 15th and Assam's 7th airport.
10. **Madhya Pradesh** state government has launched the 'Mukhyamantri COVID Upchar Yojana' amid a rise in cases in the state.
Note: The scheme has been divided into three sections. 'Under the first section, hospitals run by state medical colleges, district and civil hospitals and community health centres will give free treatment to COVID-19 patients. In the second section, 20 per cent ICU/HDU and isolation beds will be reserved in hospitals run by private medical colleges to give free treatment,'.
 11. **Puducherry** becomes the fourth state/UTs to implement the '**Har Ghar Jal**' Yojna.
Note: Puducherry has become the 'Har Ghar Jal' Union Territory by ensuring that every rural home gets a household tap connection. Puducherry has now become the fourth state or UT after Goa, Telangana and Andaman and Nicobar Islands to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under Central Government's flagship programme, Jal Jeevan Mission, JJM.
 12. **Odisha** state government has announced 'Manoj Das International Literary Award' in memory of eminent litterateur Manoj Das.
Note: The award will be conferred on litterateurs from Odisha for their creative contribution to English literature every year. It will carry a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh.
 13. **Chhattisgarh** government has developed a web portal 'CGTeeka' for systematic vaccination of people in the age group 18-44 years.
Note: This web portal, developed by CHiPS, was launched by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. CGTeeka web portal has been developed on the basis of social and geographical conditions in the state. This initiative of the government would save the people from waiting in long queues.
 14. **Manipur** state government has launched MOMA Market Mobile application to solve the issues of home delivery of fresh vegetables.
Note: The application was introduced by the Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA), Department of Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Manipur. MOMA is assigned to channelize the farm producers to consumers through home delivery. Under this initiative the vegetables from various farms will be collected by the Farmers Producer Companies (FPCs) working with MOMA.
 15. **Uttarakhand** state police has launched a drive called "Mission Hausla" to help people get oxygen, beds and plasma for COVID-19 patients.
Note: The Uttarakhand Police has launched a drive called "Mission Hausla" to help people get oxygen, beds and plasma for COVID-19 patients. Besides this, the police are also helping the public in getting ration, ambulance, cremation of bodies as part of the mission.
 16. **Himachal Pradesh** state government has launched the 'Ayush Ghar-Dwar' program to keep the home isolated Covid-19 positive patients healthy by practising Yoga.
Note: This program has been started by the Department of AYUSH in collaboration with the Art of Living organisation. Yoga Bharti's instructors would provide their services in the program. During the launch, about 80 home isolated Covid positive patients from all over the state were also connected virtually.
 17. **Bihar** state government has launched "HIT (Home Isolation Tracking) Covid App" to monitor and track the COVID-19 patients who are in home isolation across the state.
Note: The app was developed by the Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (BELTRON) under the guidance of the Department of Health and the Department of Information Technology (DIT). The app was used on a pilot basis in five district of Bihar – Supaul, Aurangabad, Bhagalpur, Gopalganj and Nalanda.
 18. **Tripura** state government has launched 'Jagrut' app where people get to know about various Central Government and State Government Schemes.
Note: The project was developed by EasyGov, a Jio Group company, and it will be available to all the residents of Tripura. The 'Jagrut Tripura' will empower citizens of Tripura.
 19. "Vaidya Aapke Dwar" scheme has been launched in **Madhya Pradesh** by the Department of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy (AYUSH).
Note: Through this scheme free medical consultation is given at home through live video call by AYUSH medical specialists. The scheme was virtually launched by the Madhya Pradesh State Minister for AYUSH, Shri Ramkishore Kaware on May 7, 2021. This scheme is made available through the telemedicine app named "AyushQure", so that it is accessible to the common people even at home.
 20. **Karnataka** state has been ranked as the Number One state in establishing a Health & Wellness Centre (HWC) under the Ayushman Bharat project for the year 2020-21.
Note: HWCs are established to provide comprehensive primary healthcare in rural areas. Ayushman Bharat was launched in 2018 with its two main pillars of HWCs & Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).

- 21. Chhattisgarh** state government has a new scheme named 'Mahtari Dular Yojna' through which the government will pay for the education for those children who lost their parents due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
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April 2021

- 1. Mati Festival** is celebrated in **Purvanchal**.
Note: The first edition of the Purvanchal Festival 'Maati' took place in 2018 with the objective of promoting folk art and melody, traditional food, literature, ethnic culture and tourism of the culturally rich Purvanchal (Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Basti, Gonda,

