

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 on the laptop keyboard. The image is partially obscured by a large purple and orange graphic element on the left side.

**SBI PO Mains
Exam 2021**

**GK Tornado
PDF**

GK-Tornado SBI PO Mains 2021 Exam

Dear Aspirants,

This **GK Tornado** is a complete docket of important **Banking Awareness & Current Affairs news** and events that occurred in last **4.5 months (1st August 2021 – 15th December 2021)**. This file is important and relevant for all competitive exams like **Banking, Insurance, SSC and UPSC Exams**.

News related to RBI

December (1st -15th)

1. RBI proposes new norms for capital requirement for banks

Note: The Reserve Bank of India released the draft Master Directions on minimum capital requirements for operational risk as part of convergence of its regulations for banks with **Basel III standards**. The provisions of these directions shall apply to all commercial banks excluding local area banks, payments banks, regional rural banks, and small finance banks. The directions shall come into effect from April 1, 2023. All existing approaches – Basic Indicator Approach (BIA), The Standardised Approach (TSA)/ Alternative Standardised Approach (ASA) and **Advanced Measurement Approach (AMA)** for measuring minimum operational risk capital requirements shall be replaced by the new standardised approach (Basel III Standardised Approach). Basel III SA calculation methodology is based on the Business Indicator (BI), the Business Indicator Component (BIC) and the Internal Loss Multiplier (ILM). The BI is a financial-statement-based proxy for operational risk while the BIC is calculated by multiplying the BI by a set of marginal coefficients (α_i). The ILM is a scaling factor that is based on a bank's average historical losses and the BIC.

2. RBI allows Payments Banks, SFBs to conduct Govt agency business

Note: Scheduled payments banks and scheduled small finance banks will be eligible to conduct Government agency business, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The central bank has decided in this regard in consultation with the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance (MoF). Any payment bank or small finance bank that intends to undertake Government agency business may be appointed as an agent of RBI upon execution of an agreement with RBI, provided that the overarching regulatory framework prescribed for these banks is complied with.

3. RBI unveils PCA framework for NBFCs effective Oct 2022

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to put in place a prompt corrective action (PCA) framework for troubled non-banking finance companies to restore their financial health. Until now, the RBI had imposed PCA only on banks. The PCA framework for NBFCs comes into effect from October 1, 2022, based on their financial position on or after March 31, 2022. The framework will apply to all deposit-taking NBFCs, excluding government companies, and all non-deposit taking NBFCs in the middle, upper and top layers. The central bank will track three indicators — capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR), Tier I ratio and net non-performing assets (NNPAs), including non-performing investments (NPIs). In the case of core investment companies (CICs), the RBI will track adjusted net worth/aggregate risk weighted assets, leverage ratio and NNPAs, including NPIs. A breach in any of the three risk thresholds under the above mentioned indicators could result in invocation of PCA.

4. RBI enforces 20-digit LEI for cross-border deals above Rs 50 crore

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) mandatory for cross-border transactions for capital or current account transactions of Rs 50 crore and above, from October 1 next year. LEI is a 20-digit number used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions worldwide to improve the quality and accuracy of financial data systems. The LEI numbers are maintained in a global LEI database available on the website of the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF). LEI has been introduced by the Reserve Bank in a phased manner for over the counter (OTC) derivative, non-derivative markets, large corporate borrowers and large value transactions in centralised payment systems. Banks will have to obtain LEI numbers from local companies undertaking capital or current account transactions of Rs 50 crore and above, for each transaction.

5. India to recover faster than other BRICS nations: RBI Bulletin 2021

Note: India’s recovery is projected to be higher than other BRICS nations, as per the second edition of the BRICS Economic Bulletin 2021 released by the Reserve Bank of India. It notes that India, Brazil and Russia are in the top five countries in the world in terms of infections. Charting the expected growth recovery for 2021, India’s recovery is projected to be higher than other BRICS nations. The BRICS Economic Bulletin 2021 is prepared by the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) Research Group with members from BRICS central banks. This edition addresses the theme of ‘Navigating the Ongoing Pandemic: The BRICS Experience of Resilience and Recovery’.

6. Paytm Payments Bank gets RBI approval to operate as scheduled bank

Note: Paytm Payments Bank has received the banking regulator’s approval to operate as a scheduled payments bank, helping it to expand its financial services operations. Bank has been included in the second schedule to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934. With the scheduled bank status, the payments bank can now participate in government- and other large corporations-issued requests for proposal, primary auctions, fixed-rate and variable rate repos, and reverse repos, along with participation in marginal standing facility. Also, the bank will now be eligible to partner in the government’s financial inclusion scheme.

7. RBI plans to enhance 14-day VRRR auction amounts in December

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is planning to enhance the 14-day variable reverse repo rate (VRRR) auction amounts in December. This comes even as it continues to rebalance liquidity conditions in a non-disruptive manner while maintaining adequate liquidity to meet the needs of the productive sectors of the economy. The central bank will conduct a VRRR auction for ₹6.5 lakh crore on December 17 and for ₹7.5 lakh crore on December 31. RBI had undertaken the 14-day VRRR auctions on a fortnightly basis beginning October 8, 2021 (₹4 lakh crore), followed by ₹4.5 lakh crore on October 22, ₹5 lakh crore on November 3, ₹5.5 lakh crore on November 18, and ₹6 lakh crore on December 3.

8. RBI Proposes to Increase UPI Transaction Limit For IPOs To ₹ 5 Lakh

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shakti kanta Das said the central bank has proposed to enhance the transaction limit for payments through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for the Retail Direct Scheme (RDS) for investment in government securities and Initial Public Offering (IPO) applications from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. This essentially means that retail investors using the convenient UPI payment system will soon be able to invest upto Rs 5 lakh in government bonds under RBI’s RDS scheme and IPOs. The limit was Rs 2 lakh earlier. RBI Governor made the announcement while announcing the outcome of the central bank’s bi-monthly policy review meeting.

9. 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 December 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%

November -2021

1. RBI accepts 21 of 33 working group recommendations on private banks

Note: The RBI has accepted 21 recommendation the IWG headed by PK Mohanty. The key recommendations include that the cap on promoters’ stake in long run of 15 years will be raised from the current levels of 15 per cent

to 26 per cent of the paid-up voting equity share capital of the bank.

Key Recommendation:

- No changes are made in the initial lock-in requirements, which may continue as a minimum of 40 percent of the paid-up voting equity share capital of the bank for the first 5 years.

- There is no need to fix any cap on the promoters' holding in the initial 5 years.
- The promoters are allowed to choose to bring down the holding to below 26 percent, any time after the 5 year lock-in period.

2. RBI approves NSDL e-Governance as Account Aggregator

Note: The RBI approved the "NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure" as an account aggregator. NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure is an IT-enabled services provider. It got an in-principle approval from RBI for setting an account aggregator business under the wholly owned subsidiary called NSDL e-Governance Account Aggregator Ltd. Account Aggregator (AA) model has the potential of transforming the way by which financial services are delivered by means of a unique architecture for consent-based sharing of data.

3. Banks To Place Consumer Education Info On Websites: RBI

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced banks must mention accurate repayment due dates in loan agreements. Under the guidelines, banks have been asked to specify the exact due dates of repayment in loan agreements. As per current norms, loan turns overdue in case it is not repaid on the due date fixed by bank. RBI noted observed that, due dates for repayments are not specifically mentioned sometimes, in the loan agreements. Instead, a description of due dates is mentioned. It led to different interpretations. Thus, RBI has asked banks to specify exact due dates for repayment of a loan, breakup between principal & interest, frequency of repayment, non-performing asset (NPA) classification and examples of special mention account (SMA) in the loan agreement.

4. PM Narendra Modi launched two customer-centric initiatives of RBI

Note: Two schemes are RBI Retail Direct Scheme and the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme. RBI Retail Direct Scheme will act as a safe medium of investment for small investors in government securities. RBI Integrated Ombudsman Scheme was launched to help in improving grievance redress mechanism to resolve customer complaints against regulated entities of RBI. It will do away with the jurisdictional limitations and limited grounds for complaints. This scheme based on the principle of 'One Nation-One Ombudsman' comprising of "one portal, one email, and one address" for customers to file their complaints.

5. RBI Launches First Global Hackathon 'HaRBInger'

Note: The RBI will be organising its first global hackathon on the theme of digital payments. "HARBINGER 2021-Innovation for Transformation" with the theme 'Smarter Digital Payments' will see participants identify and develop solutions "that have the potential to make digital payments accessible to the under-served, enhance the ease of payments and user experience, while strengthening the security of digital payments and

promoting customer protection. The participants in the hackathon will get the opportunity to be mentored by industry experts, exhibit their innovative solutions before an eminent jury, and win prizes in each category. The winner will get Rs 40 lakh, and the runner-up will be awarded Rs 20 lakh.

6. RBI unveils revised PCA framework

Note: The RBI tweaked its prompt corrective action (PCA) framework to exclude the profitability parameter from its list of triggers. The revised PCA framework will be effective from January 1, 2022. The PCA framework is also intended to act as a tool for effective market discipline. The framework will apply to all banks operating in India, including foreign banks operating through branches or subsidiaries based on breach of risk thresholds of identified indicators.

7. RBI panel calls for an overhaul of ARC regulations

Note: A central bank panel has suggested an overhaul of the rules governing Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARC) to enhance the availability of bad loans for transactions and bring in a wider set of investors to the market for distressed assets. The recommendations include purchase of loans classified as fraud, an online system for transparency in transactions, and permission to transact in financial assets owned by mutual funds. The need to define 'substantial part of business' to ensure change in management, and permission to participate in the resolution under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) by ARCs are among the 42 recommendations of the panel.

8. RBI supersedes board of default-hit Reliance Capital

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) superseded the board of Reliance Capital and appointed Nageswar Rao Y (Ex-Executive Director, Bank of Maharashtra) as the administrator of the company. The Reserve Bank will shortly initiate the process of resolution of the company under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Rules, 2019. The RBI will also apply to the National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai for appointing the Administrator as the Insolvency Resolution professional. RBI also appointed three-member advisory committee for assisting the administrator of Reliance Capital (RCap), appointed to the company in discharging his duties. Members: SBI's ex-deputy managing director (DMD) Sanjeev Nautiyal, Axis Bank's ex-DMD Srinivasan Varadarajan, and Tata Capital's ex-MD and CEO Praveen P Kadle.

9. LIC gets RBI approval to raise stake in Kotak Mahindra Bank

Note: Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to increase its stake in the Kotak Mahindra Bank. The approval is to raise LIC's stake in the bank up to 9.99 per cent from the current 4.96 per cent it has in the private lender. Prior approval is required from the central bank to make an acquisition in any private banks of more than 5 per cent stake.

10. RBI releases report of working group on digital lending

Note: A working group constituted by the Reserve Bank of India on digital lending through online platforms and mobile apps has submitted its report. This report is aimed at enhancing customer protection and making the digital lending ecosystem safe while encouraging innovation. The working group (WG) was set up on January 13, 2021, with Jayant Kumar Dash, Executive Director, RBI as the Chairman. The group has recommended subjecting the digital lending applications to a verification process by a nodal agency, which may be set up in consultation with stakeholders. Further, the group recommends setting up a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) covering the participants in the digital lending ecosystem. An anti-predatory lending policy may be framed by each lender based on the characteristics to be defined by RBI/ proposed SRO.

11. RBI's Regulation Review Authority 2.0 recommends withdrawal of 150 circulars in first tranche:

Note: The RBI's Regulation Review Authority (RRA) 2.0 has recommended withdrawal of 150 circulars. This is the first tranche of RRA 2.0's recommendations. RRA 2.0 was set-up in April 2021 to review regulatory instructions removing redundant and duplicate ones; reduce compliance burden on Regulated Entities (REs) by streamlining reporting structure; revoke obsolete instructions; and, wherever possible, obviate paper-based submission of returns. The RRA has to engage with the regulator, regulated entities and other stakeholders to facilitate the review and streamlining process. Subsequently, the Authority has constituted an advisory group representing the regulated entities under the chairmanship of Swaminathan J, managing director, State Bank of India.

12. PIDF corpus of RBI at Rs 613 crore

Note: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has shared the status update on the Payment Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF). PIDF was operationalised by RBI from January 2021 to subsidise the deployment of Points of Sale (PoS) infrastructure (physical and digital modes) in tier-3 to tier-6 centres and north eastern states. In August 2021,

beneficiaries of PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi Scheme) in tier-1 and tier-2 centres were also covered under the PIDF scheme. Acquiring institutions (banks and non-banks), registered under the PIDF Scheme, commit region-wise deployment targets, submit deployment statistics and claim subsidy for devices which fulfil the prescribed criteria

13. RBI introduces internal ombudsman mechanism for select-NBFCs

Note: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced internal ombudsman mechanism for select-NBFCs. RBI has directed deposit-taking NBFCs (NBFCs-D) with or more branches and Non-Deposit taking NBFCs (NBFCs-ND) with asset size of Rs 5,000 crore and above having public customer interface to appoint Internal Ombudsman (IO) at the apex of their internal grievance redress mechanism within a period of six months. Certain NBFCs not having public customer interface and certain types of NBFCs, viz., standalone Primary Dealers (PDs), NBFC - Infrastructure Finance Companies (NBFC-IFCs), Core Investment Companies (CICs), Infrastructure Debt Fund - Non-Banking Financial Companies (IDF-NBFCs), Non-Banking Financial Company - Account Aggregators (NBFC-AAs), NBFCs under Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process, NBFCs in liquidation and NBFCs having only captive customers have been excluded.

14. RBI committee releases suggestions to streamline functioning of ARCs

Note: A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) panel, headed by the central bank's former executive director Sudarshan Sen, released a number of suggestions on November 2 to streamline the functioning of asset reconstruction companies (ARCs). The suggestions include the creation of online platform for the sale of stressed assets and permitting ARCs to act as resolution applicants during the insolvency and bankruptcy process. The RBI committee has recommended that the scope of Section 5 of the SARFAESI Act be expanded to permit ARCs to acquire financial assets from all regulated entities, including AIFs, FPIs, AMCs making investment on behalf of MFs, and all NBFCs including HFCs.

October -2021

1. RBI releases draft framework on implementation of Basel III Capital Framework for AIFIs

Note: Reserve Bank of India released a draft framework on master directions to implement the Basel III Capital Framework for AIFIs. These Directions shall be applicable to the four All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) viz., EXIM Bank, NABARD, NHB, and SIDBI, RBI said in a release. The draft directions also consolidate and contain suitable modifications to the existing instruction on exposure norms, classification, valuation and operation of investment portfolio norms and

resource raising norms issued to AIFIs. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed a minimum of 11.5% capital for four all India financial institutions (AIFI).

2. RBI raises IMPS transaction limit to Rs 5 lakh

Note: The Reserve Bank increased the transaction limit on Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 2 lakh. IMPS provides round-the-clock instant domestic funds transfer facility and is accessible through various channels like internet banking, mobile banking apps, bank branches, ATMs, SMS and IVRS. The

transaction limit of Rs 2 lakh was capped in January 2014 for the channels and for SMS and IVRS the limit is Rs 5,000. The increase in limit will give further rise to digital payments and create an additional facility to customer for making digital payments beyond Rs 2 lakh.

3. **RBI to halt Government Securities Acquisition Programme (G-SAP)**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India has decided to halt the Government Securities Acquisition Programme (G-SAP). The liquidity overhang and absence of fresh government borrowing suggest that bond purchases are not required at the moment. G-SAP has been successful and anchoring yield expectations, coupled with other liquidity measures.

4. **RBI Monetary Policy Committee Announcements**

Note: Three-membered Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) maintained an accommodative stance and kept the repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent, in order to revive & sustain growth and reduce the impact of Covid-19 pandemic. Monetary Policy Committee has also ensured that inflation remains within the target. Reverse repo rate was also kept as earlier at 3.35 per cent. Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and bank rate also remain unchanged at 4.25 per cent. This was the eighth consecutive time that RBI has maintained a status quo on policy rate. The central bank had last revised its policy rate on May 22, 2020, in an off-policy cycle in order to boost the demand by cutting interest rates.

5. **All micro loans must be collateral-free: RBI**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to make micro-lending collateral-free for all the lenders, rather than just for microfinance institutions (MFIs). This proposal was announced by RBI deputy governor Rajeshwar Rao while he was delivering the inaugural address at Sa-Dhan National Conference on 'Revitalising financial inclusion'. In his address, he noted that, current regulations on financial inclusion have created a non-level playing field. Current regulatory framework was implemented with the objective of making credit available to low-income households as well for protecting borrowers from harsh recovery practices of the lenders. This regulatory framework is applicable only to NBFC-MFIs. On the other hand, lenders with

share of around 70% in microfinance portfolio, are not subjected to similar regulatory conditions.

6. **RBI's new auto Debit Rules**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated new auto-debit rules on October 1, 2021 in order to strengthen the safety and security of card transactions. As per RBI's directive, there will be no automatic recurring payment for several services like utility bills, DTH, recharge of phone and OTT because additional factor of authentication (AFA) will become mandatory onwards. Under new directives, banks will have to inform the customers in advance regarding the recurring payments due. Transactions will not be automatic but will be done after customer has authenticated it.

7. **Reserve Bank of India grants licence to NARCL under Sarfaesi Act**

Note: The RBI has granted the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL), which is seeking to turn around bad loans worth Rs 2 trillion, the licence to register as an asset reconstruction company (ARC). The licence to NARCL, dubbed as bad bank, was granted by the central bank on Monday, said an official. The approval to the entity has been accorded under Section 3 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002. Section 3 of SARFAESI Act states that an entity cannot start the business of securitisation or asset reconstruction without obtaining a certificate of registration, and should have funds of at least Rs 2 crore or an amount not exceeding 15 per cent of the total financial assets acquired or to be acquired by the ARC.

8. **RBI caps NBFC IPO funding at Rs one crore per borrower from FY23**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a scale-based regulation of non-banking finance companies. RBI's regulation also comprises of a ceiling on IPO funding per borrower and changes in minimum net owned fund, capital requirements and classification of non-performing assets. Under the new framework, RBI has kept a ceiling of Rs 1 crore per borrower to finance subscription of an initial public offering (IPO). Overall guidelines will be effective from October 1, 2022, while the instructions related to the ceiling on IPO funding will come into effect from April 1, 2022.

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 Net-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. 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.

August 2021

1. 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

- 2. 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 unique for a combination of card, token requestor and identified device.
- 3. 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."
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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'.

- 7. 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.
- 8. 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.
- 9. 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.
- 10. 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.
- 11. 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.

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

1-15th December

1. Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) released Worldwide Cost of Living Index 2021

Note:

- The 2021 index explored cost of living in 173 cities, 40 more than last year.
- Most expensive cities: Tel Aviv, followed by Paris, Singapore, Zurich, and Hong Kong
- Paris was the most expensive city according to the 2020 index.
- Lowest rankings: Africa, Middle East, and less wealthier parts of Asia.

2. India ranks as the fourth most powerful country in Asia Power Index

Note:

- India has overall score of 37.7 out of 100, down by two points from 2020
- Released by: Lowy Institute
- India fell short of the major power threshold in 2021 and is among 18 countries in the region to trend downward in its overall score in 2021
- Top performers: USA, China and Japan

3. World Inequality Report 2022

- Released by: Paris-based **World Inequality Lab**

- The report captured certain interesting insights about global income & wealth inequality
- As per the report 2022, India is now among the most unequal countries in the world with an affluent elite
- While the bottom half of Indian population earns Rs 53,610, top 10% earns twenty times more (around Rs 11,66,520).
- Top 10% and top 1% hold respectively 57% and 22% of total national income.

4. Forbes' rankings of 100 most powerful women of the world

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been ranked 37th among Forbes' 100 most powerful women of the world
- Top performer: Mackenzie Scott, followed by Kamla Harris and Christine Lagarde.
- Roshni Nadar Malhotra (52); Kiran Mazumdar Shaw (72), and Falguni Nayar (88) were also in the Forbes List.

5. Waste-wise Cities: Best practices in Municipal Solid Waste Management report

Note:

- Released by: NITI Aayog, along with Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)
- It is a comprehensive knowledge repository of how Indian cities are managing their solid

waste and documents best practices from 28 cities in 15 states of India.

- Five cities in Maharashtra (Vengurla Municipal Council, Karad, Chandrapur, Pune) have been placed in the list due to their relentless efforts.

6. 'The Great Leap Backwards of Journalism in China'

Note:

- Published by: Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
- As per the report, China is the world's biggest captor of journalists with at least 127 reporters currently detained.

7. India ranks 66th at Global Health Security (GHS) Index 2021 with score of 42.8 (out of 100)

Note:

- Developed By: Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and Johns Hopkins Center.
- It assesses countries' health security and capabilities across six categories and 37 indicators
- Top performers: US, Australia, Finland, Canada, Thailand
- Worst Performer: Somalia (195), Yemen (194), North Korea (193)

8. World Talent Ranking (WTR) 2021

Note:

- India's rank: 56
- Released by: Institute for Management Development
- Top performers: Switzerland, followed by Sweden, Luxembourg, Norway, and Denmark.
- WTR assesses the status and the development of competencies among 64 economies

9. Time magazine's Person of the Year for 2021

- Tesla Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk has been named as Time magazine's Person of the Year for 2021

- US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris were named as the Person of the Year for 2020 by Time magazine.
- Elon Musk is the founder, CEO and Chief Engineer at SpaceX with an estimated net worth of around US\$255 billion.

10. Global trade likely to hit \$28 trillion in 2021, grow 23% YoY: UNCTAD report

- Global trade is expected to reach about \$28 trillion in 2021, growing 11% over pre-pandemic levels, according to the global trade update report by UNCTAD.
- India's goods exports show rise of 27% and 5%, and services increased by 7% and 17% in Q3 of the current fiscal compared to 2019 average and Q2 2021, respectively.

11. Ninth edition of India Skills Report 2022

- Released by: **Wheebox**
- **Maharashtra** has retained the top position in the list of states with the highest poll of employable talent followed by **Uttar Pradesh** and **Kerala**.
- The theme of ISR 2022: '**Rebuilding and Reengineering the Future of Work**'.
- The Report is a full-fledged report about the future of work, education, and skilling to match the talent demand and supply in a growing India

12. World Cooperative Monitor report 2021

- Released by: **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)** and **European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse)**
- Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has been ranked 'number one Cooperative' among top 300 cooperatives in the world.
- Ranking was based on the ratio of turnover over the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita.

November-2021

1. WHO released 2021 Global Nutrition Report

- World Health Assembly (WHO) has released Global Nutrition Report 2021, that acts as a report card on the world's nutrition globally and regionally.
- India's position:

- Over half of Indian women of 15-49 years are anaemic with increase in number from 52.6% in 2016 to 53% in 2020.
- Over 17% of Indian children under 5 years of age are under the category of child wasting (low weight for height)

- India is meeting 7 of 13 global nutrition targets.

2. NITI Aayog releases SDG Urban Index and Dashboard 2021–22

- NITI Aayog under Indo-German Cooperation has released Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Urban Index and Dashboard 2021–22.
- It ranks 56 urban areas on 77 SDG indicators across 46 targets of SDG framework
- Shimla tops the Index followed by Coimbatore, Chandigarh, Thiruvananthapuram
- Worst performers: Patna, Guwahati, Itanagar, Meerut, Dhanbad
- Urban areas have been classified as:
 - Aspirant: 0–49
 - Performer: 50–64
 - Front-Runner: 65–99
 - Achiever: 100

3. Bhupender Yadav initiates first ever All India Domestic Workers Survey

- It will cover 742 districts in 37 States and Union territories.
- Objective: To estimate the number and proportion of domestic workers at the national and state level and find out household estimates of live-in and live-out domestic workers.

4. Migration and Development Brief 35 report

Key highlights:

- It is released by World Bank and KNOMAD
- India has received \$87 billion in remittances in 2021 and is also the top country in receiving remittances in 2021, followed by China, Mexico, Philippines, and Arab Republic of Egypt.
- As per the report, remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are projected to reach \$589 billion in 2021

5. India ranked 10th in Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2022

- It is being released by German-watch along with Climate Action Network (CAN) and New Climate Institute
- India was at 10th place in 2020 as well
- Scandinavian countries (Denmark (4th), Sweden (5th), and Norway (6th)), together with UK and Morocco, lead the 'race to zero'
- Worst performers: Australia, South Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Kazakhstan

6. Govt to conduct National Achievement Survey (NAS)

- Union Govt has been implementing sample-based National Achievement Survey (NAS) aimed at Classes III, V, VIII and X with a cycle period of 3 years.
- Earlier, NAS was held on 13th November, 2017 for assessing the competencies developed by children at the grade levels III, V and VIII.
- Aim: to assess the learning interruptions and new learnings during the COVID pandemic and help to take remedial measures.
- Test would be conducted in 22 mediums of instruction covering Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Mizo, Odiya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Garo, Khasi, Konkani, Nepali, Bhutia, and Lepcha.

7. Third edition of Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) report

- As per the report, Gujarat has been adjudged as the Best Performing State, followed by Haryana and Punjab, while Uttar Pradesh is the top improver.
- LEADS: Longevity, Efficiency, Accuracy, Durability, and Smartness in the Logistics sector.
- It can lead the way to bring down logistics costs by five percent over the next 5 years.

8. World Meteorological Organization released report titled as 'State of Global Climate-2021'

- The report stated that last seven years have been the warmest on record and global sea-level rise accelerated since 2013, reaching a new high in 2021.
- It has attributed record sea-level rise to warming up and acidification of ocean waters.
- COP-26 conference began in Glasgow, combines inputs from multiple United Nations agencies, national meteorological and hydrological services and scientific experts.

9. Public Affairs Index (PAI) 2021

- Top performers: Kerala, Tamil Nadu & Telangana
- Released by: Public Affairs Centre (PAC).

10. JP Morgan Chase bagged top spot at 2021 list of globally systemic banks (G-SIBs)

- It released by Financial Stability Board (FSB).
- FSB has identified total 30 banks as globally systemic banks (G-SIBs) by FSB.

- These 30 banks are divided into four buckets in order of how systemic, international, interconnected and complex they are.

11. National Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021

- Released by: Niti Aayog
- It uses methodology developed by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI).
- As per the index, 51.91% of the population in Bihar is poor, followed by Jharkhand, UP, MP and Meghalaya.
- Lowest poverty levels: Kerela, followed by Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Goa and Sikkim

October 2021

1. Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has launched 7th consecutive edition of Swachh Survekshan (SS)

- Driving Philosophy for SS: People First
- It is the world's largest urban cleanliness survey covering over 4,000 ULBs
- Conducted by: Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U).
- SS was introduced in 2016 by MoHUA to rank cities on cleanliness parameters in 73 cities

2. Mukesh Ambani tops Hurun India Rich List 2021 for 10th straight year

- Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani has topped IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List for the 10th consecutive year with total net worth of Rs 7,18,000 crore.
- Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani is at second spot with net worth of Rs. 5,05,900 crores, followed by Shiv Nadar & family of HCL technologies with net worth of Rs 2,36,600 crore
- Hurun India Rich List 2021, features as many as 1,007 individuals across 119 cities with net worth of Rs 1,000 crore
- Hurun Rich List indicated that India has a total of 237 billionaires, compared to 58 last year

3. ICRA report on electricity

Key highlights:

- India's electricity demand is expected to increase by 8-8.5 % in Financial Year 2022.
- All-India electricity demand increased by 12.7% to 707 billion units (BU) on year-on-year basis, from April 2021 to September 2021.

12. Union Health Ministry released Factsheets of NFHS-5

- Factsheets of key indicators on population, reproductive and child health, family welfare, nutrition and others for India and 14 States/UTs (clubbed under Phase-II) of 2019-21 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) has been released
- India has also officially hit total fertility rate (TFR) of 2.0 that indicates a decrease from the 2.2 in the NFHS-4.
- Proportion of anaemic children (5-59 months) increased from 58% to 67%.

- Lower than normal monsoon led to higher demand from the agriculture segment in the period of July 2021 and August 2021.
- Energy demand in H1 of Financial Year 2021-2022 also remained higher by 2.9% as compared to same in H1 FY2020-2021.

4. International Monetary Funds (IMF) released "Global Financial Stability Report",

- It highlighted how digital currency assets brings in financial stability challenges.
- As per the report, rapid growing crypto ecosystem presents new opportunities to the world and digital currency assets also pose several financial stability challenges.
- Technological innovation is starting a new era of making payments and other financial services faster, cheaper, more accessible. Such transaction also allows to flow across borders swiftly.

5. Commerce Ministry releases Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) Report 2.0

- IPRS 2.0 is an extension of India Industrial Land Bank featuring more than 4,400 industrial parks in GIS-enabled database to help investors identify their preferred location for investment
- 41 Industrial Parks have been assessed as Leaders in Industrial Park Ratings System Report released by DPIIT
- 90 Industrial Parks have been rated under Challenger category while 185 have been rated under Aspirers.

6. India ranks 90th in Q4 Henley Passport Index 2021

- India has been ranked at 90th position in Henley Passport Index, among 116 countries as its passport holders are allowed to travel visa-free to 58 countries
 - India shares its rank with Tajikistan and Burkina Faso.
 - India was ranked 84th in 2020.
 - Top performers: Japan and Singapore
 - Worst performer: Afghanistan
- 7. India ranks 3rd in 2021 Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI)**
- It is released by Ernst & Young (EY).
 - 2021 RECAI 2021 has ranked top 40 global markets (nations) of the world on the attractiveness of their renewable energy investment and deployment opportunities.
 - Top performer: United States, followed by China
- 8. India ranks 71st on 2021 Global Food Security (GFS) Index**
- India has been ranked 71st in GFS Index 2021 among 113 countries with a score of 57.2 points
 - Published by: London-based Economist Impact and is sponsored by Corteva Agriscience.
 - Top performers: Ireland, Australia, the UK, Finland, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Canada, Japan, France and US.
 - Worst performers: Burundi
- 9. India ranks 40th in 2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey**
- India has been ranked at 40th spot out of 43 countries in 2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey with overall index value of 43.3.
 - Top Performer: Iceland with an index value of 84.2.
 - Lowest Performer: Thailand with index value at 40.6.
 - India was ranked at 34th spot out of 39 pension systems in 2020
 - According to survey, workforce in India manages most of the retirement provision themselves, as the coverage of private retirement provision in India is only around 6%.
- 10. World Health Organization (WHO) releases Global TB Report 2021**
- Aim: to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of TB epidemic at global, regional and country levels.
 - Key findings:
 - Number of people dying from TB increased in 2020 due to COVID-19.
 - India is among top 30 countries with the highest TB burden.
 - Very few people were diagnosed, treated, or provided with TB preventive treatment in 2020 compared with 2019 (7.1 million in 2019 while only 5.8 million in 2020)
 - Overall spending on essential TB services went down.
- 11. India ranks 79th in World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2021, among 139 countries.**
- **Top performer:** Denmark, followed by Norway and Finland
 - **Worst performer:** Venezuela (139th spot)
 - It is prepared by Washington DC based World Justice Project
 - It relies on national surveys of more than 138,000 households and 4,200 legal practitioners and experts to measure how the rule of law is experienced and perceived worldwide.
- 12. Karnataka tops the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2020**
- Karnataka bagged 1st rank in SEEI 2020 with a score of 70 out of 100 and is included in 'Front runner' category.
 - It is followed by Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh
 - SEEI is released by the Ministry of Power and assesses the states in four categories using 68 qualitative, quantitative, and outcome-based indicators aggregating to a maximum score of 100 across six sectors.
- 13. Times Higher Education (THE)'s World Reputation Rankings 2021**
- **Top performers:** Harvard University of United States of America (USA), followed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA and University of Oxford, United Kingdom (UK)
 - **Indian institutes:** Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru (91-100 rank), IIT Bombay (126-150 rank), IIT Delhi (176-200 rank), and IIT Madras (176-200 rank).
- 14. India ranks 9th in VC funding for climate tech globally**

- India bagged ninth spot globally for climate tech investment, with the country's climate tech firms receiving \$1 billion in venture capital (VC) funding between 2016 and 2021.
- It is prepared by international trade promotion agency London & Partners and Amsterdam-based database management company Dealroom.co.

15. UNESCO launches 2021 State of the Education Report (SOER) for India

- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has launched its

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,

2021 State of the Education Report (SOER) for India: "No Teacher, No Class".

- Tripura has the least number of women teachers, followed by Assam, Jharkhand, and Rajasthan.
- Chandigarh leads the chart followed by Goa, Delhi, Kerala.
- For elementary schools, it has increased from 81.6 in 2001 to 93.03 in 2018-19 and stands at 102.1 in 2019-2020.

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

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**

- 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.

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

1st to 15th December 2021

1. Incentive scheme for RuPay debit card, UPI payment gets approval

Note: Aiming to promote digital transactions and incentivise users having Rupay debit cards and BHIM unified payments interface (UPI) system, the union cabinet on Wednesday approved reimbursement of ₹ 1,300 crore on such transactions. Under the scheme, the acquiring banks will be incentivised by the Government by paying a percentage of the value of transactions (P2M) done through RuPay Debit cards and low-value BHIM-UPI modes of payments, at an estimated financial outlay of ₹1,300 crore for one year w.e.f. April 01, 2021. The scheme has been formulated in compliance with the Budget announcements (FY 2021-22) by the Government to further boost digital transactions in the country.

2. India's first Green Hydrogen Microgrid Projects to be set up in Andhra

Note: National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) has awarded a standalone fuel-cell based Green Hydrogen Microgrid Project at Simhadri in Andhra Pradesh. This will be India's first green hydrogen-based energy storage project and one of the world's largest. It would be a precursor to large scale hydrogen energy storage projects and would be useful for studying and deploying multiple microgrids in various off-grid and strategic locations of the country. The hydrogen would be produced using the advanced 240 kW Solid Oxide Electrolyser by taking input power from the nearby Floating Solar project.

3. Wholesale inflation record high in November

Note: According to government data, annual wholesale price-based inflation in India had accelerated to a record high in November 2021. The wholesale price inflation, a proxy figure for producers' prices, accelerated by increases in manufacturing and food prices. Thus, it raised concerns of rising inflationary pressure. Annual wholesale price-based inflation increased to 14.23% in November. It was highest since April 2005. In October 2021, this figure was 12.54%. The Wholesale inflation has remained in double-digits

for the eighth consecutive month, while headline retail inflation was around 5%, or within the target of 2% to 6% by central bank.

4. ADB scales down India growth estimate further to 9.7% in FY22

Note: The Asian Development Bank for the second time in three months has scaled down India's growth estimate for the fiscal year ending March 2022 due to supply chain issue of industries. The Manila-based multilateral development bank pegged India's growth estimate at 9.7% for the current fiscal year in its latest supplement. The ADB had projected a growth rate of 10% for FY22 in its September supplement.

5. NITI Aayog launches 'e-Sawaari India e-bus Coalition'

Note: The National Institution of Transforming India (NITI) Aayog launched the 'e-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition' in partnership with Convergence Energy Service Ltd (CESL) and World Resources Institute, India (WRI India) and with the support from Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI). The objective of the initiative is to share knowledge of various stakeholders – Central & State Govt. agencies, transit service providers, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), on accelerating the process towards seamless adoption of e-bus services in India.

6. Power ministry approves new inter-state projects worth Rs 15,893 crore

Note: Union power minister, R K Singh, approved 23 new inter-state transmission system projects of worth Rs 15,893 crore. The new inter-state transmission system (ISTS) projects comprise 13 projects with an estimated cost of Rs 14,766 crore to be developed under Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) and 10 projects with an estimated cost of Rs 1,127 crore to be developed under Regulated Tariff Mechanism (RTM). The new transmission projects will facilitate: Evacuation system for 14 GW of renewable projects in Rajasthan; 5 GW of RE projects in Gujarat; 1 GW Neemuch Solar Park in Madhya Pradesh and Feeding

areas near Akhnoor & Jammu region by setting up a Siot Substation in Jammu.

7. Cabinet approves Ken-Betwa River interlinking project

Note: Union Cabinet approved the Ken-Betwa River interlinking project, ahead of elections to major North Indian states. Ken-Betwa River Interlinking project is worth Rs 44,605-crore project. This project promises to address the issue of water scarcity in Bundelkhand region, spreading across Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Uttar Pradesh (UP). This project is expected to benefit several poverty-stricken regions in MP and UP. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will formally lay the foundation stone for this project soon. Out of total Rs 44,605 crore for the project, central government will provide the support of Rs 39,317 crore. It covers a grant of Rs 36,290 crore and a loan of Rs 3,027 crore.

8. Airports to get facial recognition from 2022

Note: The air passengers can use a face scan as their boarding pass from 2022. The first airports to roll out the facility are Kolkata, Pune, Varanasi and Vijayawada. The NEC Corporation Private Limited has been chosen by the Airport Authority of India to implement the project. The details of face recognition data are to be stored in Digi Yatra Central Ecosystem. To avail the service, the passenger has to send PNR, pax details and facial biometrics to the Biometric Boarding System of the departing airport through a mobile application. The passenger can also choose not to opt for the service. The Facial recognition is to be done using software designed by National Institute of Standards and Technology.

9. Ministry of Rural Development signs MoU with Flipkart

Note: Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Rural Development of the Government of India (MoRD), for their ambitious Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) program, to help empower local businesses and self-help groups (SHGs) – especially those that are led by women – by bringing them into the e-commerce fold. The partnership is aligned with the DAY-NRLM's goal of strengthening the capabilities of rural communities for self-employment and entrepreneurship, thus providing further impetus to the Prime Minister's vision of an "Atmanirbhar Bharat".

10. ADB approved a USD 350 million loan to improve India's urban services

Note: Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a Rs 2653.05 crore (USD 350 million) policy-based loan to improve urban services in India. This loan supports the policies formulated by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to benefit the urban poor, economically weaker sections, and low-income groups.

ADB will also provide knowledge and advisory support to MoHUA in program implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The loan supports the policies established by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to accelerate universal coverage of piped water supply and improved sanitation. This is part of the recently launched national programme Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 and to provide affordable housing to all, including poor, urban migrant and industrial workers, under the flagship mission Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

11. Fitch Ratings cuts India's FY22 GDP Growth Forecast to 8.4%

Note: Fitch Ratings has slashed India's economic growth forecast in the financial year 2021-22 (FY22) to 8.4 per cent and raised the growth projection to 10.3 per cent for FY23, compared to October 2021 rating projections of 8.7 per cent (FY22) and 10 per cent (FY23). India's GDP grew 11.4 per cent in the Q2 FY22 over the April-June quarter of FY22 on a seasonally adjusted basis. The economy has contracted 4 per cent in the April-June quarter in FY22 over the fourth quarter of FY23. Indian economy had contracted by 7.3 per cent in FY21 due to COVID-19. The rating agency has expected the headline inflation to average 4.9 per cent in 2022 and 4.2 per cent in 2023, from 5 per cent in 2021. In India, less than one-third of the population is fully vaccinated and the new Omicron variant poses a new risk to the recovery.

12. Goldman Sachs : India's GDP to grow 9.1% in 2022

Note: Wall Street brokerage, Goldman Sachs has estimated India's GDP growth at 9.1 per cent in 2022. After India's economy contracted by a sharp 7 per cent in 2020, Goldman Sachs pegged the economy to grow at 8 per cent in 2021 and 9.1 per cent in 2022. It earlier estimated India's economic growth to 11.1 per cent in the fiscal year to March 31, 2022.

13. IMF Announces Global Debt Record as \$226 Trillion in 2020

Note: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has announced that the Global debt raised a record \$226 trillion in 2020 as the world was hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and a deep recession. Global debt rose by 28 percentage points to 256 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020. IMF's latest Global Debt Database figures the 2020's debt as the largest 1-year debt surge since World War II. According to IMF, the public debt rose from 70 percent of GDP in 2007 to 124 percent of GDP in 2020 and the private debt rose at a moderate pace from 164 percent to 178 percent of GDP in 2020. The gap between the global financing divide and COVID-19 Pandemic is demanding strong, effective international cooperation and support for the developing countries.

14. BPCL Collaborates with BARC to boost Green Hydrogen Production

Note: Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) collaborated with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) to boost Alkaline Electrolyser technology for Green Hydrogen production. This is a first of its kind initiative to support India's commitment to achieve renewable energy targets and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Note-India has set a target towards zero-emission cars by 2040. Currently, India is dependent on import of Electrolyser Plants and uses the Steam Reforming process for refining Hydrogen from Natural gases, but this results in high Co2 emission.

15. LIC got Approval from RBI to hike stake up to 9.99% in IndusInd Bank

Note: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has received approval from the RBI (Reserve Bank of India) to increase its stake to 9.99 per cent in IndusInd Bank of the total issued and paid-up capital of the private sector lender. The approval will be valid for 1 year i.e. up to December 8, 2022. At present, LIC holds a 4.95 percent stake in the IndusInd Bank.

16. India-ITU Launch Joint Cyber Drill 2021

Note: The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) operating under the Ministry of Communications conducted a 'Joint Cyber Drill 2021'. It was conducted for the Critical Network Infrastructure (CNI) operators of India. It is a four-day virtual event that will take place from November 30 to December 3, 2021. The CNIs are the systems, assets and networks that are essential to ensure the security of a country.

17. Gujarat with 15.9% Manufacturing Growth became India's Largest Manufacturing Hub

Note: In accordance with the data by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Gujarat has surpassed Maharashtra to become India's leading manufacturing hub. It's Gross Value Addition (GVA) in manufacturing grew 15.9% annually between FY12 to FY20 to Rs 5.11 lakh crore. GVA indicates economic growth in supply of goods and services. It is GDP minus net product taxes. In terms of manufacturing, Maharashtra is followed by Tamil Nadu with a GVA of Rs 3.43 lakh crore at 3rd spot, Karnataka (4th) at Rs 2.1 lakh crore, and Uttar Pradesh-UP (5th) at Rs 1.87 lakh crore. India's cumulative manufacturing GVA grew to Rs 16.9 lakh crore in FY20 stating an annual growth rate of 9.7% since FY12.

18. SBI Listed USD 650-million Green Bonds on India INX and LuxSE

Note: State Bank of India (SBI) listed its USD 650-million green bonds simultaneously on the India International Exchange (India INX) and the Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSE). This dual listing is in line with 2021's topic of the World Investor Week (WIW), 'sustainable finance', as indicated by the regulatory body International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA). The listing of green bonds with the LuxSE will open up new avenues for market development and fundraising opportunities in the green bond space. India INX will work towards establishing a green corridor with Luxembourg to enable Indian Issuers to automatically qualify for dual listing with LuxSE to get investors from Europe and the globe.

November -2021

1. Labour Ministry Modified base year in Wage Rate Index (WRI)

Note: Recently, Ministry of Labour released a new series of Wage Rate Index (WRI) with base year 2016. The Wage Rate Index (WRI) is being compiled and maintained by the Labour Bureau. New series of WRI with base 2016=100 is going to replace old series with base 1963-65. Central government periodically revises base year for major economic indicators for reflecting the changes in economy and for capturing wage pattern of workers. This time, the WRI base year has been revised on the recommendations of National Statistical Commission, International Labour Organization etc. in order to enhance the coverage and to make index more representative.

2. 2nd Global Chemicals & Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hub inaugurated

Note: 2nd edition of the summit on Global Chemicals & Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hub (GCPMH) was inaugurated. During the inaugural session, Union Minister Chemicals & Fertilisers

stated that, hard work and perseverance of the Government will help in transforming India into a global chemical & petro-chemical manufacturing hub. Summit on "India: GCPMH 2021" is one of the significant events in the Chemical and Petrochemical Industry. The summit highlights the potential of Indian Chemicals and Petrochemicals Sector to the world. Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu are participating as Partner States in the event.

3. Rs 10,000 crore allotted for MGNREGA scheme

Note: Central government allotted more of Rs 10000 crore on November 25, 2021 for MGNREGA Scheme. While allotting the fund, central government stated that, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) is a demand-driven scheme. Government also clarified that during financial year 2021-2022, more than 240 crore person-days has been generated, so far. Furthermore, more than Rs 68,568 crore released for implementing the scheme in States and UTs. Central government has increased the fund

allocations for financial year 2021-22 by 18 percent as compared to the last financial year as budget estimate. Ministry had allocated Rs 50,000 crore additional funds for MGNREGA scheme above the Budget Estimate, so far. Recently, Ministry of Finance allocated additional funds of Rs 10,000 crore for the scheme as an interim measure.

4. **The NBFID Will Begin Operations**

Note: The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID) plans to begin lending operations with 190-200 large infrastructure projects in the road, rail, and energy sectors. K V Kamath, the newly appointed Chairman of NBFID, made the announcement. The central government announced the selection of K V Kamath as chairperson of the newly established NBFID. The NBFID was established with the goal of catalysing investment in India's fund-strapped infrastructure industry. There are 193 projects worth more than Rs 1,000 crore in the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP). NBFID was set up as a corporate body, with an authorised share capital of one lakh crore rupees.

5. **Coal Ministry constitutes Sustainable Development Cell**

Note: Ministry of coal has constituted a "Sustainable Development Cell", in line with the commitment of clean energy. The Sustainable Development Cell was constituted in the backdrop of Prime Minister's announcement on new climate targets at COP26 under 'Panchamrit Strategy'. Ministry emphasised on to put major thrust on Sustainable Development in coal mining, by taking care of the environmental and social impact of the mining. Ministry of coal has established a full-fledged Sustainable Development Cell (SDC) to mentor, advice, and plan action of minimising adverse impact of mining. It will also formulate future policy framework for environmental mitigation in Coal sector as well as Lignite sector in India. Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries along with NLC India Ltd., & Singareni Coal Company Ltd. (SCCL) has already started the extensive work.

6. **SEBI releases investor charter**

Note: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) released the investor charter that was proposed in the Union Budget 2021-2022 with the aim of protecting investors from misselling of financial products. This charter (for investors in the Indian securities market) includes the rights and responsibilities of investors, and dos and don'ts of investing in the securities market. The charter has been published to protect the "interests of investors by enabling them to understand the risks involved and invest in a fair, transparent, secure market, and to get services in a timely and efficient manner.

7. **70% informal workers SC, ST, OBCs: e-Shram**

Note: On India's first centralised database of unorganised workers, e-Shram portal, more than 7.86 crore registrations have been done till date. Out of this number, 40.5 percent belong to Other Backward Classes (OBCs), 27.4 percent general category, 23.7 percent scheduled castes (SCs) and 8.3 percent to scheduled tribes (STs). These estimations are significant as they offer an indicator of social profile of informal sector workers in India. As per 2011 census, population share of SCs was 16.2 per cent and that for STs was 8.2 per cent. The count of OBCs is not detailed in 2011 Census. However, as per a survey conducted in 2007 by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) had estimated the population share of OBCs as 40.9 per cent.

8. **World's largest solar power park in Bhadla**

Note: Bhadla Solar Park, located in Rajasthan, is the World's largest solar power park. The solar park is located in Bhadla, a dry & sandy region in Rajasthan. It spans over 14,000 acres. The Park comprises of 10 million solar panels at the park. These solar panels contribute to an operational capacity of 2245 MW. As of 2020, Bhadla solar park is largest solar park worldwide. It is spread over an area of 5,700 hectares in Bhadla, Jodhpur district of Rajasthan. Park has a total capacity of 2245 MW. It had witnessed the lowest bid for solar power in India at Rs 2.44 per kilowatt-hour.

9. **Centre approves incentives for sugar, cotton, jute farmers**

Note: Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a slew of measures that will support farmers growing sugar, cotton and jute. The CCEA increased the price of ethanol extracted from sugarcane juice for blending in petrol to ₹63.45 a litre. Ethanol blending with petrol is expected to reach 10% next year and 20% by 2025. CCEA also approved a committed price support of Rs. 17,408.85 crore for the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI). Price support will be provided as reimbursement for its losses occurred in past seven years in procuring crops from farmers at minimum support prices (MSP). Cotton Corporation of India Limited is engaged in diverse activities related to trade, procurement, and export of cotton. It is a public sector agency which is responsible for equitable distribution of cotton across different constituents of the industry.

10. **Mentorship Programme for Young Innovators launched**

Note: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the first-ever Mentorship programme on November 8, 2021. The mentorship programme was launched for Young Innovators for marking 75th Year of India's independence. This mentorship programme will help in promoting scientific temper among masses,

by strengthening scientific research & innovation efforts in India. The programme is a pan India Scheme, which envisages Star College in every district supported by Department of Biotechnology (DBT). This programme will help towards the concept of networking, outreach and hand holding.

11. India ahead of China in financial inclusion metrics: SBI report

Note: According to SBI report the number of bank branches per 100,000 adults in India rose to 14.7 in 2020 from 13.6 in 2015, which is higher than Germany, China and South Africa. India is now ahead of China in financial inclusion metrics, with mobile and internet banking transactions rising to 13,615 per 1,000 adults in 2020 from 183 in 2015. States having higher Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts balances have reported decline in crime. Number of 'Banking Outlets in Villages - BCs' has increased from 34,174 in March 2010 to 12.4 lakh in December 2020.

12. Indian Oil, BPCL & HPCL Launches Model Retail Outlet Scheme

Note: Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) launched the Model Retail Outlet Scheme and a Digital Customer Feedback Program named. The scheme was inaugurated by Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs. The scheme was inaugurated by Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs. The scheme involves a 5 Level evaluation process of over 70000 retail outlets in the country upon core services, facility parameters and standard of customer amenities.

13. ADB Funds \$300 Million to Improve Primary Health Care in India

Note: The union govt and ADB have signed a \$300 million loan pact to improve primary health care in urban areas. The project will benefit over 256 million across 13 states, including 51 million people from slum areas. The programme will be implemented in urban areas across 13 states: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and West Bengal. The programme is supported by a \$2 million technical assistance grant from ADB's Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction for program implementation, capacity building, innovation, knowledge sharing across the healthcare system. Delivery and health information systems for primary health care will be upgraded through digital tools, quality assurance mechanisms, and engagement and partnership with the private sector.

14. NPCI Bharat BillPay onboards Tata Power as the first power company on ClickPay

Note: NPCI Bharat BillPay announced its integration with Tata Power on ClickPay - making it the first power company to go live on the newly launched platform. Tata Power is the first power company which will provide services on the NBBL ClickPay platform. Through this agreement, ClickPay will enable Tata Power customers to make monthly electricity bill payments.

15. HPCL partners IDFC FIRST Bank for fuel payments using FASTags

Note: IDFC FIRST Bank partnered Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) enabling bank's FASTag customers to facilitate fuel payments of passenger vehicles at HPCL's retail outlets using the bank's FASTags via HP PAY app. Also, IDFC FIRST Bank's FASTags can be bought, recharged and replaced by passenger vehicle users at select HPCL retail outlets. This tie-up will benefit about five million customers by making transit-related payments simpler. The agreement for the same was signed in Mumbai (Maharashtra) at an event attended by the senior management of HPCL and IDFC FIRST Bank.

16. SIDBI launches 2nd window of Swavalamban Challenge Fund

Note: SIDBI launched the second window of Swavalamban Challenge Fund (SCF) which aims to provide financial support to non-profit organizations, educational institutions for addressing developmental gaps. This edition themes are aligned with attaining net zero emissions by 2070, as per the commitments made by India at 26th UN (United Nations) Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 26). Therefore, 'Green Bharat' is the prioritised theme for the same. In this regard, this 2nd SCF focuses on green, clean and efficient climate change. This fund is a part of Swavalamban Resource Facility (SRF) being implemented by SIDBI in partnership with Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom (UK).

17. WB and ADB launches 'WePOWER India Partnership Forum'

Note: The WePOWER India Partnership Forum was held through a virtual platform to boost South Asia Women in Power Sector Professional Network (WePOWER) in India. The event was organized by the World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) in association with the India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF). It was attended by 168 energy sector stakeholders. The event saw a panel discussion on expanding job opportunities for women in India's Clean Energy Transition'.

18. Tata Projects bags \$120mn order for Power Transmission Project in Bangladesh

Note: Tata Projects Limited secured an order on a turnkey basis from the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited (PGCB) for a 400kV (kilovolt) double circuit transmission line project worth Rs \$120 million (around Rs 900 crores). ii.It is a 120-km project from Barapukuria to Bogura in Bangladesh to be executed in 30 months. The funding for the same will be provided by EXIM (Export Import) Bank India under Indian Line of Credit (LoC).

19. SEBI amends Mutual Fund Norms to launch ETFs on Silver

Note: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) notified SEBI (Mutual Funds) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2021 amending the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996 to allow the launch of exchange traded funds (ETFs) on silver. This notification will enable the asset management companies (AMCs) to include silver or silver-related instruments in the investment schemes or initiate 'silver ETF schemes'. iii.It is a mutual fund (MF) scheme which invests primarily in silver or silver-related instruments having silver as the underlying product. It passes on the benefits of price efficiency, liquidity and convenience to retail investors.

20. BSE Tie-up with All India MSME Association to Promote MSMEs Listing

Note: The BSE has signed an MoU with the All India MSME Association (AIMA MSME), to encourage and promote the listing of MSMEs and start-ups. Under the partnership, both the entities will raise

awareness among MSMEs for listing on the exchange's SME segment by hosting roadshows and events across India. BSE became the 1st stock exchange to get approval from SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) to launch its SME platform in March 2012. So far, 353 companies listed on the BSE SME Platform have raised Rs 3,732 crore from the market, and the total market capitalisation of such firms stood at Rs 40,716 crore.

21. TVS Motor Became 1st Indian 2-wheeler Maker to Join United Nations Global Compact

Note: TVS Motor Company, the flagship company of TVS Group, has joined the United Nations Global Compact(UNGC), the world's largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative. TVS Motor has become the 1st Indian two-wheeler and three-wheeler manufacturer to join the UNGC. UNGC is a voluntary initiative based on CEO commitments to implement universal sustainability principles and to take efforts to support the UN goals.

22. PGIM India MF Launches India's First Global Real Estate Securities Fund

Note: PGIM India Mutual Fund has announced the launch of PGIM India Global Select Real Estate Securities Fund of Fund, an open-ended equity fund of fund scheme investing in PGIM Global Select Real Estate Securities Fund. The minimum amount required to invest in this NFO is Rs 5000 and after that in multiples of Re 1. The fund-of-fund will be managed by Ravi Adukia, an Equity Analyst and dedicated Fund Manager for overseas investments.

October -2021

1. NITI Aayog, World Bank to set up Risk Sharing Instrument for Financing EVs

Note: NITI Aayog and the World Bank (WB) are working together to facilitate a program for faster and easier financing of electric vehicles (EVs). NITI Aayog and World Bank are setting up a \$300-million 'first loss risk sharing instrument', with the State Bank of India (SBI) as its program manager. The current rate of interest for electric two-wheelers & electric 3 Wheelers, which is in the range of 20-25 percent is expected to be reduced to 10-12 percent.

2. Chennai-Mysore-Chennai Shatabdi Express becomes first IMS certified train of Southern Railway

Note: Chennai-Mysore-Chennai Shatabdi Express was given IMS certification recently. This train has become the first Integrated Management Systems (IMS) certified train of the Southern Railway. It has also become the first Shatabdi train as well as second mail or express train of Indian Railways to receive this certification. Certification was granted by the certification agency following a comprehensive audit

and duly verifying adherence to all the norms by Railways.

3. EAC-PM reconstituted under Bibek Debroy

Note: The government reconstituted the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), under current Chairman Bibek Debroy. Former RBI deputy governor Rakesh Mohan, NCAER director-general Poonam Gupta and IIM-Ahmedabad professor TT Ram Mohan were appointed as new part-time members. Other part time members are Debroy, Neelkanth Mishra, Sajid Chenoy and Neelkanth Mishra. While V Anantha Nageswaran, dean of IFMR Graduate School of Business in Krea University, has been removed as member.

4. Quality Council of India sets up team of experts to execute proposed ONDC project

Note: The Quality Council of India (QCI) has established a team of experts and a number of small and medium enterprises have been on-boarded as volunteers for execution of a proposed project - Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has initiated this project, which aims to

democratise digital or electronic commerce, moving it from a platform-centric model to an open-network.

5. India-ADB sign PRF loan to support Urban Mobility in Mizoram

Note: The Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$4.5 million project readiness financing (PRF) loan. The loan agreement will support project preparation and design activities for improving urban mobility in capital city, Aizawl in the state of Mizoram. PRF supports the development of long-term solutions for improve urban mobility by identifying high-priority urban transport investments in Aizawl. It will help in ensuing project and enhancing its readiness by extending support to due diligence and preparatory activities. Under PRF, a Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) will be developed for Aizawl. The plan outlines the urban transport development strategy.

6. SEBI declares state-owned PEC as 'not fit & proper'

Note: For the first time, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has declared a government-owned company called "PEC Ltd" as 'not fit & proper'. PEC Ltd is a 100 per cent government-owned company. It has been declared 'as not fit and proper' as it acted as a broker and carried out illegal trades on NSEL's spot exchange platform in between 2010 and 2013. To give this tag, SEBI studied the role of its management, board, and promoters.

7. 152 SAKSHAM Centres launched under DAY-NRLM

Note: Ministry of Rural Development launched 152 SAKSHAM centres under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). These centres were launched as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. About 152 Centre for Financial Literacy & Service Delivery (or SAKSHAM Centres) were launched across 77 districts in 13 states, during October 4 to 8, 2021. These centres would act as one stop solution or single window system for the basic financial needs of Self-Help Group (SHG) households across the rural areas.

8. PLI scheme for telecom products launched

Note: Minister of State of Ministry of Communication, Devusinh Chauhan, launched a Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI Scheme) for Telecom & Networking Products. PLI Scheme in telecom sector was launched for realizing the Prime Minister's vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat. This scheme would help in reducing dependence of India on other countries for importing telecom and networking products. The PLI Scheme in telecom sector is being launched by DoT with the objective of boosting domestic manufacturing of telecom and networking products. Manufacturing will be boosted by incentivising incremental investments and turnover. This scheme was launched with the total outlay of Rs 12,195 crore.

9. India to pilot 1000 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Note: Central Government has given its approval to invite the expression of interest for installation of pilot 1000 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project. This pilot project is the joint effort of "Ministry of New & Renewable energy" and Ministry of Power. Both the ministries have been working on this in order to provide a road map for installation of energy storage system in India. The Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) will be set in a bid to support the ambitious goal of achieving 450 GW renewable energy target by the Ministry of New & renewable energy by 2030.

10. EU's first green bond issuance raises USD 13.8 billion

Note: The European Union (EU) attracted huge demand from investors for its first green bond. Huge demand was there as Brussels kicked off its efforts for becoming world's biggest issuer of sustainable debt. Euro 12bn sale of 15-year debt attracted about Euro 135bn of orders. This was the largest green bond deal, eclipsing the UK's £10bn debut in the month of September. The sale happened as Europe continues to battle an energy crunch, which also illustrate that there is a growing need for diverse and renewable sources of power. This issue of recent bond is the first of an expected €250bn of "European Commission green bonds". It makes about a third of the EU's €800bn Covid-19 recovery fund.

11. Govt accords 'Maharatna' status to Power Finance Corporation

Note: The government has accorded the 'Maharatna' status to state-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC). It is a move that will pave the way for the company's greater financial and operational efficiency. Incorporated in 1986, PFC is the largest infrastructure finance company dedicated to the power sector under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power. The grant of 'Maharatna' status to PFC will impart enhanced powers to PFC's board while taking financial decisions.

12. GI Tag for Karuppur kalamkari paintings, Kallakurichi wood carvings

Note: The traditional dye-painted figurative called Karuppur Kalamkari Paintings, and Kallakuruchi wood carvings have received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Kallakuruchi wood carvings is done using pens, palm stem, date trees, brushes made of bamboo stick and coconut tree stems. This certificate was issued the Geographical Indications Registry on the basis of an application filed by Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation (Poompuhar). The Karuppur Kalamkari Paintings are done in Thanjavur region. These are traditional dye-painted figurative and patterned clothes. They are made for temples like ceiling cloth, cylindrical hangings, umbrella covers and chariot covers.

13. GI tagged Mihidana from West Bengal exported to Bahrain

Note: In order to promote indigenous & Geographical Identification (GI) tagged products, first consignment of GI tagged sweet dish Mihidana from West Bengal was exported to Bahrain. GI tagged Mihidana was sourced from Bardhaman, West Bengal. Consignment of the sweet dish Mihidana was exported by APEDA registered M/S DM Enterprises, Kolkata. It was imported by Aljazira Group, Bahrain. It is being displayed and provided for tasting purpose to the consumers at Aljazira super stores in Bahrain. More consignments would be exported to Bahrain during Diwali festival.

14. FSSAI launches 'Food Safety Connect' Mobile App For License & Registrations

Note: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched a mobile application "Food Safety Connect" for the purpose of granting licences or registration to food businesses. The mobile app would be a one place solution for food businesses having all the relevant information from procedures related to compliance with the FSS Regulations, to laboratories and others. The mobile application will help the hawkers, vendors and startups to apply for the FSSAI fast registration. The app will also provide information regarding eligibility criteria, FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) on the procedures related to licensing and registration, regulations and other compliances for the food businesses. It can be used as a mechanism for consumers to easily verify FSSAI license or registration on any food packet.

15. NSDC with Global Partners to Launch India's 1st & Largest 'Skill Impact Bond'

Note: The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in collaboration with global partners launched India's first and largest 'Impact Bond for skilling in India. To equip women and girls with skills and vocational training to provide access to the wage-employment in Covid-19 recovery sectors including retail, apparel, healthcare and logistics. The initiative addresses the youth employment crisis and specifically that for young women. The collaboration involves a USD 14.4 million fund which will benefit 50,000 youth by making them employment ready.

16. Flipkart Wholesale & Rupifi Tie-up to Offer Embedded BNPL to MSMEs

Note: Fintech firm Rupifi and Flipkart Wholesale, the e-commerce firm of the Flipkart Group, partnered to provide Embedded Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) offering to the MSMEs (Micro Small Medium Enterprises). The partnership will ensure the availability of instant and digital credit with flexible repayment terms and transparent pricing to around 1.5 lakh Kiranas and MSMEs members on Flipkart Wholesale. Rupifi will ease the process of digitization to boost the B2B (Business to Business) retail

ecosystem. Rupifi is empowering MSMEs with a purchase credit line with flexible repayment options usage-based interest and zero fees. BNPL products are offered to their MSME customers for as low as Rs 5,000 in both In-App as well as In-Store manners.

17. BPCL Unveils Automated Fuelling System 'U-Fill'

Note: Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has launched an automated fuelling technology -UFill- to ensure that its customers have a better experience at outlets. UFill technology can be described as swift, secure and smart which will be launched in 65 cities across the country. UFill is a digital customer experience as promised by BPCL to have complete control over time, technology and transparency for automated fuelling. The technology obviates the customers' need to look at the zero or the final reading and such manual interventions. Without requiring to download any new application, UFill technology allows the inbuilt application. They offer a QR code through SMS which is accepted by all BPCL stations.

18. India First Life Introduces 'Saral Bachat Bima' Insurance Plan

Note: IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited (IndiaFirst Life), a joint venture of Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India introduced "IndiaFirst Life Saral Bachat Bima Plan". It is a savings and protection cover plan for the entire family. This plan is a non-linked, non-participating, individual, limited premium policy offers a low salary commitment of five or seven years and it will cover the entire family for 12-15 years. Tax benefits can be availed as per the existing income tax laws. Rural/RRB (Regional Rural Bank) customers can buy the product through a simple OTC (Other-Than-Collision) coverage process.

19. SNV Aviation Pvt Ltd gets NOC from MoCA to operate 'Akasa Air' by 2022

Note: Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) gave NOC (No Objection Certificate) to SNV Aviation Pvt Ltd to operate commercial flights across India under the brand name 'Akasa Air' from summer 2022. This NOC will be followed by a security background check after which the airline will apply for AoP (air operator permit) from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). It should be noted that this proposed airline is backed by Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, the Big Bull or Warren Buffett of India; and former Jet Airways CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Vinay Dube.

20. Reliance New Energy Solar to acquire 40% stake in Sterling & Wilson Solar

Note: Reliance New Energy Solar Ltd (RNESL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd signed definitive agreements with Shapoorji Pallonji and Company Private Ltd (SPCPL), Khurshed Daruvala and Sterling & Wilson Solar Ltd (SWSL) to acquire 40% stake post-money in SWSL through a series of transactions for approximately Rs 2,845 crore. As the

first step of the deal, RNESL will get a preferential allotment of 2.93 crore equity shares at a price of Rs

375 per share for approximately Rs 1,100 crore.

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-empowered 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 increase 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.

Banking & Financial Awareness

December (1 to 15th)

1. According to the Ministry of Finance, government's debt is estimated to be around **62%** of the GDP for the current financial year.

Note: Government debt is held predominantly in domestic currency. Increasing the buoyancy of tax revenue through improved compliance, mobilisation of resources through monetisation of assets,

improving efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditure etc are the important measures initiated by Government to control the fiscal deficit and the debt burden.

- 2. Asian Development Bank** has signed a pact with the Government of India to provide a loan of USD 250 million (about Rs 1,872 crore) to support the country's National Industrial Corridor Development Program (NICDP).

Note: The ADB financing supports India's NICDP that aims to develop world-class industrial nodes that are buttressed by efficient urban agglomerations and multimodal connectivity, including international gateways like ports and airports and inclusive, climate-resilient, and sustainable infrastructure.

- 3. IDFC FIRST Bank** has launched India's first standalone metal debit card or black card in partnership with Visa.

Note: It is a lifetime free card to cater the customers of the bank's FIRST Private program. The program offers an unrivalled banking and investment experience to customers and comes with a range of exceptional investment, banking, lifestyle and wellness benefits.

- 4. PhonePe** has launched a health insurance plan, Health@999, for first-time health insurance buyers.

Note: The product has a three-step process requiring users to share information such as name, age, gender, and email ID to buy the policy. The plan will cover expenses including in-patient and ICU hospitalisation, daycare procedures, Ayush treatment, and ambulance charges.

- 5. Asian Development Bank** has approved a \$500 million loan to the Government of India to help improve the quality of the country's school education and mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on students' learning.

Note: About 1,800 government schools will be transformed into exemplar schools in Assam, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand. Exemplar schools will demonstrate quality learning environments and effective learning, which will become a model for replication in other government schools across the country.

- 6. State Bank of India** has signed a master agreement with Adani Capital for co-lending to farmers for purchase of tractor and farm implements, to increase efficiency in farm operations and productivity of crops.

Note: Adani Capital is the non-banking finance company (NBFC) arm of Adani Group. India's largest bank underscored that it is actively looking at co-lending opportunities with multiple NBFCs for financing farm mechanisation, warehouse receipt finance, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) etc.,

for enhancing credit flow to double the farmers' income.

- 7. Paytm** has signed a MoU with the Directorate of General Training to train 6,000 individuals over a period of three years in the rapidly growing fintech industry.

Note: The selected individuals will undertake a six-month programme, designed by Paytm, in consultation with the DGT. It will equip the trainees with fundamentals and knowledge of the latest fintech IoT products and financial services. The trainees will also undergo professional skills, communications, sales and pitch, and on-the-job training.

- 8. Federal Bank** has launched a feature-rich savings bank product 'called Mahila Mitra Plus' for women.

Note: The savings scheme is called **Mahila Mitra Plus** and provides a curated set of features, designed to make financial planning and investments easy for women. The special features include exclusive preferential interest rates on housing loans, processing fee waiver for home loans, complimentary and customised insurance cover.

- 9. Kotak Mahindra Bank** has announced a partnership with Europe-based payment and transactional service firm, Worldline to enable Equated Monthly Installment (EMI) payments via Kotak debit cards in India.

Note: The Kotak debit card EMI is available to all consumers, retailers, fashion and electronic products to pay instalments easily using Worldline Point of Sale (POS) terminals. Worldline is dominant among Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities of India. It manages over 15 lakh merchants and enables Kotak debit cardholders to access to their EMI facilities.

- 10. Paytm** has partnered with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to offer its Startup Toolkit to startups onboarded on AWS Activate.

Note: This program offers startups free tools, resources, and more to quickly get started on AWS. Paytm will help entrepreneurs operating in India in the AWS Activate program grow their businesses with payment, distribution, and growth solutions.

- 11. Aditya Birla Health Insurance** has launched 'Activ Health Essential' an affordable health solution plan for the special health needs of senior citizens.

Note: This plan will offer coverage from day one of chronic health management, along with optional benefits to waive off mandatory co-payment. The senior citizen plan also comes with counselling support and health coaching features that are so important for senior citizens.

- 12. Karnataka Bank** has signed a memorandum of understanding with Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd (TKM) to introduce financing options for its customers to purchase Toyota vehicles.

Note: Under this agreement, Karnataka Bank becomes one of the preferred financiers for the vehicles sold by TKM. The customers can get loans through the digital platform of the bank with interest rate linked to External Benchmark Lending Rate (EBLR) for purchasing TKM vehicles for both private and commercial use.

- 13. Reliance Industries** has signed a \$736 million equivalent green loan agreement with five banks to fund its acquisition of Norwegian solar panel manufacturer REC Solar Holdings.
Note: ANZ, Credit Agricole, DBS Bank, HSBC and MUFG were the lenders on the borrowing. Reliance had announced the acquisition of 100 per cent shareholding of REC Solar from China National Bluestar (Group) for an enterprise value of \$771 million.
- 14. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Liberty General Insurance for selling general insurance products through 629 branches.
Note: The company will provide a variety of general health insurance products to the customers with reasonably affordable cost. The bank has consistently enhanced its portfolio to meet the diverse financial needs of its customers and alliance in this regard is a step in that direction.
- 15. State Bank of India** will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Kendriya Sainik Board to support and educate the children of war veterans, ex-servicemen, and war widows.
Note: India's largest bank said it will provide a grant of ₹1,000 per month to 8,333 war veterans' children. The bank has contributed ₹10 crore to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.
- 16. State Bank of India** has signed an agreement with Usha International Limited (UIL) for empowering women entrepreneurs by providing financial assistance.
Note: The financial assistance will be provided under the Joint Liability Group model. As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between SBI and UIL, branches of the bank in Uttarakhand, Delhi, Western UP, and NCR Haryana will be financing women entrepreneurs to Usha Silai School to purchase sewing machines for enhancement and upgradation of technical sewing skills or to purchase thread of clothes, etc. related to above for running their livelihood.
- 17. State Bank of India (SBI)** has recently inked an agreement with Adani Capital Private Ltd (Adani Capital), the NBFC arm of Adani Group, for co-lending to farmers for purchase of tractor and farm implements.
Note: With this partnership, SBI would be able to target farmer customers in the interior hinterland of

the country looking for adoption of farm mechanization to enhance productivity of crops.

- 18. Agriwise Finserv Limited** has entered into a co-lending agreement with **Central Bank of India** for agri-loan disbursal.
Note: The co-lending agreement will ensure that the farmer, agri and allied community get finance at affordable rates in a simple, transparent and speedy manner. The loan will be disbursed at a blended interest rate, as per the RBI directive on co-lending of loans.
- 19.** As per the Bi-monthly Policy released in December 2021, **4.25 percent** is the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and bank rate.
Note: The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously to keep the policy repo rate at four per cent to keep the stance accommodative. Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and bank rate will remain unchanged at 4.25 per cent.
- 20.** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a 150 million dollar (about Rs 1,095 crore) loan to provide access to inclusive, resilient and sustainable housing for the urban poor in **Tamil Nadu**.
Note: The project is aligned with the Government's development priorities and policies on urban sector development, particularly the flagship program Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Housing for All.
- 21. Asian Development Bank & central government** has signed a \$125 million loan pact to improve access to safe and affordable drinking water and city-wide inclusive sanitation services in Dehradun and Nainital cities of Uttarakhand.
Note: The project will construct 136 kilometers of water pipe system to replace defective water networks in South Dehradun to ensure reliable and continuous water supply. It will benefit more than 40 thousand people, including four thousand urban poor and vulnerable groups.
- 22.** The Reserve Bank of India has proposed to enhance the transaction limit for payments through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for the Retail Direct Scheme (RDS) for investment in government securities and Initial Public Offering (IPO) applications from **Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh**.
Note: This essentially means that retail investors using the convenient UPI payment system will soon be able to invest upto Rs 5 lakh in government bonds under RBI's RDS scheme and IPOs. The limit was Rs 2 lakh earlier. RBI Governor made the announcement while announcing the outcome of the central bank's bi-monthly policy review meeting.
- 23. Shivalik Small Finance Bank Limited** has signed a partnership agreement with fintech firm, Indiagold to launch India's first Loan against Digital Gold.
Note: This agreement will enable customers to use their digital gold balance to avail of instant and digital loans up to Rs. 60,000 and also seamlessly

access gold loans starting at a monthly interest of just 1%. To provide access to secure and affordable credit to the customers looking for quick liquidity against their gold assets.

24. City Union Bank in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and its manufacturing partner Seshaasai, has announced the launch of RuPay On-the-Go contactless wearable keychain for its debit card customers.

Note: Launched by Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, on Sunday at New Delhi, CUB is introducing this keychain payment mode to enable customers to make payments on-the-go, according to a statement. The keychain can be requested through net banking, mobile banking, and at CUB's branches.

25. Paytm Payment Bank has received RBI's approval to operate as a scheduled payments bank.

Note: It has been included in the second schedule of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934. Apart from Paytm, Fino Payments Bank and India Post Payments Bank have also been included in the second schedule.

26. Bank of Maharashtra has tied up with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch its first Platinum RuPay Contactless Credit Card.

Note: It offers 100 reward points as a welcome benefit to users on their first retail spending worth ₹1,000 or more

27. India Post Payment Bank has tied up with NPCI's bill payments system Bharat BillPay to facilitate cash-based bill payments service at customer's doorstep.

Note: Payments for various utility bills can be done on the Bharat BillPay platform and the facility will be made available to non- IPPB customers as well. The aim is to provide access to payment solutions to millions of unbanked and underserved customers in remote locations at their doorstep. The service will enable payments of mobile postpaid, D2H recharge, school fees, and other utility services by using the bank's mobile banking service.

28. Kotak Mahindra General Insurance has announced a strategic alliance with Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank Ltd to provide the bank's customers access to a range of insurance solutions.

Note: Under this agreement, Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank Ltd. will offer Kotak General Insurance's comprehensive suite of general and health insurance products to its customers across its network of 21 branches. The insurance products will mitigate the risks and secure the assets and health of the customers.

29. Equitas Small Finance Bank has partnered with Cholamandalam MS General Insurance to launch a

'Chola Sarva Shakti Policy', a women-specific health insurance policy.

Note: According to a recent survey among 1,009 women, only 39% of them had a health cover. The Chola Sarva Shakti Policy initiative aims to provide women with an independent and comprehensive policy, which secures their future against various contingency health situations.

30. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd has collaborated with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) to scale-up alkaline electrolyzer technology for green hydrogen production.

Note: Presently, electrolyzer plants are imported. This is a first of its kind initiative to support the country's commitment to achieve renewable energy targets and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Refineries use large quantities of hydrogen for de-sulfurization to make petrol, diesel and other chemicals. Currently, hydrogen is made at the refinery via. steam reforming of natural gas, but this results in high CO2 emission.

31. For cross-border transactions for capital or current account transactions of **Rs 50 crore** and above, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) mandatory.

Note: LEI is a 20-digit number used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions worldwide to improve the quality and accuracy of financial data systems. The LEI numbers are maintained in a global LEI database available on the website of the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF). LEI has been introduced by the Reserve Bank in a phased manner for over the counter (OTC) derivative, non-derivative markets, large corporate borrowers and large value transactions in centralised payment systems.

32. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has announced the launch of its '#Care4Hockey' campaign aims to support the development of Hockey in India from the grass-root level.

Note: The Company has associated with Rani Rampal, Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain who is the face of this campaign. The thought behind this campaign is to elevate field Hockey's recognition in our country and showcase how supporting a person to attain their goals can enable them to make a difference in the society.

33. Adani Green Energy has signed a power purchase agreement with state run Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to supply 4667 MW of green energy.

Note: This is the world's largest ever green power purchase agreement (PPA), as Adani is on track to be the world's largest renewables player by 2030. As the world's largest solar power developer, Adani Green Energy will supply 4,667 MW.

- 34. PayPhi** became the first certified tokenization service for NPCI Tokenization system (NTS) supporting tokenization of RuPay cards.
Note: On the lines of the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in September 2021 regarding tokenization of cards during online transactions, NPCI announced the launch of NPCI Tokenization system (NTS). In this regard, PayPhi, Phi Commerce's API (Application programming interface) first digital payments platform, became the first certified tokenization service for NTS supporting tokenization of RuPay cards. Tokenization of cards as an alternate to storing card details with merchants.
- 35.** The Finance Ministry announced that around 2.13 Lakh Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) have been installed across India by the end of September 2021.
Note: Out of 2.13 lakh ATMs, 4 percent of ATMs are installed in rural and semi-urban areas. RBI has directed the White Label ATMs (WLAs) operators must deploy a minimum of 1,000 ATMs every year. WLA should maintain a deployment ratio of 1:2:3 for

metro and urban, semi-urban and rural regions respectively.

- 36. ICICI Bank** has partnered with Flipkart, an e-commerce platform, to offer an instant and digital overdraft (OD) facility of up to 25 lakhs to individual sellers and businesses registered on Flipkart.
Note: The OD is renewable on an annual basis, depending on the repayment track records of the seller. The OD Facility is enabled by Application Programming Interface (API) and the process from application to sanction to disbursement is completely digital.
- 37. Bank of Baroda** has signed an MoU with Centrum Housing Finance Limited (CHFL) for sourcing and financing housing loan borrowers under Co-Lending Model (CLM) mechanism.
Note: CHFL is one of the leading housing finance companies that provides long-term housing finance. The Bank will penetrate deep into the markets of tier 2 & tier 3 cities at very competitive interest rates. Bank extends upto of Rs.1000 crore as Housing finance in one financial year.

November 2021

- 1. Microsoft** become the world's most valuable public company.
Note: Microsoft surged 2.2 percent to a market value of \$2.49 trillion, surpassing Apple. For the first time since 2010, Microsoft passed Apple's market cap in 2018 and later in July 2020.
- 2. NITI Aayog** has released report titled 'Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle' highlighting the gaps in the health insurance coverage with solutions.
Note: The report highlights the need for designing a low-cost comprehensive health insurance product for the missing middle. As per the report, AB-PMJAY provides comprehensive hospitalization cover to the bottom 50% of population, 20% is covered through social health insurance and private voluntary health insurance and other 30% are devoid of health insurance, and has termed them as the missing middle
- 3.** Government of Meghalaya has signed \$40 million Meghalaya Health Systems Strengthening Project with international organization **World Bank**.
Note: Government of India, Government of Meghalaya and World Bank has signed a \$40 million Meghalaya Health Systems Strengthening Project to improve the quality of health services and strengthen the state's capacity to handle future health emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4.** The RBI issued a revised Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework for banks to enable supervisory intervention at "appropriate time" and also act as a

tool for effective market discipline. The revised PCA framework will be effective from **January 1, 2022**.

Note: Capital, asset quality and leverage will be the key areas for monitoring in the revised framework. The revised PCA framework will be effective from January 1, 2022. The PCA framework is also intended to act as a tool for effective market discipline.

- 5. Sudarshan Sen Committee** of the Reserve Bank of India has recommended that the scope of **Section 5** of the **SARFAESI Act** be expanded to permit ARCs to acquire financial assets from all regulated entities, including AIFs, FPIs, AMCs making investment on behalf of MFs and all NBFCs including HFCs.
Note: It suggested that the scope of Section 5 of the SARFAESI Act be expanded to permit ARCs to acquire financial assets from all regulated entities, including AIFs, FPIs, AMCs making investment on behalf of MFs and all NBFCs including HFCs. The committee has recommended that for all accounts above Rs 500 crore, two bank-approved external valuers should carry out a valuation to determine the liquidation value and fair market value. In case of accounts between Rs 100 crore and Rs 500 crore, one valuer may be engaged.
- 6. Indian Oil Corporation** will set up India's first mega-scale Maleic Anhydride Plant to manufacture value-added chemical products at its Panipat Refinery and Petroleum Complex (PRPC).
Note: The project — with a capex of ₹3,681 crore will be commissioned in 54 months from stage 1 investment approval. The project is proposed to have a capacity of 120 KTA of Maleic Anhydride (MAH)

7. NITI Aayog has partnered with **World Bank** to facilitate a program for faster and easier financing of electric vehicles (EV) and they will up a \$300-million 'first loss risk sharing instrument'.
Note: The two entities are setting up a \$300-million 'first loss risk sharing instrument', with State Bank of India (SBI) as its program manager. This facility would seek to garner around \$1.5 billion in financing for EVs. The instrument would act as a hedging mechanism, for banks to access in case of defaults of loans on purchase of EVs.
8. **State Bank of India** will be the program manager of the \$300-million 'first loss risk sharing instrument' being set up by NITI Aayog and the World Bank to facilitate a program for faster and easier financing of electric vehicles (EV).
Note: The two entities are setting up a \$300-million 'first loss risk sharing instrument', with State Bank of India (SBI) as its program manager. This facility would seek to garner around \$1.5 billion in financing for EVs. The instrument would act as a hedging mechanism, for banks to access in case of defaults of loans on purchase of EVs.
9. **State Bank of India** has launched a pre-approved 2-wheeler loan scheme 'Easy Ride' through its Mobile Application platform.
Note: Eligible SBI customers can avail of end-to-end digital two-wheeler loans through the YONO app without visiting the bank branch. Customers can apply for the Easy Ride loan for an amount up to Rs 3 lakh at a competitive interest rate of 10.5% per annum onwards for a maximum tenure of 4 years.
10. **ICICI Lombard General Insurance** has partnered with Vega to offer personal accident insurance cover on every online purchase of Vega helmet.
Note: The personal accident insurance policy will provide individuals with the benefit of accidental death with sum insured of ₹1 lakh. The cover is applicable on a worldwide basis. The tie-up aims to give the customer dual safety and protection, through the helmet and the personal accident insurance cover.
11. **Bank of Baroda** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NCDEX e Markets Ltd (NEML) to become a "clearing bank" for handling financial transactions in the NEML market place and procurement/auction platform.
Note: NEML, a wholly-owned subsidiary of agricultural commodity exchange, NCDEX, is an online commodities spot market and services company. This tie-up opens up multiple opportunities for both institutions.
12. International internet company **Starlink** has registered its business in India and planning to launch internet services in the country.
Note: It is planning to launch internet services in the country, as per the company documents filed with the government. Starlink is the satellite internet division of billionaire Elon Musk's rocket company SpaceX.
13. **Axis Bank** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Navy, offering a defence service salary package, 'Power Salute'.
Note: Through the exclusive defence service salary package--Power Salute--Axis Bank will offer numerous benefits to all ranks of the Indian Navy, veterans and cadets. The benefits include a personal accidental cover of up to ₹56 lakh to all navy personnel, veterans and cadets; additional up to ₹8 lakh children education grant; total permanent disability cover benefit up to ₹46 lakh; partial permanent disability cover of up to ₹46 lakh; air accident cover of ₹1 crore.
14. **Indian Oil Corporation** has decided to set up 10,000 electric vehicle charging stations across the country in three years.
Note: This step will boost the EV ecosystem in the country. PM Modi announced India's pledge to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, as part of the global drive to fight climate change during COP26 summit in Glasgow. Indian Oil will soon unveil its net-zero emission target.
15. **State Bank of India** has launched the first 'Video life certificate service' for pensioners.
Note: Pensioners from the comfort of their homes can schedule a video call with SBI staff at their convenience and complete the process of life certificate submission without having to visit the bank branch. State Bank of India is the largest commercial bank in terms of assets, deposits, branches, customers, and employees. It is also the largest mortgage lender in the country which has so far fulfilled the home buying dreams of 30 lakh Indian families.
16. **ESAF Small Finance Bank** has joined hands with NABARD for its Local Sustainable Economic Development Training Program.
Note: K. Rajan, the State Revenue Minister inaugurated the state-level Local Sustainable Economic Development Training Program organized by the bank in this regard. ESAF Small Finance Bank's state wide initiative on Local Sustainable Economic Development Training Program in collaboration with Nabard is a step towards building financial literacy at grass root levels.
17. **PhonePe** has launched tokenization solution named as 'SafeCard' for online debit and credit card transactions.
Note: RBI had made device-based tokenization framework applicable to Card-on-File Tokenisation (CoFT) services as well i.e Card-on-File (CoF) in September 2021. Tokenisation provides users an added layer of security by converting sensitive card information like card name, card number, CVV, etc
18. Technology company **Alphabet** has launched a new company in London titled as Isomorphic Labs, that will aim to use artificial intelligence for drug discovery and medicine to find cures for some of humanity's most

devastating diseases in the field of biological and medical research.

Note: This company will aim to use AI (artificial intelligence) for drug discovery and medicine to find cures for some of humanity's most devastating diseases in the field of biological and medical research. CEO of Isomorphic Labs: Demis Hassabis (Current CEO and co-founder of DeepMind). It is a commercial venture with the mission to reimagine the entire drug discovery process.

19. Asian Development Bank has approved a \$61 million (~INR 453 Crore) loan under 'Agartala City Urban Development Project' to improve livability, harness technology, and promote new developments to accommodate the expanding population in the city of Agartala, Tripura.

Note: The Agartala City Urban Development Project will build and upgrade 48 kilometers (km) of new or existing stormwater drainage and construct 23 km of climate-resilient urban roads. The ADB's support is aligned with the Government of India's national Smart Cities Mission program, which aims to drive economic growth through local area development. ADB will also provide a \$1 million technical assistance (TA) grant from its Technical Assistance Special Fund to support the project's capacity building and awareness-raising activities.

20. Bombay stock exchange (BSE) in collaboration with **HDFC Bank** to promote and encourage the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and also listing of Start-ups.

Note: The collaboration helps the SMEs and Startups to get-in touch with accountants, Lawyers and Bankers in the list of BSE. The collaboration resolves financial constraints for the startups and SMEs and creates sustainability. Through this MoU, HDFC and BSE shall evaluate banking and lending solutions for startups and SMEs.

21. Liberty General Insurance Limited has collaborated with digital payment company **PhonePe** to provide motor insurance services digitally.

Note: Under this, Liberty General Insurance will provide a variety of Motor Insurance policies to the customers, digitally through PhonePe app. In 2020, PhonePe ventured into distribution of insurance and has become one of India's fastest growing digital distributors with sale of over 5 lakh policies in 5 months. The users of PhonePe can choose from multiple motor insurance products on the platform. It will work as a one stop destination for all insurance needs.

22. State Bank of India has launched the first 'Video life certificate service' for pensioners.

Note: Pensioners from the comfort of their homes can schedule a video call with SBI staff at their convenience and complete the process of life certificate submission without having to visit the bank branch. State Bank of

India is the largest commercial bank in terms of assets, deposits, branches, customers, and employees. It is also the largest mortgage lender in the country which has so far fulfilled the home buying dreams of 30 lakh Indian families.

23. Under theme the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) going to organize its first global hackathon "HARBINGER 2021– Innovation for Transformation"-- 'Smarter Digital Payments'.

Note: The participants in the hackathon will get the opportunity to be mentored by industry experts, exhibit their innovative solutions before an eminent jury, and win prizes in each category. The winner will get Rs 40 lakh, and the runner-up will be awarded Rs 20 lakh.

24. Social media giant Meta has announced the launch of 'Grow Your Business Hub', a one-stop destination for the micro, small, and medium businesses to find relevant information, tools, and resources curated to cater to their business goals based on their growth journey.

Note: It is a localised business hub for the micro, small and medium business to find relevant information, tools, and resources curated to provide their business goals based on their growth. Grow Your Business Playbook to inspire and equip early-stage businesses to start their journeys on Meta's apps was also launched during the event. This playbook aims to assist the business to set up an offline to online journey and accelerating online sales for small businesses during the COVID-19 era and beyond.

25. Life insurance company Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company has entered into a strategic partnership with Department of Posts and India Post Payments Bank to offer two Point of Sale (PoS) products — a term product and an annuity product — through the postal department's network of 1,36,000 banking access points and the payments bank's 650 branches.

Note: Through this alliance, BALIC has become the first private life insurer in the country to enter into a tie up with the Department of Posts for sale of PoS products. This alliance will enable the lakhs of Gramieen Dak Sevaks to offer financial solutions in rural areas.

26. NPCI Bharat BillPay has tied up with life insurance company **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company** to provide ClickPay to the insurer's customers.

Note: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance is the first insurance company to offer this facility of ClickPay to its customers empowering them to make renewal premium payments with ease. To offer an automated and valuable insurance premium payment experience, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance will generate the ClickPay link and share it with customers which will redirect them to the payment page comprising payment details.

- 27. UCO Bank** has entered into a co-lending agreement with Aadhar Housing Finance company to offer home loans at competitive interest rates.
Note: The aim is to reach out to a large section of society to provide easy, convenient, and efficient home finance solutions to customers from the economically weaker, lower and middle-income groups.
- 28. The Reserve Bank of India** has decided to permit banks to offer interest rates on FCNR (B) deposits using widely-accepted overnight 'ARR' for the respective currency' with an upward revision in the interest rates ceiling by 50 basis points (bps).
Note: The Reserve Bank of India has decided to permit banks to offer interest rates on FCNR (B) deposits using widely-accepted 'Overnight Alternative Reference Rate (ARR) for the respective currency' with an upward revision in the interest rates ceiling by 50 basis points (bps). This comes in view of the impending discontinuance of LIBOR (London Inter-Bank Offered Rate) as a benchmark rate.
- 29. Axis Bank** has signed an MoU with the Army Insurance Group (AGI) to offer retail mortgage loans to the Indian Army.
Note: The bank will offer best-in-class products and services to defence personnel to cater to their home loan requirements. Through this partnership, it will exclusively offer higher loan amounts as well as the facility to transfer the balance of their loans from AGI to Axis Bank.
- 30. Narendra Modi** has launched RBI Integrated Ombudsman Scheme based on "One Nation-One Ombudsman" by integrating which of the following schemes.
Note: The Reserve Bank of India will provide a multi-lingual toll-free phone number for all the relevant information on grievance redress. It will also provide assistance for filing complaints. Earlier, there were three Ombudsman schemes in India (i) Banking Ombudsman Scheme (ii) Ombudsman Scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies and (iii) Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions.
- 31.** According to the Reserve Bank of India, **5.3 per cent** will be the Consumer Price Index or CPI inflation for 2021-22.
Note: The inflation was 7.61% in October last year. The RBI has projected the CPI inflation at 5.3 per cent for 2021-22. According to MoSPI data, inflation in the food basket rose to 0.85 per cent in October, compared to 0.68 per cent in the preceding month.
- 32. Indian Oil Corporation Limited and NTPC Limited** signed an MoU to collaborate in the field of Renewable Energy (RE) and mutually explore opportunities for supply of low carbon/RE RTC (round the clock) captive power.
Note: This is a first-of-its-kind novel initiative by two leading national energy majors of India, to support the country's commitment to achieving renewable energy targets and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. NTPC, India's largest integrated energy company, has an installed capacity of 67,657.5 MW (including 13,425 MW through JVs/Subsidiaries) comprising 47 NTPC stations.
- 33. IIT Guwahati** will collaborate with Oil India Limited (OIL) on the development and introduction of new technologies energy, and related sectors.
Note: The partnership will also focus on cooperation in Transfer of existing technologies, Knowledge up-gradation and innovation partnership, Training and skill development, and other areas of mutual agreement. This MoU will facilitate a new path for exploring various opportunities in applied and translational research for the sustainable energy sector with OIL. According to MoU, this collaboration is equally beneficial for both parties.
- 34. HDFC Bank** has integrated with the government's National Agriculture Market (eNAM) to enable digital collections and settlement of funds to various e-NAM beneficiaries.
Note: HDFC Bank has partnered with the SFAC to further improve the ease of doing business on e-NAM platform by offering collection modes like multi-net banking, debit card, NEFT/RTGS and UPI/IMPS. This integration helps not only farmers but also Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), commission agents, institutional buyers and other Mandi level service providers etc. who form part of the entire agriculture value chain.
- 35.** Indian infra company **Tata Projects** has received an order for a 400kV double circuit transmission line project valued at around \$120 million from the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited (PGCB).
Note: This is a 120-km project from Barapukuria to Bogura in Bangladesh to be executed in 30 months. The funding for the same will be provided by EXIM Bank under Indian Line of Credit. This project is on the line of South Asia power pool comprising Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal.
- 36.** The central government and **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a \$61 million loan to improve livability, harness technology, and promote new developments to accommodate the expanding population in **Agartala**.
Note: The loan agreement for the Agartala City Urban Development Project was signed by Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the government and Takeo Konishi, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission.
- 37.** Indian Motor company **TVS Motor** has joined the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), the world's largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative.
Note: TVS Motor has become the 1st Indian two-wheeler and three-wheeler manufacturer to join the UNGC. TVS Motor will also engage in collaborative

projects which will advance the development goals of the UN, particularly the Sustainable development goals (SDG).

38. The Reserve Bank of India has announced to introduce the Internal Ombudsman mechanism for Non-Deposit taking NBFCs (NBFCs-ND) with asset size of **Rs.5,000 crore**.

Note: The RBI has directed the Deposit-taking NBFCs with 10 or more branches and non-deposit taking NBFCs with assets size of ₹5,000 crore must appoint an Internal Ombudsman (IO) at the apex of their internal grievance redress mechanism within a period of six months from the date of issue of the direction.

39. IndusInd Bank has launched a comprehensive 'Merchant Solutions' mobile application to enable merchants, retailers and professionals to carry out banking transactions digitally, on a single platform.

Note: Indus Merchant Solutions will enable merchants and retailers to undertake an array of activities such as accept instant cashless payments on mobile phones from customers through multiple digital modes, track inventory via in-built dashboards, apply for an exclusive Point of Sale (PoS) machine to facilitate card based payments, as well as avail small ticket business loans from the bank in a completely digital and paperless manner, without having to visit a bank branch.