- Azamgarh, Mirzapur and Prayag divisions and entire Awadh region of Uttar Pradesh).
2. **Rajasthan** becomes the first state to commission India's first Farm-based Solar Power Project under the PM-KUSUM scheme.
Note: It has a capacity of 1 megawatt and is spread over on 3.5-acre semi-barren land. It has been developed at an investment of nearly INR 3.7 Crore. The power generated by the project will be purchased by Rajasthan Vidhyut Vitran Nigam Ltd (at the rate of INR 3.14 per unit).
 3. **Rajasthan** becomes the first state in India to provide health insurance of up to INR 5 Lakh to each Family every year under Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana.
Note: With this launch, Rajasthan became the 1st State in India to provide health insurance of up to INR 5 Lakh to each Family every year. The announcement of the Health Insurance Scheme was made during the presentation of the State Budget for the FY 2021-22. The Scheme is worth INR 3, 500 Crore.
 4. The World Bank has approved a USD 32 Million (Rs. 234.80 Crores) for the improvement of healthcare system in **Mizoram**.
Note: The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved a USD 32 Million (~INR 234.80 Crores) Project titled 'Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project' for improving management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram. The project will help Mizoram to improve quality certification at health facilities, enhance human resources, improve health insurance and other innovations.
 5. The World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) have approved the loan for the 300 Million USD (around Rs.2190 crore) canal-based drinking water project in **Punjab**.
Note: The World Bank(WB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) have approved the loan for the 300 Million USD (around Rs.2190 crore) canal-based drinking water project in Punjab. The entire project will be co-financed by International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) of World Bank (USD 105 million), AIIB (USD 105 million) and the Government of Punjab (USD 90 million).
 6. **West Bengal** emerge as the highest contributor to the small savings schemes such as NSC and PPF _____.
Note: It is followed by Uttar Pradesh, the largest state in terms of population, with gross collection of Rs 69,660.70 crore out of the Rs 5.96 lakh crore garnered during 2017-18 (last updated), as per data collated by the National Savings Institute under the finance ministry. The rate of interest on various small savings schemes for the first quarter of 2021-22 starting from April 1 and ending on June 30, 2021 would remain unchanged from those notified for the fourth quarter (January 1 to March 31, 2021) of 2020-21.
 7. Amboli is located in **Maharashtra** in Western ghats has been declared as a biodiversity heritage site recently.
Note: This biodiversity site has discovered a rare freshwater fish species Schistura Hiranyakeshi Earlier, Glory of Allapalli in Gadchiroli district, Landor Khori Park in Jalgaon, Ganesh Khind in Pune, myristica swamp vegetation in Sindhudurg district has been declared biodiversity heritage sites. Biodiversity Heritage Sites are notified areas of biodiversity importance in India.
 8. **Uttar Pradesh** state government has launched a unique gift scheme to promote Covid vaccination in the state.
Note: UP govt will conduct a lucky draw for those who have taken the vaccine on World Health Day on 7th April Districts with more than 25,000 beneficiaries with doses of vaccine, will be eligible for this gift scheme. 4 gifts will be given to the beneficiaries after lucky draw.
 9. **World Bank** is financing Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project.
Note: Government of Mizoram is implementing Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project. World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved a \$32 million Project to improve management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram.
 10. **Odisha** state government has launched 14 days mask Abhiyan to counter the spread of covid 19 infections.
Note: Aim: to turn the use of a mask into a habit. This will play a huge role in controlling the current resurgence of COVID-19. Also, the Odisha State Government has increased the fines for violators from Rs 1000 to Rs 2000.
 11. **Maharashtra** state got India's first floating LNG storage and regasification unit.
Note: FSRU based LNG Terminals aim at providing the ability to enhance the pace of natural gas import capability in an environment-friendly and efficient manner". The port is the first deepwater, 24x7 operational private port in Maharashtra.
 12. **Ladakh** signed an MoU with Solar Energy Corporation of India to set up 50-Mega Watt solar power project _____.
Note: Union Territory Administration, Leh Hill Council and Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI Ltd) have signed MoU to set up a 50 MW solar power project at Taru in Leh district. Ladakh has a potential of 33GW of renewable energy to contribute nation's efforts in reducing carbon emissions. UT Administration, Leh Hill Council and Solar Energy Corporation of India have signed 1st MoU to harness Solar energy with a 50 MW project at Taru in Leh.
 13. _____ **Rs 1,210.17 crore** has been approved for Highway Projects in Uttarakhand by the union government.