40. U GRO Capital, a technology-focused small business lending platform, has entered into a co-lending partnership with **State Bank of India** to provide credit to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME).

Note: Through this collaboration, SBI and U GRO aim to disburse up to ₹500 crore by March 2022. The agreement has been signed under the alternative option of Reserve Bank of India's revised co-lending guidelines, which involves post disbursement takeover of the bank's share in the loan on a back-to-back basis.

41. The corpus of the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) has been reached at **₹613.89 crore**.

Note: The PIDF Scheme, operationalised by the RBI from January 1, 2021, subsidises deployment of Points of Sale infrastructure (physical and digital modes) in Tier-3 to Tier-6 centres and north-eastern States of the country. From August 26 this year, beneficiaries of PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi in Tier-1 and Tier-2 centres are also covered. Physical devices include PoS, mobile PoS, GPRS, PSTN or Public Switched Telephone Network and digital devices include interoperable QR code-based payments such as UPI QR, Bharat QR.

42. HDFC Bank has launched the second edition of its "Mooh Band Rakho" campaign in support of the International Fraud Awareness Week 2021.

Note: Aim: To increase awareness of its customers on all types of frauds and the importance of keeping your mouth shut to ensure their prevention and taking a

pledge and not share confidential banking information with anyone. HDFC Bank will organize 2,000 workshops in the next four months under this campaign.

43. Kotak Mahindra Bank and PVR Cinemas launched a co-branded movie debit card.

Note: With the Kotak PVR Movie Debit Card, cardholders will receive joining vouchers and earn points on every transaction on the debit card at PVR and outside PVR as well, with no upper limit on the points earned. Further, Kotak PVR debit cardholders will get automatically enrolled to the PVR Privilege Plus programme.

44. State Bank of India has entered into a strategic partnership with Jamshedpur Football Club (JFC) owned by Tata Steel to support and promote the sport in the country.

Note: The bank signed the agreement with JFC in Mumbai in the presence of top officials of the two brands. With this partnership, a first major endeavour by the country's largest lender, SBI will be one of the principal sponsors of the JFC. With the agreement coming into existence, the JFC match jersey will now feature the SBI logo.

45. According to UBS Securities, 9.5 per cent will be the growth rate of Indian economy in the fiscal year 2021-22.

Note: The brokerage also sees the economy clipping at 7.7 per cent in FY23 but moderating to 6 per cent in FY24. The Reserve Bank also forecasts 9.5 per cent GDP growth this fiscal while the average projection ranges from 8.5 to 10 per cent.

46. NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure has got in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up an account aggregator business under its wholly-owned subsidiary.

Note: Account Aggregator is a first-of-its-kind consent framework that empowers an individual with control over his or her data, and the ability to securely and digitally access and share the same. Aggregator services can play a pivotal role as a core contributor to a data-led economic empowerment and inclusion at scale.

47. SIDBI has entered a collaboration with global giant **Google** for having a social impact lending programme, entailing financial assistance up to ₹1 crore at competitive interest rates targeted at micro-enterprises.

Note: The program entails financial assistance up to ₹1 crore at competitive interest rates targeted at micro-enterprises. The collaboration brings a corpus of \$15 million (about ₹110 crore) to micro-enterprises as a crisis response related to Covid-19 to reinvigorate them. The collaboration envisages a loan programme targeted at micro enterprises (having turnover up to ₹5 crore), with loan sizes ranging between ₹25 lakh to ₹1 crore, being implemented by SIDBI.

48. According to World Bank data **India** becomes the world's largest recipient of remittances worth \$87 billion a gain of 4.6 per cent from previous year.
Note: India becomes the world's largest recipient of remittances with a gain of 4.6 per cent. India is followed by China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt. In India, remittances are projected to grow three per cent in 2022 to \$89.6 billion.
49. Electric two-wheeler platform **eBikeGo** has acquired the rights to manufacture the smart electric trike 'Velocipedo' of a leading Spanish automotive company Torrot in India, in a multi-million-dollar deal.
Note: With this, eBikeGo now plans to enter the luxury electric three-wheeler industry and aims to manufacture these scooters at its factory in Pune. The acquisition will address a niche in the Indian mobility sector, particularly in the electric vehicle (EV) segment. Velocipedo will be produced in three basic models — a personal vehicle, Trick Taxi and a cargo vehicle, in Pune.
50. NPCI International Payments has signed an MoU with Network International to discuss their collaboration on acceptance of the UPI in **UAE**.
Note: The proposed collaboration will benefit Indian travellers visiting the UAE by allowing them to make payments through UPI-based mobile applications leveraging Network's trusted payment infrastructure and network strength as the UAE's largest merchant acquirer. The proposed rollout of UPI mobile payment solutions on Network International's merchant network in the UAE is expected to start in the first quarter of 2022 across the company's key retail merchant partner outlets
51. Financial institution **SIDBI** has launched Swavalamban Challenge Fund (SCF) with Green Bharat as prioritised theme.
Note: The focus of the fund is on innovative projects addressing the green, clean or efficient climate change, Sidbi said in a statement. Other themes are sustainable livelihood, financial inclusion, and access to financial services and promoting the culture of entrepreneurship
52. India has received \$87 billion in remittances in 2021 as per the report titled 'Migration and Development Brief 35' released by World Bank and KNOMAD.
Note: As per the report, remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are projected to reach \$589 billion in 2021.
53. **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)** has been adjudged the best regional rural bank (RRB) under the 'Regional Rural Banks' category, in recognition of its initiatives in the sphere of digital financial services by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).
Note: Bank chairman P. Gopikrishna received the award from Reserve Bank of India Regional Director R. Gurusurthy in Bengaluru. Around 40 villages in Karnataka are converted into 100% digital villages by the KVGB bank. These efforts are encouraging villagers to use digital mode for transactions. Those villages have round-the-clock access to Internet banking, mobile banking, micro ATMs, AEPS (Aadhar Enabled Payment Systems), IMPS, and UPI.
54. **Mswipe** has partnered with OneCard, a mobile-first credit card company, to offer no-cost Equated Monthly Instalments (EMIs) across its network of 250,000 retailers.
Note: The partnership will enable users of OneCard to seamlessly access no- or low-interest EMIs, while availing mid- and high-value purchases at retail outlets powered by Mswipe terminals.
55. **HDFC Bank** has announced the launch of micro-credit facility for street vendors, PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), with common service centres (CSC).
Note: HDFC Bank would facilitate PM SVANidhi for its village-level entrepreneurs (VLEs) on the digital sewa portal where vendors can complete the entire process online. It is a collateral-free affordable loan of ₹10,000 with an interest subsidy of 7%. VLEs must understand the loan application requirements, ensure the mobile number is linked to the Aadhaar and check the eligibility status of their application as per the scheme rules.
56. **Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services** announced the launch of a lease-based vehicle subscription business for the urban centres.
Note: The new venture would be called 'Quiklyz' and would target both individuals as well as corporate buyers. The venture is a digital platform for vehicle leasing and subscription, that aims to provide convenience, flexibility and choice to customers across cities.
57. According to the SBI Ecowrap report of Economic Research Department of State Bank of India (SBI), India's GDP growth rate of the Indian Economy during the fiscal year 2021-22 -- **9.3%-9.6%**.
Note: Earlier, this was estimated in the range of 8.5% to 9%. Reason for the upward revision is decline in the number of COVID cases.
58. The Central Board of Trustees (CBT), the apex decision-making body of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) approved **5 per cent** of the annual deposits to invest in alternative investments including infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs).
Note: Central board of trustees of EPFO has given in-principle approvals to invest in public sector invites and bonds, though on a case-to-case basis, to be decided by Finance Investment and Audit Committee (FIAC).
59. **ICICI Bank** has launched an online platform called as '**Trade Emerge**' for Indian exporters and importers to offer them digital banking and value-added services.
Note: Through this platform, cross-border trade will become hassle-free, expeditious and convenient. This

is due to an array of services offered in one place, facilitating companies to coordinate with multiple touchpoints.

60. JPMorgan Chase has been named the world's most important bank to the health of the wider financial system, according to the latest annual ranking of top lenders released by the Financial Stability Board (FSB), made up of regulators from G20 countries.

Note: The Financial Stability Board (FSB), made up of regulators from G20 countries, published its latest table of the world's 30 most systemic banks. Last year JPMorgan shared the highest bucket with HSBC and Citigroup, but is now alone in the next bucket up, which had been empty.

61. Andhra Pradesh state govt and the Union govt have signed a legal agreements for \$250 million (Rs 1,860 crore) loan with **World Bank** for Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation (SALT) project, which aims to improve the quality of learning for over 50 lakh students in the State.

Note: The project aims to cover 40 lakh students between the ages of six and fourteen in over 45,000 government schools, over 10 lakh children between the ages of three and six enrolled in Anganwadis, about 1,90,000 teachers, and more than 50,000 Anganwadi workers.

62. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Government of India has signed a \$300 million loan to strengthen and improve access to comprehensive primary health care in urban areas.

Note: The programme supports the Government of India's key health initiatives - Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWC) and Pradhan Mantri Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana (PM-ASBY) - which has been renamed as Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) - by expanding availability and access to quality primary health care services particularly for vulnerable populations in urban areas.

63. Tata Power go live on 'ClickPay', the newly launched platform launched by NPCI Bharat BillPay.

Note: Bharat BillPay's marquee offering - ClickPay will enable Tata Power customers to make monthly electricity bill payments with ease. To offer an automated and valuable electricity bill payments experience, Tata Power will generate the ClickPay link and share it with customers which will redirect them to the payment page comprising payment details.

64. Equitas Small Finance Bank has partnered with **HDFC Bank** to launch a co-branded credit card.

Note: The credit cards will be available for Equitas Small Finance Bank's customers, with an aim to provide them with the facilities of the banking ecosystem. The credit card can be availed in two categories. The first category is the 'Excite Credit Card' which offers a credit limit from ₹25,000 to ₹2 lakh and

the second category is the 'Elegance Credit Card' which offers credit limit of over ₹2 lakh.

65. Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited has partnered with API Holdings through its digital platform Retailio to provide financing solutions to consumers, retailers and merchants in the API Holdings' healthcare ecosystem.

Note: Retailio is the country's largest digital B2B healthcare platform. Under this partnership, PCHFL has earmarked an initial amount of ₹100 crore for disbursement by March 2022.

66. According to a recent Sequoia India and Boston Consulting Group report, the mobile gaming market in India is estimated to become a \$5 billion market by **2025**.

Note: The rise in adoption of smartphones, wider internet access, and a better selection of mobile-first games along with the rise of gaming streamers and influencers is said to have catalysed gaming in India. There are now over 300 million gamers in India and revenue across all gaming devices reached \$1.8 billion in 2020, up 500 per cent from 2016.

67. Capri Global Capital Limited (CGCL) has entered into a co-lending agreement with **Union Bank of India** to offer loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across 100-plus touch points pan-India.

Note: CGCL emphasised that the co-lending agreement aims to enhance last-mile credit and drive financial inclusion to MSMEs by offering secured loans between ₹10 lakhs to ₹1 crore. The co-lending arrangement will entail joint contribution of credit to prospective MSME customers in Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets.

68. Bank of Baroda has partnered with OneCard, to launch a co-branded mobile-first credit card.

Note: The virtual credit card, powered by a mobile app, will be delivered in under three minutes and the metal card will be delivered in three to five days. The internationally valid credit card will be issued by BFSL and managed by OneCard on VISA's Signature platform.

69. State Bank of India has inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Puducherry Cooperative Milk Producers Union (PONLAIT) to provide loan to individual dairy farmers.

Note: The loan would be given under SAFAL (simple and fast agriculture loan) scheme of the bank. The amount of loan is up to a limit of Rs 3 lakh. This was the first MoU signed in the Chennai circle of the bank which plans to enter into such agreements with commercial dairies throughout the country to finance farmers supplying milk to the dairies.

70. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has announced its partnership with deep-tech startup TropoGo for the distribution of a drone Insurance product.

Note: The drone insurance product will cover damage to the Drone and Payload it carries, Third Party Liability along with additional covers for BVLOS

(Beyond Visual Line of Sight) Endorsement and Night Flying Endorsement. Drone owners and drone manufacturing companies can avail an annual third-party and comprehensive coverage for accidental damage, theft, and disappearance.

- 71. Yes Bank** announced its collaboration with Amazon Pay and Amazon Web Services (AWS) to offer customers an instant real-time payment system through a UPI transaction facility.
Note: The integration enables Amazon Pay to issue UPI IDs with the @yapl handle, allowing customers to make secure, fast, and convenient payments. Based on a multi-bank model, this collaboration allows Yes Bank to acquire merchants through the Amazon Pay platform, further extending the lender's presence in the UPI merchant business segment.
- 72.** According to Moody's **9.3%** will be the India's GDP growth in fiscal year 2021-22.
Note: India recently hit record Covid-19 vaccination rates. Moody's notes that the vaccination drive in India has gathered pace after the second wave. In the report, Moody's said credit fundamentals are favorable for India's companies on a sustained economic recovery and earnings of rated companies' will rise on strong consumer demand and high commodity prices.
- 73.** The new base year on which Ministry of Labour released a new series of Wage Rate Index (WRI) -- **2016**.
Note: New series of Wage Rate Index (WRI) from July 2016 to July 2020 based on the new series 2016=100 has been released by the government. Total of 37 industries have been covered in the new WRI basket (2016=100) as against 21 industries in the 1963-65=100 series.
- 74. Exim Bank** has committed has loans worth \$100 million for domestic manufacturers of Covid-19 vaccines.
Note: These loans are being extended to about half a dozen drug makers in the country. The loans for vaccines are also being extended to other countries. The bank expects a credit growth of 10% this year.
- 75.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has accepted the recommendation of the Internal Working Group constituted under Prasanna Kumar Mohanty to raise

the cap on promoters' stake in private banks from the current 15 % to **26%**.

Note: There is no need to fix any cap on the promoters' holding in the initial 5 years. The promoters are allowed to choose to bring down the holding to below 26 percent, any time after the 5 year lock-in period.

- 76. HSBS** bank has launched India's first credit card made from recycled PVC plastic.
Note: The cards are issued in partnership with IDEMIA and will help gradually eliminate single-use PVC plastic. This initiative has initially been rolled out for HSBC Cashback Credit Card and will be gradually extended to all card variants.
- 77. ESAF Small Finance Bank** has announced the latest "Go Green" range of electric vehicle loan schemes.
Note: ESAF Go green loans validate bank's social business strategy seeking a triple bottom line impact; people; planet; and prosperity. ESAF SFB caters to more than 46 lakhs customers through its 550 banking outlets across 21 States and two UTs.
- 78. White-label ATM operators (WLAOs) India1 Payments** has crossed a milestone of deploying 10,000-white-label ATMs, making it the largest player in the segment.
Note: The company has installed these machines mostly in semi urban and rural areas across 14 states and union territories, and this milestone makes India1 ATM the second largest white label ATM (WLA) brand in the semi-urban and rural areas. India1ATM services over 72 million customer transactions and facilitates a gross transaction value of over Rs 13,600 crore every quarter on an average. It began operations in 2014 and since then it has installed more than a third of the WLAs.
- 79.** After Air India in a second major disinvestment, the central government has approved the 100 percent strategic disinvestment of the **Central Electronics Limited**.
Note: This is the second privatisation this fiscal year, after Air India. The winning bidder offered over ₹210 crore against the reserve price of ₹194 crore. This is the second attempt at selling CEL after the process in 2016 did not attract any financial bid.

October 2021

- 1. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has approved a credit plan for yak husbandry in **Arunachal Pradesh** state that will help herders secure loans for the purpose and strengthen their livelihoods.
Note: The scheme was developed by the **National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY)** at Dirang in West Kameng district. The credit plan vetted by NABARD for yak husbandry was found to be feasible for extending

advances by commercial banks and has been included in the **potential linked credit plans (PLCP)** of Tawang. The NRCY comes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

- 2. AU Small Finance Bank** signed a pact with the **National Bank for Rural and Development (NABARD)** to boost ongoing rural development initiatives in Rajasthan.
Note: The memorandum envisages a joint initiative to benefit farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs),

- Self Help Groups (SHGs), rural artisans, agri-entrepreneurs, and agri-startups in the State. “This MoU between NABARD and AU Bank will provide institutional credit support to the ongoing development schemes in the State, which will lead to further prosperity in the rural areas.
- 3. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has removed Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) from the Prompt Corrective Action Framework.**
Note: IOB was placed under the PCA framework in 2015. The Board for Financial Supervision, after review of IOB's performance, on the basis of the **published financial results for 2020-21** found that the bank was not in breach of the PCA parameter.
 - 4. Piramal Enterprises has acquired Dewan Housing Finance Limited (DHFL) by paying an amount of Rs 34,250 crore.**
Note: This is the first successful resolution of a financial services company under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). DHFL is the first financial services firm to go for bankruptcy proceedings. It is a non-deposit-taking housing finance company.
 - 5. World Bank will give \$150 million loan to support the Tamil Nadu's Chennai City Partnership: Sustainable Urban Services Program.**
Note: 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.
 - 6. State Bank of India and Indian Navy have launched the lender's NAV-eCash card onboard the country's largest Naval Aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.**
Note: The unique infrastructure at naval ships inhibits traditional payment solutions particularly when the ship is in high seas where there is no connectivity. With dual-chip technology, the country's largest lender said that the card will facilitate both online as well as offline transactions.
 - 7. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) the licence to register as an asset reconstruction company (ARC), which is seeking to turn around bad loans worth Rs 2 trillion.**
Note: The licence to NARCL, dubbed as bad bank, was granted by the central bank on Monday, said an official. The approval to the entity has been accorded under Section 3 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002. Section 3 of SARFAESI Act states that an entity cannot start the business of securitisation or asset reconstruction without obtaining a certificate of registration, and should have funds of at least Rs 2 crore or an amount not exceeding 15 per cent of the total financial assets acquired or to be acquired by the ARC.
 - 8. Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited has recently reverse merged with debt-ridden company Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited.**
Note: PCHFL has merged into DHFL with effect from 30th September 2021 pursuant to the reverse merger as contemplated under scheme of arrangement provided under the resolution plan, Piramal Enterprises said in a regulatory filing. Upon allotment of equity shares to PEL, DHFL will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of PEL.
 - 9. Under SARFAESI Act 2002, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL), which is seeking to turn around bad loans worth Rs 2 trillion, the licence to register as an asset reconstruction company (ARC).**
Note: The approval to the entity has been accorded under Section 3 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002. Section 3 of SARFAESI Act states that an entity cannot start the business of securitisation or asset reconstruction without obtaining a certificate of registration, and should have funds of at least Rs 2 crore or an amount not exceeding 15 per cent of the total financial assets acquired or to be acquired by the ARC.
 - 10. Tata AIA Life Insurance has tied up with integrated healthcare company Practo for online medical consultation for its customers.**
Note: As part of the alliance, Tata AIA consumers can avail themselves of online medical consultations from verified doctors anywhere, anytime. This includes assistance for common ailments like cold, fever and injury, thereby enabling them to seek immediate medical guidance from the safe and comfortable environment of their home.
 - 11. Britannia has collaborated with the global IT and professional services company Accenture to accelerate its digital transformation across multiple retail channels.**
Note: Accenture, through a digital transformation program, has helped Britannia Industries to accelerate innovation, capture value and improve the customer and supplier experience. For Britannia's large network of suppliers, this project will help streamline procurement and supply chain management, using SAP Ariba solutions to expedite digital onboarding, contract management and procurement processes.
 - 12. IT company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been selected by NORD/LB, a leading German commercial bank, as its strategic partner for its IT transformation.**
Note: NORD/LB has embarked on a transformation journey that targets a new business model by 2024, and a leaner, more agile operating model. It has partnered with TCS in this journey. As part of the five-year partnership, TCS will work with the bank to simplify and transform its application estate across businesses—financial markets, wholesale and retail banking, through application consolidation and automation.
 - 13. Indian Bank becomes the official partner bank for the collection of offline and online treasury for the Integrated Financial and Human Resources Management System.**
Note: The Integrated Financial and Human Resources Management System is a portal developed by the government of Tamil Nadu to integrate human resources

and finance related services providing a comprehensive management system. The public, through the portal, can access all government services related to Tamil Nadu treasuries and accounts, chief auditor of statutory boards departments, small savings, pension, co-operative audit and government data centre, among many others, at a click of a button.

14. **Suryoday Small Finance Bank** has shut-down its automated teller machines (ATMs) from 1st October, 2021.
Note: The bank will give users the option to use their debit card at ATMs of other banks. The lender will shut down its ATMs from October 1.
15. Stellapps, a dairy-tech start-up, has joined hands with **Airtel Payments Bank** to enable cashless payment transfers to small dairy farmers.
Note: Airtel Payments Bank will onboard Stellapps' new partner milk collection centers as banking points. These banking points will enable farmers to open a bank account, withdraw and deposit cash, earn interest on savings, access Aadhaar enabled payments, get government pension schemes, and make bill payments.
16. Indel Money has tied up with **IndusInd Bank** for a gold loan co-lending partnership to offer gold loans at competitive rates.
Note: Under the co-lending partnership agreement, Indel Money will originate and process gold loans based on mutually formulated credit parameters and eligibility criteria. The company will service customers through the entire lifecycle of the loans, including sourcing, documentation, collection and loan servicing. IndusInd Bank will take into its book 80 per cent of the gold loans generated by the co-lending arrangement, while the remaining 20 per cent will be funded by Indel Money.
17. **IDBI Bank** and the U GRO Capital has signed a co-lending agreement.
Note: The co-lending arrangement will work towards providing formal credit to underserved MSMEs, at affordable rates. For the same, it will leverage U GRO Capital's digital technology platform driven by a Data Tripod, which comprises of GST, Banking & Bureau, in addition to the company's deep sectoral understanding, and multi-channel distribution reach.
18. The NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL) has signed the first green term loan agreement of Rs 500 crore with **Bank of India**.
Note: NTPC REL has signed its first Green Term Loan agreement of Rs 500 crores at a very competitive rate with a tenor of 15 years with Bank of India for its 470 MW solar project in Rajasthan and 200 MW solar project in Gujarat.
19. Digital payments major **Paytm** has acquired a 100% stake in Urja Money Pvt. Ltd., which provides a loan management system through its proprietary solution, CreditMate.
Note: The Paytm Group will now become 100% beneficial owners of the business. Back in 2017, Paytm had acquired an undisclosed stake in CreditMate parent,

Urja Money Pvt. Ltd, to create a loan management system in collaboration with lending partners.

20. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has increased the daily limit of Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) transactions to what amount from earlier ₹2 lakh to **₹5 lakh**.
Note: "Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) offers instant domestic funds transfer facility 24x7 through various channels. With RTGS now operational round the clock, there has been a corresponding increase in settlement cycles of IMPS, thereby reducing the credit and settlement risks.
21. **BharatPe** has announced its foray into the 'Buy Now Pay Later' (BNPL) segment, with the launch of 'postpe'.
Note: Using Postpe platform, customers can avail interest-free credit limit of up to Rs 10 lakh. It is not only limited to big-ticket purchases but can also be used for micro-purchases. With this, BharatPe aims to facilitate a loan book of \$300 million in the first 12 months for its lending partners.
22. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has become the first scheduled private sector bank to received approval from the government for collection of direct and indirect taxes, such as income tax, Goods and Services Tax (GST) etc, through its banking network.
Note: With this, the bank becomes the first scheduled private sector bank to receive approval after the announcement by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allowing all banks to participate in government-related business. Ministry of Finance had announced to allow all private sector banks to participate in govt-related business-like collection of taxes, pension payments and small savings schemes in February 2021.
23. In association with **NITI Aayog** the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** and GIFT City launched I-Sprint'21, the global FinTech Hackathon Series "Sprint01: BankTech", focussed on fintech for the banking sector.
Note: First Sprint of the series is 'Sprint01: BankTech', which focuses on FinTechs for the Banking sector. It has been launches in collaboration with GIFT city and NITI Aayog. Partners for the Hackathon: ICICI Bank, HSBC Bank, iCreate, Zone Startups and Invest-India.
24. The theme of the Fourth Cohort under Regulatory Sandbox as announced by the Reserve Bank of India -- '**Prevention and Mitigation of Financial Frauds**'.
Note: Before this, RBI has already launched three cohorts under Regulatory Sandbox. Focus of 4th cohort will be to use technology to reduce the lag between occurrence and detection of frauds, strengthening the fraud governance structure, and minimising response time to frauds. RBI has also decided to facilitate on-tap applications for themes of all cohorts
25. According to the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Report released in October 2021, India's GDP growth rate for 2022-23 (FY23) -- **7.8%**.
Note: RBI releases Monetary Policy Report on a half-yearly basis. RBI has projected India's GDP growth at 9.5% for 2021-22 in the MPC meet of October 2021

- 26. Adani Group** has taken over the responsibilities of Jaipur International Airport from Airports Authority of India (AAI).
Note: Gautam Adani-led Adani Group took over the responsibilities of Jaipur International Airport from Airports Authority of India (AAI) for a period of 50 years. Adani Airports will work on the operations, management and development of the Jaipur airport through PPP mode.
- 27. Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC)** was incorporated in **1986** year that was accorded 'Maharatna' status.
Note: It will enable PFC to offer competitive financing for the power sector, which will go a long way in making available affordable & reliable 'Power For All 24x7'. PFC was incorporated in 1986 and is the largest Infrastructure Finance Company exclusively dedicated to Power Sector under the administrative control of Ministry of Power.
- 28. Saraswat Cooperative Bank Ltd.** has partnered with which Axis Securities to offer its customers investing services through a 3-in-1 account.
Note: The facility will integrate savings bank account maintained by the co-operative bank with the demat and trading account offered by Axis Securities, which is a subsidiary of Axis Bank. This facility will make it easier for customers to transfer funds quickly, reduce paperwork and most importantly, provide a comprehensive platform to invest in various investment instruments like equities, derivatives, currency, commodities, MF, IPO, etc.
- 29. Unity Small Finance Bank** becomes the 12th Small Finance Bank (SFB) of India.
Note: RBI has issued a new bank license after a gap of nearly 6 years. The new SFB, has been incorporated as 'Unity Small Finance Bank'. It is the first time ever that two partners are uniting equally to build a Bank. Centrum's MSME and Micro Finance businesses shall be merged into Unity Small Finance Bank.
- 30. Shivalik Small Finance Bank Limited** has partnered with Go Digit General Insurance to offer instant, easy-to-understand insurance products through the bank's network of branches across India digitally.
Note: The insurance products include health insurance plans, motor insurance, home and shop insurance. The Shivalik bank's current customers are generally classified into different segments such as retail, manufacturing and services, housing and real estate, and microfinance. Go Digit General Insurance will support the bank in making the process of buying cover, submitting and receiving claims easier for its customers.
- 31. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has sanctioned an assistance of Rs 303 crore to **Odisha** government for the construction of 24 bridges in the state.
Note: The rural infrastructure projects will improve connectivity for 24.13 lakh people in 823 villages across 13 districts.
- 32. Federal Bank** has tied up with CredAvenue for portfolio management of its securitisation book and implemented CredPool, an institutional debt platform of CredAvenue.
Note: This arrangement, will help the bank digitally monitor its asset-backed securities (ABS) and mortgage-backed securities (MBS) pool assets more efficiently through the technology platform. The partnership entails CredAvenue providing post-transaction fulfilment services and portfolio management for their direct assignment portfolio.
- 33. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)** has bagged two national awards ('APY Big Believers' and 'Leadership capital') for significant enrolment under the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
Note: So far, the bank has enrolled (cumulative) 2,30,432 accounts under APY. During 2020-2021, the bank has enrolled 68,961 accounts against the target of 38,160. The bank with jurisdiction over nine district has a business turnover of ₹28,410 crore with a clientele base of nearly 90 lakh.
- 34. Punjab National Bank** has launched a "6S Campaign" encapsulating different schemes such as - Swabhiman, Samruddhi, Sampark and Shikhar, Sankalp and Swagat.
Note: This was launched in line with GoI's "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" for various outreach activities on financial services. Aim: to drive special awareness campaign for development of financial services and to accelerate credit growth, improve penetration of social security schemes and drive digital banking push.
- 35. IT major Wipro** has announced the launch of 'Begin Again' program for the women professionals under which women can relaunch their career post a break – be it for a sabbatical, motherhood, elderly care, travel, passion, or any other personal reasons.
Note: The program is for those who had a break in their career for a duration of six months to one year or more for jobs based in India. The initiative enables talented women to explore career opportunities that will harness their potential and allow them to get back on track with the present demands of the industry.
- 36. India First Life** has introduced the "Saras Bachat Bima Plan", a savings and protection cover for the entire family.
Note: It is a savings and protection cover for the entire family. This non-linked, non-participating, individual, limited premium policy provides a shorter pay commitment of five or 7 years while keeping the entire family protected for 12-15 yrs. IndiaFirst Life is promoted by Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India.
- 37. Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** premium to be paid by farmers of sum insured for cash crops -- **5%**.
Note: The union govt has constituted a working group to roll out an overhauled Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from kharif 2022. The group will have members from Centre, key crop-producing states and top executives of public sector insurance companies.

38. In collaboration with blockchain development company **Chainflux** the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has launched a blockchain platform for gold bullion named 'NSE-Shine'.
Note: The platform will provide a data framework for bullion bar integrity for settlement of Gold derivatives contracts. The India Gold Policy Centre (IGPC) at the Indian Institute of Management - Ahmedabad (IIM-A) and the Indian Bullion and Jewellers' Association (IBJA) have worked closely with the NSE and Chainflux to develop this blockchain-based platform.
39. **Tata AIG General Insurance Co. Ltd.** has launched a 'Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS)' Insurance for drone owners & operators.
Note: It also announced TropoGo, a deep tech startup on the drone ecosystem, as its distribution partner for the RPAS insurance scheme. Tata AIG has launched the RPAS Insurance after satisfying the recommendations made by IRDAI's Working Group on RPAS Insurance, and other valuable inputs from the Drone Federation of India (DFI). RPAS Insurance Products cover both Hull and Third-Party Liability risks on Drones, optional coverage for Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) operations, night flying, data loss liability, etc.
40. Telecom operator, Vodafone Idea (VIL) has joined hands with Indian Multinational conglomerate company **L & T Group** for a pilot project to test 5G-based smart city solutions.
Note: The two companies would make partnership to address the challenges of urbanisation, safety & security and offering smart solutions to the citizens, leveraging the smart city platform by L&T. The pilot project will be commenced in Pune, Maharashtra.
41. Agri-fintech firm Dvara E-Dairy Solutions Private Limited has entered into a collaboration with **Jana Small Finance Bank** to service small dairy farmers by empowering small and medium dairy farmers with financial and cattle management solutions using digital technologies.
Note: Through Jana SFB's extensive branch network in rural and agricultural regions across India, Dvara E-Dairy intends to expand the credit and underwriting process for cattle loans. The Dvara E-Dairy's digital identity (ID) tag Surabhi e-Tag will provide accurate cattle identification based on the muzzle identity. [Click here to know more](#)
42. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a penalty of ₹ one crore on **Paytm Payments Bank**.
Note: The central bank noted that Paytm payments bank's application seeking issue of final certificate of authorization, did not reflect its factual position. This is related to an offence committed of the nature referred to in Section 26 (2) of Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act).
43. SME lender and fintech Rupifi has partnered with **Muthoot Finance** to power 15 million small and medium-sized enterprises with access to instant credit.
Note: The companies started this partnership earlier this year and are now looking to scale this across different industry verticals in the country. Launched in January 2020, Rupifi allows SMEs to flexibly repay their dues as and when required with a per-day interest pricing but without any monthly EMIs. Through this tie-up, the startup is looking to build its SME portfolio over the coming years.
44. **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd (KMBL)** has launched Micro ATMs across the country for key banking services such as cash withdrawals and checking account balances.
Note: Customers of all banks who possess a debit card can use a Kotak Micro ATM for key banking services such as cash withdrawals and checking account balances. A mini version of an ATM, micro ATMs are small handheld devices.
45. Digital payment platform **PhonePe** in association with **NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL)**, launched ClickPay for its customers.
Note: ClickPay is a unique payment link that enables customers to make recurring online bill payments (electricity, water, gas, loan, etc) and removes the need to remember tedious account details associated with each biller or service. This link sent by the biller will lead the customer directly to the payment page, fetching the bill amount instantly.
46. Petroleum company **BPCL** has launched an automated fuelling technology -UFill- to ensure better customer experience at outlets.
Note: The new U-Fill outlets have been launched in 65 cities and are likely to be launched soon across the country. The customers need not download any app to use the U-Fill technology.
47. According to World's Best Employers rankings 2021 published by Forbes **Reliance Industries Ltd.** becomes the best employer in the country.
Note: Mukesh Ambani-owned RIL was placed at the 52nd position in the overall ranking of 750 global corporates. Other Indian companies that made it to the top 100 rankings include ICICI Bank at 65, HDFC Bank at 77 and HCL Technologies at 90. The top place in the Forbes rankings was occupied by Samsung Electronics followed by IBM, Microsoft and Amazon.
48. With **HDFC Bank** the Mastercard, US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), and US Agency for International Development (USAID) launched a \$100 million credit facility to promote and encourage small businesses in the country.
Note: This is aimed to promote and encourage small businesses in the country to digitise, while also helping Indian businesses, particularly those that are women-owned, to recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic. HDFC Bank will reach beyond its current customer base to make at least 50 per cent of this credit facility available to new small business borrowers, with a goal of at least 50 per cent of the facility being used for lending to women entrepreneurs.
49. Technology company **Intel** has announced the launch of the 'Unnati Program' to help equip engineering students in India with industry-relevant data-centric skills.

- Note:** The chipmaker plans to setup 100 Intel Unnati Data Centric Labs over the course of next year. The idea is to bring academia and industry together to address skills gap in the new age technologies. Focused on technology inclusion, the Intel Unnati Program strives to broaden access to technology infrastructure for educational institutions across all tiers.
50. The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development** (NABARD) sanctioned Rs 608 crore to the Government of India (GoI) for different infrastructure projects in rural areas of **Assam**.
Note: The infrastructure projects include 52 rural roads, 21 rural bridges, 19 flood protection projects and 32 soil conservation projects across the state under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) – XXVII. On completion of the projects, it is estimated that 17 lakh rural population in 900 villages will be directly benefitted.
51. Fintech firm **Rupifi** has partnered with Flipkart Wholesale, the e-commerce firm of the Flipkart Group to provide Embedded 'Buy Now, Pay Later' (BNPL) offering to the Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
Note: The partnership will ensure the availability of instant and digital credit with flexible repayment terms and transparent pricing to around 1.5 lakh Kiranas and MSMEs members on Flipkart Wholesale. Rupifi will ease the process of digitization to boost the B2B (Business to Business) retail ecosystem. Rupifi is empowering MSMEs with a purchase credit line with flexible repayment options usage-based interest and zero fees.
52. **Bank of India** and Future Generali India Insurance (FGII) Company Limited has entered into a bancassurance partnership to increase the reach of its insurance products.
Note: Through this alliance, FGII will offer its wide array of best-in-class and innovative insurance solutions to 5,084 BoI branches spread across 28 States and 8 Union Territories. Bancassurance is an arrangement between a bank and an insurance company that allows the insurance company to sell its products through the bank's infrastructure to the customers of the bank. This partnership arrangement can be profitable for both companies.
53. **RPSG Group** has emerged as the winner for the Lucknow Scorchers, the new Indian Premier League (IPL) team.
Note: For the Kolkata-based RPSG group, this is the second innings in IPL. It had earlier owned the Rising Pune Supergiant which came in as a replacement for Chennai Super Kings. While Sanjiv gets an opportunity to get back into league, his brother Harsh Goenka, Chairman of Mumbai-based RPG Group, had a different take.
54. Business firm **CVC Capital Partners** has emerged as the winner for the Ahmedabad Renegades, the new Indian Premier League (IPL) team.
Note: CVC Capital Partners is a private equity and investment advisory firm based in Luxembourg that have invested in other sports across the globe. IPL's first season was played in 2008 and there have been fourteen seasons of the IPL tournament. The 15th season will see 10 teams competing for the IPL title.
55. Budget carrier **IndiGo airlines** has entered into a strategic partnership with **Kotak Mahindra Bank** for a co-branded credit card, Ka-ching, under the 6E Rewards programme.
Note: Managed and operated by IndiGo, the Rewards Programme is linked to a co-branded card wherein members can earn rewards by using such card on IndiGo and other merchants and redeem them for availing the benefits. 6E is the airline code for IndiGo. The co-branded card will be available in two variants-- 6E Rewards and 6E Rewards XL -- offering exclusive travel benefits to the cardholders keen on domestic or international travel.
56. **ICICI Lombard General Insurance** has launched a solution named 'BeFit' to provide benefits of OPD services to its customers in a cashless manner.
Note: BeFit was serviced by ICICI Lombard's ILTakeCare app. Under the BeFit solution, medicine will be delivered to home within 60 minutes and lab tests both at home and centre visit. It also offers 24x7 consultations (tele and virtual) by a panel of doctors. Its offering covers pharmacy and diagnostics services related expenses for minor procedures that do not need hospitalization.
57. Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd has entered into a strategic alliance with **India Post Payments Bank** to offer home loans.
Note: Leveraging its countrywide network of 650 branches and over 136,000 banking access points (post offices), IPPB aims to make HDFC's home loan products and its expertise available to its customers across India. IPPB will offer housing loans through nearly 190,000 banking service providers (postmen and gramina sevaks).
58. **World Bank** has released report titled "**The Changing Wealth of Nations 2021**", according to which South Asia suffers the most in terms of loss of human capital loss because of air pollution.
Note: According to the report, Global wealth is growing, particularly due to middle-income countries catching up with the most advanced economies. But many low-income nations remain stuck, collectively holding less than 1% of the pie despite accounting for 8% of the planet's population.
59. The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the Government of India signed a **US\$100 million loan** to promote an agribusiness network to boost farm incomes and reduce food losses in **Maharashtra**.
Note: It will help small and marginal farmers, improving their post-harvest and marketing capacity, reduce food losses, and increase incomes through access to finance, capacity building, and horticulture value chain infrastructure development. It will upgrade 16 existing post-harvest facilities and construct 3 new ones to provide individual farmers and FPOs.
60. **Asian Development Bank** and Central Govt has signed a **\$251-million loan** for climate-resilient, integrated urban flood protection and management in the Chennai-

Kosasthalaiyar basin to strengthen the resilience of Chennai city to floods.

Note: Govt of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed \$251-million loan for climate-resilient, integrated urban flood protection and management in Chennai–Kosasthalaiyar basin to strengthen the resilience of Chennai city to floods. It will help residents of Chennai–Kosasthalaiyar basin to cope with intensifying rainfall, a higher sea level rise, and a storm surge caused by cyclones, and protect lives, economy, and environment.

61. **SBI General Insurance** has partnered with Google Pay to enable the users to buy insurer's health insurance on the Google Pay app.

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

Note: This collaboration marks Google Pay's 1st partnership with an insurer in India to offer health insurance. The users were enabled to buy both individual and family plans under SBI General's Arogya Sanjeevani policy through Google Pay Spot.

62. The new name the social media platform Facebook -- **Meta**.

Note: The name change, the plan for which was first reported by the Verge, is a significant rebrand for Facebook, but not it's first. In 2019 it launched a new logo to create a distinction between the company and its social app.

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.
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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.

Banking & Financial terms

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

December (1-15th) 2021

1. Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Financial Intelligence Unit-India signs MoU for Data Exchange

Note: Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND), Ministry of Finance signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for data exchange on an automatic and regular basis. It is on the line of vision of MCA and FIU-INDIA to harness data capabilities to ensure effective enforcement. This MoU will also fulfill the Government's vision of minimum government, maximum governance.

2. Ashok Leyland Signs Pact with DRDO Arm to Develop Combat Vehicle Engines

Note: Ashok Leyland has partnered with Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE), a premier lab of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), to develop and manufacture 600-HP indigenous engine to power futuristic combat vehicles under Atmanirbhar Bharat mission. The 600-HP engine will undergo rigorous testing in the lab and will be qualified for application in tanks.

3. HAL signs Rs 2,400 cr contract with BEL for supply of avionics for LCA

Note: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited awarded a Rs 2,400 crore contract to Bharat Electronics Limited for the manufacture and supply of 20 types of airborne electronic systems for the LCA Tejas Mk1A fighter aircraft programme. The duration of the contract is 5 years i.e. from 2023 to 2028. Notably, this is HAL's biggest order on any Indian company thus boosting the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' campaign.

4. India & Vietnam Signed LoI to Establish Partnership in Digital Media

Note: Anurag Thakur, Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Nguyen Manh Hung, Minister of Information and Communication, Government of Vietnam, to enable collaboration in the field of digital media and strengthen the partnership between India and Vietnam. The LoI anticipates sharing of information and experience in establishing policies and regulatory frameworks on digital media and social networks. The LoI also expects to conduct capacity building and training programs for media professionals and officials in both India and Vietnam.

5. NIPL & Western Union sign MoU to enable Real-time Cross-Border Transactions

Note: NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), international payments arm of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Western Union to enable real-time bank account payout in India. The agreement will enable bank account holders in India to receive cross-border money transfers instantly using UPI IDs. It will benefit millions of Indian citizens to seamlessly receive money from across the world.

6. India & Uzbekistan Pushes Cooperation to Boost Economic Ties

Note: India and Uzbekistan decided to promote cooperation & intensify interregional cooperation, especially between Andijan (Uzbekistan) and Gujarat (India). The financial-technical cooperation between India & Uzbekistan were also discussed. The direct interaction for the implementation of joint projects in the investment, trade and cultural-humanitarian spheres will be established between Uzbekistan's Fergana region and Haryana, the cities of Bukhara and Hyderabad, and also between Tashkent and New Delhi. The Projects regarding infrastructure development, education, Information Technology, healthcare and education will be accelerated under Indian grants.

7. Meta, CBSE expand partnership to enable over 10 million students to embrace immersive tech

Note: Meta (Facebook) is set to expand its partnership with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to provide a curriculum on digital safety and online well-being and Augmented Reality (AR) for around 1 crore college students and 10 lakh educators across India over the next 3 years. This was announced by Mark Zuckerberg, Founder and CEO of Meta at Meta's Fuel for India 2021. This is in line with the vision of the Indian government to Universalize Education.

8. IIT-Delhi signs MoU with IAF to Improve Indigenisation Efforts

Note: IIT-Delhi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Air Force (IAF) to support requirements towards indigenous solutions in various weapon systems. The MoU was signed by Air Vice Marshal Samir V Borade, Deputy Senior Maintenance Staff Officer, Headquarters Maintenance Command, IAF, and M R Ravi, Head of Department for Mechanical Engineering at IIT-Delhi. Under the MoU, The IAF has identified key focus areas involving development of technology and finding indigenous

solutions towards sustenance of various weapon systems. IIT Delhi will provide consultancy and cooperation, appropriately supported by research, for feasibility studies and prototype development.

9. Axis Bank Tie up with Swift to Provide Digital Banking Solution

Note: Axis Bank is working with new digital services from provider Swift to provide a comprehensive digital solution to clients. The bank is integrating with different digitisation initiatives by government bodies and service providers to extend an end-to-end service to business clients. Axis bank's B2B (business-to-business) digitisation efforts are being supported by Swift, a cooperative of global banks that acts as an intermediary between banks and sets standards.

10. AGEL Signed an Agreement with SECI to Supply 4667 MW of Green Power

Note: Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) has signed a purchase agreement with the Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) to supply 4667 Megawatt (MW) of green power. This is the world's largest green power purchase agreement (PPA). This agreement is in line with India's objective to accelerate India's renewable energy footprint as well as to promote domestic manufacturing under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat programme. This agreement between ANGEL and SECI to supply 4667MW is a part of the manufacturing-linked solar tender of 8,000 MW awarded to AGEL by SECI in June 2020, which was the world's largest solar development tender ever awarded.

11. MoD signs MoU with IITE, Gandhinagar for Training 800 Sainik School teachers

Note: The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Teacher Education (IITE), Gandhinagar to facilitate training for 800 teachers of Sainik Schools. The MoU is signed for 5 years with effect from January 2022. Under the partnership, around more than 800 teachers from all Sainik Schools will be trained through courses named 'Gurudiksha' and 'Pratibaddhta'. The MoU was signed in New Delhi by Rakesh Mittal, Joint Secretary (Land & Works) and Honorary Secretary, Sainik Schools Society (SSS), (on behalf of MoD); and Himanshu Patel, Registrar of IITE.

12. India's mission to WTO inks MoU with 2 institutes for capacity building, research in international trade law

Note: The Permanent Mission of India (PMI) to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva, Switzerland; Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL), Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi; and the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration of The Graduate Institute, Geneva (CTEI) signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Geneva to collaborate towards research and capacity-building in the field of international trade law

and policy. It was signed by India's Ambassador and PMI to the WTO Brajendra Navnit, Prof. James J. Nedumpara, Head, CTIL, and Prof. Joost Pauwelyn, Professor of International Law at The Graduate Institute.

13. MoHUA & UNDP Signed MoU for Strengthening Waste Management Sector

Note: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), operational for a period of 5 years (2021-26), to strengthen the waste management sector in India under the Swachh Bharat Mission- Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0). This collaboration is in the backdrop of the 75th year of India's independence, the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, with UNDP supporting us with the set up and operationalization of 75 Swachhata Kendras across the country.

14. BDL and Indian Army sign Rs 471.41cr contract to supply IGLA-1M missiles

Note: Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and the Indian Army signed a contract worth Rs 471.41 crore in New Delhi for the refurbishment of IGLA-1M missiles. After the Refurbishment, the missile will get a fresh lease life of ten years. Introduced by the Soviet Union in 1986, the IGLA-1M is an improved version of Iгла man-portable missile system. The Iгла is a fire-and-forget, man-portable, shoulder-launched, short range Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) to engage low flying fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft and cruise missiles.

15. India-EU adopted Clean Energy & Climate Partnership 2021-2023

Note: The 9th India-EU (European Union) Energy Panel held which was co-chaired by Reenat Sandhu, the Secretary of India's Ministry of External Affairs (West), and Ms. Mechthild Worsdorfer, Deputy Director-General for Energy, European Commission (EC). During the meeting both sides agreed on a detailed work programme 2021-2023, to implement the 2016 India-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership. The Energy Panel agreed on increased technical cooperation in the area of energy efficiency, renewable energy, green hydrogen, grid integration; storage, power market design, interconnection, cold chain, and sustainable financing.

16. Paytm Signs MoU with Skill Development Ministry to Train Youths in Fintech Industry

Note: Paytm signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Directorate of General Training (DGT), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, to train 6000 individuals for 3 years in Fintech Industry. The trainees will undertake a six-month programme that is designed by Paytm in consultation with the DGT. The collaboration is part of DGT's Flexible-MoU (Flexi-MoU). The course equips the trainee's with the fundamentals of the latest Fintech Internet of Things

(IoT) products and financial services along with on-the-job training.
professional skills, communications, sales and pitch, and

November-2021

1. SIDBI- Google join hands to support MSMEs

Note: Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has joined hands with Google India Pvt Ltd (GIPL) to support micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The partnership will pilot a social impact lending programme, providing a financial assistance of up to Rs 1 crore at competitive interest rates to MSMEs. It will bring a corpus of \$15 million to MSMEs, as a crisis response related to Covid-19 pandemic. Under the agreement, a loan programme targeted at micro enterprises (with turnover up to Rs 5 crore), is being implemented by SIDBI. The loan sizes rang between Rs 25 lakh to Rs 1 crore. The collaboration between SIDBI and GIPL will enhance the efforts in expanding MSEM sector's access to credit. It also marks the launch of a paperless journey of SIDBI to its customers, right from on-boarding to the disbursal stage.

2. AMTRON Signs MoU to set up cyber intelligence centre of excellence

Note: Assam Electronics Development Corporation Limited (AMTRON) has signed a tripartite MOU with Mastercard Asia/Pacific Pte Ltd. and I-Sec Security Services Pvt. Ltd for setting up a strategic cyber intelligence centre of excellence (COE) at Tech City, Guwahati. The cybersecurity threats have been steadily increasing and become a concern for all Government organisations, financial institutions or business bodies. The Cyber COE provides intelligence services to the Government of India, state governments within India, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) within India, and corporations within India against cyber security threats. This step strengthens the National Cyber Defence Mechanism that improves overall security services and increases vigilance on any cyber threats or frauds. The Master Card supports AMTRON with relevant training and knowledge for the Cyber COE.

3. EESL Ties up with Ministry of MSME, UNIDO, GEF to Implement Energy-efficiency Project

Note: Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture under the Ministry of Power has collaborated with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (M/o MSME), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to implement the projects on promoting market transformation for energy efficiency in the MSME sector. Under this project, 12 MSME clusters from across India including Howrah mixed cluster have been identified, where the energy efficient technologies will be demonstrated.

4. Ministry of Civil Aviation signed MoU with Indian School of Business to analyze the effect of RCS on Commercial Air Travel

Note: The Ministry of Civil Aviation signed a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Indian School of Business (ISB) to undertake research to analyze the effect of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) on commercial air travel in India. MoU is the extension of the socio-economic impact study of the UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) scheme conducted by ISB pro-bono basis in 2020. After the success of phase I, now it got further extended.

ii. Under this agreement, ISB will conduct an in-depth analysis of RCS and prepare a case study that can be used in academic institutions and administrative training institutions for students of public policy.

5. India & Nepal Signed MoU on Reciprocal Recognition of Covid Vaccination Certificate

Note: India and Nepal have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for reciprocal recognition of COVID-19 vaccination certificate to ease the travel of fully vaccinated people of both India and Nepal. The MoU between the Health Ministers of India and Nepal was signed by Vinay M Kwatra, Indian Ambassador to Nepal and Dr. Roshan Pokhrel, Secretary, Ministry of health and Population, Government of Nepal at the ministry office, Kathmandu, Nepal. This MoU is one of the COVID-19 related cooperation and coordination between India and Nepal.

6. World Bank signs \$250 Million Loan to improve Educational Quality in Schools of Andhra Pradesh

Note: The Government of India, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, and the World Bank signed a loan agreement worth \$250 million, for a project aimed at improving education quality for nearly 50 lakh students in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The project will benefit around 40 lakh students (between the age of 6 and 14) in over 45,000 Government schools. 10 lakh children (between the age of 3 and 6) enrolled in Anganwadis (Integrated Child Development Centers). 1,90,000 teachers along with more than 50,000 Anganwadi workers will be trained to adopt a new competency-based teaching-learning approach.

7. Odisha Signs MoU with Save LIFE Foundation NGO to Improve Road Safety

Note: Odisha Govt signed an MoU with Delhi based NGO, Save LIFE Foundation (SLF), to improve road safety in the state. The agreement was signed by Sanjay Biswal, Joint Commissioner, Road Safety, State Transport Authority, Odisha, and Piyush Tewari, Founder & CEO, Save LIFE Foundation, New Delhi.

MoU aims to reduce accidental road deaths around 30-40 percent in 3 years. SLF will identify 100 accident prone areas and recommend measures to bring down the accidents. The 'Zero-Fatality Corridor' model attempts at reducing the number of road accident deaths through a 360-degree intervention across engineering, emergency care, enforcement, and education.

8. Ministry of FPI Signs MoU with DAHD, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

Note: The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAH&D) to provide benefits to beneficiaries of various schemes of MoFPI and DAHD. The beneficiaries will get credit support in establishing dairy processing, meat processing, animal feed plants etc. Under this agreement the MoFPI and DAHD will work together and facilitate the beneficiaries to avail the benefits under the Prime Minister (PM) Kisan Sampada Yojana and PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises Scheme of the MoFPI and dairy development schemes of DAHD.

9. BDL inks Export Contract worth USD 21 million with Airbus Defense

Note: Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) signed an export contract under which it will supply Counter Measures Dispensing System (CMDS) to Airbus Defense & Space, Spain. The contract value is estimated at USD 21 million. BDL is also offering Akash Weapon System (surface-to-air missile), Astra Weapon System (air-to-air missile), Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon & Helina (air-to-surface weapon), Light Weight Torpedo and Heavy Weight Torpedo (underwater weapons), Counter Measures Dispensing System among others to friendly foreign nations.

10. SBI & Tata Steel signs Agreement to Jamshedpur Football Club

Note: The State Bank of India (SBI) signed a strategic agreement with Jamshedpur Football Club (JFC), a fully owned subsidiary of Tata Steel, to promote and support football in India. This is the first of its kind of agreement by SBI in the game of football. Through this agreement, the SBI will become one of the principal sponsors of the JFC, thereby having the SBI logo on the Jersey. Tata Football Academy, owned by Tata Steel has been promoting football for 30 years. While JFC is the extension in the same line.

11. SBI signs Co-lending Agreement with U Gro Capital to finance MSMEs

Note: State Bank of India (SBI) signed a Co-lending agreement in line with RBI (Reserve Bank of India) guidelines with the U GRO Capital, the Non-Banking

Financial Company (NBFC). Through this collaboration, SBI and U GRO Capital will disburse up to Rs 500 crore loans to MSME sector by March 2022. It aims to offer strategic financing solutions to the unserved and underserved (Micro Small and Medium Enterprises) MSMEs of the country.

12. TPCI signs MoU with Spain's Navarra for Trade Promotion

Note: Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Economy and Business Development of the Government of Navarra, Spain towards mutual promotion of trade and investments, thereby enhancing the country's commercial relationship. Under the MoU, both countries will promote trade & investment with main focus on the Food & Food Processing sector. iii. With USD 4.7 billion bilateral trade in 2020-21, Spain is India's 7th largest trade partner in the European Union, which carries major trade in Organic Chemicals, Textile and Garments.

13. Ministry of Tourism Signs MoU with IRCTC to Strengthen Hospitality sector

Note: The Ministry of Tourism signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to strengthen the hospitality and tourism industry. Aim of the MoU is to provide visibility to accommodation units self-certified under System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for the Hospitality Industry (SAATHI) on the Online Travel Aggregator (OTA) platform. The MoU was signed during an event organised by the Ministry of Tourism and Quality Council of India (QCI).

14. NHRCL signs MoU with Japan's JRTC for Designs of HSR Track works

Note: National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHRCL) signed an MoU with Japan Railway Track Consultant Company Limited (JRTC) to design High Speed Rail (HSR) Track works for T-3 package for Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Corridor Project. Under this MoU, JRTC will provide the detailed design and drawings of HSR track components like RC Track bed, Track slab arrangement and Continuous Welded Rail CWR for 116-kilometre long track T-3 package between Vadodara and Sabarmati Depot and Workshop in Gujarat.

15. Ministry of Rural Development signs MoU with Flipkart to aid DAY-NRLM

Note: In order to empower local businesses and self-help groups (SHGs) through Central Government's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) program, the e-marketplace Flipkart has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Rural Development

(MoRD) on November 2, 2021. Under this MoU, these businesses, especially led by women, will

utilize Flipkart's e-commerce platform to sell their products to its 10 crore customers.

October -2021

1. Govt and NABARD's NTPL sign Trust deed to promote FPOs

Note: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has dedicated Rs 1000 crores fund to provide credit guarantees to around 10,000 farmer producer organisations (FPOs). This dedicated fund will be housed under the "Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for FPOs" (CGFTFPO), under the trusteeship of NABSanrakshan Trustee Private Limited (NTPL). CGFTFPO Trust has been signed by officials of Ministry of Agriculture & farmers welfare and NABSanrakshan of NABARD and has been registered at Mumbai. NTPL is a subsidiary and is wholly owned by NABARD. Central government had launched a new central sector scheme called "Formation and promotion of 10000 FPOs" in February 2021.

2. Govt, ADB sign US\$100mn Loan Pact to Promote Agribusiness in Maharashtra

Note: The Government of India (GoI) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) inked US\$100 million loan agreement for Maharashtra Agribusiness Network (MAGNET) Project. The project envisages promoting agribusiness network to boost farm incomes and reduce food losses in the State of Maharashtra. ADB will provide a \$500,000 technical assistance (TA) grant from its Technical Assistance Special Fund and \$2 million from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction on a grant basis to improve market linkages for FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations).

3. India, ADB sign \$4.5mn Loan Pact to Support Urban Mobility in Aizawl, Mizoram

Note: The Government of India (GoI) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$4.5 million Project Readiness Financing (PRF) loan agreement to support Aizawl Sustainable Urban Transport Project. The PRF will be utilized towards preparation and designing activities relevant to project for improving urban mobility in Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram. The PRF supports the development of long-term solutions for urban mobility in Aizawl by identifying high-priority urban transport investments. The PRF will develop a Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) outlining the urban transport development strategy, and promote climate and disaster resilience

4. Government, Tata Sons signed Rs 18000cr Share Purchase Agreement for Air India

Note: The Central Government signed a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) with Tata Sons for sale (strategic disinvestment) of national carrier Air India for Rs 18,000 crore. The information for the same was

provided by Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey. The SPA was signed by Air India Director – Finance Vinod Hejmadi; and Civil Aviation Ministry Joint Secretary Satyendra Mishra and Suprakash Mukhopadhyay. The government is divesting its 100% ownership of Air India and Air India Express along with its 50% stake in ground-handling company AISATS (Air India Sats Airport Services Private Limited).

5. KMBL Ties-up with Pine Labs to Expand Point-of-Sale Services

Note: Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) partnered with Pine Labs to expand its merchant acquiring and Point of Sale (PoS) services to more merchants and retailers. Through the tie-up, merchants in India will be able to get the advantage of KMBL's PoS payment solutions along with Pine Labs' technology stack to help grow their business. Due to increased demand for cashless payments, the PoS terminals in India have increased to around 4.7 million in August 2021 (before demonetisation PoS terminals were about 13 lakh).

6. FIXAR tie up with Paras Aerospace to initiate UAV Market in India

Note: European commercial drone and software developer FIXAR (Fixed Angular Rotor Drone) signed an agreement with Paras Aerospace Pvt Ltd., a subsidiary of Mumbai based Paras. Defence on fast emerging domestic Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) in India. Paras Aerospace will be the Master Certification Compliance partner for FIXAR in India that supports Operations Setup, business development, and technical support for providing this future-ready technology. The first FIXAR 007 unmanned aerial vehicles are estimated to reach users in India by November, 2021.

7. BSE Signs MoU With Business Leadership League To Help SMEs

Note: The BSE (Formerly Bombay Stock Exchange) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Business Leadership League (BLL). This will help the aspiring SMEs (Small Medium Enterprises) to align and strategize about their innovative solutions and to get prepared for listing on BSE SME Platform. To provide benefit to SMEs by education and knowledge to function efficiently. BSE had launched its SME Platform in 2012 and the Startup Platform 2018. BLL & BSE SME will help in spreading awareness about listing benefits in the stock market. BSE SME & Business Leadership League will reach out to potential

companies through various sessions including online & offline programs.

8. India signs MoU with Russia for Di-ammonium Phosphate Fertilizer Supply

Note: India signed a long term Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Russia for DAP (Di-Ammonium Phosphate) fertilizer supply. The reason behind this agreement is to stabilize the prices of DAP and to reduce dependence on countries like Jordan, Morocco, and China. Earlier, the Ministry of Fertilizer headed by Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya directed all companies not to increase the retail prices of DAP and other phosphatic fertilizers as these are required by farmers during the current Rabi season. Government also increased the subsidy on DAP by 140% from Rs 500 per bag to Rs 1,200 per bag. Notably, the Central Government allocated around Rs 79,600 crore for fertilizer subsidy in the budget for 2021-22. After urea, Di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) fertilizer is the most widely used fertilizer in the country.

9. PayPal signs MoU with IIFT to launch India Digital Trade Facilitation Forum

Note: Digital payments firm PayPal signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) to increase the knowledge base of Indian micro, small & medium

enterprises (MSMEs). It will be done through the launch of India Digital Trade Facilitation Forum (IDTFF) for MSMEs. IDTFF will educate, guide, and raise awareness amongst MSMEs about marketing, scaling, digitalization and exports through masterclasses. This will help them to expand their consumer base and reach a global audience. Virtual webinars will also be hosted with industry experts, traders and policymakers on ongoing challenges.

10. NITI Aayog joins hand with ISRO to launch Geospatial Energy Map

Note: NITI Aayog has launched the Geospatial Energy Map of India which will provide a holistic picture of all energy resources of the country. The map has been developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Energy Ministries of the Government of India.

11. India announces \$200 million line of credit for Kyrgyzstan

Note: India announced a \$200-million line of credit for Kyrgyzstan and signed an agreement to carry out small but high impact projects for community development in the Central Asian state. The two initiatives were among several measures announced by external affairs minister S Jaishankar at the end of a two-day visit to Kyrgyzstan.

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 spacetechn 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 Nxt", this next phase of NITI Aayog'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.

Obituaries

1 to 15 December 2021

Name of the Personality	Field	Achievements
General Bipin Rawat	Defence	Chief of Defence Staff
Suresh Jadhav	Executive Director of Serum Institute of India (SII)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He was instrumental in the development of the Covishield vaccine for Covid-19. He was also instrumental in setting up the Developing Countries Vaccine Manufacturing Network
Anne Rice	Famous American writer	widely known for her bestselling gothic novel, Interview with the Vampire
Nanda Kishore Prusty	Well-known teacher from Odisha	Padma Shri award in 2021
Eileen Ash	England Cricketer	World's oldest Test Cricketer
Sarada Menon	India's 1st Woman Psychiatrist	Padma Bhushan in 1992 for social works
Vinod Dua	Veteran journalist	First electronic media journalist to win the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award.
Shiva Shankar Master	Choreographer and actor	National Award for 'Best Choreographer' for the movie 'Magadheera'.
'Sirivennela' Chembolu Seetharama Sastry	Telugu film lyricist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Filmfare Award for Best Lyricist- Telugu

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Padma Shri (2019) • 'Nandi' Awards several times
Konijeti Rosaiah	Former Andhra Pradesh CM	

November 2021

Name of the Personality	Field	Achievements
Chun Doo-hwan	Former South Korean President	Former army general and led 1979 military coup that sparked massive democracy protests
Mannu Bhandari	Renowned Hindi author	Known for her novels 'Aapka Bunt', 'Mahabhoj' and 'Yahi Sach Hai' (adapted in movie Rajnigandha)
Wilbur Smith	South African author	Authored 49 novels and sold over 140 million copies worldwide in more than 30 languages.
Stephen Sondheim	Veteran US composer and lyricist	Pulitzer Prize ('Sunday in the Park'), and Academy Award (for the song 'Sooner or Later')
Sananta Tanty	Eminent Assamese poet	Sahitya Akademi Award in 2018 for poems "Kailoir Dinto Amar Hobo"
Gurmeet Bawa	Punjabi folk singer	
Novy Kapadia	Football journalist and sports commentator	Known as 'the voice of Indian football'
Babasaheb Purandare	Eminent historian, orator and noted author from Maharashtra	Padma Vibhushan in 2019
Koneru Ramakrishna Rao	Well-known educationist, teacher, and philosopher	Padma Shri in 2011
Anand Shankar Pandya	Former Vice President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad	
Tarak Sinha	Eminent Cricket Coach and Dronacharya Awardee	-

October 2021

Name of the Personality	Field	Achievements
Roger Hunt	England's Football Team	Inducted into English Football Hall of Fame in 2006.
Kamla Bhasin	Women's rights activist and noted author	Sangat - A Feminist Network and for her poem Kyunki main ladki hoon, mujhe padhna hai

Ghanashyam Nayak	Veteran Television and Film Actor	Nattu Kaka in the TV series Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah
Arvind Trivedi	Veteran television actor	Known for his iconic role of Raavan in Ramanand Sagar's TV serial Ramayan
Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan	Pakistani nuclear physicist and metallurgical engineer	Muslim world's first atomic bomb creator and father of Pakistan's atomic weapons program.
Abolhassan Banisadr	Iran's First President	
Nedumudi Venu	Malayalam Actor	Won three National Film Awards and six Kerala State Film Awards
Balvinder Singh Nakai	IFFCO's Chairman	
Yogendra Mohan Gupta	Chairman of Jagran Group of Publications	
Bandula Warnapura	Sri Lankan cricketer and captain of the Sri Lankan cricket team	
Saranjeet Singh	Former hockey international Player from India	
Puneeth Rajkumar	Indian actor, playback singer, television presenter, and producer	Karnataka Ratna posthumously
Dr. Madhavan Krishnan Nair	Eminent Oncologist and founding director of the Regional Cancer Centre (RCC)	Padma Shri in 2001

September 2021

- 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.
- 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.
- 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)**.
- 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.
- 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 Nelliyoudu 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-prowess.
- 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.

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 Rijju	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 Vaishnav	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 Niranjana 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

1 to 15 December 2021

Name of the Person	Designation
Sanjeev Kaushal	Chief secretary of Haryana, succeeding Vijai Vardhan
Sambit Patra	Chairman of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)
Pradip Shah	Chairman of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)
Sanjay Jain	Chief executive of India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL)
Diwakar Gupta	Chairman of India Debt Resolution Company

Padmakumar Nair	MD of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)
Kashee Nath Akela	Independent Director on the Board of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF)
Olaf Scholz	Chancellor of German, replacing Angela Merkel
Sunil Arora	Board of Advisors for International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA).
Gautam Raghavan	Head of the White House personnel office, succeeding Catherine Russel
Catherine Russel	Executive Director of UNICEF, succeeding Henrietta Fore
Leena Nair	New global Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of French fashion house 'Chanel'.
Pawan Kumar	Director (Commercial) of Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL)
Anjali Ravi Kumar	Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) of Zomato.
Nitin Savara	Deputy Chief Financial Officer of Zomato
Ravinder Bhakar	CEO of National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), Films Division, and Children Films Society of India (CFSI)
Sanjiv Mehta	President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
Ittira Davis	MD and CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
Rajnish Kumar (Former SBI Chairman)	New strategic group advisor of OYO
Alka Upadhyaya (Additional Secretary, Department of Rural Development)	Chairperson of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

November 2021

Name of the Person	Designation
Harshwanti Bisht	First woman President of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF)
R. Hari Kumar	25th Chief of the Naval Staff
Parag Agrawal	CEO of Twitter, succeeding Jack Dorsey
Vivek Johri	Chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), after succeeding M Ajit Kumar.
Petr Fiala	Prime Minister of the Czech Republic
Geoff Allardice	Permanent CEO of the International Cricket Council (ICC).
Vinod Tawde	National General Secretary of BJP
VVS Laxman	Head of National Cricket Academy (NCA)
Pramod Chandra Mody	Secretary General of Rajya Sabha, after replacing P.P.K. Ramacharyulu
Daniel Bruhl	Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)
Fumio Kishida	Prime Minister of Japan
Rajeev Srivastava	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Standard Chartered Securities for India (SCSI) operations
Morinari Watanabe (Japan)	President of the International Gymnastics

	Federation (FIG) for three years.
Zubeen Garg	Brand ambassador for Bandhan Bank in Assam
Rahul Dravid	Head coach of the Indian men's cricket team
Shombi Sharp	UN Resident Coordinator in India
Sourav Ganguly	Chairman of ICC Men's Cricket Committee
Bimal Patel	International Law Commission for five-year.
Satya Narayan Pradhan	Director-General (DG) of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)
Sheel Vardhan Singh	DG of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)
Rajib Kumar Mishra	Chairman and Managing Director of PTC India Ltd
Arun Chawla	Director-General of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)

October-2021

Name of the Person	Designation
Ashok Kumar Gupta	Chairperson of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)
Padmaja Chundururu	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of National Securities Depositories (NSDL)
Vinod Aggarwal	President of Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC)
Sunil Kataria	Chairman of Indian Society of Advertisers (ISA)
Amish Mehta	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of CRISIL
Alok Sahay	Secretary-General of Indian Steel Association
BC Patnaik	Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation of India.
Colonel Mamady Doumbouya	Interim President of Guinea
Abiy Ahmed	Prime Minister of Ethiopia
Fumio Kishida	Prime Minister of Japan
Najla Bouden Romdhane	First woman PM of Tunisia
Kangana Ranaut	Brand ambassador for Uttar Pradesh One District One Product Scheme
P L Haranadh	Chairman of Paradip Port Trust (PPT)
Justice Rajesh Bindal	Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court
Justice Ranjit V. More	Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court
Justice Satish Chandra Sharma	Chief Justice of Telangana High Court
Justice Prakash Srivastava	Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court
Justice R.V. Malimath	Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court
Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi	Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court
Eric Braganza	President of Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA)
Amitabh Bachchan	Brand Ambassador of CoinDCX
Justice Aravind Kumar	Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court
Prashant Kumar Mishra	Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court
Sanjay Bhargava	Head Starlink's Satellite Broadband venture in India

E.R. Sheikh	First Director-General of the Ordnance Directorate (Co-ordination and Services)
Amitabh Chaudhry	Managing Director & CEO of Axis Bank
A K Goel	Chairman of the Indian Bank's Association (IBA) for 2021-22
Jonas Gahr Store	Prime Minister of Norway
Pradeep Kumar Panja	Chairman of Karnataka Bank Ltd
Commodore Amit Rastogi (Retd)	Chairman & Managing Director of National Research Development Corporation
Rahul Dravid	Team India's head coach
Sabyasachi Das	CEO of L&T Edutech
A Balasubramanian	New Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)
Navrang Saini	Chairperson of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)
Meera Mohanty	Joint Secretary in PMO
Sajjan Jindal	Chairman of the World Steel Association (WSA)
Deepa Malik	Independent Director for Hospitality firm Oravel Stays Ltd (OYO)
Amit Khare	Advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi
Rajnish Kumar	Chairman of the board of BharatPe
Arun Kumar Mishra	CEO of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)
Sahdev Yadav	President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF)
Commodore PK Garg	CEO of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) by the Sports Authority of India (SAI)
Ramnath Krishnan	MD and Group CEO of rating agency ICRA
Dame Sandra Mason	First-ever president of Barbados
Shavkat Mirziyoyev	President of Uzbekistan
Baldev Prakash	MD and CEO of J&K Bank
K V Kamath	K V Kamath Chairperson of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)
Subhash Khunti	Chairman of Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd
Justice Ashok Bhushan	Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)
Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar	President of the quasi-judicial body, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)
Shaktikanta Das	Governor of RBI

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

Books and Authors

1-15 Dec 2021

1. **Prabhat Kumar** has authored the book titled 'Public Service Ethics – A Quest for Naitik Bharat'.
Note: The book was released by the Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu. The book is published by IC Centre for Governance. The book deals with ethics in governance and public service and proposes a collective quest for ethical India or Naitik Bharat.
2. **Gautam Chintamani** has authored the book titled 'The Midway Battle: Modi's Roller-coaster Second Term'.
Note: The book mentioned the political scenario of India. It marks the second tenure of the current Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi. The Midway Battle shed light on the various legislations like the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, triple talaq, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act as well as farming laws.
3. **Ayaz Memon** has authored the book titled 'Indian Innings: The Journey of Indian Cricket from 1947'.
Note: It is an anthology of Indian Cricket and marked several insights of Indian cricket of the last 70 years. The book has covered the era of veteran cricketers K N Prabhu to P N Sundareshan and Dicky Rutnagar to Ramachandra Guha and Suresh Menon, those years of famous victories consist of experiences about World Cups, various Test cricket, etc.
4. **Bala Krishna Madhur** has authored the book titled 'At Home in The Universe'.
Note: The book is the autobiography of B K Madhur, a former Chief Executive Officer at DHFL Property Services Ltd, and one of the key personalities in establishing Dewan Housing. The book is published by Bookworld Enterprises of Mumbai. The book offers an inside view into the policy environment in the 1980s and 1990s in the Housing Finance Sector.

November 2021

1. **Subhadra Sen Gupta** has authored the book titled "The Story of the First Civilizations: From Mesopotamia to the Aztecs".
Note: This is the last book authored by Subhadra Sen Gupta and published posthumously by Talking Cub, an imprint of Speaking Tiger. The book is an informative book for Children, on the ancient civilizations around the world like Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus valley, Greece, Rome etc
2. **Sudha Murty** has authored the book titled "The Sage with Two Horns: Unusual Tales from Mythology".
Note: The book is published by Penguin Random House India imprint India Puffin. The series features the stories of kings and queens, gods and goddesses, sages and extraordinary men and women of wisdom.
3. **Pradeep Magazine** has authored the book titled "Not just cricket: A Reporters Journey".
Note: It is published by HarperCollins Publishers India. It consists of life experiences, social, political, ups and downs of Indian cricket by the journalist Pradeep Magazine. It also contains memorable cricket encounters and anecdotes of cricket.
4. **Dr Shankar Acharya** has authored the book titled "An Economist at Home and Abroad: A Personal Journey".
Note: The book features the professional and personal life of the most accomplished policy economist Dr Shankar Acharya. The book is published by HarperCollins India.
5. **Bhaskar Chattopadhyay** has authored the book titled "The Cinema of Satyajit Ray".
Note: The book is divided into two sections, first is about art and second is the artist. Bhaskar Chattopadhyay also authored novels like "Patang" (2016), "Here Falls the Shadow" (2017) and "The Disappearance of Sally Sequeira" (2018).
6. **Salman Khurshid** has authored a book on Ayodhya verdict titled "Sunrise over Ayodhya: Nationhood in our Times".
Note: Book states about unity between Hindus & Muslims and about creating an awareness that the Supreme Court verdict on Ayodhya was a good one. On 9 November 2019, the Supreme Court, in a unanimous verdict, cleared the way for the construction of a Ram temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya.
7. **Tripurdaman Singh** and **Adeel Hussain** are the author of the book titled 'Nehru: The Debates that Defined India'.
Note: This book mentions the political journey of Jawaharlal Nehru from being elected as Congress president to various other important aspects of his life. The book has been published with permission from HarperCollins India.
8. **M Mukundan** has authored the novel titled 'Delhi: A Soliloquy' that has won the Rs 25-lakh-JCB Prize for Literature 2021.
Note: The Book focuses on India's capital Delhi, as it changes into the present-day megalopolis. Besides the cash award Mukundan also won a trophy created by Delhi artist duo Thukral & Tagra, titled 'Mirror

- Melting'. He also dedicated the award to "the poor people on the streets of Delhi.
9. **Debashish Mukerji** has authored the book titled 'The Disruptor: How Vishwanath Pratap Singh Shook India'.
Note: The book presents a detailed account of India's eighth Prime Minister (PM), Vishwanath Pratap Singh (V P Singh), who served as PM between December 1989 to November 1990. V P Singh was known for implementing the recommendations of the Mandal Commission Report 1980 that provided reservations in central government services for the first time to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in 1990.
 10. **Navdeep Singh Gill** is the author of the biography of Olympic athlete Gurbachan Singh Randhawa titled 'Uddna Baaz'.
Note: The book is published by Unistar Books at Punjab Kala Bhawan. The Book is about Gurbachan Singh Randhawa's journey along with the Document of Nation's sports history.
 11. **Smriti Irani** is the author of the book 'Lal Salam'.
Note: 'Lal Salaam' is based on the tragic killings of 76 CRPF personnel in Dantewada in April 2010. Lal Salaam is the story of a young officer, Vikram Pratap Singh, and of the challenges he faces against a system that is steeped in backroom politics and corruption.
 12. According to a new report by the research arm of consultants McKinsey & Co **China** becomes the richest nation in the world.
Note: The report has been prepared after examining the national balance sheets of 10 countries, representing more than 60 per cent of world income. The worldwide net worth rose to \$514 trillion in 2020, from \$156 trillion in 2000, according to research conducted by McKinsey & Co. China emerged at the top of the worldwide list, accounting for almost one-third of the increase.
 13. The book titled 'Shuttler's Flick: Making every match count' is an autobiography of **P. Gopi Chand**.
Note: The book tells the life story of Gopichand. From the fateful knee injury on January 25, 1994, the comeback and his journey into building the Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy was discussed during the launch of the book. Professor Madan Pillutla further delved into how to build a legacy and an institution.
 14. **Manish Tiwari** is the author of the book titled '10 Flashpoints; 20 Years'.
Note: The book is set to be released on December 2. The excerpts of the book appear to suggest that Mr Tewari -- the official spokesperson of the Congress at the time who later he became the information and broadcasting minister -- was in favour of a tougher response by the UPA government to 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai.
 15. **Ban Ki-moon** has authored the book titled 'Resolved: Uniting Nations in a Divided World'.
Note: The book has been published by HarperCollins India. Ban has described how he became a man of peace from a child of war in his autobiography. He also talks about his election to the top UN post in 2006, in which India's Shashi Tharoor was also a contender.
 16. **Brijinder Nath Goswamy**, has authored the book titled 'Conversations: India's Leading Art Historian Engages with 101 themes, and More', based on and around the Indian arts.
Note: It will be published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI) and will hit stands in 2022. The book opens a window to a wide range of subjects: on and around the arts. It not only invites those interested and literate in arts but also the general readers who want to take a dive into the field of the arts.

October 2021

1. **Wole Soyinka** authored the book titled 'Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth'.
Note: It has been authored by Wole Soyinka (Africa's first Nobel laureate in Literature). The book has been published by Bloomsbury India. He wrote his last novel Season of Anomy in 1973. The book is related to political and social corruption.
2. **Jaithirth Rao** has authored the book titled 'Economist Gandhi'.
Note: Jaithirth Rao is popularly known as Jerry Rao and is the founder and former CEO of the software company Mphasis. Book examines Mahatma Gandhi's economic philosophy and his hidden facet personality-thoughts on economics and capitalism. It has been published by the Penguin Random House India.
3. **Sujeet Sarkar** has authored the book titled "Quest for a Stable Afghanistan".
Note: The book was published by Rupa Publications. It provides a detailed account of how the haggard and faulty policies of the West have put Afghanistan on the deeper and increasingly worrisome crisis. It provides a daring new outlook denouncing several myths that colour common global perception of this war-ravaged country.
4. **Rajnish Kumar** has authored the book titled 'The Custodian of Trust – A Banker's Memoir'.
Note: Book has been published by Peguin Random House India. It gave a rare insight of how the financial system in our country works. Custodian of Trust depicts Kumar's journey from a modest house in the old city of Meerut to being a probationary officer in SBI in 1980 and growing to the post of Chairman in 2017.

5. **Uday Mahurkar and Chirayu Pandit** has authored the book titled “Veer Savarkar: The Man Who Could Have Prevented Partition”.
Note: The book was launched by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. The book reveals the work of great leader savarkar. The book uncovers Savarkar’s best possible pathway towards one nation that rises above religion and caste discrimination and regional feelings.
6. **Shafey Kidwai** has authored the book titled “Sir Syed Ahmad Khan: Reason, Religion And Nation”.
Note: The book is an objective analysis of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan the founder of Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College that grew into Aligarh Muslim University. The book is published by Routledge India.
7. **Gulzar** has authored the book titled “Actually... I Met Them: A Memoir”.
Note: It is being published by Penguin Random House India publishing group. In this memoir book, Gulzar has shared many interesting unknown facts about legends like Kishore Kumar, Bimal Roy, Ritwik Ghatak, Hrishikesh Mukherjee and Mahasweta Devi, among others.
8. **Divya Dutta** is the author of the book titled, “The Stars in My Sky: Those Who Brightened My Film Journey _____”.
Note: And now, news is that her second book titled 'Stars In My Sky' will be out this month. In 'Stars In My Sky', Divya will share her emotional journey of becoming an actor along with some of her defining moments as an artist.
9. **Chidanand Rajghatta** has authored the book titled “Kamala Harris: Phenomenal Woman”, a biography of Kamala Harris.
Note: The book is published by HarperCollins Publishers India. The book features the life incidents of Kamala Harris, a woman of mixed race (India and Jamaica) who has become the first Indian descent, the first woman to become the vice president of the USA.
10. **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has authored the book titled ‘AIIMS Mein Ek Jang Ladte Hue’.
Note: He gifted one copy of the book to the PM Narendra Modi. The book was written by him during the COVID-19 pandemic. The book was published by Prabhat Prakashan Pvt. Ltd.
11. **Ruskin Bond** has authored the book titled ‘Writing For My Life’.
Note: The anthology accounts for Bond’s life with his father, adventure in Jersey and London etc. The current one, which is Ruskin Bond’s 2nd anthology, has been released 25 years after his first anthology of “The Best of Ruskin Bond”.

September 2021

1. **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.
2. **Angelina Jolie** has authored the book titled “Know Your Rights and Claim Them: A Guide for Youth”.
Note: Angelina Jolie recently took to her official Instagram handle and informed everyone about the release of her upcoming book, Know Your Rights and Claim Them: A Guide for Youth. She further added pictures of people from different parts of the world with whom she will be interacting with on a Zoom call.
3. **Tamanna Bhatia** has authored the book titled ‘Back to the Roots’.
Note: The book is based on intensive research and mentions India’s ancient secrets of health and wellness. All the chapters in ‘Back To the Roots’ are complete with tried-and-tested secrets that have served generations of this country.”
4. **Subramanian Swamy** has authored the book titled ‘Human Rights and Terrorism in India’.
Note: He has come out with a book “Human Rights and Terrorism in India” which traces how the combating of terrorism can be harmonised with human and fundamental rights within reasonable restrictions that are permitted by the Constitution and upheld by the Supreme Court.
5. **Uday Bhatia** has authored the book titled “Bullets Over Bombay: Satya and the Hindi Film Gangster”.
Note: The Book deals with the testimonies from Ram Gopal Varma, Anurag Kashyap, Manoj Bajpayee, Vishal Bhardwaj, Saurabh Shukla. Uday Bhatia is a film critic with Mint Lounge in Delhi. He has previously worked with Time Out Delhi and The Sunday Guardian. His writing has appeared in The Caravan, GQ, The Indian Quarterly, The Indian Express and The Hindu Business Line.
6. **Dr Utpal K. Banerjee** has authored the book titled “Gita Govinda: Jaydeva’s Divine Odyssey”.
Note: The book is the first-ever fully-rhymed translation of the book GeetaGovindam by great 12th-century poet Jayadeva. Union Minister also launched a programme named ‘BujurgonkiBaat–DeshKeSaath’ that aims at enhancing the interaction between the youth and the elder persons who are 95 years and above and thus have spent around 18 years in India before independence.
7. **Subramanian Swamy** has authored the book titled ‘Human Rights and Terrorism in India’.
Note: He has come out with a book “Human Rights and Terrorism in India” which traces how the combating of terrorism can be harmonised with human and fundamental rights within reasonable restrictions that

are permitted by the Constitution and upheld by the Supreme Court.

8. **Jhumpa Lahiri** is the author of the book titled 'Translating Myself and Others'.
Note: This book is planned to be out in Spring 2022. It will be a collection of essays that reflect Lahiri's experiences on the meaning of translation, translating her own writing, and writing across languages. She won Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for her debut collection of short-stories Interpreter of Maladies (1999).
9. The author of the book titled 'Dancing with Dreams,' -- **Adityanath Das**.
Note: The poems reflect the inner journey of the poet. They assert that whatever may be the tensions and turbulence, inside or outside, one can still remain humane.
10. The author of the book titled '400 Days' -- **Chetan Bhagat**.
Note: It is the third novel in Keshav-Saurabh series, after 'The Girl in Room 105' and 'One Arranged Murder'. 400 Days is a tale of suspense, human relationships, love, friendship, the crazy world we live in and, above all, a mother's determination to never give up. It will be published by Westland.
11. **Kulpreet Yadav** has authored the book titled "The Battle of Rezang La".

Note: The book was published under Penguin Random House's "Veer" imprint. A new book tells the story of 120 Indian soldiers who put up a valiant fight against the 5,000-strong Chinese military troops in the 1962 Indo-China war, preventing a possible occupation of the entire Ladakh region.

12. The book titled 'My Life in Full: Work, Family and our Future' is a memoir of business-women **Indira Nooyi**.
Note: In her book Indra Nooyi focusses on the importance that organisational support plays in working women's lives. She tells that how did a middle-class girl from Chennai who went to business school "with men, was taught by men and studied the work of men to enter industries dominated by men" become the global chief executive of PepsiCo in 2006 and only the 11th woman to lead a Fortune 500 company.
13. **Amitav Ghosh** has authored the audiobook 'Jungle Nama'.
Note: This is an exclusive collaboration among three of the most influential figures from the world of arts. It is the story of the avaricious rich merchant, Dhona, the poor lad Dukhey, and his mother. "Jungle Nama" is a free adaptation of the legend, told entirely in a poyar-like meter of 24 syllable couplets that replicate the cadence of the original.

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.

Summit and Conference

1 to 15 December 2021

1. India-ITU Joint Cyberdrill 2021

- Organized by: Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- It is intended for Indian entities especially Critical Network Infrastructure operators.
- Experts from ITU, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), INTERPOL, National Security Council Secretariat, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and other eminent organizations participated in the session.

2. PM Modi has virtually inaugurated InFinity Forum

- Aim: to achieve financial empowerment of every single citizen of the country
- Hosted by: International Financial Services Centres Authority in collaboration with GIFT City and Bloomberg
- Partner countries in the first edition of the Forum: Indonesia, South Africa and U.K.
- InFinity Forum theme: 'Beyond.'

3. Regional Conference on Replication of Good Governance Practices

- Organized by: **Dept of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** in collaboration with **Govt of Odisha**
- It is being held on 3rd and 4th Dec 2021 at **Bhubaneswar**
- **Aim:** to bring national and state level public administration organizations on the same platform to share experiences and innovations in public administration, for improving quality of life, e-Governance and Digital Governance, etc.

4. 5th Indian Ocean Conference in Abu Dhabi

- Addressed by: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar
- Theme of conference: Ecology, Economy, Epidemic.
- Organized by: India foundation and is chaired by Sri Lankan President, Gotabaya Rajapaksa.
- 2021 edition of the conference is dealing with the challenges faced by the Indian ocean, due to the effects of the pandemic, economic decline and climate change.

5. 21st India – Russia Annual summit in Delhi

- Attended by: Russian President, Vladimir Putin and Indian PM Narendra Modi
- It was the first meeting of 2+2 Dialogue of Foreign and Defence Ministers and meeting of Inter-Governmental Commission on Military, Military-Technical Cooperation

6. Forum of Indian Professionals in South China (FIPSC) in Shenzhen

- Organized by: India's Consulate General in Guangzhou
- It is a part of an outreach initiative of CGI, Guangzhou, during an event in Shenzhen.
- The event was attended by more than 50 Indian professionals working in South China

7. Sixth India Water Impact Summit (IWIS)

- Organized by: **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** along with **Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (c-Ganga)**
- It is being organized in **hybrid mode (online and physically)** at NMCG office, New Delhi and IIT, Kanpur.
- Theme: **River Resources Allocation, Planning and Management at the Regional Level**
- Focus: synchronizing river conservation with long term developmental needs by resource budgeting

8. Summit for Democracy

- Hosted by: **United States**
- It is a virtual summit, which is being held on December 9 to 10, 2021.
- Three themes: defending against authoritarianism; addressing and fighting corruption; and advancing respect for human rights.

9. Second edition of water innovation challenges

- Launch: Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog and Royal Embassy of Denmark to India
- It is launched as part of the Indo-Danish Bilateral Green Strategic partnership.
- Aim: To identify innovative & next-gen solutions to solve proposed challenges in collaboration with corporate and public partners.

10. India Global Forum, UAE-2021

- It will showcase opportunities to build dynamic alliances with world-beating talent, technology, and business partnerships that can make a global impact.
- It will bring together the most senior leaders from business, politics, and culture to discuss and implement newfound ambitions, and address vital global imperatives.

11. Fifth edition of the World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM)

- Organized by: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi campus.
- Theme of the 5th WCDM: Technology, Finance and Capacity for Building Resilience to Disasters in the Contexts of Covid-19.

November 2021

1. India Internet Governance Forum 2021 (IIGF 2021)

- Organized by: **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and **National Internet Exchange of India**
- It is centered around the theme '**Empowering India through Power of Internet**'
- Aim: To bring stakeholders of internet governance for roadmap of digitization
- It is an initiative associated with **UN Internet Governance Forum (UN-IGF)**.

2. 13th edition of the ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Summit

- It has been organized from 25 to 26th November 25 and 26, 2021
- Hosted by: **Cambodia as ASEM Chair**
- Theme: **Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth**
- ASEM grouping have 51 member countries, European Union and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

3. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to organize 20th edition of 'Connect 2021' in Chennai

- It will be held from 26th to 27th November
- Theme: **Building a Sustainable Deep T'ech'N'ology Ecosystem**
- **Connect:** It is an international conference and exhibition on information & communication technology (ICT)
- Partner countries: **Australia and UK**
- It is hosted by Govt of Tamil Nadu and co-hosted by Software Technology Parks of India and MeitY.

4. Jitendra Singh inaugurates ISRO's five-day Technology Conclave-21

- Aim: highlighting Futuristic and Disruptive Technologies to be developed by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
- It is being organized by Directorate of Technology Development and Innovation (DTDI) under the aegis of ISRO.
- Development of Satellite-Based Quantum Communication will enable unconditional data security to the country's communication network.

5. First International Conference on Hydrogen Energy

- Minister of State for MNRE has inaugurated **1st International Conference on Hydrogen Energy - Policies, Infrastructure Development and Challenges**
- **Organized by:** Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP) with the support of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Central Electricity Authority and NTPC.
- **Aim:** to bring all the key stakeholders on the same platform to discuss all facets of Hydrogen Energy in India.

6. Maiden Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Focused Operation

- It is being conducted between lead Maritime Security Agencies of India, Maldives and Sri Lanka in Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of the three countries in Southern Arabian Sea.
- It is a two-day CSC Focused Operation with an aim of keeping this vital part of the Indian Ocean Region safe and secure for commercial shipping, international trade and conduct of legitimate maritime activities.

7. Ayurveda Parv-2021 inaugurated virtually in New Delhi

- It is a three-day event that has been organized to promote Ayurveda.
- An exhibition has been arranged with 40 stalls and participation of pharmaceutical companies.
- It has been organized for proper utilization of Ayurvedic health care and for coordination and better utilization of Ayurvedic research, education and manufacturing of medicines.

8. Fifth World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM)

- It is being organized in New Delhi between 24th to 27th November 2021 at the campus of IIT Delhi on the overarching theme of '**Technology, Finance and Capacity for Building Resilience to Disasters in the context of COVID-19**'.
- It is an initiative of Disaster Management Initiatives and Convergence Society (DMICS).

9. Dept of Food organizes All India Food Ministers Meet

- It will be chaired by Food and Public Distribution Minister Piyush Goyal

- Meet discuss the issue of community kitchen and other issues with Food Minister of all States and UTs.
- Key issues: Model Community Kitchen Scheme, One Nation One Ration Card-status of implementation, Aadhaar seeding of Ration Cards, etc.

10. Aadhaar 2.0- Ushering the Next Era of Digital Identity and Smart Governance

- Union Minister has inaugurated 3-day workshop titled as 'Aadhaar 2.0- Ushering the Next Era of Digital Identity and Smart Governance' at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- It will also be telecast live on YouTube, Twitter and Facebook handles of UIDAI.
- It is considering Aadhaar as a Trusted ID as a platform and method for delivering innovative digital solutions.

11. Fifth East Asia Summit Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation

- It will be held from 23rd and 24th November in Kolkata.
- Organized by: India in partnership with Australia.
- Apart from two governments, organizers include ASEAN-India Centre at Research and Information System for Developing Countries in collaboration with National Maritime Foundation of Australia and Research Centre for East and Northeast Regional Studies, Kolkata.

12. Leadership Forum on FinTech 'InFinity Forum'

- Hosted by: International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) in collaboration with GIFT City and Bloomberg in virtual mode.
- Partner countries: Indonesia, South Africa, and UK.
- InFinity Forum is a leadership event where problems, ideas, innovative technologies from across the world gets discovered, discussed and developed into solutions

13. Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2021

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated 3-days annual flagship BTS 2021.

- Organized by: Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T, Government of Karnataka and Co-Hosted by STPI
- It will be held from 17th to 19th November 2021.
- Central theme of BTS 2021: Driving the Next.
- It is the 24th edition of BTS which is being conducted in a hybrid format and will see participation from 30 countries.

14. President Ram Nath Kovind addresses 51st Conference of Governors & LGs in Delhi

- It is the 4th conference to be presided over by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- Governors and Lieutenant Governors from all states and union territories across the country attended the conference along with PM Narendra Modi, VP Venkaiah Naidu, and Home Minister Amit Shah.
- First conference of governors was held in 1949 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

15. India and United States (US) held 11th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group meeting virtually.

- Aim: to bring sustained leadership focus to the bilateral defence trade relationship and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of defence equipment.
- This forum offers an opportunity for Indian and US industries to be directly involved in DTTI and facilitates dialogue between government and industry on issues that impact industrial collaboration.

16. a Regional Conference on the theme 'Strengthening the State Institutes of Public Administration'

- **Organized by:** Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with Govt of Uttar Pradesh
- It will be held 11 and 12 November 2021 at Lucknow.
- **Aim:** to bring national and state level training institutes on the same platform to share emerging requirements in governance for future public solutions for improving quality of life, bringing synergies among administrative Institutes for

continuous capacity building, logistics as aimed under Mission Karmyogi.

17. Chief of Defense Staff General Bipin Rawat inaugurates 14th edition of 'c0c0n',

- It is an annual Hacking and Cyber Security Briefing that was held virtually from 10th to 13th November 2021.
- It is being conducted by Kerala Police in association with two non-profit organisations, Society for Policing of Cyberspace (POLCYB) and Information Security Research Association (ISRA).
- Aim: to discuss the challenges facing by the digital world during COVID period.

18. Ganga Connect exhibition

- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has inaugurated 'Ganga Connect exhibition' showcased by National Mission for Clean Ganga, c-Ganga, and High Commission of India at the City of Glasgow
- It is an attempt to showcase development in Ganga River basin to global community of environmental stakeholders, who have gathered in Glasgow for UN COP 26 meet.

19. 'Indian Army Make Projects' webinar

- Organized by: Indian Army in collaboration with FICCI

- This was the 6th such webinar since the inception of the Make process in 2016.
- During webinar, Indian Army unveiled Six new 'Make-II Projects' with spanned technologies across unmanned systems, technologies to counter such systems as well as emerging solutions for augmenting air defence capabilities.