- Note:** These projects are for building 231.04 kms of highways. These include strengthening work of National Highway-309B on EPC (engineering, construction and procurement) mode in Uttarakhand under State Public Works Department (PWD) with a budget of Rs 48.19 crore.
- 14. Rajasthan** state government has announced Jan Anushasan Pakhwara (JAP) or Public Discipline Fortnight.
Note: The decision came on a day when the state crossed 10,000 new cases for the first time. JAP is essentially an extension of the curfew the Rajasthan government had announced for the weekend. However, the government has neither called it a lockdown, nor a curfew, mainly because of the interpretations associated with both, as they have been implemented in the past.
- 15. Jharkhand** state government has announced to follow a “Health Safety Week” beginning from April 22 to 29, to break the chain of growing COVID-19 infection rate in the State.
Note: People have been advised to stay home and do not move without unnecessary work. Essential services and medical services continue to function and all identified offices of private sector, central and state government offices shall remain open.
- 16. Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)** becomes the first party that has declared the name of the entity which made donations to it through electoral bonds.
Note: A declaration of a ₹1 crore donation was made in the party’s 2019-20 contribution report. According to the contribution report of the ruling party in Jharkhand, the donation was made by aluminium and copper manufacturing company Hindalco.
- 17. Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme** has been launched in **Andhra Pradesh** for that first tranche of Rs 672 crores released recently.
Note: This reimbursed the fees for 10.88 lakh students. So far, a total of Rs 4, 879 crores have been disbursed under the Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme. The main objective of the Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme is to provide scholarships to all the students who are not able to pay their fees because of their financial burden. The scheme mainly focuses on students seeking higher education. It aims to provide fee reimbursement to more than 14 lakh students of the state.
- 18. Punjab** state government reiterated its commitment to achieve the ‘Har Ghar Jal’ target by 2022.
Note: Punjab has 34.73 lakh rural household, out of which 25.88 lakh (74.5%) have tap water supply. In 2021-22, the State plans to provide 8.87 lakh tap connections, thereby providing tap connection to every rural household. So far, 4-districts, 29 blocks, 5,715 panchayats and 6,003 villages in Punjab have been declared ‘Har Ghar Jal’, which means every rural household has access to water through the tap.
- 19. Maharashtra** state gets India’s first Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU).
Note: FSRU based LNG Terminals aim at providing the ability to enhance the pace of natural gas import capability in an environment-friendly and efficient manner”. The port is the first deepwater, 24×7 operational private port in Maharashtra.
- 20. Andhra Pradesh** state government has signed an MoU with Microsoft Corporation to offer skill development training to around 1.6 lakh students and unemployed youths across more than 300 colleges and skill development centres.
Note: This is the biggest and first of its kind initiative by a state government to cover all the graduates of the state. Microsoft will collaborate with the Higher Education department to provide scalable skilling experience which includes, access to the 40 courses and certifications on Microsoft’s learning resource centre, Microsoft Learn.
The Coal India Limited (CIL) has signed its first solar power purchase agreement with Gujarat govt for the sale of 100 Mw solar power with a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for 25 years.
Note: CIL entered into a PPA and supply the 100 Mw power generated to GUVNL within 18 months with a capital investment of Rs 442 crore. The 100 MW project will be executed through a Solar EPC Contractor (engineering, procurement, and construction). CIL plans for 3,000 Mw of solar power generation by 2024 and it plans to invest nearly Rs13,500 crore in solar power projects through the company’s internal resources, Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV), and bank loans.
- 21. Haryana** state government has launched ‘Covid Emergency Loan Scheme’ for new and old entrepreneurs supplying medicines, oxygen and other medical facilities to Covid-19 patients.
Note: For this, the State Government has set up a fund of Rs 500 crore. Under the scheme, Haryana Government will help businessmen, presently working in the state, to increase their current production or to set up new units to meet various requirements to tackle Covid-19 pandemic.
- 22. Haryana** state government has approved ‘HARIHAR Scheme’ under which a job will be provided to abandoned, surrendered children and turned 18-year-old while living in child-care institutions.
Note: The children abandoned when below 5 years of age and surrendered before turning one-year-old will be eligible for benefits of HARIHAR initiative of the Haryana government. Under the policy, eligible children will get benefits of education, employment, and financial support. The policy provides for free schooling, higher education, technical education, skill development and industrial training, apart from financial assistance up to the age of 25 years or

- marriage, whichever is earlier, and one-time interest-free loan for buying a house in Haryana.
23. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has established a 'Water Sports and Adventure Institute (WSAI)' in **Uttarakhand**.
Note: The institute was inaugurated by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat along with Union Minister of State for Sports Kiren Rijiju. The Mountaineering and Skiing Institute of ITBP at Auli, will independently run this institution.

24. **Maharashtra** state government announced to appoint oxygen nurses to curb wastage of oxygen at hospitals.
Note: The primary job of an oxygen nurse is to monitor the requirement of oxygen every 2-4 hours round the clock, its use among patients and to ensure minimum wastage. Instruction has been issued to all government medical colleges and hospitals to set up a dedicated team of nurses.