20. The 3rd edition of Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) 2021

- It is being held from 7th to 9th November 2021 under the aegis of Naval War College, Goa.
- Theme for GMC 2021: Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for IOR Navies.

21. 5th edition of 'Ganga Utsav 2021 – The River Festival' begins

- Fifth edition of 3 day-long Ganga Utsav 2021 - The River Festival has been organized from 1st to 3rd November 2021 in virtual format
- It will not only celebrate the glory of river Ganga but all the rivers of the country to promote the celebration of 'Nadi Utsav' (River Festival)
- It has been organized under leadership of Union Minister for Jal Shakti by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) jointly with Ministry of Jal Shakti

October 2021

1. World Expo 2020 Dubai, UAE

- It is being organized from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022.
- Main theme of Dubai Expo 2020: **Connecting Minds, Creating the Future.**
- Expo 2020 is the first to be held in Middle East and North Africa & South Asia region.
- It will have 190 pavilions representing different countries along with 200 restaurants
- Theme of India pavilion at Dubai Expo 2020: **Openness, Opportunity and Growth.**

2. New Urban India: Transforming Urban Landscape conclave

- It is a three-day Urban conclave, which is launched under Azadi ka Amrit mahotsav celebrations

- Venue: Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow.

3. 40th edition of India International Trade Fair 2021

- It will be held from 14th to 27th November in newly built halls of International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) as well as in the existing halls at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- Theme: Atmanirbhar Bharat.

4. Prime Minister concludes successful G20 Leaders' Summit in Italy

- It was held in Rome, Italy on 30th and 31st October 2021.
- It was 16th meeting of G20 group and was held under the chairmanship of Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi.

- Moto of the summit: People, Planet, and Prosperity
- Agenda: Climate change, economic recovery, pandemic and global minimum corporate tax rate.
- Summit concluded with the adoption of the Rome Declaration by G20 Leaders.

5. Union Minister, Hardeep S. Puri inaugurates 14th edition of Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference 2021 through video-conferencing from New Delhi

- Theme of the conference: Mobility for All
- Aim: provide an opportunity to decision makers and delegates to interact with professionals, experts, industry, civil society, technology, services providers and other stake holders in Urban Transport

6. National Conference on International Year of Fruits and Vegetables

- Organized by: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare in collaboration with UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- It was held to commemorate 2021 as International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, as declared by UNO
- Theme: Awareness about the nutritional benefits of fruits and vegetables for balanced and healthy diet and life style.

7. Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya addresses CII Asia Health 2021 Summit

- It is a 2-day summit and has been organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- Theme: **'Transforming Healthcare for a better tomorrow'**.
- Aim: to provide a centralized forum to deliberate on most critical challenges that India and the world face in delivering healthcare.

8. MeitY to organize 'AI Pe Charcha' on 'AI for Data Driven Governance' theme

- Organized by: National e Governance Division (NeGD) of Ministry of Electronics and IT
- It covers the data driven and AI-enabled governance along with the global best practice.
- Theme: AI for Data Driven Governance.

9. PM Modi addresses 16th East Asia Summit virtually

- It was hosted under the Chairmanship of Brunei.
- Established in 2005, the
- EAS was held for the first time in 2005
- Members of EAS includes 10 ASEAN member states, and India, China, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, US and Russia

10. FM virtually attends 6th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of AIIB

- Theme of the Annual Meeting of AIIB: **Investing Today and Transforming Tomorrow.**
- It was jointly organized by AIIB in collaboration with Government of United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- Aim: to take key decisions on important matters relating to AIIB, and its future vision.

11. UIDAI to conduct 'Aadhaar Hackathon-2021' from 28th October

- It will held from 28th October, 2021 to 31st October, 2021 to promote culture of innovation among Indian Youth
- Hackathon consists of multiple problem statements categorized under 2 broad themes: Enrolment and Authentication

12. Fourth General Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) virtually

- It is being held from 18th to 21st October 2021.
- It is being presided over by President of ISA Assembly RK Singh
- Key initiatives:
 - Operationalization of OSOWOG (One Sun One World One Grid) initiative, \$1-trillion Solar Investment Roadmap for 2030
 - Blended Financial Risk Mitigation Facility approved

13. CII organizes 'Future Tech 2021' conference

- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has organized an International Conference and Exhibition on Digital technologies, 'Future Tech 2021- a Journey of digital transformation to technology adoption and acceleration'
- It is being held from October 19 to 27, 2021.
- Theme of Future Tech 2021: Driving technologies for building the future, we all can trust

- Theme will have 5 pillars: Strategy, Growth, Resilience, Inclusiveness, Trust.

14. PM participates in G20 Extraordinary Summit on Afghanistan

- The meet was convened by Italy, which currently holds G20 Presidency, and chaired by Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi.
- Focus: issues related to humanitarian situation, concerns relating to terrorism, and human rights issue in Afghanistan following the Taliban's return to power.

15. Global FinTech virtual Hackathon Series '1-Sprint'21'

- Launched by: International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).
- First Sprint of the series is 'Sprint01: BankTech', which focuses on FinTechs for the Banking sector.
- It has been launched in collaboration with GIFT city and NITI Aayog.
- Partners for the Hackathon: ICICI Bank, HSBC Bank, iCreate, Zone Startups and Invest-India.

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

- Price money of the hackathon winner: Rs 24 lakh

16. DRDO conducts All India Official Language, Scientific and Technical Seminar

- Aim: for promoting use of Hindi in official activities including scientific and technical works.
- Seminar was hosted by ITR with the theme 'Test and Evaluation of Defence Products: The Necessity and Achievements' in 2021

17. Ministry of Tourism has organized Conference in Bodhgaya

- Aim: to present the efforts and developments that have taken place in Buddhist Circuit and to discuss and deliberate the way forward for the promotion of Buddhist Tourism in India.
- It has been scheduled from 4th to 8th October 2021.
- Buddhist Circuit Fam Tour will start from Safdarjung Railway Station.

- It will be held in Nava Nalanda Mahavihara campus, Nalanda, Bihar on November 19 and 20, 2021
- Organized by: **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)**
- It focuses on making India the center of Buddhism, by promoting Buddhist activities, like academic, cultural, seminars, people traveling for festival like Buddha Purnima, Vesak.
- Theme: **Buddhism in Literature**
- Conference will be conducted at Dharamsala, Gangtok, Sarnath, and Telangana in India and overseas in Cambodia, Japan, South Korea, and Thailand

4. PM Modi to attend Quad Summit

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

technologies and cyberspace and promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific

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

- **Aim:** to strengthen India-US bilateral cooperation on climate and environment.
- CAFMD is one of the two tracks of the India-U.S. Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 partnership launched at Leaders' Summit on Climate in April 2021.

6. India-Africa Defence Dialogue

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will host Defence Ministers of African Nations in the next India-Africa Defence Dialogue on the sidelines of DefExpo at Gandhinagar, Gujarat in March 2022.
- First-ever India Africa Defence Ministers Conclave was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on February 6, 2020

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

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

8. POSHAN Abhiyaan- Sahi Poshan Desh Roshan webinar organised

- Organized by: Regional Outreach Bureau (ROB) and Press Information Bureau (PIB), Chandigarh and Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
- POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Abhiyaan is Government's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescent Girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

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

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

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

- It was held in Hawaii at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.
- Theme of PACS 21: **Enduring Cooperation towards Regional Stability**
- It provided an opportunity for enhancing mutual understanding and deepening of relationships among participating nations.
- Participants of PACS-21 included Air Chiefs of countries in Indo-Pacific region.

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

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

12. BRICS Film Technology Symposium.

- Organized by: FICCI, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and FTII.
- It is a step in this direction to bring the people from all member states together.
- The focus of the Symposium is to acknowledge the service sector.
- It will create opportunities for the working professionals in the field of film technology of all BRICS nations

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

- Organized in: **Vladivostok, Russia.**
- It highlighted the significance of health and pharma sectors as important areas of

cooperation that have emerged during the pandemic.

- EEF was established by the decree of the President of the Russian Federation in 2015.

14. India to host G-20 summit in 2023

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

- 2021 edition of the G20 meet will be held in Rome, Italy and 2022 G20 meet will be held in Bali, Indonesia.

15. International Climate Summit (ICS)

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

August 2021

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

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

2. Two-day SVEEP Consultation Workshop

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

3. MANTHAN 2021

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

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

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

5. 'Forum for Decarbonizing Transport'

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

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

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

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

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

strengthened coordination in the maritime domain.

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

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

Important Days

December 2021

Date	Day	Theme
1 December	World AIDS Day	End Inequalities, End AIDS
2 December	National Pollution Control Day	
2 December	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	
2 December	World Computer Literacy Day	
3 December	World Day of the Handicapped or International Day of Persons with Disabilities	
4 December	Indian Navy Day	
5 December	World Soil Day	Halt soil salinization, boost soil productivity
7 December	Armed Forces Flag Day	
7 December	International Civil Aviation Day	Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development
9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day	
10 December	Human Rights Day	EQUALITY - Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights
11 December	International Mountain Day	
11 December	UNICEF Day	
12 December	Universal Health Coverage Day	
14 December	National Energy Conservation Day	Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav: Energy Efficient India' and 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav: Clearer Planet
16 December	Vijay Diwas	
18 December	International Migrants Day	Harnessing the potential of human mobility
19 December	Goa's Liberation Day	
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day	
22 December	National Mathematics Day	Mathematics for a Better World
24 December	National Consumer Rights Day	
25 December	Christmas Day	

25 December	Good Governance Day (India)	-
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November 2021

Date	Name of Important Days	Theme 2021
1 November	World Vegan Day	–
1 November	All Saints’ Day	–
1 November	Rajyotsava Day (Karnataka Formation Day)	–
2 November	International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists	-
5 November	World Tsunami Awareness Day	–
6 November	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict	-
7 November	Infant Protection Day	-
7 November	National Cancer Awareness Day	–
8 November	International Day of Radiology	Interventional Radiology – Active care for the patient
8 November	World Urbanism Day	–
9 November	Legal Services Day	–
10 November	World Science Day	Building Climate-Ready Communities
11 November	National Education Day	-
12 November	Ayurveda Day	Ayurveda for Poshana (Nutrition)
12 November	Public Service Broadcasting Day	-
12 November	World Pneumonia Day	-
13 November	World Kindness Day	Kindness: The World We Make – Inspire Kindness
14 November	World Diabetes Day	Access to Diabetes Care If Not Now, When?
14 November	Children’s Day	-
16 November	International Day for Tolerance	-
16 November	National Press Day	-
17 November	National Epilepsy Day	-
17 November	World Prematurity Day	Zero Separation: Act now! Keep parents and babies born too soon together
18 to 24 November	World Antimicrobial Awareness Week	Spread Awareness, Stop Resistance
19 November	International Men’s Day	-
19 November	World Toilet Day	-
20 November	Universal Children’s Day	-
21 November	World Television Day	-
21 November	World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims	-

25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	-
26 November	Constitution Day of India	-
29 November	International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People	-
30 November	Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare	-

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	Protect Breastfeeding: A

	2021	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	

Important News – National (India)

December 2021 (1st to 15)

1. Under chairmanship of **Ajay Bhushan Pandey**, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has constituted a three-member committee to review the criteria for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) reservations.
Note: The committee will comprise Former Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey, Member Secretary ICSSR Prof VK Malhotra and Principal Economic Advisor to the Indian government Sanjeev Sanyal. The committee will examine various approaches followed in the country so far for identifying the economically weaker sections. It will also send its recommendations to the Centre in the next three weeks.
2. **Ministry of Personnel** has launched "**unique**" face recognition technology that would act as a proof of 'life certificate' for pensioners and ensure ease of living for the retired and elderly citizens.
Note: Face Recognition Technique of giving Life Certificate is a historic, far-reaching reform and this will bring ease of living for the retired and the elderly citizens. It will touch the lives of not only 68 lakh Central Government Pensioners but also Crores of Pensioners who fall outside the jurisdiction of EPFO and State Government Pensioners.
3. **Flipkart & Ministry of Rural Development** has signed an MoU to sell products made by millions of artisans under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) program on the e-commerce platform.
Note: The move will help artisans reach out 10 crore of Flipkart's existing customers, thus substantially scaling their outreach. MoU between ministry & Flipkart will help in empowering local businesses and self-help groups (SHGs) by bringing them into the e-commerce fold.
4. The IFFCO has been ranked **First** position among the top 300 cooperatives in the world in the 2021 edition of the 10th Annual World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) report.
Note: WCM is a project designed to collect robust economic, organizational, and social data about cooperatives worldwide. The 2021 WCM report is published by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse).
5. Smartphone maker Oppo India has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **IIT Delhi** to introduced the Genius+ programme to provide scholarships to outstanding students pursuing engineering courses at premium institutes.
Note: Under this program, Oppo said it has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT-Delhi to offer scholarships covering academic expenses for the shortlisted students. Genius+ program is aimed at connecting with youth at renowned institutes in India and reach out to the best talent who can further build India's innovation portfolio.
6. The theme of the first edition of the 'InFinity Forum' -- **Beyond**.
Note: The event is being hosted by International Financial Services Centres Authority under the aegis of Government of India in collaboration with GIFT City and Bloomberg. Indonesia, South Africa and the U.K. are partner countries in the first edition of the Forum. NITI Aayog, Invest India, FICCI and NASSCOM are some of the key partners to this year's Infinity Forum. InFinity Forum will bring together leading minds of the world in policy, business and technology.
7. The union government has launched **SRESHTA** scheme for socio-economic upliftment and overall development of Scheduled Castes students by providing quality residential education to meritorious students in reputed private schools.
Note: Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar on Thursday said the Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SRESHTA) scheme will enable meritorious SC students to have a better future and aid in controlling dropout rates of students from classes 9 to 12.
8. **Microsoft** has launched a cybersecurity skilling program that aims to skill over one lakh learners by 2022.
Note: In a bid to address this skills gap and empower India's workforce for a career in cybersecurity, Microsoft, on Tuesday, launched a cybersecurity skilling program that aims to skill over one lakh learners by 2022. The program is designed to provide a hands-on experience to learners in the fundamentals of security, compliance and identity.
9. The union housing & urban affairs ministry has extended the timeline for the implementation of the Smart Cities Mission to **June 2023**.
Note: According to an earlier deadline, the cities were expected to complete their projects within five years of being selected under the Smart Cities Mission. The official said all the 100 smart cities selected under the mission will now have to complete their projects by June 2023.
10. The government has set a target to open about ten thousand five hundred Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMBJK's), by **March 2025**.
Note: In a written reply in Lok Sabha, Chemical and Fertilizers Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya said, about eight thousand 533 PMBJKs are functioning till 28th of last month. It covers all districts in the States and Union Territories of the country. The Minister said, the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India, the implementing agency of PMBJP makes

regular efforts for making all the drugs of its product basket available to the consumers.

11. To achieve the target of constructing 2.95 crore houses the Cabinet approved the extension of the Centre's flagship housing-for-all scheme, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) till **March 2024**.
Note: Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said financial assistance would be provided for the construction of the 155.75 lakh houses remaining as on March, 31, 2021. Till November 29, 2021 a total 1.65 crore PMAY-G houses have been constructed of the total target of 2.95 crore.
12. India's rank in the Asia Power Index 2021 -- **4th**.
Note: The index has been released by Lowy Institute. India fell short of the major power threshold in 2021 and is among eighteen countries in the region to trend downward in its overall score in 2021.
13. **NITI Aayog** has launched report on Waste-wise Cities: Best practices in Municipal Solid Waste Management.
Note: It is a comprehensive knowledge repository of how Indian cities are managing their solid waste and documents best practices from 28 cities in 15 states of India.
14. ISRO has signed an agreement with **Oppo** to strengthen the Research and Development (R&D) of the NavIC messaging service, an Indian satellite navigation system.
Note: NavIC is a messaging service platform, which provides regional navigation services covering the entire country and an area up to 1,500 km beyond the Indian boundaries. Notably, the messaging platform primarily provides PNT (position, navigation, and timing) services along with the capability of broadcasting short messages (safety-of-life alerts) in areas with poor or no communication, particularly in oceans.
15. According to the new 2021 Global Health Security (GHS) Index India has shared the 66th rank with Jordan.
Note: India, with a score of 42.8 (out of 100) has slipped by 0.8 points since 2019. While Jordan scored 42.8 with a gain of 1.6 points since 2019. Three neighbouring countries of India like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives have improved their score by 1-1.2 points.
16. **1 lakh** amount of assistance will be provided to each artisan under the Atmanirbhar Hastshilpkar Scheme for the grass root Artisans of the North-East Region announced by the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi) under Ministry of Development of North East Region (DONER).

Note: Total of 17 artisans have been provided with credit assistance of Rs.1 lakh per artisan. Credit facility is collateral free and carries subsidized interest rate of 6% p.a., which is repayable in 24 months. For regular repayment, incentive of 1% on interest rate.

17. India's rank in the Global Health Security (GHS) Index 2021 -- **66th**.
Note: GHS Index has been developed in partnership of Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and Johns Hopkins Center. It assesses countries' health security and capabilities across six categories and 37 indicators
18. According to Asian Power Index for 2021 released by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute, India's rank as most powerful nation in Asia -- **Fourth**.
Note: India fell short of the major power threshold in 2021 and is among eighteen countries in the region to trend downward in its overall score in 2021. Asian Power Index for 2021 of Lowy Institute ranks 26 nations and territories. The institute noted that India exerts less influence in the region than expected due to its negative power gap score.
19. India's rank in the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) 2021 World Talent Ranking-- **56th**.
Note: In the Peer Group Ranking – Asia – Pacific, India have ranked 12th. Switzerland tops the ranking followed by Sweden in 2nd and Luxembourg in 3rd. The ranking is published by the IMD World Competitiveness Center.
20. **Narendra Modi** represented India in the first Summit for Democracy convened by US President Joe Biden.
Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the Session convened by US President Joe Biden. Delivering his opening speech, Biden highlighted the 'definite challenges' and threats faced by democracy worldwide that has been 'backsliding'.
21. Swachh Technology Challenge was launched by **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0**.
Note: The challenge seeks entrepreneurial skills for India's waste management sector that can be further utilized by the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in implementing various components of SBM-U 2.0. MoHUA will also launch the Swachhata Start-Up Challenge in collaboration with France's Agence Française de Développement (AFD). It will be an extension to the Swachh Technology Challenge in January 2022.
22. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has signed an MoU with **UNDP** to strengthen the waste management sector in India under the Swachh Bharat Mission- Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0).
Note: This collaboration is in the backdrop of the 75th year of India's independence, the Azadi Ka Amrit

Mahotsav, with UNDP supporting us with the set up and operationalization of 75 Swachhata Kendras across the country. This will also support the realization of the vision, 'Clean Air, Clean Water, Clean Land' in urban India, through a circular economy approach based on the 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle) principle.

- 23. NITI Aayog** has launched the 'e-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition' in partnership with Convergence Energy Service Ltd (CESL) and World Resources Institute, India (WRI India) and with the support from Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI).
Note: To Share knowledge of various stakeholders – Central & State Govt. agencies, transit service providers, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), on accelerating the process towards seamless adoption of e-bus services in India. The Atal

Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog has launched a Digi-book titled "Innovations for You". It is an initiative of Niti Aayog to share success stories of Atal Innovation Mission's Startups in different domains.

- 24. India** has assumed the Chairmanship of Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (RATS SCO).
Note: The National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), Government of India, in association with Data Security Council of India (DSCI), as a Knowledge Partner, organized a 2-day Practical Seminar on 'Securing Cyberspace in the Contemporary Threat Environment' (on December 7 and 8, 2021) for delegates from SCO member States. The seminar is the 1st event to be hosted by India during its Chairmanship of Council of RATS SCO.

November 2021

- 1. Amit Shah** has launched the "Dairy Sahakar" scheme at Anand, Gujarat.
Note: The Dairy Sahakar with a total investment of Rs 5000 crore will be implemented by NCDC under Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India to realize the vision, "from cooperation to prosperity". Under Dairy Sahakar, financial support will be extended by NCDC to eligible cooperatives for activities such as bovine development, milk procurement, processing, quality assurance, value addition, branding, packaging, marketing, transportation and storage of milk and milk products, export of dairy products within the overall objectives of "Doubling the farmers income" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat."
- 2. Jitendra Singh** dedicated "Sardar Patel Leadership Centre" to the nation at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie.
Note: Sardar Patel Leadership Centre aims to lay the foundation capacity building for future generations of Civil Servants. Sardar Patel Leadership Centre will emerge as a Huge Resource Centre to provide continuous study and learning opportunities to Civil Servants from India and Abroad as visualised by the Father of All India Services.
- 3. Chennai-Mysore Shatabdi Express** becomes the first Integrated Management Systems (IMS) certified Shatabdi.
Note: It received the certificate for world-class maintenance of the train, environment-friendly resources. The train's primary maintenance is handled by Basin Bridge Coaching Depot of Indian Railways' Chennai Division.
- 4.** The Pension fund regulator Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has added Aadhaar based eKYC for **Atal Pension Yojana**.
Note: Aim: to expand its subscriber base and simplify the on-boarding process further. PFRDA is allowing enrollment of subscribers through physical, net banking and other digital modes, at present. After an APY account is opened, Atal Pension Yojana-Service Provider (APY-SP) will offer subsequent servicing to the subscribers.
- 5.** The 14th edition of Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference 2021 inaugurated by Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep S. Puri.
Note: Theme of the conference: Mobility for All. Aim: provide an opportunity to decision makers and delegates to interact with professionals, experts, industry, civil society, technology, services providers and other stake holders in Urban Transport. India at 75-Mobility for All film also released.
- 6.** Ramky Enviro has inaugurated one of the world's first and India's largest landfill gas-to-compressed biogas plant in **Hyderabad**.
Note: The project is focused on the conversion of landfill gas into compressed biogas as an automotive fuel. The project offers significant benefits such as carbon sequestration and reduced emissions of GHGs into the environment and contributes to the greening of the automotive industry. The end (Biogas) product of the plant will be sold to Bhagyanagar Gas Limited (BGL).
- 7.** Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has launched Bhasha Sangam initiative for schools. It has

- been launched to teach basic sentences of everyday usage in 22 languages.
8. Ministry of Rural Development signs Memorandum of Understanding with e-commerce company **Flipkart** for the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).
Note: Helps empower those who take the lead by participating in e-commerce. This partnership is in line with DAY-NRLM's goal of strengthening the capacity of rural communities for self-employment and entrepreneurship, and provides further impetus for the Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
 9. **Amit Shah** has launched the 'Ayushman CAPF' Scheme health cards at the national level in New Delhi.
Note: The scheme has been designed to cover all serving personnel and their dependents of the seven Central Armed Police Forces. He handed over 'Ayushman CAPF' Scheme health cards to the Director General, National Security Guard for distribution to NSG personnel. The scheme is a joint initiative of the Home Ministry, Health Ministry and National Health Authority (NHA).
 10. India has adopted a net zero target by 2070 year in the COP26 summit in Glasgow.
Note: India announced a new targets to increase reliance on renewables and reduce the carbon intensity of its economy, including to adopt a net zero target by 2070. Investment in RE and climate change adaptation policies suggest it is well positioned to take further steps to reach this new target.
 11. **IIT Kanpur** has developed 'Ganga Atlas: River of the Past' that was launched during the 5th Ganga Utsav.
Note: Ganga Atlas developed by Prof Rajiv Sinha, IIT Kanpur documents the changes in River Ganga over the past 5-6 decades in terms of channel morphology, land use & land cover, river dynamics and associated issues.
 12. **K Rajaraman** will head the 22-members technology innovation group on sixth generation or 6G formed by the Department of Telecommunications.
Note: Telecom secretary K Rajaraman will head the initiative as chairperson and the forum aims to create vision and objectives as well as develop a roadmap for research and development (R&D), pre-standardisation, development of applications and products, and action plans for 6G technology.
 13. **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** has released "The Adaptation Gap Report 2021" that discusses the irreversible nature of global climate risk.
Note: It is the 12th edition of the Emissions Gap Report. The Report shows that new national climate pledges combined with other mitigation measures put the world on track for a global temperature rise of 2.7°C by the end of the century. That is well above the goals of the Paris climate agreement and would lead to catastrophic changes in the Earth's climate.
 14. India's rank in the inaugural Global Drug Policy Index 2021, released by the Harm Reduction Consortium -- **18th**.
Note: The five lowest-ranking countries are Brazil, Uganda, Indonesia, Kenya, and Mexico. India's rank is 18 out of 30 countries. It is a data-driven global analysis of drug policies and their implementation.
 15. Indian city has been included in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) with a special mention for its craft and folk art -- **Srinagar**.
Note: Srinagar joins Chennai and Varanasi - UNESCO Cities of music; Jaipur - UNESCO city of crafts and folk arts; Mumbai - UNESCO city of film and Hyderabad - UNESCO City of gastronomy. Worldwide, 49 new cities have joined the UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (UCCN).
 16. The Central government has launched 'DBT-Star College Mentorship Programme' for **Young Innovators**.
Note: The 'DBT-Star College Mentorship Programme' will help towards the concept of networking, hand holding and outreach, said Singh who is the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology. The pan India scheme envisages a 'Star College' in every district of the country supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), under the science and technology ministry.
 17. **Bipin Rawat** has inaugurated the 14th edition of 'c0c0n', an annual Hacking and Cyber Security Conference.
Note: The conference, which is being conducted by Kerala Police in association with two non-profit organisations, Society for the Policing of Cyberspace (POLCYB) and Information Security Research Association (ISRA), would be primarily discussing online scams and defenses during the lockdown period. The conference is being held virtually so that people from across the globe can attend the event as the 13th edition of 'c0c0n' last year saw more than 6,000 attendees from around the world.
 18. The union minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Labour & Employment, Shri Bhupender Yadav has inaugurated the Ganga Connect exhibition showcased by National Mission for Clean Ganga, c-Ganga, and the High Commission of India at the **City of Glasgow College**.
Note: The exhibition is an attempt to showcase the level of development in the Ganga river basin to a global community of environmental stakeholders,

who have gathered in Glasgow for the UN Conference of the Parties (COP-26) meeting. "Ganga Connect is a global exhibition that will showcase multiple facets of the river basin and connect with interested parties. This project is important from the point of view preserving and protecting Ganga and its ecosystem and creating widespread awareness about the river basin."

19. The theme of the 40th edition of India International Trade Fair 2021 -- **Atmbirbhar Bharat**.
Note: 40th edition of IITF is a magnum of India Trade Promotion Organization representing India in totality as an ideal destination for numerous business and investment opportunities. Bihar is the Partner State, while Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand are the Focus States. Overseas participation is from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, UAE, Tunisia, and Turkey.
20. India's rank in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2022, released by Germanwatch along with Climate Action Network (CAN) and New Climate Institute on the side-lines of the COP26 -**10th**.
Note: It is being released by German-watch along with Climate Action Network (CAN) and New Climate Institute. India was at 10th place in 2020 as well. The report noted that no country performed well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating in CCPI. Therefore, once again, the top three places in the overall ranking remain empty.
21. Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has declared November 15 as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' to mark the birth anniversary of **Birsa Munda**.
Note: The day is dedicated to the brave tribal freedom fighters and their sacrificed for the country. This day will be celebrated every year from now on to recognize the efforts of the tribals for preservation of cultural heritage and promotion of Indian values of valor, hospitality and national pride.
22. National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) is a not-for-profit Company under the aegis of **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has launched 'Digital Payment Gateway' to make the internet accessible to everyone.
Note: It will lead to increased ease of use for NIXI's customers by offering real-time payments, providing uninterrupted services and ensuring seamless experience to all stakeholders. PayU is enabling payment digitization for crucial initiatives across the three key domains of NIXI. NIXI has partnered with PayU and NSDL to offer Payment gateway services.
23. World's longest bi-lane road tunnel called "Sela Tunnel" is being built in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Note: The tunnel, located near China border, is expected to give India strategic heft by facilitating faster movement of its troops. The tunnel goes through Sela Pass and is expected to cut down the distance to China border through Tawang by 10 km. It is located on the border between the Tawang and West Kameng districts of Arunachal. The project consists of two tunnels.

24. **Gopal Krishna Pillai** will head the committee constituted by the central government for the determination of RoDTEP rates for exports from special economic zones (SEZs) and export-oriented units (EOUs), as these sectors were left out in the earlier exercise.
Note: The committee will be headed by Former Home Secretary Gopal Krishna Pillai, Former CBEC (Central Board of Excise and Customs) member Y G Parande and former customs member Gautam Ray. The committee will also make recommendations on issues relating to errors or anomalies with respect to the RoDTEP schedule of rates notified.
25. First-ever National Yogasana Championship was held in **Bhubaneswar**.
Note: It has been organized by National Yogasana Sports Federation (NYSF) in association with the Odisha state. Around 560 young Yogasana Sports athletes from across 30 states would be participating in the event.
26. Industry association **FICCI** has organized a virtual agriculture summit and awards event 'Envisioning Smart & Sustainable Agriculture' aims to bring all key stakeholders and policymakers on a common platform to ideate an implementable strategy for smart and sustainable agriculture.
Note: The summit 'Envisioning Smart & Sustainable Agriculture' aims to bring all key stakeholders and policymakers on a common platform to ideate an implementable strategy for smart and sustainable agriculture. The plenary sessions will focus on issues such as strengthening agri-inputs for sustainably increasing productivity. A knowledge report on 'India Beyond 75: Envisioning smart and sustainable agriculture' is being released during the event.
27. **Hardeep Singh Puri** lead the Indian delegation in the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC).
Note: Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri will lead an official and business delegation for the conference. During the visit, the Minister will participate in the inaugural Ceremony of ADIPEC and also take part in a Ministerial Round Table titled "Charting the Climate Action Path from COP 26 to COP 27".

- 28.** According to the data from air quality and pollution city tracking service from IQAir, a Switzerland-based climate group **Delhi** becomes the most polluted city of the world.
Note: While Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) at 556 made it to the top of the list, Kolkata and Mumbai recorded an AQI of 177 and 169, respectively, at fourth and sixth position. The cities with the worst AQI indices also include Lahore, in Pakistan, and Chengdu, in China. A real-time air quality information platform - IQAir is also a technology partner of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP).
- 29.** Number of scientific expeditions to Antarctica have been launched by India recently -- **41st**.
Note: The first batch comprising 23 scientists and support staff reached the Indian Antarctic station, Maitri. Four more batches will reach Antarctica by air and chartered ice-class vessel MV Vasiliy Golovnin by mid-January 2022.
- 30.** The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) is located in **Vasco da Gama, Goa**.
Note: It is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. It manages the entire Indian Antarctic programme.
- 31. M Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated three days annual flagship Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2021.
Note: Bengaluru Tech Summit 2021 was Karnataka government's flagship three-day technology event. Naftali Bennett, the Prime Minister of Israel, and Scott Morrison, the Prime Minister of Australia attended the event virtually. For the first time South Africa, Vietnam, and UAE participated in the Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS).
- 32.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated Purvanchal Expressway at Karwal Kheri in Sultanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.
Note: This 341 km long Purvanchal Express and will connect Lucknow with Ghazipur. It has been constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 22,500 crore. Expressway starts from village Chaudsarai, located on Lucknow-Sultanpur road (NH-731) and ends at village Hydaria located on National Highway No. 31.
- 33.** International airport **Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru** has partnered with Microsoft India to launch a 'Hackathon' to develop an app using Microsoft Azure.
Note: The hackathon invited professional developers, data scientists, data engineers and hackathon enthusiasts to participate in this challenge and design innovative solutions that will improve the end-to-end passenger experience at BLR Airport.
- 34. Ministry of Food Processing Industry** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Department of Animal husbandry (DAHD) facilitate extension of benefits to dairy entrepreneurs and dairy industries through convergence of various schemes of Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
Note: This MoU will facilitate extension of benefits to dairy entrepreneurs and dairy industries through convergence of various schemes of Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. This will also help in generating income for sustainable development of the rural poor by providing credit support, strengthening quality control, and providing necessary technology.
- 35.** First-of-its-kind pod hotel has been inaugurated in **Mumbai Central** railway station.
Note: The pod hotel has several small bed-sized capsules and provides affordable overnight accommodation. one has to pay Rs 999 for 12 hours and Rs 1,999 for 24 hours for staying in this pod hotel where facilities like WiFi, TV, a small locker, adjustable mirror, and reading lights, among others, will be provided.
- 36.** This year marks the **552nd** birth anniversary of Sikh founder, Guru Nanak Dev Ji.
Note: It marks the birth anniversary of the first of the ten Sikh gurus, Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Sikhs believe that Guru Nanak Dev Ji brought enlightenment to this world. While Diwali falls on the 15th day of the Kartik month as per the Hindu Lunar calendar, Guru Nanak Jayanti falls fifteen days after that on the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima.
- 37. Indore** cities has been named as the cleanest city of India by Swachh Survekshan 2021.
Note: Indore has been ranked as the cleanest city of India for the fifth year in a row by Swachh Survekshan 2021. Indore was followed by Surat and Vijayawada with over 10 lakh population. Swachh Survekshan: It is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India.
- 38.** India's rank in the list of global bribery risk rankings in 2021 -- **82nd**.
Note: The list by TRACE measures business bribery risk in 194 countries, territories, and autonomous and semi-autonomous regions. According to this year's data, North Korea, Turkmenistan, Venezuela and Eritrea pose the highest commercial bribery risk, while Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand present the lowest.
- 39. Coal Ministry** has decided to establish a Sustainable Development Cell (SDC).

Note: SDC is also formulating future policy framework for environmental mitigation in Coal and Lignite sector of our country. It will also monitor the effective utilisation of the Mine Closure Fund and environment budgets of different coal companies.

40. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin has completed five years of its implementation.

Note: Ministry of Rural Development along with States and UTs have undertaken various activities like Bhoomi Pujan, Gruh Pravesh, visit of beneficiaries to demonstration houses, and sensitization of beneficiaries about PMAY-G to celebrate Awaas Diwas. To achieve the objective of providing Housing to All by 2022, the Centre rolled out the revamped rural housing scheme, PMAY-G was launched on 20th November 2016.

41. Students of **Standard 6th to 12th** are the target audience for the India's Virtual Lab platform launched by Union Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Note: The main aim of the Virtual Lab is to provide quality research exposure and innovative pedagogy for school students based on an online interactive medium. The new facility will immensely benefit students from Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas and Government Schools and will help in catching them young.

42. CII will organize its flagship event titled 'Connect 2021', a international conference and exhibition on information & communication technology (ICT) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Note: It will be held from 26th to 27th November. Theme: Building a Sustainable Deep T'ech'N'ology Ecosystem.

43. El Salvador plans to build the world's first "Bitcoin City", funded initially by bitcoin-backed bonds.

Note: This new city is planned to be developed in the eastern region of La Union and will be initially funded by bitcoin-backed bonds. Bitcoin City will not levy any taxes except for value added tax (VAT).

44. Shimla tops the list of cities scoring highest on urban 2021 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) index released by the NITI Aayog.

Note: Coimbatore and Chandigarh were at second and third position in the ranking of urban SDG index. Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Panaji, Pune, Tiruchirapalli, Ahmedabad and Nagpur are among the list of top 10 cities.

45. Vigyan Prasar and Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) collaborated to drive synergies between AIM's Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) and unique interactivity platform of that entity, Engage With Science (EWS).

Note: Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has collaborated with Vigyan Prasar to drive synergies

between AIM's Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) and Vigyan Prasar's unique interactivity platform, Engage With Science (EWS). Engage with Science: It will onboard all 9200+ ATL-enabled schools and engage their students, teachers and Principals in perennial activities

46. The theme-based tourist circuit trains **Bharat Gaurav Trains** has been announced by the Minister of Railways, Ashwini Vaishnaw to tap the vast tourism potential of India.

Note: Service Provider will be free to decide theme like Guru Kripa trains for covering important places of Sikh culture, Ramayana trains for places connected with Lord Shri Ram etc. Service Provider will offer all-inclusive package to tourist including rail travel, hotel accommodation, sightseeing arrangement, visit to historical/heritage sites, tour guides etc.

47. In November 2021, the 1st International Conference on Hydrogen Energy was organized by **Central Board of Irrigation and Power.**

Note: It is being organized by Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP) with the support of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Central Electricity Authority and NTPC. Aim: to bring all the key stakeholders on the same platform to discuss all facets of Hydrogen Energy in India.

48. PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of Noida International Airport in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh, with this Uttar Pradesh is poised to become the only state in India to have five international airports.

Note: Development of this airport is in line with the vision of the Prime Minister towards boosting connectivity and creating a future-ready aviation sector. Uttar Pradesh is poised to become the only state in India to have five international airports.

49. IIT Delhi hosted the 5th World Congress on Disaster Management on the overarching theme of "Technology, Finance and Capacity for Building Resilience to Disasters in the Contexts of Covid-19".

Note: The World Congress on Disaster Management is an initiative of Disaster Management Initiatives and Convergence Society (DMICS) to bring researchers, policy makers and practitioners from around the world on the same platform to discuss various challenging issues of disaster risk management. WCDM aims to promote interaction of science, policy and practices to enhance understanding of risks and advance actions for reducing risks and building resilience to disasters.

50. M Venkaiah Naidu led the Indian delegation in the 13th edition of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit held virtually.

Note: The ASEM or Asia-Europe Meeting is a platform for the countries in Asia and Europe to exchange views on regional and global issues and strengthen cooperation in a wide range of areas. The grouping comprises 51 member countries and two regional organisations — the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

51. Amazon brand has emerged as the most purposeful brands in the technology category in the 2021 edition of Kantar's annual BrandZ India report.

Note: The rankings—split into three categories—rated technology, fast moving consumer goods as well as non-tech FMCG brands. While Asian Paints topped the non-FMCG rankings, Samsung and Jio ranked jointly in the second position, followed by MRF, Tata Housing and Airtel. The FMCG category rankings saw Tata Tea top the chart, followed by Surf Excel and Taj Mahal.

52. Ashwini Vaishnav inaugurated the 1st India Internet Governance Forum 2021.

Note: Organized by: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI). It is centered around the theme 'Empowering India through Power of Internet'

53. According to the 2021 Global Nutrition Report (GNR, 2021) released by the World Health Organization **53 percent** of women in the age group 15-49 years are anaemic.

Note: The country featured among the 161 countries documented in the report as having made no progress or said to be worsening with regards to reducing anaemia. Over half of Indian women in the age group 15-49 years are anaemic, according to the report.

54. As per the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) released by the NITI Aayog **Bihar** state has emerged as the poorest state in India.

Note: Kerala, Goa, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Punjab have registered the lowest poverty across India. The MPI measure uses the methodology developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative and the UNDP.

55. Darpan@petrolpump launched by Indian Oil, BPCL and HPC to enhance service standards and amenities, across their networks.

Note: Three oil PSU's have joined hands to launch Model Retail Outlets to enhance service standards and amenities, across their networks. The initiative was inaugurated by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri.

56. The 7th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2021 will be held in **Panaji, Goa**.

Note: It is a 4-day festival, that will be held from 10th to 13th December 2021. Organized by: Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Science and Technology, Dept of Atomic Energy, Department of Space and Government of Goa.

October-2021

1. National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY) is located in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Note: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has approved a credit plan for yak husbandry in Arunachal Pradesh, which will help herders secure loans for the purpose and strengthen their livelihoods. The scheme was developed by the National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY) at Dirang in West Kameng district.

2. FSSAI has signed a **memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** to support micro food entrepreneurs, farmer producer organisations (FPOs), self help groups (SHGs) and producers cooperatives to improve the standard of food businesses.

Note: As part of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan, the step will help micro enterprises improve the quality of their food products and become competitive. There will be two areas of collaboration between FSSAI and MoFPI.

3. M Venkaiah Naidu has launched "SACRED portal" for senior citizens in India to provide a platform for senior citizens seeking employment opportunities.

Note: Portal has been developed by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in order to provide a platform for senior citizens seeking employment opportunities. Full form of SACRED is "Senior Able Citizens for Re-Employment in Dignity. Citizens aged 60 and more can register on this portal and find jobs & work opportunities.

4. Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru has signed an MoU with Kerala Rail aimed at enhancing rail safety, especially in vulnerable terrains.

Note: The L2M Rail team and IISc have pioneered Fibre Bragg Grating sensing technology, to develop a Structural Health Monitoring System (SHMS) which will monitor civil engineering structures of Kerala Rail's Silverline project. The team uses FBG-sensor technology to ensure the stability and integrity of structures even in vulnerable areas, which comprise a

- large part of the terrain covered by the ambitious Silverline project.
5. World's largest national flag, made up of Khadi cloth, has been installed in **Leh, Ladakh**.
Note: Ladakh Lt Governor RK Mathur inaugurated the flag. This Indian tricolor is 225-feet long and 150-feet wide with weight of around 1,000 kg. The flag is made by Khadi Dyers and Printers based in Mumbai, affiliated to KVIC by 57 Engineer Regiment of the Indian Army.
 6. **Ministry of Defense** has launched a website for Republic Day Celebrations – 2022.
Note: New website is www.indianrdc.mod.gov.in. It will be a single-point official source for all the content related to Republic Day Celebrations. It includes features like special RDC Radio, Gallery, Interactive Filters, E-book, Blogs on Indian Freedom Movement, Wars and War Memorials.
 7. According to “**State of the Education Report (SOER)-2021** for India: No Teachers, No Class” released by UNESCO, what is gross enrolment ratio (GER) for elementary schools in India in 2019-2020 -- **102.1**.
Note: As per report, there are around 1.2 lakh single-teacher schools in India. It accounts for 7.15 percent of 11.51 lakh schools. Out of this, 89 per cent are in rural areas. 51 percent of total schools are employing 95 lakh teachers.
 8. The Ministry of road, transport & highways launched a scheme for “Good Samaritans”.
Note: **Rs 5,000** amount will be provided per accident, to those saving the life of a road accident victim by rushing the person to hospital within the ‘golden hour’ of the accident. Scheme will be effective from October 15, 2021 and will run till March 31, 2026. Under the scheme, a cash award of Rs 5,000 will be provided per accident, to those saving the life of a road accident victim by rushing the person to hospital within the ‘golden hour’ of the accident. Cash award will be provided to motivate the general public in order to help the road accident victims in emergency situation.
 9. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has released the Multilingual Dementia Research and Assessment (MUDRA) Toolbox in **five** Indian languages.
Note: MUDRA Toolbox: Comprehensive tool specifically to diagnose dementia in Indian population. It includes various cognitive tests to assess different domains of cognition. It is an initiative undertaken by ICMR Neuro-Cognitive Toolbox (ICMR -NCTB) consortium.
 10. Vice-President, M. Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated Mahabahu Brahmaputra River Heritage Centre in **Guwahati, Assam**.
Note: This new heritage site has been made by renovating and converting British-era bungalow atop the Barphukanar Tila (Barphukan's Hillock) in Panbazar, which served as the residence of Deputy Commissioner till 2011. Heritage centre will depict the life along the Brahmaputra River and has on display the heritage of boats, an Amphitheatre, an exhibition space, a cafeteria, so on and so forth.
 11. The Union Cabinet has approved for setting up for 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Parks (PM MITRA) with a total outlay of **₹4,445 crore**.
Note: This was first announced in the Budget this year. Union Minister Piyush Goyal said that ten States — Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Assam, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana — have already expressed interest.
 12. The Ministry of Textiles has approved the continuation of the Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) till **2026**.
Note: Total outlay of CHCDS will be Rs 160 crores. Aim: Upliftment and development of handicrafts artisans. Under the scheme, Infrastructural support, market access, design and technology up-gradation support will be provided to handicrafts artisans.
 13. The iconic Indian superhero - Chacha Chaudhary has been declared as the mascot of the **Namami Gange Programme**.
Note: The decision was taken during the 37th Executive Committee meeting of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, NMCG. As a step towards this NMCG has tied-up with Diamond Toons to develop and distribute comics, e-comics and animated videos
 14. The Industrial Security Agreement summit between India and the US was held in **New Delhi**.
Note: This group will meet periodically to align the policies and procedures expeditiously that will allow the defence industries to collaborate on cutting edge defence technologies. The Industrial Security Agreement summit between India and the US was held New Delhi.
 15. The goal of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 that was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently -- ‘**Garbage Free**’ cities.
Note: The two missions have been designed to realize the aspiration to make all cities Garbage Free and Water Secure. It will also help in achieving the targets set under the Sustainable Development Goals-2030. SBM-U 2.0 envisions to make all cities ‘Garbage Free’ and ensure grey and black water management in all cities.
 16. The goal of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0. that was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi -- ‘**Water Secure**’ cities.
Note: The two missions have been designed to realize the aspiration to make all cities Garbage Free and Water Secure. It will also help in achieving the targets set under the Sustainable Development Goals-2030.

17. According to a global study by the British Virgin Islands-based cybersecurity company Surfshark, India's rank in the Digital Quality of Life Index -- **59th**.
Note: While India has witnessed a drop compared to last year — falling from 57th spot to 59th — it now ranks 17th in Asia and first in the South Asia region. Its e-security has also improved and it now ranks 36th (was 57th in 2020), higher than China which ranks 72nd. According to the index, India ranks 67th on internet quality indicator. Denmark topped the index for the second year in a row, followed by South Korea and Finland, while the bottom five countries include Ethiopia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Guatemala, and Angola.
18. 'SVAMITVA' scheme is a central sector scheme that is implemented by **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**.
Note: It aims to provide property rights to residents in rural areas. The scheme will pave the way for using property as a financial asset by villagers for taking loans and other financial benefits, like in urban areas. It aims to demarcate inhabited lands in rural areas through the latest surveying drone-technology.
19. The "National Mission on Edible Oil- Oil Palm Business Summit" was held in **Guwahati**.
Note: Keeping in view the vision of the Prime minister for holistic and balanced progress of North East. The conference began under the chairmanship of the Union Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar. The National Mission on Edible Oil – Oil Palm is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme worth Rs.11000 crores which aims to add 6.5 lakh hectares for palm oil by 2025-26.
20. **Narendra Modi** has launched the **Indian Space Association (ISpA)**, a private industry body to help boost space technology in India.
Note: ISpA is a private industry body to help boost space technology in India. ISpA's founding members include OneWeb, Bharti Airtel, Mapmyindia, Walchandnagar Industries, and Ananth Technology Limited among others. ISpA will participate and work with ISRO and others on the issue of policy around space technology and domain.
21. Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala, launched the River Ranching Programme from **Uttar Pradesh**.
Note: At the same time, other 4 states namely, Uttarakhand, Orissa, Tripura and Chhattisgarh also participated nationwide River Ranching program launching. River ranching programme" is introduced as special activity under PMMSY scheme for augmenting and enhancing the fish production and productivity through expansion, intensification, diversification and productive utilization of land and water.
22. Telecom secretary and Chairman of Digital Communications Commission inaugurated its Quantum Communication Lab and unveiled the indigenously developed Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) solution at **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT)**.
Note: QKD is essential to address the threat that rapid advancement in Quantum Computing poses to the security of the data being transported by various critical sectors through the current communication networks. The government has allocated USD 1 billion for the National Mission on Quantum Technologies and Applications spanning over a period of 8 years.
23. **South Central Railway** has launched two long haul freight trains "Trishul" and "Garuda" -- which are twice or multiple times longer than the normal composition of freight trains.
Note: The SCR launched Trishul from Kondapalli station of Vijayawada division to Khurda division of East Coast Railway. SCR followed it up with running of yet another similar train 'Garuda' from Raichur of Guntakal division to Manuguru of Secunderabad division.
24. National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has declared combined areas of Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary as 4th Tiger Reserve of **Chhattisgarh**.
Note: This is the 4th Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh, after Udanti-Sitanadi, Achanakmar, and Indravati Reserves. Proposal to declare these two as Tiger Reserve was approved by NTCA's 11th Technical Committee under Section 38V (1) of The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
25. For boosting exports of citrus and its value-added products, **APEDA** institution has signed an MoU with ICAR-Central Citrus Research Institute, Nagpur.
Note: The MoU envisages promoting export by focussing on creation of product specific clusters along with development of technologies by APEDA and ICAR-CCRI with a focus on efficient and precision farming. The collaboration with two institutes of repute would focus on diversifying the export basket, destinations and boosting high value agricultural products exports through establishing Brand India globally.
26. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0) has been approved till **2025-26**.
Note: Union Cabinet has approved Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0) till 2025-26 to provide reliable and affordable water supply and sanitation services to urban households is a national priority. Total indicative outlay for AMRUT 2.0: ₹ 2,77,000 crore
27. Vision Plan 2021-31 for Indian Zoo is related to **Central Zoo Authority**.
Note: Union Environment Minister has released Vision Plan (2021-2031) for Indian zoos by Central Zoo Authority (CZA) to upgrade them to global standards, strengthening Central Zoo Authority. It is committed to making CZA and Indian zoos a greater force for

- conservation by providing unparalleled animal care, cutting edge research, and immersive visitor experiences that strike meaningful chords with people of all ages.
- 28. NITI Aayog – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Handbook on Sustainable Urban Plastic Waste Management is especially launched for Urban local bodies.**
Note: NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, Rajiv Kumar has launched 'NITI Aayog – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Handbook on Sustainable Urban Plastic Waste Management' in New Delhi for urban local bodies. It provides a comprehensive overview of managing plastic waste by representing and discussing components of the entire plastic waste value chain.
- 29. India's first indigenous pilot plant to convert high ash Indian coal to methanol has been inducted in Hyderabad.**
Note: India has developed indigenous technology to convert high ash Indian coal to methanol and established its first pilot plant in Hyderabad. This technology will help the country move towards the adoption of clean technology and promote the use of methanol as a transportation fuel (blending with petrol), thus reducing crude oil imports.
- 30. Digitization is not a pillar of the PM Gati Shakti-National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity that was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in October 2021.**
Note: PM Modi has inaugurated Rs 100 lakh crore PM Gati Shakti-National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity from Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. Under this, centralized portal will be set up to bring together infrastructure schemes of around 16 Ministries & State Governments on a common platform. It is based on six pillars:
1. Comprehensiveness
 2. Prioritization
 3. Optimization
 4. Synchronization
 5. Analytical
 6. Dynamic
- 31. India's rank in the 58th edition of EY's 'Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index' (RECAI), 2021 - third.**
Note: 2021 RECAI 2021 ranked top 40 global markets (nations) of the world on the attractiveness of their renewable energy investment and deployment opportunities. Top performer: United States, followed by China
- 32. Delhi transport department planning to equipped driving licences and vehicle registration certificates with QR codes.**
Note: New driving license will have an advanced microchip with features like Quick Response (QR) code and Near Field Communication (NFC). It will have the owner's name printed on the front while the microchip and QR code will be embedded at the back of the card. It will also enable unification in linking and validating one's information to smart cards with Sarathi and Vahan, the two web-based databases of all driving licenses and vehicle registrations.
- 33. India's rank in the Henley Passport Index 2021 - 90th.**
Note: The index ranks the passports of countries according to the number of destinations their holders can visit without a prior visa. The rankings are based on the analysis of data provided by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). India, which held the 84th rank last year, fell down to the 90th position, with its passport holders allowed to travel visa-free to 58 countries. India shares the rank with Tajikistan and Burkina Faso.
- 34. Government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras to ten thousand by March 2024.**
Note: Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry said, the number of Janaushadhi stores has increased to eight thousand 366 and all the 736 districts have been covered. Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana, PMBJP was launched in November, 2008, with an objective of making quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all.
- 35. Under chairmanship of Vijay C Daga the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted a four-member high powered advisory committee on settlement orders and compounding of offences.**
Note: The committee will be chaired by Vijay C Daga, retired judge of High Court of Bombay. The panel will work as per the Settlement Proceedings Regulations, 2018 specified by the regulator. Under the settlement mechanism, an alleged wrongdoer can settle a pending case with the regulator without admission or denial of guilt by paying a settlement fee.
- 36. Civil Aviation Minister, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia has virtually flagged off Six routes expanding the aerial connectivity of North-East India.**
Note: Flight connectivity on these routes has been a long-pending demand of the natives of the regions. It will open a seamless gateway and smooth aerial access option for nature lovers, travellers, tourists etc. With these new flights, travellers from Guwahati, Aizawl and Shillong will get multiple options for onward connectivity to the rest of the country.
- 37. India's rank in the Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021 -- 71st.**
Note: GFS Index is published by London-based Economist Impact and is sponsored by Corteva Agriscience. Top performers: Ireland, Australia, the UK, Finland, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Canada, Japan, France and US.
- 38. CII has organized an International Conference and Exhibition on Digital technologies, 'Future Tech 2021-**

- a Journey of digital transformation to technology adoption and acceleration’.
- Note:** It is being held from October 19 to 27, 2021.
- Theme of Future Tech 2021:** Driving technologies for building the future, we all can trust. Theme will have 5 pillars: **Strategy, Growth, Resilience, Inclusiveness, Trust.**
39. India’s rank in the 2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey, that ranked 43 pension systems across the world -- **40th**.
- Note:** Top Performer: Iceland with an index value of 84.2. Thailand had the lowest overall index value at 40.6. India was ranked at 34th spot out of 39 pension systems in 2020.
40. **Kushinagar International Airport** is the 9th airport in **Uttar Pradesh** to scheduled passenger flights.
- Note:** PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kushinagar International Airport. A charter from Colombo was the first flight to land in Kushinagar with over 100 Buddhist monks and dignitaries. Kushinagar International Airport will facilitate pilgrimage to Lord Buddha’s mahaparinirvana sthal of Lord Buddha, thereby boosting the economy of the region.
41. Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) insurance scheme for healthcare workers fighting covid-19 that has been extended for another six months -- **Rs 50 Lakh.**
- Note:** The current period of the policy is ending on 20 October 2021. So far, 1351 claims have been paid under the scheme.
42. **Sri Lanka** has received the first consignment of 3.1 million litres high quality non-harmful Nano Nitrogen liquid fertiliser from India.
- Note:** It will help the island nation's Eastern province in the cultivation of maize and paddy. Nano Nitrogen Liquid Fertilizer was developed by IFFCO, with the objective of addressing imbalanced and excessive use of conventional Urea. It has been developed indigenously, for the first time in the world.
43. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Prerana Sthal’ was inaugurated at Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL) in **Visakhapatnam.**
- Note:** The NSTL is the premier naval research laboratory of Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO). Dr Kalam’s Prerana Sthal will motivate the people particularly young minds from Dr Kalam’s life and his impeccable achievements.
44. India’s rank in the Global Hunger Index 2021 -- **101st**.
- Note:** 18 countries, including China, Brazil and Kuwait, shared the top rank with GHI score of less than five. India is behind its neighbours Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. GHI was prepared jointly by Irish aid agency Concern Worldwide and German organisation Welt Hunger Hilfe.
45. India’s rank in the Rule of Law Index 2021 of the World Justice Project (WJP), an independent advocacy group founded in the United States -- **79th**.
- Note:** The WJP Rule of Law Index 2021 ranks the countries based on scores ranging from 0 to 1, with 1 indicating the strongest adherence to the rule of law. Like the previous year, the top three global places for overall rule of law went to Denmark (score 0.90), Norway (0.90) and Finland (0.88) and Venezuela (score 0.27), Cambodia (0.32) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (0.35) this year too remained at the bottom of the WJP index.
46. A total **152** Centres for Financial Literacy and Service Delivery (SAKSHAM Centres) have been launched under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission in a week as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- Note:** A total of 152 Centres (across 77 districts of 13 states) for Financial Literacy and Service Delivery (SAKSHAM Centres) have been launched under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission in a week as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The objective of the centre is to provide financial literacy and facilitate the delivery of financial services to Self-Help Group members and the rural poor.
47. "Banni" breed of buffaloes found in **Gujarat** state of India that’s first IVF calf was born recently.
- Note:** The process was carried out to enhance the number of genetically superior buffaloes to increase milk production. Producing calves by deploying ART will pave the way for rapid multiplication of superior animals at a much faster pace. India has more than 109 million buffaloes that are 56 per cent of the world's buffalo population.
48. **National Inter-religious Conference** was organised in **Nagpur** by the **Lokmat media group.**
- Note:** Theme of the conference was '**Global Challenges to Communal Harmony and Role of India**'. It is a forum for bringing together the views of different religions and sects. Founder of Art of the Living, Guru Sri Sri Ravishankar, Swami Ramdev of Patanjali Yogpeeth, Acharya Lokesh Muni, Archbishop of Mumbai Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Haji Syed Salman Chishti, Bhikkhu Sanghasena and many other prominent religious leaders participated in this Conference.
49. M/s Andrew Yule & Co Ltd Central Public Sector Enterprise in Tea Sector has launched **Azadi Amrut Chai** in Orthodox, Elaichi, Adrakh and Masala flavors to commemorate the 75th year of India’s Independence and to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, it works under ambit of **Ministry of Heavy Industries.**
- Note:** Azadi Amrut Chai was launched by the Union Heavy Industries Minister, Dr. Mahendra Nath

Pandey. It will be available for retail sale soon at an introductory price of Rs 75 per 100 gms pack, at Tea Board counter of Parliament, Trifed outlets, Udyog Bhawan and other Central Government offices. M/s Andrew Yule & Co Ltd, a 158 years old company, has 15 Tea Gardens spread over Assam and West Bengal having close to 14000 employees.

50. Dharmendra Pradhan will chair the newly-formed National Steering Committee formed by government of India to implement NIPUN Bharat scheme.

Note: The newly-formed National Steering Committee to implement NIPUN Bharat will be chaired by the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Minister of State for Education Annapurna Devi will be the vice-chairperson. The objective of the committee will be to oversee the progress of the National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy and provide guidance on policy issues and achieve the desired target in 2026-27. The committee will also review programmatic and financial norms periodically to ensure they are synchronised with targets to be achieved.

51. The National Tribal Dance Festival was organized in **Raipur** that promote and celebrate the uniqueness of tribal culture.

Note: The three-day festival, organised under the tourism development plan of the Chhattisgarh government, hosted artists belonging to diverse tribal communities from countries, including Uzbekistan, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Syria, Mali, Palestine, and Kingdom of Eswatini. The artists from tribal areas of Bastar, Dantewada, Koriya, Korba, Bilaspur, Gariabandh, Mainpur, Dhura, Dhamtari, Surguja and Jashpur in Chhattisgarh presented their own distinctive history, culture and traditions.

52. The total outlay of the PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission recently launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Varanasi -- **Rs 64000 crore.**

Note: It is one of the largest pan-India schemes for strengthening health care infrastructure across the country. The PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission will be one of the largest pan-India schemes for strengthening health care infrastructure across the country. It will be in addition to the National Health Mission.

53. National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC) will be the nodal agency for India's 1st Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM) recently launched by the Union Minister of Power & New and Renewable Energy, R K Singh for the renewable energy to enable the electricity generation and distribution companies to trade in the day-ahead market.

Note: The launch will also provide competitive price signals, besides offering an opportunity to the market participants to trade in green energy, in the most

transparent, flexible, competitive, and efficient manner. India is the only large electricity market in the world to implement a GDAM exclusively for RE.

54. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) comes under ambit of **Ministry of Finance** has launched the first-of-its-kind and the largest 'Impact Bond' for skilling in India in collaboration with global partners.

Note: Along with the NSDC, the global coalition comprises of HRH Prince Charles's British Asian Trust, the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF), The Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), HSBC India, JSW Foundation and Dubai Cares, with FCDO (UK Government) & USAID as technical partners. "The Skill Impact Bond (SIB) is also the first impact bond involving public, private partners and a public private partnership organization. CIFF, HSBC India, JSW Foundation and Dubai Cares support the outcome fund.

55. Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises has launched 'SAMBHAV' a national level awareness programme for promoting entrepreneurship leading to the economic development of the country.

Note: The mass outreach program will be a one-month long initiative under the Ministry of MSME in which students from different colleges/ITIs from all parts of the country will be encouraged by 130 field offices of the Ministry to take up entrepreneurship. During the campaign, the college students will be made aware of the various schemes being implemented by the Ministry of MSME through audio/video film presentations.

56. Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched 'Garuda App'.

Note: Aim of the app is to ensure faster, smarter, transparent, and timely completion of election work and also to reduce the paperwork. The longitude and latitude of the polling stations along with photos and location information will be uploaded in the app by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) (using their registered mobile numbers).

57. The theme of the 'CII Asia Health 2021 summit' --

Transforming Healthcare for a better tomorrow.

Note: It is a 2-day summit and has been organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Aim: to provide a centralized forum to deliberate on most critical challenges that India and the world face in delivering healthcare, with focus on the digital transformations that result in improved patient outcomes and experience.

58. The first ever 'Apple Festival' was held in **Srinagar.**

Note: It will provide a better platform to apple growers and other stakeholders. With annual production of more than 2.2 million metric tonnes, apple from J&K contributes to 87% of the national

production and is linked to the livelihood of about 30% of the population of Jammu and Kashmir.

59. India's rank, in the report published by London & Partners and Dealroom.co for climate tech investment -- 9th.

Note: Global climate tech venture capital investment surged from US\$ 6.6 billion in 2016 to US\$ 32.3 billion in 2021, a rise in funding by almost five times, the

research disclosed. The top 10 countries for climate tech VC investment between 2016 and 2021 are – US (US\$ 48 billion), China (US\$ 18.6 billion), Sweden (US\$ 5.8 billion), UK (US\$ 4.3 billion), France (US\$ 3.7 billion), Germany (US\$ 2.7 billion), Canada (US\$ 1.4 billion), Netherlands (US\$ 1.3 billion), India (US\$ 1 billion) and Singapore (US\$ 700 million).

September 2021

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 Rijju 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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- 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.
- 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.

9. **TRIFED** in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs is going to set up an Atmanirbhar Bharat corner in 100 Indian Missions/ Embassies across the world.
Note: The corner will be an exclusive platform to promote GI tagged ,natural and organic tribal products abroad. Catalogues and brochures that showcase the richness and variety of tribal products have also been shared with the Missions and embassies for display at the corner. Among the missions and embassies contacted, 42 of them, from countries such as Jamaica, Ireland, Turkey, Kenya, Mongolia, Israel, Finland, France, and Canada, have reverted.
10. By **2031** India's nuclear power capacity is expected to reach 22,480 MegaWatts from the current 6,780 MegaWatts.
Note: Share of nuclear power in the total electricity generation in the country is about 3.1% in 2020-21. Govt has embarked on a large nuclear power capacity addition program to increase the share of nuclear power in electricity generation. There are presently 22 reactors with a total capacity of six thousand 780 MW in operation.
11. **Tuticorin Port** becomes the first major port in the country to introduce e-cars for its officers as part of the various efforts taken by the port to go green.
Note: It has inducted three Tata Xpres-T electric vehicles in the first phase. These cars have been supplied by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a Joint venture of Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), under Ministry of Power, on wet lease basis, for a period of 6 years. As part of 'Maritime India Vision 2030', the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is committed to leading the world in safe, sustainable and green maritime sector.
12. India's first National Heart Failure Biobank (NHFB) has been inaugurated in **Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST)** that would collect blood, biopsies, and clinical data as a guide to future therapies.
Note: The storage facilities include minus 20 to minus 80-degrees mechanical freezers and a liquid nitrogen storage system which can store bio-samples at minus 140 degrees perpetually for years. Currently, there are facilities to store nearly 25,000 bio-samples. The bio-samples include the blood, serum, tissue samples

obtained during open-heart surgery and peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and genomic DNA collected from heart failure patients. The biobank activity is supervised by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with a member from ICMR.

13. The prime minister Narendra Modi has launched the second edition of the government's free LPG connection scheme called Ujjwala scheme from **Uttar Pradesh**.
Note: Second edition of the scheme would 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 (NMEO-OP) 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 imbibing tech-enabled, simplified, and collaborative banking. The first edition of EASE 1.0 was launched in January 2018. EASE 4.0 aims to further the agenda of customer-centric digital transformation and deeply embed digital and data into PSBs' ways of working.
- 46.** **Ministry of textiles** has launched Samarth Scheme for Capacity Building in the sector to meet the skill gap in the industry.
Note: First batch in each 63 training centers benefitted 1,565 artisans and 2nd batch will also complete during August 2021 benefiting 1,421 artisans. Samarth Scheme is being implemented in association with State Govt agencies, sectoral organizations of Ministry of Textiles, Manufacturing Industry, Industry Associations and MSME Associations.
- 47.** **Ajit Doval** has virtually hosted the 11th Meeting of BRICS High Representatives Responsible for National Security, since India is the chair for 2021 BRICS summit.
Note: 15th BRICS Summit is scheduled to be held in September 2021. BRICS meeting of NSA provided a platform for the five countries to strengthen political security cooperation.
- 48.** In association with **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), New Delhi**, the Ministry of Textiles has launched an India size survey, titled INDIAsize to create an anthropometric database of measurements for Indians.
Note: This initiative was launched with the aim of introducing a new standardised size chart in ready-to-wear clothing sector in India. New sizing chart will comprise of a size identification number. It will be created by mapping, categorising and defining the body size and type.
- 49.** **NITI Aayog** and the US-based tech giant Cisco have launched the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).
Note: Titled 'WEP Nxt', this next phase of Niti Aayog's flagship platform will leverage Cisco's technology and experience working with India's start-up ecosystem to enable more women-owned businesses across the country, the statement added. The WEP is a first of its kind, unified access portal that brings together women from different parts of India to realise their entrepreneurial aspirations.
- 50.** Under chairmanship of **Sunil Sethi** govt has constituted Committee for doubling the production

and quadrupling the exports of handlooms within three years.

Note: It will be headed by Chairman of Fashion Design Council of India, Sunil Sethi. This Committee will submit the final report within 45 days from the day of constitution.

51. India's rank in the 2021 Global Cryptocurrency Adoption Index released by blockchain data platform Chainalysis - 2nd.
Note: India ranks second in terms of crypto adoption worldwide behind Vietnam, but ahead of countries such as the US, UK, and China, according to the 2021 Global Crypto Adoption Index by blockchain data platform Chainalysis. This comes even as worldwide crypto adoption grew by 880% between June 2020 and July 2021, according to the report.
52. Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal announced the setting up of a Skill Institute on Marine Studies at **Guwahati**.
Note: This Government declared 20 waterways as National Waterways in 2016. The ministry has

initiated work on NW 2 (Brahmaputra) and NW 16 (Barak) as more waterways are considered for development. Such steps add towards the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to utilize the true and untapped potential of inland waterways for trade and transportation.

53. Under chairmanship of **Ashish Shiradhonkar**, the central government has constituted a committee to develop a technological platform streamlining the appeal filing process related to direct and indirect taxation matters.
Note: Ashish Shiradhonkar is heading the e-courts project in National Informatics Centre, to develop a technological platform streamlining the appeal filing process related to direct and indirect taxation matters. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and M R Shah was informed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the committee will complete its work in three months and will have members from revenue department, CBDT and CBIT.

Important News – State

1-15 December 2021

1. First-ever Aharbal festival was celebrated in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
Note: The festival was a collaborative effort of the Kulgam district administration and the Department of Tourism, Jammu and Kashmir. The waterfall is a popular tourist site in South Kashmir that attracts locals and people outside the union territory alike.
2. **Arunachal Pradesh** government has roped in Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt as the brand ambassador for 50 Years of its celebration.
Note: Known erstwhile as North Eastern Frontier Agency (NEFA), Arunachal Pradesh came into existence as a Union Territory on 20th January 1972. The month-long state-wide celebrations is scheduled to start on from 20th January 2022 at Ziro in Lower Subansiri district. It will cover all the five river basins of the state after which the first districts were named viz, Kameng, Subansiri, Siang, Lohit and Tirap.
3. **Bihar** is the state partner of the 40th edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2021.
Note: It was organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation with 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' as the theme and to further promote the idea of 'Vocal for Local'. An estimated 3,000 exhibitors from India and abroad have participated in the fair. The fair was not held in 2020 due to the COVID-19. Piyush Goyal listed five pillars of India as Economy, Exports, Infrastructure, Demand, and Diversity.
4. **Kerala** government has signed an MoU with German Federal Employment Agency, the German government agency in charge of recruitments, for the hiring of nurses.
Note: The German recruitment scheme, christened 'Triple Win', is the first of its kind in India held under the aegis of a government. More than 10,000 job opportunities are expected to come up for nurses in Germany in the post-Covid scenario.
5. According to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), **Gujarat** becomes the country's leading manufacturing hub.
Note: Gujarat has left behind Maharashtra to become the country's leading manufacturing hub, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Gujarat saw its Gross Value Addition (GVA) in manufacturing grow by 15.9 percent annually between FY12 to FY20 to stand at Rs 5.11 lakh crore, data shows. GVA is an economic metric that measures the supply of goods and services in an economy. Meanwhile, Maharashtra's annual growth rate stood at nearly half of Gujarat's at 7.5 percent for the same time period and its GVA for manufacturing stood at Rs 4.34 lakh crore in FY20.
6. The Kazhuvveli wetland has been declared 16th Bird Sanctuary of **Tamil Nadu**.
Note: The declaration was made under subsection (1) of section 18 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The Kazhuvveli wetlands is referred to as the 2nd

- largest Brackish Water Lake in South India, only after Pulicat lake.
7. **Himachal Pradesh** state government has announced formation of a Commission to be named as 'Samanya Varg Aayog' to address the grievances of the 'general category'.
Note: The Commission, to be named as 'Samanya Varg Aayog', will be formalised through a legislative enactment in three months' time when the state assembly meets next in February-March 2021 for the budget session of the House. A Scheduled Caste Commission is already in operation in Himachal Pradesh and is chaired by former Shimla MP Virendra Kashyap.
8. **Karnataka** government has signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) with the UNDP, as part of the state-level initiative 'Code-Unnati' with the aim of improving access to entrepreneurship and employment opportunities among the youth, including women.
Note: The initiative involving United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and supported by SAP India lab's CSR strategies will be implemented in 4 districts of Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Dakshina Kannada. The LoU intends to provide a platform for cooperation between UNDP and the Department of Youth Empowerment & Sports to ensure joint implementation of the activities in close coordination with state/district/college level NSS units.
9. According to a report tabled in the Parliament which state topped the list of States with maximum number of beneficiaries under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) -- **Maharashtra**.
Note: As on December 4, 2021, as many as 6,49,560 beneficiaries were recorded in Maharashtra, followed by Tamil Nadu (5,35,615), Gujarat (4,44,741) and Karnataka (3,07,164), Minister of State for Labour & Employment Rameswar Teli said in written reply to Lok Sabha. In Maharashtra, the beneficiaries have been provided a total of ₹409.72 crore under the scheme to new employees of 17,524 establishments.
10. Health and Family Welfare Department of **Tamil Nadu** has signed a Record of Discussions (RoD) with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases in Tamil Nadu project.
Note: The project is expected to start from the fourth quarter of FY21 to focus on strengthening the managerial and technical capabilities of health personnel with respect to NCD prevention and control. The death rate related to NCDs accounts for 63 per cent of all deaths and the probability of death from NCDs between the ages of 30 to 70 is 23 per cent, according to UNICEF.
11. Haiderpur wetland in **Uttar Pradesh** has been designated as the country's 47th Ramsar site and 2,463rd Ramsar site internationally.
Note: Haiderpur Wetland covers an area of 6,908 hectares and is situated on the Muzaffarnagar-Bijnor border in Uttar Pradesh. It was formed in 1984 by the construction of Madhya Ganga Barrage at the confluence of Solani and Ganga rivers and is a part of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary. A source of freshwater and groundwater recharge, Haiderpur Wetland supports a variety of plant species, and is home to numerous animals, including swamp deer, otters, gharial and fishing cat.
12. According to the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways **Uttar Pradesh** state has the highest number of registered electric vehicles.
Note: In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said that 870,141 electric vehicles have been registered in India. Uttar Pradesh (255,700) has the highest registered electric vehicles, followed by Delhi (125,347) and Karnataka (72,544) come in that order. The fourth and fifth spots are grabbed by Bihar (58,014) and Maharashtra (52,506).
13. **Uttarakhand** government has launched the 'Milk Price Incentive Scheme' to provide incentives benefiting around 53,000 people of the state.
Note: It is a Direct Bank Transfer (DBT) scheme, the amount under the scheme would go directly into the accounts of the beneficiaries through their linked bank accounts. The state government is targeting to spend INR 444.62 crore to open 500 milk sales centres in Uttarakhand. The dairy sector accounts for 4.2% of the National Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
14. As per the 9th edition of India Skills Report (ISR) 2022, released by Wheebox Maharashtra has retained the top position in the list of states with the highest poll of employable talent.
Note: The theme of ISR 2022 - 'Rebuilding and Reengineering the Future of Work'. States with Maximum Hiring Activity: Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu are the 3 states that have a higher job demand. Pune is the city with the most highly employable resources with 78% of the test takers scoring above 60 percent.

November 2021

- 1. Karnataka** state has topped the State Energy Efficiency Index 2020 (SEEI), scoring 70 points out of 100 and is included in 'Front runner' category.
Note: The Ministry of Power's (MoP) Energy Efficiency Index ranks states on their performance across 68 indicators covering buildings, industry, municipalities, transport, agriculture, distribution companies (DISCOMs), and cross-sector initiatives. The index assesses the states' performance on policy and regulation, financing mechanism, institutional capacity, adoption of energy efficiency measures, and energy savings.
- Union Minister, Rajeew Chandrasekhar has inaugurated first virtual Internet Exchange of NIXI in **Dehradun**.
Note: It will help in enhancing and improving the quality of Internet and Broadband services in Uttarakhand. Next Internet Exchange in Uttarakhand will be at Nainital District.
- Kerala** state has topped Public Affairs Index 2021.
Note: Public Affairs Index (PAI) 2021 analyses governance by looking into growth, equity and sustainability indicators. PAI is released by Public Affairs Centre (PAC).
- 1,000-megawatt (MW) Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project was inaugurated in union territories **Jammu & Kashmir**.
Note: Pakal Dul HE Project (1,000 MW) is being constructed by Chenab Valley Power Projects Pvt Limited (CVPPPPL), a joint venture company of National Hydro Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) and Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC). CVPPPPL has been entrusted with 3,094 MW hydro power projects for construction in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Haryana** government has launched the 'Uttam Beej portal' which will benefit the farmers of state by providing quality seeds with transparency.
Note: While launching the portal, the CM congratulated lakhs of farmers of the State also fulfilling their decade-old demand. The State is producing 30-35 lakh quintals certified seed of Wheat and other crops.
- Madhya Pradesh** has launched Mukhyamantri Awasiya Bhu-dhikar Yojana, the state government will provide plots of land to families who do not have land to build their homes.
Note: The construction of houses comes under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. To ensure that every family has the right to a dignified life with basic necessities. Family should consist of a married couple and their unmarried children, and families living in a particular village are eligible.
- 'Bestu Varas' is the New year day celebrated in **Gujarat**.
Note: The day falls on the Pratipada Tithi of the Kartik month of the Hindu calendar. The Shukla Paksha (brighter phase of the Lunar cycle) marks the beginning of the Gujarati New Year.
- The National Dairy Development Board** signed an MoU with the UP government to manage the Varanasi Milk Union for a period of 5 years.
Note: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to this effect was signed between government of Uttar Pradesh, Pradeshik Cooperative Dairy Federation Ltd (PCDF), Varanasi Milk Union and NDDDB during a virtual ceremony. This will promote dairy sector in the northern State, while providing the dairy farmers required economic resilience.
- Karnataka** government has launched Janasevaka and Janaspandana scheme for doorstep delivery and complaint portal for citizens.
Note: Janasevaka is an initiative to help people avail government services easily. Using a mobile application or website, or by getting in touch via a call centre, people can get up to 56 government services delivered to their doorsteps, including home delivery of ration at subsidised rates, or an Aadhaar card, caste certificate, income certificate, senior citizen card, BBMP khatha transfer and health card.
- Gujarat** state topped in the third LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2021 report.
Note: Gujarat occupied the first spot among 21 states, followed by Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra in that order. The report ranks the states on the basis of their logistics ecosystem, highlights the key logistics-related challenges faced by the stakeholders and includes suggestive recommendations.
- A new Biotechnology Centre for Northeast tribals has been inaugurated in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
Note: Centre for Bio-resources and Sustainable Development will greatly help in improving the socio-economic status of tribal people in the State. The Centre aims at conservation and sustainable utilization of the local bio-resources using biotechnological tools and is ably supported by Department of Biotechnology.
- Bihar** is the partner state of the 40th edition of India International Trade Fair 2021.
Note: Theme: Aatmanirbhar Bharat. 40th edition of IITF is a magnum of India Trade Promotion Organization representing India in totality as an ideal destination for numerous business and investment opportunities.

- 13. Odisha** government has launched a first of its kind road safety initiative named as 'Rakshak', to train first responders of road accidents.
Note: Under Rakshak, 300 master trainers will train 30,000 local people, staying or working at the eateries and different business establishments located near accident-prone spots. These 30,000 volunteers will be trained as First Responders to road accidents. They will be equipped to administer first aid and pre-hospital trauma care to accident victims within the golden hour.
- 14. Assam's** Inland Water Transport (IWT) dept, the World Bank has signed an MoU of Rs 770 crore loan to improve river transportation in the state.
Note: Central Govt will refund 80% of the sanctioned amount and the state government would bear the remaining 20%. CM of Assam also flagged off four steel catamaran vessels at Pandu Port recently under World Bank-funded project to integrate high-quality passenger and vehicle ferry services into the state's wider transport network system.
- 15. India's** first 'Grass Conservatory' was inaugurated in **Uttarakhand**.
Note: Funded under the Central Government's CAMPA scheme, the conservatory was developed in three years by the research wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department. Around 90 different grass species have been conserved/demonstrated in this conservation area displaying important scientific, ecological, medicinal and cultural information/aspects related to grass species - ALL FLESH IS GRASS.
- 16. Arunachal Pradesh** state has approved "Kaiser-i-Hind" as state butterfly.
Note: Kaiser-i-Hind' is a large and brightly coloured butterfly. It is an elusive swallowtail butterfly, which carries 'India' in its name. It is found in China and now it has been approved as the State butterfly of Arunachal Pradesh.
- 17. Chhattisgarh** has bagged first rank in Swachh Survekshan 2021.
Note: Chhattisgarh has been ranked first states with over 100 urban local bodies for the third consecutive year in Swachh Survekshan 2021, followed by Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, having more than 100 urban local bodies, have been adjudged the second and third cleanest state in the country. In the category of states with less than 100 urban local bodies, Jharkhand has been ranked first, followed by Haryana and Goa.
- 18.** Foundation stone of Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum has been launched in **Manipur**.
Note: Foundation stone of Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum at Luangkao village in Tamenglong district of Manipur has been launched. It will have an estimated cost of Rs 15 crore.
- 19. Gujarat** government has launched 'Nirmay Yojna' to screen and protect people above 30 years from non-communicable diseases.
Note: The scheme includes the screening of those above 30 years of age against such diseases at primary health centres and community health centres every Friday — also known as Mamta Divas. They will be given a Niramay Card with their health details. The screening and facilities of treatment would save a family's expenses by Rs 12,000 to 15,000.
- 20. Punjab** government has unveiled a career portal aimed at providing professional guidance to students of schools and colleges of the State.
Note: The state education department has launched the portal in association with UNICEF India and Aasman Foundation. During the launch of the portal, <https://punjabcareerportal.com/>, the minister said that one major reason behind the unemployment problem of Punjab is the inability to choose the right career option. If students are able to get adequate career guidance at the opportune time, they can work wonders in accordance with their capability.
- 21. Madhya Pradesh** state's cabinet has given its approval to start Mukhyamantri Udyam Kranti Yojana to connect educated youths of the State with self-employment.
Note: The benefit of the scheme will be available to the minimum 12th class pass youths of the State between the ages of 18 to 40 years. Under the scheme, projects ranging from one lakh to 50 lakh rupees for manufacturing units and one lakh to 25 lakh rupees for service units or retail businesses will be approved.
- 22. Telangana** was adjudged best performer in inland fisheries in the country by the central government.
Note: Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala announced the awards at a programme to celebrate World Fisheries Day 2021 in Bhubaneswar. Balasore in Odisha was named the best marine district, and Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh received the award for the best district in inland fisheries.
- 23. Andhra Pradesh** was named the best marine state in the country by the Centre.
Note: Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala announced the awards at a programme to celebrate World Fisheries Day 2021 in Bhubaneswar. Balasore

in Odisha was named the best marine district, and Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh received the award for the best district in inland fisheries.

24. Union Home Minister Amit Shah virtually laid the foundation stone for the Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum to be constructed in **Manipur**.
Note: The museum is being funded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and built at an estimated cost of Rs 15 crore. The Home Minister affirmed that the government of India is dedicated to giving India's Tribal freedom fighters their due respect and rights.
25. **Madhya Pradesh** government has decided to set up a tax plan for "cow welfare" in the State.
Note: It has planned to impose surcharge on services provided by local bodies in order to generate Rs 100 crore for meeting the expenses of running cow shelters in Madhya Pradesh. It also asked that, cow products should be promoted and cow phenyl should be used across Government offices.
26. **Andhra Pradesh** state assembly has passed a bill that will facilitate introduction of green tax on all vehicles, barring motorcycles and autorickshaws.
Note: The State Assembly has passed the AP Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill 2021 facilitating the introduction of green tax. The amendment was due to Centre's recommendation of green tax to save the environment from carbon emissions by way of making vehicle owners pay for pollution.
27. **Madhya Pradesh** government has approved the proposal to create cyber tehsils in the state.
Note: After this, MP will become the first state in the country to have a cyber tehsil. Cyber Tehsil will make the mutation process easy and people from anywhere in the state can avail of its benefit.
28. GHCL Limited has signed an MoU with which state for investing ₹500 crore in **Tamil Nadu**.
Note: As per the MoU, GHCL will set up 40,000 ring spindles in Manaparai, Tiruchirappalli district, to produce synthetic and synthetic blended yarn. GHCL

also plans to develop an EHT (extra high tension) power transmission facility in Manaparai to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

29. **Kerala's** tourism department will launch the Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experiential, Ethnic, Tourism 'STREET' project to take tourism deep into the state's interiors and rural hinterland.
Note: Project would help visitors experience the diversity of offerings in these locales. The project, conceived by the Responsible Tourism Mission, is inspired by the 'Tourism for Inclusive Growth' slogan of The United Nations World Tourism Organization.
30. **Nagaland** police has launched 'Call your Cop' mobile App' that will enable all citizens in the state, including those in distress, to get in touch with the police directly, as police will be available easily, with just one click away.
Note: The App will enable all citizens of the state especially those in distress to get in touch directly with the police as easily available with just one click away. This initiative is also in keeping with the total modernization of the police department not only in Nagaland but all over the country.
31. India's only certified organic kiwi from **Arunachal Pradesh** was launched at a mega National Tribal Festival called Aadi Mahotsav in Dilli Hat, New Delhi.
Note: The launching ceremony was held in collaboration with support from Government of Arunachal Pradesh and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED). This initiative was undertaken as part of the vision with the aim of transforming India into a self-reliant nation under "Atma Nirbharta campaign".
32. Indian Railways is constructing the tallest pier railway bridge of the world in **Manipur**.
Note: It is being built at a height of 141 metres. Currently, tallest pier bridge record is of Mala-Rijeka viaduct built at Montenegro in Europe with 139 metre height.

October 2021

1. Festival of Dance and Music "Nata Sankirtana" celebrated in **Manipur**.
Note: Nata Sankirtana, which has been recognised as one of the intangible cultural heritages by the UNESCO, is among the dying art forms of the state. This art form, which is a combination of dance, music and Pung (drum), gets its place in the list of UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage.
2. Biennial Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi Award for National Integration and National Contribution being conferred by **Assam**.
Note: The awards were conferred to the Assam Branch of Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, Assamese litterateur Dr. Nirod Kumar Baruah and Shillong Chamber Choir at Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra. The award carries five lakh rupees, a

- citation and an Angabastam. This award is one of the biggest civilian awards in Assam.
3. **Rajasthan** government has launched 'Mukhyamantri Paryatan Udyog Sambal Yojana-2021' to provide relief to the entrepreneurs of the tourism and hospitality sector affected by COVID-19 pandemic.
Note: Along with that the Chief Minister also launched a mobile app 'Rajasthan Tourism Official' designed to help tourists visiting Rajasthan in making their tour programmes. Beside this, the CM released a collection of various policies, schemes and guidelines issued by the tourism department for tourism development in the state.
 4. **Andhra Pradesh** government has launched a face recognition software to aid police personnel during their investigations.
Note: The software would help compare photos of suspects with a data resource of over 5.30 lakh photos uploaded in the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS). The software is expected to track down accused persons, suspects, missing persons and unidentified corpses with data from the CCTNS.
 5. Kuttiaattoor Mango and Edayur Chilli belongs to **Kerala** state that have received Geographical Indication tag (GI Tag) recently.
Note: Edayur chilli is a local cultivar of Edayur, Athavanad, Marakkara, Irimbiliyam, Kalpakanchery and Valanchery panchayats in Valanchery block and Moorkanad and Kuruva panchayats in Angadippuram block of Malappuram district. Kuttiaattoor mango is a popular and tasty traditional mango cultivar of Kuttiaattoor and the nearby gram panchayats of Kannur district.
 6. Famous **Alibaug white onion** belongs to Maharashtra state that has been accorded Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently.
Note: Now, Alibaug will get worldwide recognition for its unique sweet taste, no-tears factor, as well as medicinal properties white onions. Soil of Alibaug taluka has low sulphur content and so the onion has low pungency, low pyruvic acid, high protein, fat and fibre content, besides high antioxidant
 7. According to a global study by the British Virgin Islands-based cybersecurity company Surfshark, **Denmark** country topped in the Digital Quality of Life Index.
Note: Denmark topped the index for the second year in a row, followed by South Korea and Finland, while the bottom five countries include Ethiopia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Guatemala, and Angola. The countries where the internet is least affordable are Nigeria, Côte D'Ivoire and Mali, where people are required to do approximately a week's worth of work to afford the internet.
 8. **Sikkim** state has decided to ban packaged mineral water from January 1, 2022.
Note: Travellers must take note, and not enter the state with any packaged mineral water bottles. The Sikkim government has been working towards helping the environment heal, and save its natural resources.
 9. **Assam** state has launched 'Mission Basundhara' at a programme organised by the Revenue and Disaster Management department.
Note: The mission is a decisive step towards streamlining land revenue services and facilitating easy access to the public for their land-related work. A total of Rs 225 crore will be spent on the implementation of the programme and the mission will enable the rebuilding of all lost land records of the state.
 10. **Delhi** has approved its ambitious Health Information Management System (HIMS) project under which each citizen will have a health card, which will be a repository of their medical information.
Note: The government said doctors will be able to see a patient's medical history using the card and the patients will be able to make appointments from home. The health card will act as a unique health identifier for each individual through which everything from their medical history to appointment dates can be accessed. All citizens between 1 and 18 years would be issued a health card linked to their parent's health card.
 11. Wada Kolam Rice (Zini Rice) belongs to **Maharashtra** state that has been accorded 'Geographical Indication' (GI) tag recently.
Note: Wada Kolam rice is also known as Zini or Jhini rice. Grain is off white in colour, with small granules and a peculiar aroma after cooking. It can completely absorb daal and is in demand for these qualities. Its price is between Rs 60-70 per kg in domestic markets. They are short, soft and easily digestible.
 12. Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia has virtually inaugurated Greenfield Sindhudurg airport under RCS-UDAN (Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) scheme in **Maharashtra**.
Note: First flight from Sindhudurg airport takes off to Mumbai. With Sindhudurg Airport (Chipi Airport), 381 routes and 61 airports including 5 heliports and 2 Water Aerodromes have become operationalized under the UDAN scheme.
 13. Karuppur kalamkari paintings and Kallakurichi Wood carvings belongs to **Tamil Nadu**, awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
Note: Karuppur Kalamkari painting is done on pure cotton cloth. The 'Kallakurichi Wood Carving' is a unique form of wood carving where the craftsmen are specialized in carving temple related products and furniture. Kanyakumari Cloves is known for its rich aromatic oil content, with volatile oil content of 21% (normal 18%) resulting in 86% of eugenol.

- 14. Delhi** government has launched mentorship programme 'Desh Ke Mentor' for children studying in Classes IX to XII of government schools.
Note: Delhi govt has launched mentorship programme 'Desh Ke Mentor' for children studying in Classes IX to XII of government schools. Under this, students will be mentored by professionals and academicians from across the country for 10-15 minutes daily on issues ranging from career choices to teenage-related concerns.
- 15. Delhi** state police has launched a patrolling operation called 'Operation Satark'.
Note: Delhi Police officials conducted foot patrolling in the Sarojini Market on October 12 under the operation. The patrolling is part of 'Operation Satark' which aims at facilitating a comprehensive check on routine nuisance mongers and instill confidence among the public.
- 16. Maharashtra** Government launched a special seven-day COVID-19 inoculation drive called Mission Kavach-Kundal with a target to vaccinate 15 lakh people every day.
Note: Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope said, 65 per cent of the State's eligible vaccine population received the first dose while 30 per cent have taken both doses. The state has sufficient stock to vaccinate 15 lakh persons every day in this drive.
- 17.** The World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved a USD 40 million project that is aimed at improving the quality of health services in **Meghalaya**.
Note: The MoU is to strengthen the state's capacity to handle future health emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic. The loan to be sanctioned by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a maturity of 14.5 years, including a grace period of 5 years.
- 18.** Bangalore-based solar module manufacturer Emmvee has signed an MoU with **Karnataka** to set up an Rs 825 crore solar modules and cells manufacturing plant.
Note: Coming up at Dobaspet, Karnataka, the plant is an addition to the manufacturer's existing solar modules manufacturing plant of 0.5 GW capacity in Bengaluru district of the state. The plant is expected to provide jobs to 736 local youths.
- 19. Karnataka** State Higher Education Council has entered into an MoU with the National Association of Software and Service Companies, NASSCOM to provide industry-suited skill training to the youth.
Note: The MoU will benefit over five lakh students studying in the institutions of higher learning in Karnataka every year. The skill training courses are designed as per the national occupational standards of the National Skills Qualification Framework. Both faculty and students can have free access to the course materials in the online mode.
- 20. Delhi** state police has launched a patrolling operation called 'Operation Satark'.
Note: Delhi Police officials conducted foot patrolling in the Sarojini Market on October 12 under the operation. The patrolling is part of 'Operation Satark' which aims at facilitating a comprehensive check on routine nuisance mongers and instill confidence among the public.
- 21. Punjab** state government has launched 'Mera Ghar Mere Naam' scheme to confer proprietary rights on the people living in the houses within the 'Lal Lakir' of villages and the cities.
Note: The scheme would give much needed succour to people, especially the needy and underprivileged. Earlier this scheme was launched only for the residents of villages, but now it is being extended to the eligible residents of the cities within the 'Lal Lakir'.
- 22.** 'Mount Harriet' that has been renamed as 'Mount Manipur' is located in **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
Note: This was done in honour of Manipur's Maharaja Kulchandra Dhvaj Singh and 22 other freedom fighters were imprisoned here. 'Mount Harriet National Park' renamed as 'Mount Manipur National Park'.
- 23. Manipur** state govt has launched the "Chief Minister's Health for All" scheme.
Note: Door-to-door health screening will be conducted across the State and Jan Aushadhi medicines will be provided to patients free of cost for primary health care under the scheme.
- 24. Uttar Pradesh** has financed the highest number of units in the country under the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).
Note: The Uttar Pradesh government has financed the highest number of units in the country under the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). The UP government has facilitated a total of over Rs 123 crore as margin money through various banks to about 3,588 units under PMEGP with a total cost of the projects worth over Rs 450 crore in the current financial year.
- 25. Maharashtra** government will soon launch 'Mukta' scheme to release women prisoners who have been in jail for years.
Note: The 'Mukta' scheme would bring relief to the women prisoners who have been languishing in jails for minor crimes, and would also reduce the burden on prisons. The 'Mukta' scheme will be implemented in various jails of the state to find out women who have been unnecessarily harassed and those who can be released by fulfilling the legal requirements.
- 26. Madhya Pradesh** government has announced the implementation of the scheme "Mukhyamantri Ration Apke Dwar Yojana".
Note: Under this scheme, the ration will be provided at the doorstep of the villagers where there are no Fair Price Shops (FPS). The objective of Mukhyamantri

- Ration Aapke Dwar Yojana is to provide ration material to Divyanga and senior citizens near their homes so that they do not need to go to the ration shop of other villages to get their monthly food.
27. VEM Technologies signed an MoU with **Telangana** government for setting up an integrated defence system facility.
Note: The set up is about 511 acres and investing 1000 crores in five years with 2000 employees. The integrated defence system is going to be built with full fledged facility for missiles, naval systems, unmanned aircraft system, radars, aero engines etc. The set up becomes a base for foreign Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) for domestic and global system production.
 28. India's first state government-owned Wildlife DNA analysis laboratory was opened in **Maharashtra**.
Note: Currently, there are two central government-owned Wildlife DNA laboratory, located at Dehradun and Hyderabad. This new facility will enable the authorities in Maharashtra to promptly get DNA reports of animals hit by man-wildlife conflict or menaces such as poaching, which until now, were sent to laboratories in Hyderabad or Dehradun for testing and authorities had to wait for months to get the report.
 29. **Gujarat** government has launched 'Go-Green' scheme & its Portal to provide electric two-wheelers at subsidized rates to construction and industrial workers of the state.
Note: The Scheme aimed at reducing fuel bills and also curbs vehicular pollution. The electric 2 wheeler buyers of Construction and Industrial sectors can avail one-time subsidy on RTO registration and road tax. The organised sector workers, such as an industrial labourer, would get a subsidy of 30 per cent on the vehicle's price or Rs.30,000, whichever is less, on the purchase of battery-powered two-wheelers.
 30. **Kerala** state has topped in the **Public Affairs Index** (PAI 2021), a governance performance index released by Public Affairs Centre (PAC), a Bengaluru-based nonprofit think tank.
Note: In the overall rankings, Kerala continues to be at the top and Tamil Nadu has retained its second place. Telangana has replaced Andhra Pradesh at the third spot compared to last year's ranking. Gujarat ranks fifth, Karnataka seventh and Maharashtra 12th in the ranking.
 31. **Maharashtra** became the first state to release its own **Wildlife Action plan** (2021-30).
Note: The plan will be a guiding document for an action plan for wildlife conservation for the next decade. The plan has suggested integrating climate change adaptation in wildlife conservation and the plan focuses on 12 areas.
 32. The **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** has signed a **memorandum of understanding** (MoU) with which state government to spread awareness about the benefits of listing SMEs in **Chhattisgarh**.
Note: This is expected to help in the healthy growth of SMEs. BSE will provide intellectual and manpower support to create awareness about the benefits of listing among SMEs. Besides, BSE will also provide training and capacity building support to District Industries Centre officials of the Government of Chhattisgarh.