Important News – World

September 2021

1. **India** hosted the 8th Meeting of Agricultural Experts of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries.
Note: Experts of Agricultural Ministries from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand participated in the meeting. The Chairman highlighted the UN Food System Summit 2021 and the transformations that are happening in the agriculture and food systems globally.
2. **Sri Lanka** has declared a state of emergency over food shortages as private banks run out of foreign exchange to finance imports.
Note: Sri Lanka is suffering from a hard-hitting economic crisis. Following the crisis, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa ordered emergency regulations to counter the hoarding of sugar, rice and other such essential foods. President also named a top army officer as "Commissioner General of Essential Services to coordinate the supply of paddy, rice, sugar and other consumer goods".
3. **USA** became the largest startup ecosystem in the world.
Note: Over the last year, India has added three unicorns every month taking the total count to 51, ahead of the UK (32) and Germany (18). A privately held startup company valued at over \$1 billion is called a unicorn. The US tops the list with 396 unicorns, while China is at the second spot with 277, showed data from Hurun Research Institute.
4. Global major, **Amazon India** has announced the launch of Kisan Store that will enable farmers across India to get access to more than 8,000 agriculture inputs such as seeds, farm tools and accessories, plant protection, nutrition, and more.
Note: It is an online platform that will enable farmers across India to get access to more than 8,000 agriculture inputs such as seeds, farm tools and accessories, plant protection, nutrition, and more. Listed by small and medium businesses (SMBs) these products will be available at competitive prices on Amazon India.
5. Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 (PACS-21) was held in **Hawaii**.
Note: It provided an opportunity for enhancing mutual understanding and deepening of relationships among participating nations. Participants of PACS-21 included Air Chiefs of countries in Indo-Pacific region. From India, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) attended PACS-21. He was nominated as the Dean for the Symposium.
6. World's largest plant designed to suck carbon dioxide (CO₂) out of the air and turning it into rock started commenced its operation in **Iceland**.
Note: The plan is named as Orca or orka meaning energy. It has been developed by Swiss startup Climeworks AG and Icelandic carbon storage firm Carbfix. It consists of four units, each made up of two metal boxes, similar in appearance to the containers used for maritime transport.
7. In association with Denmark, **Tamil Nadu** planned to create an energy island.
Note: This plan was made as Tamil Nadu is looking to expand its footprint in the green energy sector. To achieve this target, Denmark is likely to invest \$5-10 billion in the renewable energy sector in the state. It also includes investment for an energy island in the Gulf of Mannar. With this investment, island would be able to produce 4-10 GW of energy.
8. In September 2021, India holds inaugural 'Two-Plus-Two Dialogue' with **Australia**.
Note: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held the talks with their Australian counterparts Peter Dutton and Marise Payne. In the 'two-plus-two' talks, the two sides vowed to work towards a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, a region that has been witnessing increasing Chinese assertiveness. India holds such talks with Australia, Japan, USA and Russia.
9. North Korea has tested new long-range cruise missile, which is capable of hitting **Japan**.
Note: During the test, the missile travelled up to 1,500 kms, suggesting that North Korea is still capable of developing weapons despite food shortages and

- economic crisis. It is first long-range cruise missile of Korea that could possibly carry a nuclear warhead.
10. India has launched Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD) with **USA** to strengthen bilateral cooperation on climate and environment. **Note:** AFMD is one of the two tracks of the India-U.S. Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 partnership launched at Leaders' Summit on Climate in April 2021. It will demonstrate how the world can align swift climate action with inclusive and resilient economic development, taking into account national circumstances and sustainable development priorities.
 11. Inspiration4, an ongoing human spaceflight mission of **SpaceX** was launched carrying four amateurs on its first ever private flight to Space on "Earth-circling trip". **Note:** It was the first time a rocket streaked toward orbit with an all-amateur crew — no professional astronauts. Jared Isaacman is leading the flight. He was joined by Hayley Arceneaux, 29, a childhood cancer survivor who works as a physician assistant. Chris Sembroski, 42, a data engineer in Everett, Washington, and Sian Proctor, 51, a community college educator in Tempe, Arizona are also part of it.
 12. India has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Italy** for Cooperation in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. **Note:** The MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management which was signed between the NDMA of the Republic of India and the Department of Civil Protection of the Presidency of the Council Ministers of the Italian Republic. The MoU seeks to put in place a system, whereby both India and Italy will benefit from the Disaster Management mechanisms of each other and it will help in strengthening the areas of preparedness, response and capacity building in the field of Disaster Management.
 13. Group of countries is a part of recently announced new trilateral security partnership called 'AUKUS' for the Indo-pacific -- **USA, UK, Australia**. **Note:** The partnership AUKUS is to further strengthen the existing and strong security cooperation between the three members of the grouping, and deepen ties in Indo-Pacific region. With the development of nuclear-powered submarines, Australia will join an elite group of only 6 countries (India, US, UK, France, Russia and China) that currently operate nuclear-powered submarines.
 14. The theme of the 15th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting 2021 held virtually -- **We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper**. **Note:** 15th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting was held virtually. Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, Union Minister of State for Power, attended the meeting alongwith other senior officials of the Ministry from the Indian side. The Minister provided a brief status of the Indian energy transition plans, policies, challenges and efforts towards decarbonisation.
 15. **Iran** became the 9th member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). **Note:** Iran was holding the observer status for the past 15 years. The technical and legal process could take up to two years to conclude. Full member of SCO: China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan
 16. Justin Trudeau is the prime minister of **Canada**. **Note:** His Liberal Party only manage to win minority seats in the election, leading in 155 of 338 seats in the House of Commons, compared with 123 seats for Conservatives under Erin O'Toole. A party needs 170 seats to form a majority in the House of Commons. Justin Trudeau is in power since 2015.
 17. **Bangladesh** has decided to set up an e-commerce regulatory body to monitor the sector properly. **Note:** The step has been taken after major e-commerce company of Bangladesh allegedly cheated consumers worth hundreds of crores. Other proposals include formation of a central complaint management cell, mandatory registration, action against schemers and amending the Digital Security Act and Money Laundering Prevention Act.
 18. India and **Australia** hold the first Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting with on Coal and Mines through Video conferencing. **Note:** It is a precursor to the upcoming India-Australia Energy Dialogue scheduled to be held next month. The meeting was co-chaired by Additional Secretary in Ministry of Coal Vinod Kumar Tiwari from the Indian side and Head of Resources Division Paul Trotman from the Australian side. The discussions focused on Indian coal resources in the present and future scenario, critical and strategic minerals-demand and supply scenario and engagements with Australian counterpart.
 19. United Nations **World Food Programme (WFP)** has signed an MoU with **ICRISAT** institution to improve food, nutrition security and livelihoods in India against the impacts of climate change. **Note:** WFP and ICRISAT will work jointly to promote research, advocacy and raising awareness on traditional nutritious crops, undertaking food and nutritional security analysis and adaptation strategies, among other engagements.
 20. In September 2021, **Switzerland** becomes the world's 30th country to adopt same-sex marriages, and one of the last remaining western European nations to do so. **Note:** According to results provided by the Swiss federal chancellery, 64.1 percent of voters voted in favour of same-sex marriage in Sunday's nationwide referendum. Switzerland is the world's 30th country to adopt same-sex marriages, and one of the last remaining western European nations to do so. The Netherlands was the first in 2001.
 21. In September 2021, India has signed a White Shipping Agreement with **Oman**.