September 2021

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

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

- has been developed under Govt's Compensatory Afforestation Management Funds Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) scheme.
17. Recently SIDBI collaborated with **Assam** government for development of MSMEs.
Note: SIDBI has been dovetailing its promotion and development initiatives on soft side with hard infrastructure through its latest offerings such as cluster development fund. SIDBI looks forward to deepening its footprint in the state of Assam by contributing to livelihood and micro enterprise value chain as also innovation and startup ecosystem
18. **Tamil Nadu** government is celebrating the 143rd birthday of E.V. Ramasamy as Social Justice Day on September 17,2021.
Note: Tamil Nadu government celebrated the birthday of reformist leader E V Ramasamy Periyar as 'Social Justice Day' in the state. Periyar laid the foundation for the growth of Tamil society in the last century and his teachings will continue to pave the way for the future.
19. **Tamil Nadu** State Assembly passed a bill making the encroachment of properties belonging to religious institutions a cognisable and non-bailable offence.
Note: The Bill that seeks to amend the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 was tabled in the Assembly and was passed unanimously. The law empowers anyone who is having interest in the affairs of the religious institution matters to lodge a complaint against encroachers and temple land encroachment.
20. Union territories **Jammu and Kashmir** has launched new mission titled as 'One Gram Panchayat-One DIGI-Pay Sakhi'.
Note: Aim: to promote door-to-door digital banking and financial services in remote areas of the Union Territory. Initially, it will be provided in 2,000 remote villages of the UT. First phase will cover 80 women from Self Help Group (SHG) from across Jammu and Kashmir division to promote financial inclusion within UT's SHG ecosystem, and create financial access points with greater transparency even in the remotest of the areas.
21. Sirarakhong chilly and Tamenglong Orange are two agricultural product of **Manipur** state have been awarded Geographical Index (GI) tag recently.
Note: GI tag is a name given to certain products that have a specific geographical location or origin and gets global recognition. Hathei chilly: It is a good anti-oxidant and possesses high calcium and Vitamin C levels. Tamenglong mandarin orange: It is bigger in size, weighing 232.76 grams on average. It is a unique sweet and sour flavour.
22. Uttar Pradesh govt. has cleared proposal to develop '**Electronic Park**' in **Noida** to promote electronics industry.
Note: Park is proposed to be developed in an area of 250 acres near Jewar Airport. It will be built at an investment of around Rs 50,000 crore as well as generate employment for thousands of local youths. National and international companies manufacturing mobile phones, TVs and other electronic devices and accessories will establish their units in the park.
23. **Delhi** government has launched a mobile music classroom and recording studio which aims to assist children of government schools in pursuing their passion for music.
Note: The Delhi government claimed that it is India's first 'Mobile Music Bus' and aims to train children through a media-based curriculum, including audio production and film production, to help them build sustainable careers in these fields. The project is likely to benefit 5,000 children. Under this project, a bus has been transformed into a moving music class, a high-quality music recording studio and a performing stage.
24. **Odisha** government roped in UNICEF and Centre for Policy Research (CPR) for urban-rural convergence on Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) and Plastic Waste Management (PWM).
Note: A Letter of Understanding (LoU) was signed between the departments of Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) and the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water (PR&DW) and Unicef and CPR. The initiative aimed at strengthening the efforts of both departments to ensure district-wide FSSM and PWM through urban-rural convergence will be piloted in seven districts in the first phase. The Gram Panchayats will now be tagged to urban facilities like faecal sludge treatment plants (FSTPs) and material recovery facilities for effective faecal sludge and plastic waste management.
25. Sweet Cucumber from **Nagaland** has officially been certified by India's Registrar of Geographical Indications (GI) as an agricultural good unique to the state.
Note: It is the third agricultural products and fourth overall to be granted GI tag from Nagaland. GI tag has been granted under Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. Naga cucumber are mostly cultivated in Mon, Mokokchung, Peren and Wokha districts of the state.
26. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has recently set up a 'Tussar Silk Yarn Production Centre' in **Odisha**.
Note: This silk yarn production centre will ensure local availability of Tussar Silk yarn, create local employment and reduce the silk production cost. Tussar silk is one of the finest varieties of Silk that is distinguished by its coarseness and porous weave that give it a rugged and rustic appearance.
27. Judima rice wine from **Assam** has been awarded geographical indication (GI) tag.

Note: Judima: Local fermented drink made with rice, brewed by Dimasa community in Assam. It derives its name from words ju which means wine and Dima means 'belonging to the Dimasa'. It is the first traditional brew of northeast to bag GI tag.

28. Sojat Mehndi (Henna) from **Rajasthan** has been awarded geographical indication (GI) tag.

Note: Sojat tehsil of Pali district, Rajasthan has suitable geological structure, topography and drainage system, climate, and soil for naturally cultivating the mehndi leave crop.

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 Buddha 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 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 players 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 in **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 and is close to the Indo-China border.
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Important News – World

Dec (1-15) 2021

- According to the 2021 Worldwide Cost of Living Index released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) **Tel Aviv** has been ranked as world's most expensive.
Note: The index explored the cost of living in 173 cities, 40 more than last year, measured against impactful global events. It stated that prices for goods and services have risen by 3.5 per cent year-on-year, the highest inflation rate seen in the last five years. This year, Tel Aviv, the capital of Israel, has leaped to the top of the list, jumping past Paris and Singapore which are at a joint second ranking, followed by Zurich and Hong Kong.
- The fifth Indian Ocean Conference - IOC 2021 was held in **Abu Dhabi**.
Note: Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attended the conference from India. The theme of the Indian Ocean Conference 2021 is "Indian Ocean: Ecology, Economy, Epidemic". S Jaishankar has stressed on the importance of respecting and

- facilitating freedom of navigation and overflight and unimpeded commerce in a globalised world.
3. In December 2021, India has conducted 21st annual summit with **Russia** to discuss the entire gamut of relations, including regional and global issues.
Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed regional and global developments, including the post-pandemic global economic recovery, and the situation in Afghanistan at the India – Russia Annual Summit.
 4. The World Petroleum Congress, the largest triennial gathering for the industry was held in **Houston**.
Note: Topics include the role of U.S. oil and gas in global energy markets, the shale revolution, digital evolution of oil industry, energy transition from oil, gas and coal to wind, solar and other clean technologies, and a future vision and perception of the industry at large, according to the organizers. The World Petroleum Congress is organized every three years by the London-based World Petroleum Council which includes 65 member countries, representing over 96 per cent of global oil and gas production and consumption.
 5. According to UK-based research institute MEPS that specializes in steel market, world's second largest producer of stainless steel – **Indonesia**.
Note: In the current year 2021, global production is set to log 56.8 mt, showing a growth of 11.6 per cent from the previous year. Despite being the world's largest producer by far, China's production is seen constrained by State regulations; but elsewhere in the world production is set to rise. As a result, in 2022, world stainless steel production is forecast to set a record of 58.2 million tonnes (mt) registering a growth of 2.5 per cent.
 6. World's First Floating City will be built in **South Korea**.
Note: 'Oceanix,' a company dedicated towards making futuristic floating cities, got backing from the United Nations Human Settlement Programme, UN-Habitat, one of the most credible organizations in the world to build a floating city in South Korea. An MoU was signed between the UN-Habitat, Republic of Korea, and Oceanix to build a full-fledged floating city near the banks of Busan that can withstand floods, tsunamis, and level 5 hurricanes.
 7. **United States of America** hosted Summit for Democracy virtually to renew democracy at home and confront autocracies abroad.
Note: Three themes: defending against authoritarianism; addressing and fighting corruption; and advancing respect for human rights.
 8. As per Reporters Without Borders (RSF) report, **China** has been declared as the world's biggest captor of journalists with at least 127 reporters currently detained.
Note: Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has published a report titled 'The Great Leap Backwards of Journalism in China' under which China is the world's biggest captor of journalists with at least 127 reporters currently detained.
 9. **Indonesia** is holding the presidency of G20 summit for 2022.
Note: G20's theme 2021: Recover Together, Recover Stronger. G20 Leaders' Summit will be held for the first time in India in 2023.
 10. Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett visited at **United Arab Emirates** marking the first-ever visit by a Jewish PM to the Arab state.
Note: UAE, part of the Arab League, had boycotted Israel but a normalization deal inked last year has established economic and diplomatic ties between the two. As a part of the visit, Bennett is poised to meet UAE Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed al-Nahyan. Israel had earlier signed the "Abraham Accords," a US-backed initiative to normalize relations between Israel and the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco.
 11. **Saudi Arabia** has banned the Tablighi Jamaat calling it one of the gates of terrorism.
Note: The country's Minister of Islamic Affairs made an announcement on social media directing the mosques to warn people against associating with them during the Friday sermon. Government has also warned people against associating with the Tablighi Jamaat which has been banned in Saudi Arabia. Saudi government also asked mosques to inform people about the danger that Tablighi Jamaat pose to society.
 12. **Dubai** has become the world's first government to turn 100 per cent paperless.
Note: It will save around 3 billion Dirham (USD 350 million) and 14-million-man hours. A comprehensive digital government services platform is managing all internal, external transactions and procedures of the Government of Dubai. The Dubai Paperless Strategy was implemented in five consecutive phases, each entity consisting of a different group of the Dubai Government's entities.
 13. International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) based in **Stockholm, Sweden**.
Note: The former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora has joined the board of advisers for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), Stockholm based organization. A 15-member board of advisers is assisted by IDEA, those members are eminent personalities or experts from a wide variety of backgrounds. Sunil Arora was the 23rd CEC of India and held the office from

December 2, 2018 to April 12, 2021. He had joined the organization as the Election Commissioner of India on

September 1, 2017.

November -2021

- 1. India** has launched an online dashboard - the 'Climate Equity Monitor' to assess equity in climate action, inequalities in emissions besides energy and resource consumption across the world.
Note: The "Climate Equity Monitor" also tracks the climate policies of several countries from the perspective of developing countries. The website has been conceptualized and developed by independent researchers from India -- the Climate Change Group at the M.S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai.
- 2. USA** has returned about 250 antiquities worth \$15 million to India in a long-running investigation of a stolen art scheme.
Note: The items, worth an estimated \$15 million, were handed over during a ceremony at the Indian Consulate in New York City. The centrepiece is a bronze Shiva Nataraja valued at \$4 million. The investigation has focused on tens of thousands of antiquities allegedly smuggled into the United States by dealer Subhash Kapoor.
- 3. G20 Leaders' Summit 2021** concluded recently. The motto of the G20 Summit 2021 -- **People, Planet, and Prosperity**.
Note: Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau has concluded his participation at G20 Leaders' Summit in Rome, Italy, with focus on the urgent priorities of protecting the environment and fighting climate change and biodiversity loss. Summit concluded with the adoption of the Rome Declaration by G20 Leaders.
- 4. South Korea** has inaugurated World's Largest Hydrogen Fuel Cell Power Plant.
Note: Largest hydrogen fuel cell power plant of the world named as 'Shinincheon Bitdream Fuel Cell Power Plant' has been inaugurated at Seo-gu, Incheon in South Korea. It has a total capacity of 78.96 kWh and can provide electricity to nearly 250,000 households per year.
- 5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has launched Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) on sidelines of climate summit in Glasgow.
Note: It is aimed at achieving sustainable development through a systematic approach to resilient, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The launch of IRIS gives a new hope, confidence and satisfaction of doing something for the most vulnerable countries.
- 6. Telangana** got a rare recognition as it was invited to participate in International Seed Conference that would be held virtually by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations (UN).
Note: The programme, International Seed Conference, is being organised to discuss development of seed industry. Representatives, Ministers, scientists and seed experts from 195 countries would participate in the conference.
- 7. United Kingdom** has unveiled a coin to commemorate the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi.
Note: The coin is available in a range of standards, including gold and silver. The special collectors' coin was designed by Heena Glover. The coin features an image of a lotus, India's national flower, alongside one of Gandhi's most famous quotes - 'My life is my message'.
- 8. UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** has released a report titled 'Beating the Heat: A Sustainable Cooling Handbook for Cities'.
Note: The UNEP in the report says the world's rapidly growing urban centers should adopt cooling technologies that are cleaner in order to limit greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen the resilience of communities. According to the report investing in air condition systems that are less carbon-intensive is key to greening the urban environment.
- 9. According to the QS Asia University Rankings 2022**, released by the Quacquarelli Symonds, global higher education think-tank, **National University of Singapore** has come up as Asia's best university for the 4th consecutive year.
Note: National University of Singapore has come up as Asia's best university for the 4th consecutive year. China's Peking University at 2nd position and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, and the University of Hong Kong in Hong Kong at 3rd.
- 10. Bhutan** has issued a Letter of Exchange (LoE) with India to formalize 7 additional Entry - exit trade points.
Note: India and Bhutan will have seven additional entry and exit points for trade as part of measures to increase trade connectivity. These include Nagarkata Land Customs Station without commodity restriction; Agartala Land Customs Station; Pandu port (Guwahati Steamerghat), subject to cross

border control at Dhubri; Jogighopa port subject to cross border control at Dhubri.

- 11. Norway** ranked first in the inaugural Global Drug Policy Index 2021, released by the Harm Reduction Consortium.

Note: The five lowest-ranking countries are Brazil, Uganda, Indonesia, Kenya, and Mexico. India's rank is 18 out of 30 countries. It is a data-driven global analysis of drug policies and their implementation.

- 12.** India has signed a pact with **Israel** aimed at spurring innovation and speeding up the development of dual use technologies by small and medium sized firms in both countries.

Note: The pact was signed between India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel's Directorate of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D). The agreement – known as the Bilateral Innovation Agreement – will “promote innovation and accelerated R&D in startups and MSMEs of both countries for the development of dual use technologies.

- 13. USA** become the 101st member country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

Note: ISA is an alliance of 124 countries. It was initiated by India. Most of the member countries are sunshine countries, lying either partly or completely between Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn. This alliance was launched with the objective of working for efficient consumption of solar energy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

- 14. Denmark** placed as the highest ranked country in Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2022, released by Germanwatch along with Climate Action Network (CAN) and New Climate Institute on the side-lines of the COP26.

Note: The report noted that no country performed well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating in CCPI. Therefore, once again, the top three places in the overall ranking remain empty. Denmark, placed 4th, is the highest ranked country in CCPI 2022. India has retained its spot in the top 10 best performing countries for the third year in a row in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI).

- 15. Fumio Kishida** has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of Japan in the parliamentary elections held on 10th November 2021.

Note: His governing party Liberal Democratic Party scored a major victory securing 261 seats in the 465-member lower house. He is the former Foreign Minister of Japan.

- 16. Egypt** will host the upcoming session of the conference COP27 in 2022.

Note: It was announced in the UN climate change conference COP26 in Glasgow. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the 2023 edition of the conference. The UN Climate Change Conference is the largest global conference of heads of states and governments on climate and environmental issues.

- 17. Bangladesh** has assumed the chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) at its 21st Annual Council of Ministers (COM) meeting.

Note: The IORA COM was held in a hybrid format in Dhaka. Bangladesh assumed the Chairmanship of IORA till 2023. IORA is inter-governmental organization aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region.

- 18. Russia** successfully test-fired the ‘Zircon’ Hypersonic Cruise Missile.

Note: Russia destroyed its own satellite in low-earth orbit using an Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Missile named ‘**Nudol**’, which led to the formation of a cloud of space debris that could potentially destroy other orbiting satellites & the **International Space Station (ISS)**.

- 19. Australia** signed a submarine deal with new defence alliances, namely United States (US) and United Kingdom (UK).

Note: The deal seeks to equip Australian Navy with nuclear-powered submarines. The deal was signed by Australian Defence Minister Peter Dutton with U.S. and British diplomats. This deal allows the exchange of sensitive “naval nuclear propulsion information” between three countries. It is the first agreement on technology to be publicly signed.

- 20. United Kingdom** will host a summit of Foreign and Development Ministers from G7 in December 2022.

Note: Foreign Secretary of UK, Liz Truss will welcome counterparts from leading economies like US, Germany, France, Canada, Italy, EU and Japan. The summit will be held from December 10 to 12, 2021. It will be second in-person gathering of G7 Foreign Ministers in 2021.

- 21.** Fifth East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation was held in which city of India _____ **Kolkata**.

Note: The two-day event was organized by India in partnership with Australia. During the conference, experts from both government and academia from the participating countries will deliberate upon various aspects of maritime security cooperation under four thematic sessions.

- 22.** Urban air mobility (UAM) company BLADE India entered into a partnership with **Airbus** to expand its “on-demand” helicopter services.

Note: The helicopters will be provided to operators by a GIFT-City based leasing company taking advantage of the Centre's new initiative. BLADE will be underwriting flight hours through partner operators who have been specifically chosen based on their experience in ensuring the highest level of safety standards, equipment maintenance and operating protocols.

23. Asian Development Bank has approved a USD 1.5 billion (around Rs 11,185 crore) loan to India for COVID-19 vaccine procurement.

Note: The loan from ADB will fund at least 66.7 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses for an estimated 31.7 crore people, it added. It will support India's National Deployment and Vaccination Plan which aims to fully vaccinate 94.47 crore people aged 18 years and above, accounting for 68.9 per cent of the population, said the Manila-headquartered agency. Priority groups include healthcare and frontline workers, senior citizens, and those aged 45–59 years with comorbidities.

24. World Health Organization released Global Nutrition Report every year that sets out progress towards global nutrition targets.

Note: Over half of Indian women of 15-49 years are anaemic with increase in number from 52.6% in 2016 to 53% in 2020. Over 17% of Indian children under 5 years of age are under the category of child wasting (low weight for height). Child Stunting: Over 34% of children under 5 years of age are still affected.

25. Germany announced new commitments worth more than €1.2 billion, or Rs 10,025 crore, to India to support its fight against climate change.

Note: The focus of the financial commitment to India will be to tackle climate change and assist in the country's ongoing energy transition. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released earlier this year found that both India and Germany will suffer more extreme events due to

climate change. Both countries together account for nearly 9 per cent of global greenhouse gas.

26. Maiden 'Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Focused Operation' is being conducted between the lead Maritime Security Agencies of India, Sri Lanka and **Maldives**.

Note: It is a two-day CSC Focused Operation with an aim of keeping this vital part of the Indian Ocean Region safe and secure for commercial shipping, international trade and conduct of legitimate maritime activities. It would help build understanding and interoperability between the lead maritime security agencies and facilitate the institution of measures to prevent and suppress transnational crimes in the region.

27. Bhutan hosted the 9th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime.

Note: The meeting was attended by BIMSTEC Members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The meeting discussed emerging traditional and non-traditional security threats in the BIMSTEC region.

28. Barbados has become the world's newest republic.

Note: The Caribbean island nation removed Queen Elizabeth II as the head of the state in a ceremony attended by Prince Charles. Dame Sandra Prunella Mason, who was selected to become the first president of Barbados last month, took over as the President of the country.

29. Dhanush has won the Best Actor Award at the sixth edition of BRICS Film Festival.

Note: The 6th BRICS Film Festival was held in India, alongside 52nd IFFI in Goa from November 20 to 28, 2021. Best Film: South African film 'Barakat' and Russian film 'The Sun above Me Never Sets'. Best Actor (Female): Lara Boldorini for On Wheels (Brazil). Special Jury Mention Award: Director Yan Han for A Little Red Flower (China).

October 2021

1. Qatar country named the cyclone 'Shaheen' that battered Oman lashing the sultanate with high winds and rain and caused 5 people to die.

Note: Cyclone Shaheen made landfall just off from Muscat, Oman's capital, with winds reaching up to 150 kph (93 mph). The name 'Shaheen' is given by Qatar which is a part of the member countries for the naming of a tropical cyclone in the Indian Ocean.

2. The 7th G-20 Parliamentary Speakers Summit is scheduled to be held in **Rome, Italy**.

Note: An 8-member parliamentary delegation from India including Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh and Secretary Generals of both Houses of Parliament are set to participate in the summit. Duarte Pacheco President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) will address the Summit in the opening session and Prime Minister of Italy, Mario Draghi will be the keynote speaker.

3. Russia has successfully test-fired Hypersonic missile from a nuclear submarine for the first time.

- Note:** It previously has been repeatedly test-fired from a navy frigate, most recently in July. Zircon is intended to arm Russian cruisers, frigates and submarines. It is one of several hypersonic missiles under development in Russia. Missile would be commissioned in to Russian Navy in 2022.
4. The theme of the Dubai's Expo 2020 -- **Connecting Minds, Creating the Future.**
Note: Main theme of Dubai Expo 2020: Connecting Minds, Creating the Future. Expo 2020 is the first to be held in Middle East and North Africa & South Asia region.
 5. Bangladesh govt & **Asian Development Bank** have signed a USD 400 million agreement for constructing **Dhaka-Sylhet highway** to improve mobility, road safety and regional trade in northeast economic corridor in Bangladesh.
Note: It is the first tranche of \$1.78 billion financing facility approved by ADB for South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Dhaka-Sylhet Road investment project. It will be utilized for widening of about 210 kms of Dhaka-Sylhet road from 2-lane to 4 lane highway among other activities.
 6. Mansukh Mandaviya has released UNICEF's global flagship publication 'The State of the World's Children 2021; On My Mind: promoting, protecting and caring for children's mental health'
Note: It says only 41% of young people in India were willing to seek support for mental health problems, compared to an average of 83% among 21 countries surveyed. The report has found that around 14% of 15 to 24-year-olds in India, or 1 in 7, reported often feeling depressed or having little interest in doing things.
 7. First consignment of Geographical Indication (GI) tagged sweet dish Mihidana from Bardhaman, West Bengal has been exported to **Kingdom of Bahrain.**
Note: It is part of the effort to promote indigenouse and GI tagged products of India globally. It was exported by APEDA registered M/S DM Enterprises, Kolkata. Mihidana sweet dish got GI tag in 2017.
 8. India has been chosen as the Partner Administration for **Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)** programme. The TIWB is a joint initiative of **UNDP and OECD.**
Note: TIWB has launched its programme in Seychelles on 4th October 2021. India will be providing its Tax Expert in support of the initiative. TIWB: Joint initiative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), since its launch in 2015.
 9. **United Arab Emirate** planned to send a probe to land on an asteroid between Mars and Jupiter to collect data on the origins of the universe.
Note: It is the latest project in the oil-rich federation's ambitious space programme. The project targets a 2028 launch with a landing in 2033, a five-year journey in which the spacecraft will travel some 3.6 billion kilometres (2.2 billion miles). The project comes after the Emirates successfully put its Amal, or "Hope", probe in orbit around Mars in February. The Emirates plans to send an unmanned spacecraft to the moon in 2024.
 10. **Denmark** and India signed MoUs on research in climate change, and setting up a "green hydrogen" electrolyser plant.
Note: The MoUs were between Reliance Industries and Danish company Stiesdal Fuel Technologies during PM level summit between two countries. This was the first summit-level visit to India since the COVID pandemic, and the first State visit by a Danish leader since a bilateral freeze on ties a decade ago.
 11. **India** became the first BRICS country to officially join the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People.
Note: HAC for Nature and People is co-chaired by Costa Rica, France and by United Kingdom as Ocean co-chair. HAC: It was launched in 2019 as intergovernmental group of more than 70 countries encouraging goal to protect at least 30% of the world's land and ocean by 2030 (30x30 target).
 12. **Germany** has unveiled the world's first automated, driverless train, billed as more punctual and energy efficient than traditional trains.
Note: It is billed as more punctual and energy efficient than traditional trains. The train is controlled by digital technology and is fully automated. The driver remains on the train to supervise the journey with passengers on board.
 13. In association with the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI) **UNDP** has released the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021.
Note: The Index considers data from 109 countries and 5.9 billion people. These include 26 low-income countries, 80 middle-income countries and 3 high-income countries. The index measures each person's deprivations across 10 indicators divided into three equally weighted dimensions.
 14. **UN Human Rights Council** has recognized access to a clean and healthy environment as a fundamental right.
Note: The vote passed with overwhelming support, despite criticism in the lead-up from some countries, notably the United States and Britain. The resolution, first discussed in the 1990s, is not legally binding but has the potential to shape global standards. Lawyers involved in climate litigation say it could help them build arguments in cases involving the environment and human rights.
 15. **Italy** has convened G20 Extraordinary Summit on Afghanistan.
Note: G20 Extraordinary Summit on Afghanistan was convened by Italy, which currently holds G20

Presidency, and chaired by Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi. Focus: issues related to humanitarian situation, concerns relating to terrorism, and human rights issue in Afghanistan following the Taliban's return to power.

16. United Nations Biodiversity Summit is being held in **China**.

Note: In the summit the countries met to protect ecosystems and prevent mass extinction weeks before the COP26 climate conference. The online summit — setting the stage for a face-to-face meeting in April — will see parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) discuss new targets for protecting ecosystems by 2030. During the summit, countries discussed for “30 by 30” plan in order to give 30% of lands and oceans protected status.

17. In 2021 Henley Passport Index, Japan and Singapore stood at the top position this year.

Note: The index ranks the passports of countries according to the number of destinations their holders can visit without a prior visa. The rankings are based on the analysis of data provided by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

18. India has signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with **Russia** for collaboration in the mining and steel sectors, with special focus on coking coal.

Note: The move is part of India's National Steel Policy 2017 under which the country is aiming to reach 300 million tonne steel production by 2030. The MoU has come at a time when India's non-power industries (aluminium, cement and secondary producers of steel) are facing severe thermal coal shortage issues. Coking coal and thermal coal, however, have different applications and do not overlap.

19. The challenge has become the **first movie** that was shoot in International Space Station (ISS).

Note: Russian cosmonaut Oleg Novitskiy of Roscosmos along with actress Yulia Peresild and producer-director Klim Shipenko departed the ISS in their Soyuz MS-18 spacecraft. The filmmakers had blasted off from the Russia-leased Baikonur Cosmodrome in ex-Soviet Kazakhstan earlier this month, travelling to the ISS with veteran cosmonaut Anton Shkaplerov to film scenes for "The Challenge".

20. Sri Lanka has sought **USD 500 million credit line** from India to pay for its crude oil purchases amid a severe foreign exchange crisis.

Note: It is a part of the India-Sri Lanka economic partnership arrangement. The facility would be used for purchasing petrol and diesel requirements. State-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) owes USD 3.3 billion to the two main government banks Bank of Ceylon and People's Bank.

21. Ireland ranked top in the Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021.

Note: India is ranked at 71st position in the Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021 of 113 countries. China has been ranked 34th, Pakistan ranked 75th, Sri Lanka (77th Position), Nepal (79th position) and Bangladesh (84th position). The GFS Index was designed and constructed by London-based Economist Impact and is sponsored by Corteva Agriscience.

22. Iceland ranked first in the 2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey, that ranked 43 pension systems across the world.

Note: India had stood at 34th position out of 39 pension systems rated in 2020. Globally, Iceland was ranked highest with an overall index value of 84.2 while Thailand had the lowest overall index value at 40.6.

23. India, Israel, United States and United Arab Amirate have decided to launch new quadrilateral economic forum.

Note: Quadrilateral builds on ongoing cooperation between U.S., Israel and UAE after the Abraham Accords last year. This QUAD grouping had decided to establish an international forum for economic cooperation, and discussed possibilities for joint infrastructure projects expanding economic and political cooperation in the Middle East and Asia.

24. Former president of United States Donald Trump has announced to launch his own social networking platform called "TRUTH Social,".

Note: The long-awaited platform will be owned by Trump Media & Technology Group (TMTG), which also intends to launch a subscription video on-demand service that will feature "non-woke" entertainment programming.

25. Barbados has elected its first-ever president to replace **Britain's Queen Elizabeth** as head of state in a decisive step toward shedding the Caribbean island's colonial past.

Note: Sandra Mason was elected by a two-thirds vote of a joint session of the country's House of Assembly and Senate. A former British colony that gained independence in 1966, the nation of just under 300,000 had long maintained ties with the British monarchy. But calls for full sovereignty and homegrown leadership have risen in recent years. Mason, 72, will be sworn in on Nov. 30, the country's 55th anniversary of independence from Britain.

26. South Korea has launched its first space rocket to be completely developed and built in the country called 'Nuri'.

Note: The 47-meter rocket lifted off with bright yellow fire shooting from its engines. The rocket is called Nuri. It launched from the country's Naro Space Center, which is on a small island off South Korea's southern coast.

27. Klim Shipenko has become the first film director to shoot a film in space named as "The Challenge".

- Note:** It took around 30 hours to record the material while in space. This is the first time a mission has been embarked to ISS to shoot a movie in space. The film “The Challenge” is based on the life of a woman doctor who goes to space to save a cosmonaut’s life.
- 28. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** has released the ‘Production Gap Report’.
Note: The Production Gap Report, first launched in 2019, tracks the discrepancy between governments’ planned fossil fuel production and global production levels consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C or 2°C. UNEP’s Major Reports: Emission Gap Report, Adaptation Gap Report, Global Environment Outlook, Making Peace with Nature.
- 29. Saudi Arabia** will use one of the world’s biggest natural-gas projects to make blue hydrogen.
Note: The kingdom is steps up its efforts to export a fuel seen as crucial to the green-energy transition. A large portion of gas from the \$110 billion Jafurah development will be used for blue hydrogen. It is made by converting natural gas and capturing the carbon dioxide emissions.
- 30. Saudi Arabia** has launched a “National Infrastructure Fund” to that will invest in areas such as water, transportation, energy, and health, contributing to country’s plans to transform the economy and make it less reliant on oil revenue.
Note: It has been advised by the world’s largest fund manager BlackRock. The National Infrastructure Fund will invest in areas such as water, transportation,
- energy, and health, contributing to Saudi Arabia’s plans to transform the economy and make it less reliant on oil revenue.
- 31. The 16th East Asia Summit** was hosted by **Brunei** in that Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated virtually.
Note: It was hosted by Brunei and saw the participation of leaders from the ASEAN countries and Australia, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, US and India. This was 7th East Asia Summit attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Members of EAS includes 10 ASEAN member states, and India, China, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, US and Russia.
- 32. Indo-Canadian lady Anita Anand** has been appointed as Canada’s minister of national defence.
Note: Ms. Anand (54) will replace long-time Defence Minister Indian-origin Harjit Sajjan, whose handling of the military sexual misconduct crisis has been under criticism. Mr. Sajjan has been appointed as Minister of International Development Agency.
- 33. France** has successfully launched military communication satellite, titled as ‘Syracuse 4A’, into orbit.
Note: The satellite was launched on Ariane 5 rocket. It will allow the armed forces of France across the globe to communicate swiftly and securely. It is first in the series of three Syracuse IV communication satellite being developed to improve French military satellite communications.

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 SouthAsia (FEMBoSA) for the year 2021 was hosted by **Bhutan**.
Note: The meeting in Virtual mode was hosted by the Election Commission of Bhutan. Alongwith India, delegations from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated in the day-long meeting. Shri Sushil Chandra, CEC, as the outgoing Chair of FEMBoSA, virtually handed over the Chairmanship of FEMBoSA to H.E. Dasho Sonam Topgay, Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan.
 9. China has set the goal of becoming carbon-neutral by **2060**.
Note: However, this also made China the biggest emitter of carbon dioxide. As a result, China has set the goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2060. Carbon neutral means cutting carbon dioxide emissions as large as possible and offsetting what cannot be eliminated. This can be done by switching to renewable energy sources like using solar power instead of coal.
 10. **Commonwealth Secretariat** has released the Global Youth Development Index in which India stood at 122nd globally among 181 countries.
Note: Singapore ranked top for the first time followed by Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark. Chad, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Niger finished at the bottom, respectively.
 11. In collaboration with **United Nations**, India has launched a tech platform named "UNITE Aware" for improving the safety and security of the UN peacekeepers.
Note: The platform was launched in the presence of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the UN headquarters. The launch of the UNITE AWARE platform came as India assumed the Presidency of the 15-nation UN Security Council for the month of August
 12. **Sweden** becomes the first country in the world to manufacture first fossil-free steel (Green Steel).
Note: It has been developed by HYBRIT Technology and its first delivery was done to truck-manufacturer Volvo AB as a trial run. The initiative was in process since 2016. Full-scale production of green steel will begin from 2026.
 13. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and **UNCTAD** have extended their collaboration to facilitate international trade, particularly e-commerce.
Note: The extended partnership will enrich their history of working together. This includes the successful integration of air cargo messaging standards (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.

Government Schemes

December (1 to 15) 2021

1. Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SRESHTA)

- Government launched SRESHTA for socio economics upliftment and overall development of Scheduled Castes students.
- It will enable bright SC students to have a better future by getting a high-quality education.
- It will also aid in controlling dropout rates of SC students from class 9th to 12th.

2. Cabinet approves continues Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) till March 2024

- Union Cabinet has approved proposal of Department of Rural Development for continuation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) till March 2024
- Under this, financial assistance is to be provided for the construction of the remaining 155.75 lakh houses within total target of 2.95 crore houses.

3. Atmanirbhar Hastshilpkar Scheme

- Northeastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi) has announced Atmanirbhar Hastshilpkar Scheme for the grass root Artisans of the region under Ministry of Development of North East Region (DONER)
- Total of 17 artisans have been provided with credit assistance of Rs.1 lakh per artisan
- Credit facility is collateral free and carries subsidized interest rate of 6% p.a., which is repayable in 24 months

4. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for 2021-26

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved implementation of PMKSY for 2021-26 with total outlay of Rs.93,068 crore.
- Central support of Rs.37,454 crore to States and Rs.20,434.56 crore of debt servicing for loan availed by Government for irrigation development will be provided.
- PMKSY was launched in 2015.

- It is an umbrella scheme, providing central grants to the State Governments for specific activities detailed below.

5. Incentive scheme to promote RuPay Debit cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions

- Union Cabinet has approved an incentive scheme to promote RuPay Debit cards and low-value (upto Rs.

2,000) BHIM-UPI transactions (Person-to-Merchant (P2M)) in the country

- Under this, acquiring banks will be incentivised by the Government, by way of paying percentage of value of transactions (P2M) done through RuPay Debit cards and low-value BHIM-UPI modes of payments, at an estimated financial outlay of Rs.1,300 crore for a period of one year w.e.f. April 01, 2021.

November 2021

1. Cabinet approves extension of PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana till March 2022

About the scheme:

- Under the scheme all the beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) receives food grains @ 5 kg per person per month.
- Estimated additional food subsidy for Phase V of the scheme is of Rs. 53344.52 Crore and total food-grains outgo for PMGKAY Phase V will be about 163 LMT
- It is operated by the Department of Food and Public Distribution under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

2. Govt selects 42 companies under PLI Scheme for White Goods

- Out of 42, 26 Companies will invest three thousand 898 crore rupees for Air Conditioner Components and 16 Companies will invest 716 crore rupees for LED Component Manufacturing.
- It will envisage creating additional direct employment of about 44 thousand persons.
- Nodal Department: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
- Total outlay: 6,238 crore rupees.

3. Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched two projects

- Two projects are:
 - 'Revival of Namda craft of Kashmir' as a special pilot project under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0

- Upskilling of artisans and weavers of Kashmir under Recognition of Prior Learning component of PMKVY

- **Aim:** to boost and preserve the traditional Namda craft of Kashmir and upskill the local weavers and artisans
- Namda craft is a rug made of sheep wool through felting technique

4. IGSTC launches WISER program

- Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC) has launched **Women's Involvement in Science and Engineering Research (WISER) program** for encouraging women researchers in joint research and development (R&D) projects
- It will be in addition to the ongoing flagship 2+2 program
- It is a joint initiative of **Dept of Science and Technology (DST)** and **Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Govt of Germany.**

5. PM Modi launches 'Ration Aapke Gram' scheme and Sickle Cell Mission in Madhya Pradesh.

- Under the scheme, ration will be distributed in the village itself through ration distribution vehicles. Tribal beneficiaries will no longer have to go to the Panchayat Headquarters to get fair price ration.
- Sickle cell mission has been developed to screen and manage patients suffering from sickle cell anaemia, Thalassemia and other Hemoglobinopathies and to increase public awareness about these diseases, whose impact is seen to be more profound on the janjatiya community of Madhya Pradesh.

6. Union Minister Jitendra Singh has launched first-ever Mentorship Programme for Young Innovators

- It is a pan India Scheme that envisages Star College in every district of India supported by Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- It will help towards the concept of networking, hand holding and outreach.
- The plan envisages organizing workshops, meetings per month; handhold at colleges particularly in the rural areas.

7. Training Modules of Central Sector Plan Scheme

- Union Minister Virendra Kumar has released Training Modules of Central Sector Plan Scheme 'In-service Training & Sensitization of Key functionaries of Central & State Governments and Local Bodies' in New
- Rehabilitation Council India (RCI) is the nodal agency for implementation of Central Sector Plan Scheme at national level
- Training Modules has been developed in Hindi and English, which will be translated in regional languages as well.

8. Finance Minister launched 'Tejasvini & Hausala schemes' of J&K Bank

- Age group: 18-35 years
- **About Tejasvini Scheme:**
 - Aim: to offer monetary help as much as Rs 5 lakh to younger ladies for establishing gainful self-employment ventures, suited to their expertise, aptitude & native situations.
- **Hausla Scheme 2021 for Women Entrepreneurs:**
 - Aim: empowering women entrepreneurs of respective sectors.
 - It not solely supplies ability improvement, but additionally, credit score assist, advertising assist & mentorship.

9. 'Shikhar & Shikara' Scheme of Punjab National Bank (PNB) and SIDBI Fund

- Shikhar scheme focuses on meeting credit requirements up to Rs. 2 crore for hotel, tour & tourism industry.
- Shikara scheme credit up to Rs. 15 lakh for purchase/repair of Shikaras is provided in Kashmir valley. It is a collateral-free loan.

October 2021

1. Government extends ECLGS Scheme

- Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) timeline extended to 31st March 2022 or till guarantees for an amount of Rs 4.5 lakh crore are issued under scheme, whichever is earlier.
- Last date of disbursement under the scheme has also been extended to 30th June 2022.
- ECLGS was launched as a special scheme in view of COVID-19 to provide 100% guarantee coverage to Banks and NBFCs.
- It is managed by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd

2. Minister for Labour and Employment launches DigiSaksham program

- Aim: to enhance the employability of rural and semi-urban areas youth by imparting digital skills

- It is an initiative of Ministry of Labour and Microsoft India.
- It is a free of cost training programme in digital skills including basic skills as well as advance computing
- Jobseekers can access training through National Career Service (NCS) Portal.

3. Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 and AMRUT

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched second phase of **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U)** and **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)** to realize the aspiration of making all cities 'garbage free' and 'water secure'.
- Outlay of SBM-U 2.0: **Rs 1.41 lakh crore.**
- Outlay of AMRUT 2.0: **Rs 2.87 lakh crore.**
- SBM-U 2.0 make all cities 'garbage free' and ensure grey and black water management in all cities other than those covered under AMRUT.

- AMRUT 2.0 provide 100% coverage of water supply to all households in around 4,700 urban local bodies by providing about 2.68 crore tap connections.

4. Union Home Minister launched Mukhyamantri Ghasiyari Kalyan Yojana

- Under this, animal feed will be given at the rate of Rs 2 per kg on 30 percent subsidy and as a result, women will be saved from many calamities.
- Computerization of all the PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Society) of Uttarakhand has also been completed

5. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel launches 'Go-Green' scheme

- **Aim of the scheme:** to reduce fuel bills as well as save the environment by curbing vehicular pollution
- Under the scheme, any worker of the organized sector can avail a subsidy of 30% on the price of the electric vehicle or a subsidy of ₹30,000, whichever is less.
- This can be availed on the purchase of battery-powered two-wheeler.

6. Civil Aviation Minister releases Krishi UDAN 2.0

- It lays out the vision of improving value realization through better integration and optimization of Agri-harvesting and air transportation.
- It proposes to facilitate and incentivize the movement of Agri-produce by air transportation.
- Krishi UDAN 2.0 will be implemented at 53 airports, mainly focusing on Northeast and tribal regions and is likely to benefit farmers, freight forwarders and Airlines

7. MSME Ministry launches 'SAMBHAV' Awareness Programme, 2021

- Aim: to promote engagement of the youth in promoting entrepreneurship in New Delhi
- It is one-month long initiative and will encourage students from different colleges/ITIs from all parts of the country to take up entrepreneurship, leading to the economic development of the country

- It will be conducted in more than 1,300 colleges across the country

8. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates phase-II of Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship

- It is a 2-year long fellowship that will create opportunity for young, dynamic individuals for enhancing skill development at the grassroots.
- It seeks to combine classroom sessions by academic partner IIMs with an intensive field immersion at the district level to create credible plans and identify barriers
- **MGNF Phase-I (Pilot):** Launched with IIM Bangalore as Academic Partner and 69 are Fellows currently deployed in 69 districts across 6 States.

9. Union Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurates 250mm Seer Water supply scheme

- It will benefit around 10000 people and will be completed under Jal Jeevan Mission within three months.

10. CRISP-M tool for Mahatma Gandhi NREG Scheme launched

- Climate Resilience Information System and Planning (CRISP-M) tool for integration of climate information in Geographic Information System (GIS) based watershed planning has been launched under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA scheme.
- It will open new possibilities for Rural communities to deal with climate change
- Pilot project for Climate Resilient program started in 7 districts: Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan, MP, UP and Jharkhand

11. Ministry of Textiles approved continuation of CHCDS till March 2026

- CHCDS: Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS)
- Total outlay of CHCDS: 160 crores
- Aim: Upliftment and development of handicrafts artisans, Infrastructural support, market access, design and technology up-gradation support will be provided to handicrafts artisans

12. Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission

- It is one of the largest pan-India schemes for strengthening healthcare infrastructure across the country.
- It will provide facilitate 17,788 rural Health and Wellness Centers in 10 'high focus' states and establish 11,024 urban Health and Wellness Centers across the country.

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

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).

- 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.

- 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 evam 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.

Important Committee

(1 to 15) December 2021

1. SIT to investigate firing incident in Nagaland

- Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been established to investigate firing incident in Nagaland and will be completed within a month.
- After Army received information on the movement of insurgents in Nagaland's Mon and '21 Para Commando' unit, Security forces opened fire on civilians killing 14 and injuring 11 in Nagaland's Mon district
- Members also called for the repeal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA).

2. Centre appoints Committee to revisit criteria for determining EWS

- Govt has constituted a panel to revisit the criteria for determining reservation for the economically weaker sections
- Panel has been constituted in accordance with the commitment given to Supreme Court for EWS in terms of the provisions of the explanation to Article 15 of Constitution
- Committee will also examine various approaches so far followed for identifying economically weaker sections, recommend criteria
- Members: **Ajay Bhushan Pandey, V K Malhotra, Sanjay Sanyal**

November 2021

1. Govt constitutes committee to revisit criteria for determining economically weaker sections (EWS)

- **Head of the committee:** Former Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey
- Panel has been constituted in accordance with the commitment given to Supreme Court for EWS in terms of the provisions of the explanation to Article 15 of Constitution
- Members: V K Malhotra and Sanjay Sanyal

2. Committee for Development of Avenues for Ship Acquisition submitted report

- Head: Vandana Aggarwal
- Members: Representatives from Government of India, Gujarat Maritime Board, industry and finance experts, and academicians
- Committee for Development of Avenues for Ship Acquisition, Financing and Leasing from GIFT IFSC

in India has submitted Report to International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).

- It was constituted by IFSCA on 24th June 2021
- Report is titled as S.A.F.A.L. (Ship Acquisition, Financing and Leasing)

3. Govt empowers group to review implementation of PM GatiShakti

- Centre has constituted 20-member Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) to review and monitor mechanism for the development and implementation of PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP).
- Chairperson: Cabinet Secretary.
- Head of Logistics Division will be the Member and Convenor.
- Head of Logistics division (Dept of Commerce) will act as convener of EGoS for its Terms of Reference (ToRs).

4. RBI appoints 3-member advisory committee to assist RCap's administrator

- The advisory committee will assist the administrator of Reliance Capital (RCap), appointed to the company in discharging his duties
- Members: Sanjeev Nautiyal, Srinivasan Varadarajan, Praveen P Kadle

October 2021

1. SC appoints Panel to Probe Pegasus Use in India

- Supreme Court has appointed three-member committee to look into allegations of unauthorized surveillance using Pegasus, a spyware developed by Israeli firm NSO Group.
- Committee members: Naveen Kumar Chaudhary, Prabakaran P, Ashwin Anil Gumaste.
- It will be supervised by retired judge Justice R V Raveendran.
- Justice Raveendran was part of the R M Lodha Committee appointed by the SC in 2015 to reform the BCCI.

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted 4-member high powered advisory committee on settlement orders and compounding of offences.
- Chairman of the committee: Vijay C Daga (retired judge of High Court of Bombay).
- Other members:
 - PK Malhotra
 - PR Ramesh
 - DN Raval
- Terms of reference of the Committee will be as per Securities and Exchange Board of India (Settlement Proceedings) Regulations, 2018.

2. Govt sets up National Steering Committee for NIPUN Bharat Mission

- Dept of School Education and Literacy has constituted National Steering Committee (NSC) for implementation of NIPUN Bharat Mission.
- Focus: To achieve the goal of universal proficiency in foundational literacy and numeracy for every child by end of Class 3 by 2026-27.
- Chairperson of NSC: Dharmendra Pradhan (Union Education Minister)
- Vice Chairperson of NSC: Annpurna Devi (Minister of State for Education)
- It seeks to develop methodology of assessment to analyses the progress and provide feedback to States/UTs.

4. IFSCA constitutes Expert Committee on Sustainable Finance

- International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) has constituted an Expert Committee to recommend approach towards development of Sustainable Finance Hub at IFSC.
- It will be chaired by **C.K. Mishra** (Former Secretary for Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change)
- It consists of total 10 members including chairperson and member secretary.
- Committee will study the current regulatory practices in Sustainable Finance across major International financial jurisdictions and recommend a robust framework to develop a world-class sustainable finance hub at IFSC, along with a road map for the same

3. SEBI constitutes 4-member advisory committee on settlement orders

September 2021

1. National Steering Committee for development of National Curriculum Framework

- Formed by: **Ministry of Education**
- Chairman: **K Kasturirangan**

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

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

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

- Head of committee: **Ajay Seth (Economic Affairs Secretary)**
- **Aim:** To recommend a concrete road map to strengthen India's sustainable finance architecture.
- Panel will look out at ways to further strengthen the resilience of the country's financial sector against risks emanating from various climate and environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues.