Note: The MoU was signed at the Maritime Security Center (MSC) in Muscat during the Indian Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh's ongoing three-day visit to Oman. The MoU on exchange of white shipping information is expected to contribute to enhanced maritime safety and security, mutual collaboration, exchange of information and understanding the concerns and threats which are prevalent in the entire region.

22. Russia is planning to launch manned spacecraft as well as cargo spacecraft to the International Space Station (ISS) in the year 2022.

Note: The information was obtained from the flight program. The program hints that Russia is planning to launch the Soyuz MS-21 spacecraft with astronauts Oleg Artemyev, Denis Matveyev and Sergey Korsakov on March 18, 2022. The Soyuz MS-22 spacecraft is scheduled to launch in September 21 with astronauts Sergey Prokopyev, Anna Kikina and Dmitry Petelin.

August 2021

1. 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.

2. **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.

3. **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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. **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.

7. 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.

8. The 11th Annual meeting of the Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (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 (Cargo-XML) 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 Nation 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 turned 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.
2. 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.
3. **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 IAP, 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 pRодукt 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:

- 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.

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.

- 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.

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

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

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.
- 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.

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.

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.

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

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.

- 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.

- 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

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 KV's 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

- 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)
- 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.

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).

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

- 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

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.

- 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. 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.

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.

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

- 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).

- 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.

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.

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

- It will also recommend measures for securing the full utilization of the installed capacity and for improving

- 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
 - Niranjana 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

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)

- 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.

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- 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. 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 is 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

15. 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.

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 sides 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

- 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 'Simorgh'
- 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

- 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 for 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 2021

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

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

5. An anonymous photographer from **Myanmar** won the top award at "Visa Pour L'Image" festival the biggest annual festival for photojournalism for his coverage in troubled nation.
Note: The photographer, who remained unnamed for security reasons, scooped the Visa d'Or for News, the most prestigious award handed out at the "Visa Pour L'Image" festival in Perpignan, southwestern France. Mikko Takkunen, the Asia photo editor for The New York Times, collected the prize on behalf of the photographer.
6. **Ayaan Shankta** has been named as the 2021 International Young Eco-Hero for his project Conservation and Rehabilitation of Powai Lake.
Note: He is one of the 25 young environmental activists from across the world honoured as 2021 International Young Eco-Hero by Action For Nature (AFN). He stood third in the 8-14 age category. The award recognizes eco-conscious youth aged 8 to 16 who are taking crucial steps to solve tough environmental problems.
7. **ICRISAT** has been awarded 2021 Africa Food Prize for improved food security across 13 countries in sub-

- Saharan Africa at Africa Forum for Green Revolution (AGRF)-2021 Summit.
Note: ICRISAT: It is a non-profit, non-political public agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with a wide array of partners. ICRISAT led a collaboration of partners to deliver the Tropical Legumes Project between 2007 and 2019.
8. **Bhanumati Gheewala** has been selected for Florence Nightingale Award 2021.
Note: The nurse works at Sir Sayajirao General Hospital in Vadodara. She has been handling the delivery of COVID-19 positive pregnant women as well as taking care of newborns. The Florence Nightingale Award recognizes exceptional courage and devotion to victims of armed conflict or natural disaster.
9. **National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)** institution has bagged King Sejong Literacy Prize, a global recognition from UNESCO for its innovative approach towards education.
Note: The recognition is for educating differently-abled people through technology-enabled inclusive learning material. The NIOS move has a specific focus on Indian sign language-based content. By awarding NIOS the King Sejong Literacy Prize, the jury has recognized the value of providing for the unique educational and language needs of PwD learners by developing teaching content in sign language through digital mode.
10. **Anand Kumar** has been conferred with the Swami Brahmanand Award 2021.
Note: He received the award from professor Roop Kishore Shastri, the vice-chancellor of Haridwar's Gurukula Kangri deemed university, at a function in the Rath area of Hamirpur district of Uttar Pradesh. The award carrying Rs 10,000 in cash, a bronze medal, a bronze statue of Swami Brahmanand and a certificate is given every year to people who have done special work in the education sector or for the welfare of the cow.
11. **Susanna Clarke** has won the has 2021 Women's Prize for Fiction for her second novel 'Piranesi'.
Note: Women's Prize for Fiction: It is one of the United Kingdom's most prestigious literary prizes. It is awarded annually to a female author of any nationality for the best original full-length novel written in English, since 1996. Piranesi is a mystery about a man living alone in a labyrinthine house.
12. Indian President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2020. The award 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.
13. National Mineral Development Corporation works under **Ministry of Steel** won highest and most prestigious award, Rajbhasha Keerthi Puraskar 2021.
Note: Award was received by Shiva Shanmuganathan, Executive Director (Corporate Affairs) on behalf of NMDC. NMDC has been winning this award for the last 3 years in a row, which goes on to show its dedication towards the implementation of Hindi as the Official Language.
14. Narendra Modi, Mamata Banerjee and **Adar Poonawalla** included in the Time Magazine's list of '100 most influential people of 2021'.
Note: The 100 Most Influential People of 2021', a global list of leaders that includes US President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Duke and Duchess of Sussex Prince Harry and Meghan, and former US President Donald Trump. Co-founder of the Taliban Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar is also on the list. The Time Magazine 100 most influential people list is considered as one of the most powerful and trustworthy lists.
15. Quality Council of India (QCI) comes under ambit of **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has launched country's first-of-its-kind Prof. S.K. Joshi Laboratory Excellence Award.
Note: Award has been instituted to promote Laboratory Quality and performance improvement in India. S.K. Joshi made a significant contribution by serving as President-INSA, DG-CSIR, Director-NPL and Chairman-NABL. QCI is a non-profit organization registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860.
16. **The Crow** has been conferred with the Outstanding Drama Series award at the 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards 2021.
Note: The 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards ceremony was held in Los Angeles, California to honor the best in U.S. prime time television programming, as chosen by Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.
- List of winners:
 - ❖ Outstanding Drama Series: The Crown
 - ❖ Outstanding Comedy Series: Ted Lasso
 - ❖ Outstanding Variety Talk Show: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver
 - ❖ Outstanding Limited Series: The Queen's Gambit
 - ❖ Outstanding Actor – Comedy: Jason Sudeikis – Ted Lasso
 - ❖ Outstanding Actor – Drama: Josh O'Connor
 - ❖ Outstanding Director – Comedy: Lucia Aniello – Hacks
 - ❖ Outstanding Director – Drama: Jessica Hobbs – The Crown
 - ❖ Outstanding Writing – Limited Series, Movie Or Dramatic Special: Michaela Coel – I May Destroy You

- 17. Government e Marketplace (GeM)** has won the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS) Excellence in Procurement Awards 2021 in the 'Best Use of Digital Technology'.
- Note:** The GeM portal—a public procurement platform—has served about 7.61 million orders worth ₹1,39,884 crore from over 2.7 million registered sellers and service providers for more than 54,600 government buyers since its inception in August 2017. More than 56.9% of the total order value catered to over 723,000 small enterprises.
- 18. Ministry of Rural Development** has conferred Hunarbaaz Awards to 75 diyangan candidates from 15 states.
- Note:** The virtual award ceremony was organised by NIRDPR with MoRD, in association with State Rural

Livelihood Missions (SRLMs) and Rural Self-employment Training Institutes. CEOs of SRLMs and Directors of RSETIs handed over the awards at the respective states to the specially-abled achievers.

- 19. Accra, Ghana** has been named as UNESCO World Book Capital for 2023, following the evaluation of the World Book Capital Advisory Committee.
- Note:** After Guadalajara (Mexico) in 2022, the city of Accra was selected for its strong focus on young people and their potential to contribute to the culture and wealth of Ghana. Accra's proposed programme seeks to use the power of books to engage these young people, as an effective way of skilling up the next generation.

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.

3. 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.

4. 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**.

5. 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.

6. **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.

7. 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.

8. **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: Person in the World)	Renate Reinsve (Worst Person in the World)
Best actor: (Nitram)	Caleb Landry Jones
Best screenplay: Takamasa Oe (Drive My Car)	Hamaguchi Ryusuke and Takamasa Oe (Drive My Car)
Best first film: (Murina)	Antoneta Kusijanovic
Best short film:	All The Crows In The World (Tang Yi)

- 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.
- Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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. Adline 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 **Familial 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 Castelino 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 Castelino 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 2021

1. Renowned cricketer Dale Steyn from **South Africa** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
Note: He is regarded as one of the greatest fast bowlers of all time and is fondly known as 'Steyn Gun' among fans for his express pace. He made his international debut in 2004 and played 93 Tests, 125 ODIs and 47 T20Is.
2. Para Olympian Mariyappan Thangavelu associated with **High Jump** won silver medal at Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
Note: In the same event, Sharad Kumar won the bronze medal, clearing 1.83m mark. Sam Grewe of United States won the gold medal with 1.88m mark. With the two new medals, India's medal tally at the Tokyo Paralympics has now reached to 10.
3. Praveen Kumar associated with **High Jump** won a silver medal at Tokyo Para Olympic 2020.
Note: Praveen jumped 2.07 metre while Great Britain's Jonathan Broom-Edwards took the gold with a season-best of 2.10 metre in the event. With the win, India's medal tally at Tokyo Paralympics has risen to 11 with two Gold medals, six Silver and three Bronze medals.
4. Manish Narwal associated with **Shooting** won a gold medal in Tokyo Olympic 2020.
Note: The 19-year-old Narwal shot a total of 218.2, a Paralympic record, to claim the gold. Shooter Manish Narwal clinched India's third gold at the ongoing Paralympics while compatriot Singhraj Adana bagged the silver in the P4 Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 event.
5. **Max Verstappen** won the Dutch Grand Prix 2021 title.
Note: The Red Bull driver's leading seventh win of the season and 17th of his career. Championship leader Lewis Hamilton could only manage second place in his Mercedes F1. Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas was third.
6. Para-Olympian Suhas Lalinakere Yathiraj associated with **Badminton** has scripted history by becoming first IAS officer to win Paralympics silver medal.
Note: He lost gold medal match to the top seeded Lucas Mazur of France. The 38-year-old Suhas is currently the District Magistrate (DM) of Noida and became the first-ever IAS officer to win a medal at the Paralympics. Suhas had lost to Mazur, who has won three gold medals in European Championships as well.
7. **Avani Lekhara** lead India's contingent at the Closing Ceremony of Tokyo Paralympics as the flag-bearer.
Note: 19-year-old shooter won gold and bronze medals at the Paralympic Games. A total of 54 para-athletes from India across nine sports disciplines participated in the event. Indian contingent finished their campaign at the Paralympic Games at an all-time high by securing a total of 19 medals which includes 5 gold, 8 silver, and 6 bronze medals.
8. **Badminton and Taekwondo** two sports made their debut in Tokyo Paralympic 2020.
Note: Taekwondo will be the first full-contact Paralympic sport ever. Developed in 2006, Para taekwondo has the same rules as its Olympic counterpart with some changes for safety. Most of the rules for Para badminton are the same as the able-bodied version of the sport.
9. **Pramod Bhagat** has won Men's Singles SL3 event badminton gold medal match against Great Britain's Daniell Bethell at Tokyo Paralympics.
Note: He defeated Daniell Bethel of Great Britain. He is one of the best para-shuttlers of India with 45 international medals under his belt. This is India's first medal in badminton at the Paralympics Games.
10. The 130th edition of Durand Cup, the oldest football tournament being hosted by **Kolkata**.
Note: 16 teams will be participated in this edition of the oldest club football tournament in Asia while two clubs East Bengal and Mohun Bagan are not participating. Mohammedan Sporting Club started their campaign in the tournament with an emphatic win against the Indian Air Force Football team.
11. Emma Raducanu held from **Britain** has won Women's Singles title at 2021 US Open Tennis tournament by defeating Leylah Fernandez of Canada.
Note: Rising British sensation Emma defeated her Canadian opponent in straight sets 6-4, 6-3 in the summit clash held at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York. She has become the first British woman to win the title in 53 years. Raducanu has also become the first British woman in 44 years to win a Grand Slam singles title.
12. **Daniil Medvedev** has won 2021 US Open men's singles Tennis Title.
Note: Medvedev, the 2019 US Open runner-up, captured his first Grand Slam title in his third Slam final. Medvedev became the third Russian man to win a Grand Slam title after Yevgeny Kafelnikov at the 1996 French Open and 1999 Australian Open and Marat Safin at the 2000 US Open and 2005 Australian Open.
13. **Daniel Ricciardo** has won the won Formula One Italian Grand Prix 2021 title held at Autodromo Nazionale Monza.
Note: This is the first victory for McLaren in 9 years. Lando Norris (McLaren-Mercedes) came second, followed by Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes). Lewis Hamilton and Max Verstappen crash out of Italian Grand Prix 2021 due to collision. It was the 14th round of 2021 F1 World Championship and second Grand Prix in Italy of the season.

14. International Olympic Committee (IOC) has formally suspended **North Korea** from the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics.
Note: IOC president Thomas Bach said the North Korean national Olympic body will also now forfeit money it was due from the previous Olympics. The unspecified amount — potentially millions of dollars — had been withheld because of international sanctions.
15. **MS Dhoni** has been appointed as the Team India's mentor for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup 2021 by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
Note: MD Dhoni has announced his retirement from international limited-overs cricket on August 15, 2020. Dhoni had last played for India in the 2019 ICC World Cup semi-final against New Zealand. Dhoni, who leads Chennai Super Kings, is a three-time IPL-winning captain and has brought home three major ICC trophies — World T20, Champions Trophy and World Cup.
16. **Jeev Milkha Singh** has become the first professional golfer in the world to receive the prestigious 10-year Dubai Golden Visa in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sport.
Note: The 49-year-old Jeev has had a long association with Dubai, having featured in several tournaments and making many friends in the city. Jeev, winner of four titles on the European Tour, four on Japan Golf Tour and six on the Asian Tour, has received the 10-year 'Gold card' for being an elite professional athlete.
17. Harmilan Kaur Bains associated with **Sprint** sports.
Note: Harmilan, undefeated in eight national-level 1,500 metres races since January 2020. With this achievement, the 23-year-old athlete broke the 19-year-old record held by Sunita Rani in 1500m at the 2002 Asian Games in Busan by clocking 4:06.03.
18. **Pankaj Advani** has won 'Asian Snooker Championship 2021' at Al Messila in Doha, Qatar.
Note: He emerged victorious in the best of 11 frames final. He has won this title for a second consecutive time. He is also the winner of the last Asian Snooker Championship held in 2019.
19. R Raja Rithvik held from **Telangana** state has become India's 70th and newest chess Grandmaster (GM).
Note: He has achieved his third and final norm at First Saturday Chess Tournaments in Budapest, Hungary, to enter the GM club. Rithvik earned his first GM norm in 2019. He touched the magical 2500 Elo mark in the fourth round of the tournament after beating Vaclav Finek.
20. 2022 Winter Olympics and Paralympics games scheduled to be held in **China**.
Note: Three sets of official posters and 11 promotional pieces featuring elements of winter sports and Chinese culture highlighting Beijing 2022 motto Together for a Shared Future. The slogan reflects power of Games to overcome global challenges as a community, with a shared future for humankind and work together towards a better tomorrow, especially given the difficulties faced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
21. The motto the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics -- **Together for a Shared Future**.
Note: This motto embodies the Olympic spirit, the Chinese way of revealing the Olympic spirit. That's because 'together' embodies a type of unity, cohesion and way of overcoming difficulties. The Games will be held from Feb. 4-20, with Beijing set to become the first city to host both the Summer and Winter Olympics.
22. **Odisha** state will host junior men's World Cup Hockey tournament to be held in November 2021.
Note: Chief minister Naveen Patnaik announced this in capital Bhubaneswar. He also unveiled the logo and trophy for the tournament. As many as 16 countries will take part in the event that will be held in the Kalinga stadium in Bhubaneswar from the 24th November 5th December 2021. Odisha had hosted the 2018 men's hockey world cup.
23. **Lewis Hamilton** has won Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix 2021.
Note: Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) came second, followed by Carlos Sainz (Ferrari-Spain) in the Russian Grand Prix 2021. Carlos Sainz got his first podium in Russia. Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) stood at 5th position. This was the 15th round of the 2021 Formula One World Championship.
24. Jyothi Surekha Vennam is associated with **Archery** sports.
Note: Sara Lopez of Colombia bagged the gold medal by defeating Jyothi by 146-144 in the finals. Indian mixed pair duo of Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam lost to the Colombian pair in the summit clash as well. Jyothi Surekha won two bronze medals at 2011 Asian Archery Championships.
25. Partnering with whom Indian tennis star Sania Mirza won women's doubles final of the Ostrava Open 2021 - **- Shuai Zhang**.
Note: They won the title by 6-3, 6-2 against third seeds Kaitlyn Christian (US) and Erin Routliffe (New Zealand). This is the 43rd WTA doubles title victory for former World No.1 Sania Mirza. 2021 Ostrava Open Women's single title: Anett Kontaveit won her maiden WTA 500 title, after defeating Maria Sakkari in the final by 6-2, 7-5.
26. **United States** has won the 2021 Ryder Cup, which is a biennial men's golf competition.
Note: This is the largest margin of victory in the history of Ryder Cup. Ryder Cup is a biennial men's golf competition held between teams from Europe and United States.

August -2021

1. To win a bronze medal in badminton women's single match in Tokyo Olympics PV Sindhu 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 Sindhu** 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.
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.
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 is 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 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. His 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 Shailli 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.** Shailli 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. Shailli'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. Shailli 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 Ryshepa 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 Iniyen** won the Noisiel International Open tournament in Noisiel, Paris.
Note: The event, held from August 23 to 28, saw Iniyen 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.

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 Damljanovic 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 Lilov, 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** Riyadh 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 Phunju 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 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 Krejckikova** has won the French Open Women's singles title 2021.
Note: The 25-year-old Krejckikova, 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 Ukranian made some good moves but Vinesh was quick to wriggle out of the tricky situations.

- 13. D. Gukesh** has 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. Sajan 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 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 Pumori 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 Pumori(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 Kosic 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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