3. High Level Expert Committee for NCC

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

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

- Formed by: **Ministry of health and family welfare**
- The new law will replace existing Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 that regulates only import,

manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs and cosmetics.

- Head of the committee: **VG Somani** (Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI))

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

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

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

- Formed by: Ministry of Coal
- Head of the task force: **Additional Secretary of Coal Ministry**.
- Its broad terms and reference include identification of role to be played by each stakeholder Ministry, monitoring of activities towards achieving coal-based Hydrogen production
- Head of Expert Committee: **R.K. Malhotra**.

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

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

August -2021

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

- Aim: to develop a technological platform streamlining the appeal filing process related to direct and indirect taxation matters.
- Head of the panel: **Ashish Shiradhonkar** (head of e-courts project in National Informatics Centre (NIC))

- Committee will complete its work in 3 months and will have members from revenue department, CBDT and CBIT.
- NIC is collaborating to integrate Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS) with e-office mechanism so that real time tracking of cases can be done.

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

- Head of the committee: **Sunil Sethi** (Chairman of Fashion Design Council of India).
- This Committee will submit the final report within 45 days from the day of constitution.
- It will suggest the strategy and policy framework for doubling the production and for improving the quality of handloom products with the aim of enhancing income of the weavers.

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

- Head of the committee: **Sultan Ahmed Ismail**

- Hydrocarbon project study will be conducted in areas other than the protected agricultural zone as the terms of reference has been revised.
- It will also assess the impact of drilling technologies like hydro fracturing on ground water and environment.

4. Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds

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

Science and Defence

December 2021 (1 to 15)

1. Bangladesh and US Navy kicks off CARAT maritime exercise

- Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) will be carried out virtually as well as in the **Bay of Bengal**
- It is a 9-day event that focuses on a full spectrum of naval capabilities and features Cooperative activities that highlight the ability of US and Bangladesh
- It was first introduced in **2011**.

2. Indigenously built Survey Vessel 'Sandhayak'.

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. (GRSE) has launched its first indigenously built Survey Vessel 'Sandhayak'.
- It is capable of full scale coastal & deep-water hydrographic survey of Ports & Harbor approaches & determination of navigational channels & routes.

3. Indo-Russia Rifles Pvt. Ltd

- India has signed contract with Indo-Russia Rifles Pvt. Ltd., Joint Venture between India, and Russia for the indigenous production of over 6 Lakh AK-203 Assault Rifles at Korwa, UP.
- It envisages complete transfer of technology to IRRPL by Kalashnikov in manufacturing of first 70,000 weapons.

4. Air version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

- Air version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile has been successfully test fired from the supersonic fighter aircraft Sukhoi 30 MK-I from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha
- It clears the system for the serial production of BrahMos missiles within the country.
- **BrahMos**: Joint Venture between India (DRDO) and Russia (NPOM) for development, production and marketing of supersonic cruise missile.

5. Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE)

- NASA has launched its new X-ray Mission titled as IXPE to unlock the secrets of extreme cosmic objects.
- It is built to study some of the most energetic objects in the universe like the remnants of exploded stars, powerful particle jets spewing from feeding black holes.
- The mission is a collaboration between **NASA** and **Italian Space Agency**.

6. Gaganyaan to be launched in 2023

- Gaganyaan will be launched in 2023, making the country the fourth nation in the world to launch a human spaceflight mission after US, Russia, China.

- Test vehicle flight for validation of Crew Escape System performance and first uncrewed mission of Gaganyaan are scheduled at the beginning of the second half of 2022.
- It will be followed by 2nd uncrewed mission at the end of 2022 carrying 'Vyommitra' spacefaring human-robot developed by ISRO

7. DRDO successfully test fired Pinaka-ER, ADM & New Indigenous Fuzes

- Pinaka-ER: It is the upgraded version of the earlier version of Pinaka which has been in service with Indian Army. It has been designed in the light of emerging requirements with advanced technologies
- ARDE, Pune has developed different fuzes for Pinaka rocket for different types of applications

8. Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) Missile

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Air Force has successfully flight-tested indigenously designed and developed Helicopter-launched Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) Missile from Pokhran range
- It is equipped with state-of-the-art Millimetre Wave Seeker which provides high precision strike capability from safe distance
- It can neutralise targets in a range up to 10 km

9. Supersonic Missile Assisted Torpedo System (SMAT)

- DRDO has successfully launched SMAT, demonstrating full range from Abdul Kalam Island, off the Odisha coast.
- SMAT has been designed to enhance anti-submarine warfare capability far beyond the conventional range of torpedo
- It was a textbook launch, where entire trajectory was monitored by the electro optic telemetry system, various range radars, including the down range instrumentation and down range ships.

10. The 11th edition of Exercise EKUVERIN-21

- The Exercise will be conducted between India and Maldives

- Venue: Kadhdhoo Island, Maldives.
- Ekuverin means "Friends" in the Dhivehi language (Indo-Aryan language).
- It enhances synergy and inter-operability between Armed Forces of both nations in terms of understanding transnational terrorism both on land and at sea, conducting Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Insurgency Operations
- It was introduced in 2008

11. Supersonic Missile Assisted Torpedo (SMART)

- India has successfully test-fired long-range **Supersonic Missile Assisted Torpedo (SMART)** for the Indian Navy off the Balasore coast in Odisha.
- Developed by: **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- Aim: to enhance anti-submarine warfare capability far beyond the conventional range of the torpedo.

12. PANEX-21 exercise

- It is a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise.
- It is to be held for the BIMSTEC countries like Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand.
- Aim: to build regional cooperation in responding to natural disasters.
- It is to be conducted in Pune from December 20 to December 22.

13. India's first Green Hydrogen Microgrid Projects

- NTPC Limited announced that India's first Green Hydrogen Microgrid Projects will be set up at Simhadri near Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- The projects will be a precursor to large-scale hydrogen energy storage projects and would be useful for studying and deploying multiple microgrids in various off-grid and strategic locations of the country.
- The hydrogen produced during sunshine hours will be stored at high pressure and electrified using a 50 Kilo Watt Solid Oxide Fuel Cell.
- The system will work in standalone mode from 5 PM in the evening to 7 AM in the morning.

November 2021

1. NASA launches world's first DART Mission to crash Spacecraft into Asteroid

- NASA has launched world's first Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) mission to change the path of an asteroid by intentionally crashing a spacecraft into it with a speed of 24,000 kms per hour
- Total worth: \$325 million and was launched into orbit from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

2. Indian Navy to commission Scorpene-class submarine INS Vela in Mumbai

About INS Vela

- INS Vela has an indigenous set of batteries and an advanced communication suite of indigenous make
- It is the fourth in that series, following Kalvari, Khanderi and Karanj. It is expected to further boost Indian capability to defend and secure its strategic sea lanes

3. DRDO and India Air Force conducted flight tests of smart anti-airfield weapon

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Air Force have jointly conducted two flight tests of an indigenously developed smart anti-airfield weapon in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- The test has been carried out for two different configurations of the weapon based on satellite navigation and electro-optical sensors.
- Maximum range: 100 kms.

4. ISRO to provide 'solar power calculator'

- It will use satellite data to measure the solar energy potential of any and every region in the world
- It will help to decide the location of solar energy projects across the globe, strengthening One Sun One World One Grid initiative.

5. The 37th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)

- It is being held in the Indian Ocean region (IOR) from 23rd to 24th November 2021.
- Indigenously built Indian Naval Ship (INS) Khanjar and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft is participating in the CORPAT
- It was conducted for the first time in 2002
- CORPAT is held twice in a year to ensure safety and security.

6. Biennial trilateral exercise 'Dosti' underway for IOR stability

- The 15th edition of biennial trilateral exercise 'Dosti' by the coast guard forces of Maldives, India and Sri Lanka is underway in Maldives from 20th to 24th November
- ICGS Vajra and ICGS Apoorva, and Sri Lanka Coast Guard's SLCGS Suraksha participated in the exercise.
- Aim: to strengthen friendship, enhance mutual operational capabilities, interoperability, cooperation

7. India's first Virtual Science Lab for Children under CSIR Jigyasa Programme

- It will also connect students with scientists across the country.
- Main aim of Virtual Lab: To provide quality research exposure and innovative pedagogy for school students based on an online interactive medium.

8. SpaceX launches Indian-origin astronaut Raja Chari-led Crew 3 mission to ISS

- US Space agency NASA and Elon Musk-owned private rocket company SpaceX have launched Crew 3 mission named Endurance fixed to Falcon 9 rocket from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida
- Under this, 4 astronauts have been sent to International Space Station (ISS) for a six-month science mission until April 2022.

9. China has launched Earth science satellite named as 'Guangmu'

- China has launched Earth science satellite 'Guangmu' into space from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the northern Shanxi Province from Long March-6 carrier rocket.
- Guangmu: World's first Earth-science satellite dedicated to serving the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
- It was developed by Chinese Academy of Sciences.

10. Alphabet has launched a new company in London titled as Isomorphic Labs.

- It will aim to use AI (artificial intelligence) for drug discovery and medicine to find cures for some of humanity's most devastating diseases in the field of biological and medical research.
- CEO of Isomorphic Labs: Demis Hassabis
- It is a commercial venture with the mission to reimagine the entire drug discovery process.

11. India successfully launches 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica

- First batch comprising of 23 scientists and support staff reached Indian Antarctic station Maitri.
- 41st expedition has two major programs: Geological exploration of the Amery ice shelf at Bharati station and reconnaissance surveys and preparatory work for drilling of 500 meters of ice core near Maitri
- Indian Antarctic program began in 1981

12. India, Singapore, Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX 21 held

- It is being held from 15 to 16 November 2021 in the Andaman Sea.

- It is being hosted by Royal Thai Navy (RTN) to enhance the cooperation between the participating navies towards augmenting the overall maritime security in the region

13. India and France to hold 6th edition Exercise SHAKTI 2021

- It will be conducted from 15th to 26th November 2021 in Frejus, France.
- Focus: Counter Terrorism operations, military cooperation and inter-operability between the two Armies.
- India and France also carry out biennial airforce training exercise 'Exercise GARUDA' and biennial maritime training exercise 'Exercise VARUNA'

14. 32nd edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)

- It was conducted from 12th to 14th November 2021 in Andaman Sea.
- It is a three-day bi-annual CORPAT exercise
- It was conducted for the first time in 2005 along their International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).

15. Seventh Indian Navy frigate of P1135.6 class has been launched at Yantar Shipyard

- It has been formally named as Tushil, a Sanskrit word which means protector shield.
- It has been developed under Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between India and Russia in 2016 for the construction of four additional P1135.6 class ships for Indian Navy.
- It will be commissioned into Indian Navy in mid-2023 followed by its sister ship by the end of 2023.

October 2021

1. Govt deploys I-Drone to transport COVID-19 vaccine

- ICMR's Drone Response and Outreach in North East (i-Drone) will ensure last-mile delivery of vaccines.

- This is a delivery model to make sure that life-saving vaccines reach everyone.
- This is for the first time that Made in India drone has been used in South Asia to transport COVID vaccine over an aerial distance of 15 kms in 12 to 15 minutes from Bishnupur district hospital to Loktak lake, Karang island in Manipur for administration at Primary Health Centre.

2. Russia test fired Zirkon hypersonic cruise missile

- It has been launched from nuclear submarine for the first time by Severodvinsk submarine in the Barents Sea.
- Zircon is a part of new generation of unrivaled arms systems, which is capable of flying at nine times the speed of sound and have a range of 1,000 kilometres.

3. 8th edition of Mitra Shakti

- It is an India-Sri Lanka bilateral Joint Exercise.
- **Venue:** Combat Training School, Ampara, in Sri Lanka from October 4 to October 15.
- **Aim:** to promote close relations between armies of both countries and enhance inter-operability and sharing best practices in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations.

4. World's Largest Hydrogen Fuel Cell Power Plant inaugurated in South Korea

- Largest hydrogen fuel cell power plant of the world has been inaugurated at Seo-gu, Incheo in South Korea.
- Plant is named as 'Shinincheon Bitdream Fuel Cell Power Plant'
- It will be operated by South Korea's largest independent power production company, POSCO Energy and Doosan Fuel Cell.
- Total cost of the project: 340 billion won (around USD 292 million).

5. DRDO and Indian Air Force (IAF) team have jointly Long-Range Bomb (LRB)

- DRDO and Indian Air Force (IAF) team have jointly flight tested indigenously developed Long-Range Bomb (LRB) successfully from an aerial platform in Odisha

- Flight of the bomb and performance was monitored by number of range sensors including Electro Optical Tracking System (EOTS), Telemetry and radar deployed by ITR, Odisha.

6. India's First Manned Ocean Mission Samudrayan at Chennai

- Union Minister Jitendra Singh has launched India's First Manned Ocean Mission Samudrayan at Chennai.
- With this, India joins the elite club of nations such as USA, Russia, Japan, France, and China to have such underwater vehicles for carrying out subsea activities.
- It shall facilitate in carrying out deep ocean exploration of the non-living resources such as polymetallic manganese, hydro-thermal sulphides, cobalt crusts, located at a depth between 1000-5500 meters.

7. CSIR-CMERI, Durgapur develops Mechanized Scavenging System

- CSIR-CMERI, Durgapur has developed indigenous Mechanized Scavenging System successfully at the premises of CSIR-National Physical Laboratory.
- This cost-effective machine will be deployed in Metro and tier-2 and tier-3 cities
- It will handle the blockage caused by plastic and other non-biodegradable domestic thrown-away items, debris, intrusion of tree roots, etc

8. France successfully launches military communications satellite 'Syracuse 4A'

- It will be launched into orbit from Kourou, in French Guiana Space Centre
- The satellite was launched on Ariane 5 rocket.
- It will allow the armed forces of France across the globe to communicate swiftly and securely.
- It is first in the series of three Syracuse IV communication satellite being developed to improve French military satellite communications

9. Indigenous Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Sarthak' dedicated to the Nation

- It will be based at Porbandar in Gujarat and was commissioned by the Director General of Indian Coast Guard, K Natarajan, at Goa.
- ICGS Sarthak: It is fourth in the series of five Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) being built by Goa Shipyard Limited for the ICG, to boost maritime safety and security of India.

10. India successfully test-fires surface-to-surface ballistic missile 'Agni-5' from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.

- Agni-5: It is a nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), which uses a three-stage solid-fueled engine.
- It can strike targets at ranges up to 5,000 km with a very high degree of accuracy
- It is 17-metre long, 2-metre wide and has launch weight of around 50 tonnes and can carry a nuclear warhead of more than one tonne.

11. India-UK conducts maiden Tri-Service exercise 'Konkan Shakti 2021' in the Arabian Sea.

- Sea phase of Konkan Shakti is being conducted from 24th to 27th October 2021.
- Harbour phase of the seven-day exercise was held in Mumbai from October 21st to 23rd, 2021.
- The exercise aims at further strengthening the co-operation between the two countries

12. South Korea flight tests first homegrown space rocket "Nuri"

- South Korea has recently launched its first indigenously developed rocket, titled as 'Korean Satellite Launch Vehicle II' or 'Nuri'.
- The launch vehicle lifted off from the Naro Space Center, in Goheung, built on an island nearly 300 miles (500 kilometers) south of Seoul.

13. 'ABHYAS'

- Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has successfully flight-tested the High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) titled as 'ABHYAS', from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Bay of Bengal in Odisha.
- ABHYAS is designed & developed by DRDO lab, Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru, for the Indian Armed Forces.

14. NASA launches Lucy Mission to study the Jupiter Trojan asteroids

- Life of Lucy Mission: 12-years
- The spacecraft will fly by eight ancient asteroids to study about solar system's evolution, including one main-belt asteroid and seven Jupiter Trojan asteroids.
- It will mark NASA's first single spacecraft mission in history to explore so many different asteroids.

15. Indian Army team wins gold medal in Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2021

- Indian Army has been awarded the gold medal at 2021 Cambrian Patrol Exercise, held at Brecon, Wales, in United Kingdom.
- Indian Army was represented by a team from 4/5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force) which competed against 96 teams representing special forces and regiments from around the world.
- Ex-Cambrian Patrol is an international event organized by UK Army, in which militaries from across the world take part.

16. IIT Kanpur discovered a novel target to treat prostate cancer

- IIT, Kanpur researchers have discovered that a particular gene (DLX1) that plays an important role in the development of jaws, skeleton, and interneurons in the brain has an important role to play in the growth and development of prostate cancer.
- DLX1 protein is found at elevated levels in prostate cancer patients, due to which DLX1 protein has been used as a urine-based biomarker.

17. China- Russia holds naval drill 'Joint Sea 2021' in Sea of Japan

- The exercise begins on October 14, 2021 and culminated on October 17, 2021.
- During the war game, combined force will practice shooting at targets designed to imitate enemy surface ships and hold air-defence drills.

18. Hubble finds evidence of persistent water vapour in Jupiter's moon 'Europa', icy moon of Jupiter

- It will further explore whether Europa's atmosphere could support life.
- It is based upon Hubble observations spanning from 1999 to 2015.
- Europa reflects more sunlight than Ganymede, keeping the surface 60 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than Ganymede.

- Sixth edition of annual Joint Military Exercise 'AJEYA WARRIOR' has been kick-started at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand from 8th October 2021.
- It is a two-week long military exercise, that will culminate on October 20, 2021
- AJEYA WARRIOR: It is a joint military exercise between India and United Kingdom since 2013

19. Joint Military Exercise 'AJEYA WARRIOR'

September 2021

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

- 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

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.

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

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

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.

4. IIT Delhi designs Liquid-solid Interface Triboelectric Nanogenerator

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.

16. 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)**

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. '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)**

25. 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.

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. 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.

29. 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.

30. 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.

31. 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.

32. 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).

33. 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.

34. 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.

35. 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

36. 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

37. 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.

38. 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.

39. 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.

40. 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.

41. 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.

42. 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.

43. Google Cloud partners with SpaceX to offer Satellite Internet Service

- SpaceX will set up Starlink ground stations within Google's data centres, that connect to Starlink satellites to enable high-speed broadband internet through Google Cloud.
- By combining Starlink's high-speed, low-latency broadband with Google's infrastructure will provide a secure and fast connection to global organisations.

44. Iran develops its most powerful supercomputer 'Simorgh'

- Simorgh is 100 times more powerful than previous supercomputer of the country.
- It has been developed indigenously by Tehran's Amirkabir University of Technology (AUT).
- It has been named after a mythical Phoenix-like bird 'Simurgh'
- It will be used for artificial intelligence workloads, traffic and weather data, and image processing.

45. 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.

46. 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

47. 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.

Honor & Awards

December (1-15) 2021

1. **Lionel Messi** has won the men's Ballon d'Or for a record seventh time.
Note: Apart from him, Barcelona's Alexia Putellas (27 years) won the women's Ballon d'Or. She netted in the Champions League final against Chelsea, and in August she was named UEFA women's player of the year. Cristiano Ronaldo finishes outside the top three in the Ballon d'Or for the first time since 2010.
2. Indian Athlete **Anju Bobby George** has won the Woman of the Year Award by World Athletics for grooming talent and encouraging young girls in India to take up sports and fight for gender equality.

Note: She is 2003 World Championships bronze medalist in long jump. She was the first Indian athlete to win bronze medal in long jump at the World Championships in Athletics held in 2013 in Paris. In 2004 Olympics, she finished sixth.

3. **Dinyar Patel** has won the prestigious Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2021 for his book Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism, a biography of one of the most significant figures in modern Indian history, Dadabhai Naoroji.
Note: The New India Foundation announced the winner from a shortlist of six books, which covered a variety of themes and subjects. The prize carries a

- cash award of Rs 15 lakh and a citation. Instituted in 2018, the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize celebrates high-quality non-fiction literature on modern and contemporary India from writers of all nationalities, published in the previous calendar year. The prize will be presented to Patel in a ceremony at the Bangalore International Centre.
4. **Sanjiv Puri** has been awarded the 'Impact Person of the Year 2020' award instituted by the exchange4media Group, to recognize excellence in the Advertising, Media and Marketing domain.
Note: He has been awarded this title for transforming a 100-year-old company, driving ITC to change with the times, making it an incredibly stable and strong conglomerate, flexible, agile, and digitally focused too, along with turning ITC into one of the fastest-growing FMCG companies in India. Smriti Irani, Minister of Women and Child Development, announced the winner, chosen from a wide field of business achievers.
 5. Indian-American mathematician **Nikhil Srivastava** has been jointly selected for the inaugural \$5,000 Ciprian Foias Prize for the "highly original work" in Operator Theory by the American Mathematical Society (AMS).
Note: Along with Prof. Srivastava, who teaches at the University of California, Berkeley, the two other awardees are Adam Marcus and Daniel Spielman. Mr Marcus holds the Chair of Combinatorial Analysis at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland. Mr Spielman is Sterling Professor of Computer Science, a professor of statistics and data science, and a professor of mathematics.
 6. **Rukmini Banerji** has been awarded the world's highest education accolade the 2021 Yidan Prize, for Education Development, for her work in improving learning outcomes.
Note: Among Banerji's pioneering work, along with Pratham's team, is the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) assessment approach that revealed literacy and numeracy gaps among children who have already spent several years at school.
 7. **Nilmani Phookan Jr** has been adjudged as the winner of the 56th Jnanpith Award for the year 2021.
Note: Phookan is a poet of renown, having written Surya Henu Nami Ahe Ei Nodiyedi, Gulapi Jamur Lagna, and Kobita. Primarily a poet, he also writes prose and is a pioneering art critic from Assam, with a focus on folklore and folk art.
 8. **Damodar Mauzo** has been adjudged as the winner of the 57th Jnanpith Award for the year 2022.
Note: Konkani novelist Damodar Mauzo has won the 57th Jnanpith Award. It is India's highest literary award. The annual Jnanpith is bestowed on writers for "their outstanding contribution towards literature."
 9. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been ranked **37th** position in the Forbes' rankings of 100 most powerful women of the world.
Note: This year, Sitharaman is ranked at 37th position, up from 41 last year. In 2019, she held the 34th spot in the Forbes ranking of 100 most powerful women. Jeff Bezos' former wife Mackenzie Scott earned the topmost spot in this year's list.
 10. **Mackenzie Scott** secured top position in the list of 100 powerful women of the world.
Note: US Vice-President Kamala Harris is ranked second, and European Central Bank Head Christine Lagarde is at the third position in the top 100 rankings. Every year, Forbes, an American business magazine, releases a list of 100 powerful women of the world.
 11. The 70th Miss Universe 2021 event was held in **Eilat, Israel**.
Note: The 21-year-old from Punjab claimed the crown edging out Paraguay's Nadia Ferreira and South Africa's Lalela Mswane. Ms Sandhu was presented the crown by Andrea Meza, former Miss Universe 2020 from Mexico. She has previously been crowned Miss Diva 2021, Femina Miss India Punjab 2019 and was even placed in the Top 12 at Femina Miss India 2019. Previously, only two Indians have worn the crown – Sushmita Sen in 1994, and Lara Dutta in 2000.
 12. Indian mathematician **Neena Gupta** has won the 'Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries 2021' for his/her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra.
Note: She is a mathematician at the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Kolkata. She becomes the third woman to receive the Ramanujan Prize since its inception in 2004.
 13. **Balkrishna Doshi** has been selected for Royal Gold Medal 2022 by Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).
Note: Royal Gold Medal is world's highest honour for architecture. Balkrishna Doshi is an important figure of Indian architecture and his more noteworthy designs include IIM Bangalore, IIM Udaipur, NIFT Delhi, Amdavad ni Gufa, CEPT University, and Aranya Low Cost Housing development in Indore which was awarded the Aga Khan Award for Architecture.

- 14. Elon Musk** has been named the Time magazine's 2021 "Person of the Year".
Note: Musk is also the founder and CEO of rocket company SpaceX, and leads brain-chip startup Neuralink and infrastructure firm The Boring Company. Times Magazine called him the richest man in the world who does not own a house and has recently been selling off his fortune.
- 15. Ashleigh Barty** has won the 2021 WTA Player of the Year Award.
Note: She won the award for the 2nd Time, previously she won the WTA Player of the year in 2019. WTA announced the winners of the WTA Player Awards 2021 as voted by the members of the International media that recognise the outstanding

performance from the current season. Ashleigh Barty ended the 2021 season securing WTA's World No.1 ranking for the 3rd consecutive year. She became the 5th woman to achieve this feat after Chris Evert, Martina Navratilova, Steffi Graf and Serena Williams.

- 16. Nirmala Sitharaman** topped the Fortune India's Most Powerful Women List 2021.
Note: She is followed by Reliance Foundation Chairperson and Goodwill Ambassador Nita Ambani (58) in 2nd position, and Soumya Swaminathan (62), Chief Scientist, World Health Organization (WHO) at 3rd. Nirmala Sitharaman is the 28th finance minister of India.

November 2021

- 1. Vax** word has been selected as the Oxford English Dictionary's 2021 Word of the Year.
Note: It is used as a short form for vaccine and means a substance put into a person's body to prevent them from getting a disease. It was used 72 times as much as it was in 2020
- 2. Priyanka Mohite** has been bestowed with the prestigious 'Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2020' for her outstanding contribution in the field of land adventure.
Note: She will receive the award from President Ram Nath Kovind at a function in the Rashtrapati Bhawan. The 28-year-old Mohite, who started out by trekking in Sahyadri ranges in western Maharashtra and rock-climbing, began summiting mountains from 2010.
- 3. Padma awards** has been awarded this year by the President Ram Nath Kovind --**119**.
Note: The Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian honours of India announced annually on the eve of Republic Day. The Awards are given in three categories: Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher order) and Padma Shri (distinguished service).
- 4. Puneeth Rajkumar** has been conferred with the Basavashree award 2021 by the Bruhanmutt.
Note: The award honours people for services to society in their respective fields by following the principles of Lord Basaveshwar. It is presented by Chitradurga Bruhanmutt since 1997. The award includes a Rs 5 lakh cash and a memento.
- 5. Damon Galgut** has won the prestigious Booker Prize 2021 for fiction for his novel 'The Promise'.
Note: It was his ninth book that states the decline of one dutch family in South Africa over four decades

from the apartheid era to the present day. It is a tale of a troubled Afrikaner family and its broken promise to a Black employee. With this recognition, Damon Galgut won 50,000 pounds (\$69,000) as an award amount. Booker prize is the world's most prestigious literary honours which is also called Oscars of world literature.

- 6. IIT Bombay** has bagged a grant worth \$250,000 from the XPRIZE Foundation, which is part of the Elon Musk Foundation at the COP26 summit in Glasgow.
Note: Four students and two teachers from IIT Bombay have won a grant of \$250,000 (approximately ₹1.85 crore) for the new-age technology at the Sustainable Innovation Forum at COP-26 in Glasgow. The grant has come from XPRIZE Foundation in collaboration with Elon Musk Foundation.
- 7. Falguni Nayar** became India's seventh woman billionaire and the wealthiest self-made billionaire.
Note: She established Nykaa in 2012. She holds 53.5% stake in Nykaa and has a net worth of USD 7.48 billion. This comes after the IPO of FSN E-Commerce Ventures which is Nykaa's parent entity. This is also the first woman-led unicorn to list on the stock exchange.
- 8. The first-ever Sports Authority of India's Institutional Awards** have been conferred to **162** athletes.
Note: They have been conferred awards in the Outstanding Award and Best Award category for their performance in national and international competitions. The awards acknowledge the exceptional performance of the SAI athletes and coaches under the various sports promotion

- schemes at the national and international level from 2016.
- 9. Hema Malini and Prasoon Joshi** will be awarded the Indian Film Personality of the Year award at the 52nd International Film Festival of India 2021 in Goa.
Note: Actor Hema Malini is 2 time BJP MP from Mathura while lyricist Joshi is former chairperson of CBFC. The IFFI will kick off on 20th November in a hybrid — virtual and physical — format.
- 10. Pratham** organization has been awarded with the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2021.
Note: Pioneering civil society organization, Pratham has been awarded the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2021. It has been awarded for its pioneering work to ensure that every child has access to quality education, digital technology for education, providing skills to young adults, for its regular evaluation of the quality of education, etc.
- 11. Abhinandan Varthaman** has been awarded the Vir Chakra by President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
Note: He shot down Pakistani F-16 jet during a dogfight over the Line of Control (LoC) in 2019. Vir Chakra: India's third highest wartime gallantry award after Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra.
- 12. The ABU – UNESCO Peace Media Awards 2021** was held in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** in which TV and Radio shows produced by Doordarshan and All India Radio respectively got multiple awards.
Note: Doordarshan's programme 'DEAFinitely Leading the Way' won an award under 'Living Well with Super Diversity' category, while All India Radio's programme 'Living on the edge – The coastal lives' won another award in the category of 'Ethical & Sustainable Relationship with Nature'. The awards were given by UNESCO in collaboration with Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) under 'Together for Peace' (T4P) initiative.
- 13. Tamal Bandyopadhyay** has won the Tata Literature Live! award for his book Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Tragedy.
Note: Published by Roli Books, Pandemonium was selected under the business book of the year category. Bandyopadhyay, who writes the Banker's Trust column, had earlier received an award at Kalinga Literary Festival for Pandemonium — touted as a definitive insider story on the rot in India's banking system.
- 14. Tehran** has won the International Emmy Awards 2021 for Drama series.
Note: The 49th edition of International Emmy Awards has been held in New York City to recognize excellence in television programs produced and aired originally outside the U.S., and non-English language US primetime program.
- Best Actor: David Tennant for Des (UK)
 - Best Actress: Hayley Squires for Adult Material (UK)
 - Best Drama Series: Tehran (Israel)
 - Best Comedy Series: Call My Agent Season 4 (France)
 - Best Documentary: Hope Frozen: A Quest To Live Twice (Thailand)
 - Best Telenovela: The Song Of Glory (China)
 - Best TV Movie / Mini-Series: Atlantic Crossing (Norway)
 - Best Arts Programming: Kubrick By Kubrick (France)
 - Best Short-Form Series: INSIDE (New Zealand)
 - Best Non-Scripted Entertainment: The Masked Singer (UK)
 - Best Non-English Language U.S. Primetime Program: 21st Annual Latin GRAMMY Awards (USA)
- 15. Sadar Bazar police station, Delhi** has been ranked as the best police station in the country as part of the annual home ministry exercise to grade police stations based on parameters including handling of crime, infrastructure, and approachability of personnel.
Note: Gangapur PS in Ganjam district of Odisha was adjudged as the second best police station and Bhattu Kalan PS in Fatehabad, Haryana as the third best.
- 16. Ringu Wandering** has won the Golden Peacock Award at 52nd edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
Note: For the first time: The BRICS film festival was hosted alongside IFFI, OTT platforms participated and 75 creative young minds of cinema were felicitated at IFFI.
- The Golden peacock award: Ringu Wandering (Masakazu Kanyeko)
 - The best director: Vaclav Kadrnka for 'Saving One Who Was Dead'.
 - Best actor male went to Jitendra Joshi (Godavari).
 - Best actor female: Angela Molina (Paraguay)
 - The Special Jury award: Renata Carvalho (Brazil)
- 17. Lingui, The Sacred Bonds** film won the ICFT- UNESCO Gandhi Medal at 52nd edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
Note: Lingui was co-produced by Belgium France Germany and was made in Arabic and French. It

reflects the story of the sacred relationship between a mother and daughter and their survival against the

harsh laws set by men.

October 2021

1. According to the **IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2021**, Mukesh Ambani continues to be the richest man of India for consecutive **5th year**.
Note: Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani is at second spot with net worth of Rs. 5,05,900 crores, followed by Shiv Nadar & family of HCL technologies with net worth of Rs 2,36,600 crore. Hurun India Rich List 2021, features as many as 1,007 individuals across 119 cities with net worth of Rs 1,000 crore
2. **Shiv Nadar and Mallika Srinivasan** have been chosen for the 2021 Global Leadership Award by US India Business Council (USIBC).
Note: Global Leadership Awards was given annually since 2007 to honor top corporate executives from US and India who have demonstrated exemplary leadership. **Shiv Nadar:** Founder and chairman emeritus of HCL Technologies Limited. **Mallika Srinivasan:** Chair and managing director, Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE).
3. **David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian** won the Nobel Prize 2021 in Medicine or Physiology.
Note: According to Nobel Assembly at Sweden's Karolinska Institute, their findings "have allowed us to understand how heat, cold and mechanical force can initiate the nerve impulses that allow us to perceive and adapt to the world around us. The more than century-old prize is worth 10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.15 million). The Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine, shared in equal parts this year by the two laureates.
4. Raksha Mantri **Shri Rajnath Singh** felicitated the winners of 'Dare to Dream 2.0', young scientist award 2021. The Contest was organized by **DRDO**.
Note: The Raksha Mantri gave away awards to 40 winners - 22 in Individual category and 18 in Startup category. He also launched 'Dare to Dream 3.0' to promote innovators & startups and provide a platform for the young ignited minds in the country. Dare to Dream is DRDO's pan-India contest to promote Indian academicians, individuals and startups to develop emerging defence and aerospace technologies/systems. DRDO provides technical and financial support to the winners for realisation of their ideas under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme.
5. Scientist Giorgio Parisi has won half share of the 2021 Nobel Physics Prize.
Note: Manabe and Hasselmann were cited for their work in "the physical modeling of Earth's climate, quantifying variability and reliably predicting global warming". The second half of the prize was awarded to Parisi for "the discovery of the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems from atomic to planetary scales." The prestigious prize is worth 10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.15 million) and is given by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
6. **Benjamin List and David MacMillan** won the 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their development of asymmetric organocatalysis, a "new and ingenious tool for molecule building."
Note: "Organic catalysts can be used to drive multitudes of chemical reactions," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in a statement. "Using these reactions, researchers can now more efficiently construct anything from new pharmaceuticals to molecules that can capture light in solar cells." The more than century-old prize is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and is worth 10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.14 million).
7. **Abdulrazak Gurnah** has been awarded 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature.
Note: He writes in English. Nobel Prize in literature is awarded by Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden. Prize money for Nobel Prize in Literature is worth 10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.14 million).
8. **Gautam Adani** occupied second position in the Forbes India Rich list for 2021, that was topped Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani.
Note: Gautam Adani, with a wealth of \$74.8 billion, is second richest in India with only \$17.9 billion shy of Ambani. Shiv Nadar was number three in the list with a wealth of \$31 billion. Radhakrishnan Damani, founder of Avenues Supermarts, and Cyrus Poonawalla, chairman of Serum Institute, were placed fourth and fifth with a wealth of \$29.4 billion and \$19 billion respectively.
9. **G Satheesh Reddy** has been conferred with the prestigious Aryabhata Award 2021.
Note: The award has been given by Astronautical Society of India (ASI) for his outstanding life-time contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India. Dr G Satheesh Reddy is a pioneer in the area of R&D of advanced avionics, navigation and missile technologies. He has contributed immensely to strategic and tactical missile systems and helped the country become self-reliant in critical defence technologies.

- 10. David Card, Joshua D Angrist and Guido W Imbens** have won the 2021 Nobel prize for Economics.
Note: Canadian-born David Card of the University of California was awarded half of the prize for his research on how minimum wage, immigration and education affect the labor market. The other half was shared by Joshua Angrist from MIT and Dutch-born Guido Imbens from Stanford University for their framework for studying issues that can't rely on traditional scientific methods.
- 11. B Gopal** has been chosen for the fourth Satyajit Ray Award for his overall contribution to the Indian cinema.
Note: Instituted by the Satyajit Ray Film Society Kerala, a state-based organisation, the award comprises Rs 10,000 cash prize, a memento and plaque. Gopal has directed 30 films Telugu films and two Hindi moves in his decades-long tinsel town career. The award would be presented to him in a function to be held in Hyderabad.
- 12. Randeep Guleria** has been conferred with Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence.
Note: Randeep Guleria (Director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences) has been conferred with Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence. Award was instituted by Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management (LBSIM), Delhi, promoted by Lal Bahadur Shastri Educational Society.
- 13. Satya Nadella** received the prestigious **C K Prahlad award for Global Business Sustainability Leadership** for the year 2021.
Note: The award recognises exceptional, globally significant private-sector action, innovation and long-term business success in a globalizing world. Four Microsoft leaders received the award. They are president and vice chair Brad Smith, chief financial officer Amy Hood, chief environment officer Lucas Joppa along with Nadella- for their collaborative leadership aimed at transforming Microsoft into a carbon negative company by 2030 and to remove all its historical emissions by 2050.
- 14.** Renowned writer Benyamin is a writer of **Malayalam** language bagged the 45th Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Literary Award for his book 'Mantharilire 20 Communist Varshangal'.
Note: The award, instituted by the Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Trust, comprises a cash prize of **Rs 1 lakh**, a sculpture designed by sculptor **Kanayi Kunhiraman** and a **citation**. A political satire, the novel revolves around a nondescript village called **Mantharir** and the influence of religion and politics in its culture in two decades.
- 15.** Film Director Chaitanya Tamhane has won the best screenplay award for **'The Disciple'** movie.
Note: The winners in 18 categories were announced at a ceremony hosted by the Asian Film Awards Academy

- (AFAA) in conjunction with Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) and Asian Contents & Film Market (ACFM) at the Paradise Hotel Busan. 'The Disciple' follows Sharad Nerulkar (Aditya Modak), an Indian classical vocalist.
- 16.** Indian American scientist **Dr. Vivek Lall** has won the Lifetime Achievement Award at Ritossa Family Summits in Dubai.
Note: General Atomics CE Dr Vivek Lall received a Lifetime Achievement Award in Dubai for his "outstanding vision, dedication and success. A Jakarta-born Indian origin scientist, Dr Lall is known for this extraordinary role in strengthening India-US Defence trade and brokered some "top deals" between the two countries.
- 17. United Kingdom** Army has organized '2021 Cambrian Patrol Exercise' in that **Indian Army's Team** of 4/5 Gorkha Rifles has won a gold medal.
Note: Exercise Cambrian Patrol is an annual international military exercise conducted to test the ultimate human endurance, thus it is sometimes referred to as the 'Olympics of Military Patrolling'. The Gold Medal was presented to the Indian team by General Sir Mark Carleton-Smith, the Chief of General Staff of the British Army.
- 18.** Indian company **Takachar** has won the prize in the "Clean Our Air" category in first-ever Earthshot Prize, also called "Eco Oscar", instituted by Prince William for its technology to create fuel, fertiliser and other speciality chemicals from agricultural waste.
Note: The Indian company won the prize in the "Clean Our Air" category for its technology to create fuel, fertiliser and other speciality chemicals from agricultural waste. Takachar's innovation aims to put an end to stubble burning, an annual scourge in north India that causes severe air pollution, including in the National Capital Region.
- 19. Kung Fu Nuns** has won the prestigious Martial Arts Education Prize 2021 from the UNESCO International Centre for Martial Arts for their brave acts of service.
Note: The prize recognises the Kung Fu Nuns' heroic acts of service and championing of gender equality across the Himalayas. Through martial arts, the Drukpa nuns empower young girls to defend themselves, build confidence, and take on leadership roles in their communities.
- 20.** Renowned Alexei Navalny is a political leader of **Russia** who has been awarded the **2021 Sakharov Prize**, the European Union's top human rights prize.
Note: It European Union's top human rights prize. In awarding the Sakharov Prize to Mr. Navalny, the European Parliament praised his "immense personal bravery." The 45-year-old activist was poisoned with a nerve agent last year and promptly arrested upon his return to Moscow from treatment in Germany and later imprisoned.

21. **Aadhyaa Aravind Shankar** has scripted history by becoming the first-ever Indian to win the Children's Peace Image of the Year-Global Peace Photo Award.
Note: Global Peace Photo Award is awarded annually by Lammerhuber Editions in partnership with UNESCO and the Austrian Parliament. The award honours photographers from around the world whose pictures reflect human efforts towards a peaceful world.
22. According to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting **Istevan Szabo and Martin Scorsese** will be conferred the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award at 52nd International Film Festival of India in Goa.
Note: Istvan Szabo is one of the most critically acclaimed Hungarian film directors of the past few decades known for masterpieces like Mephisto (1981) Father (1966). Martin Scorsese is one of the major figures of the New Hollywood era, regarded as one of the greatest and most influential directors in film history.
23. Koozhangal (internationally translated as Pebbles) is drama film of **Tamil** language has been selected as India's official entry for 94th Academy Awards (Oscars 2022).
Note: Koozhangal has been directed by filmmaker Vinothraj PS and produced by Vignesh Shivan and Nayanthara. It is related to alcoholic abusive husband who, after his long-suffering wife runs off, sets out with his young son. 94th Academy Awards are scheduled to take place in Los Angeles, on March 27, 2022.
24. Renowned author and a filmmaker Tsitsi Dangarembga become the first black woman to win 2021 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for "new Enlightenment", a work on violence in her country and all over the world.
Note: The Award has been awarded by the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels, an association of German book publishers and book sellers. Dangarembga is the first black woman to win the German Peace Prize. Tsitsi Dangarembga is novelist, playwright and filmmaker, born on February 4, 1959, in mutoko, Zimbabwe.
25. **Rajnikanth** has been conferred with the 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2019 edition) for his stupendous contribution to Indian cinema at 67th National Film Awards ceremony.
Note: Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2019 was to be announced last year but was postponed due to Covid-19 pandemic, as were the National Film Awards for 2019. It is awarded for excellence in cinematic achievement and is the highest honour in film, awarded by the government. The recipient of the 2018 award was Amitabh Bachchan.

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 diyangjan candidates from 15 states.

Note: The virtual award ceremony was organised by NIRDPR with MoRD, in association with State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs) and Rural Self-employment Training Institutes. CEOs of SRLMs and Directors of RSETIs handed over the awards at the respective states to the specially-abled achievers.

19. Accra, Ghana has been named as UNESCO World Book Capital for 2023, following the evaluation of the World Book Capital Advisory Committee.

Note: After Guadalajara (Mexico) in 2022, the city of Accra was selected for its strong focus on young people and their potential to contribute to the culture and wealth of Ghana. Accra's proposed programme seeks to use the power of books to engage these young people, as an effective way of skilling up the next generation.

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.

Sports News

December (1-15) 2021

1. **Argentina** has won the men's Junior hockey World Cup at the Kalinga Stadium, Odisha.
Note: They defeated six-time champion Germany by 4-2 and won the title after a 16-year gap. Argentina sealed their second men's Junior World Cup title when Franco Agostini fired into an empty net in the final minute. France has defeated India to claim the 3rd place in the tournament.
2. **Malaysia** has won the Asian team squash championships 2021 held in Kuala Lumpur.
Note: Malaysia defeated Indian in the final by 2-1. India had lost in the summit clash before in 1981 and 2012 also. Malaysia has also won the women's final of the Asian team squash championships defeating Hong Kong 2-1 in the final.
3. **Viktor Axelson** has won the 2021 BWF World Tour men's Final held in Bali, Indonesia.
Note: He defeated Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand by 21-12, 21-8 in just 43 minutes to wrap up the men's singles title. South Korea's An Seyoung has won BWF World Tour Finals in women's category by defeating India's PV Sindu.
4. **An Seyoung** has won the 2021 BWF World Tour women's Final held in Bali, Indonesia.
Note: Men's doubles, Japan's Hoki Takuro and Kobayashi Yugo beat Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo from Indonesia.
5. **Russia** has won the Davis Cup title 2021.
Note: They defeated Croatia 2-0 in the summit clash in Madrid. Andrey Rublev defeated Borna Gojo 6-4, 7-5 in the opening match and then the victory was sealed by Daniil Medvedev after he outclassed Marin Cilic. Medvedev defeated Cilic 7-6, 6-2 to seal the victory for Russia.
6. **Lewis Hamilton** has won the inaugural Saudi Arabian Grand Prix 2021.
Note: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, which is scheduled to be held on 12th December, is the last race of '2021 Formula One World Championship', which will decide 2021's Winner. Currently the top position is shared by Max Verstappen & Lewis Hamilton with 369.5 points each.
7. **Weightlifter** Sanket Mahadev Sargar won a gold medal recently.
Note: For the top-podium finish, the Indian lifted the weight of 113kg. With this lift, Sargar also created the new snatch national record. The Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021 is currently being held concurrently in Tashkent along with World Weightlifting Championships 2021 from December 7 to 17.
8. **Jhilli Dalabehera** has won gold medal the women's 49kg category at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Note: Indian weightlifter Jhilli Dalabehera has won the gold medal in the women's 49kg category at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

9. **Max Verstappen** has won the Formula One Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2021.

Note: Hamilton's Mercedes team secured the constructors' championship for an unprecedented eighth successive year but Verstappen, 24, ended a run of double dominance dating back to 2014.

Verstappen ended the season with 10 wins to Hamilton's eight, having also led more laps and taken more poles and podiums.

10. **Thailand** hosted the Asian Rowing Championship 2021 in which India won total of six medals, including two gold and 4 silver medals.

Note: Senior rower Arvind Singh bagged a gold in the lightweight Men's single sculls event while his compatriots won three silver medals. India bagged silver medals in Men's Lightweight Double Sculls,

Men's Quadrapul Sculls and in Men's Coxless Four. In Lightweight Men's Double Sculls, India's Ashish Phugat and Sukhjinder Singh won the silver.

11. Arvind Singh is associated with **Rowing** who won gold medal recently.

Note: India bagged silver medals in Men's Lightweight Double Sculls, Men's Quadrapul Sculls and in Men's Coxless Four. In Lightweight Men's Double Sculls, India's Ashish Phugat and Sukhjinder Singh won the silver.

12. **Magnus Carlsen** has won 2021 FIDE World Chess Championship held in Dubai, UAE.

Note: He defeated Ian Nepomniachtchi, who faded badly after going toe-to-toe in the early games. Carlsen wins 60% of the 2 million-euro prize offered by the championship. FIDE World Chess Championship 2021 was played during Expo 2020 at Dubai Exhibition Centre in Dubai, UAE, between 24 November and 12 December 2021.

November 2021

1. Indian ace table tennis players **Archana Girish Kamath and Manika Batra** clinched the women's doubles title in the WTT Contender tournament in Lasko, Slovenia.

Note: The Indian duo defeated the Puerto Rican team of Melanie Diaz and Adriana Diaz in straight sets by 11-3, 11-8, 12-10. Manika Batra and Archana Girish Kamath entered the finals of the women's doubles event of the WTT Contender tournament after defeating the team of Wang Yidi and Liu Weishan.

2. Nagpur based teenager Sankalp Gupta has become India's **71st** Grandmaster.

Note: The 18-year-old secured the three required GM norms in just 24 days by playing three tournaments on the trot. To achieve the GM title, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 Elo points.

3. Indian women shooter **Manu Bhaker** has won the 10m air pistol mixed team gold at the inaugural ISSF President's Cup with Iran's Javad Foroughi.

Note: The Indo-Iranian pair got the better of the French-Russian duo of Mathilde Lamolle and Artem Chernousov 16-8 in the gold medal match. Among the other Indians in the field, Abhishek Verma paired up with Ukrainian Olena Kostevych to finish

sixth while the pairing of Saurabh Chaudhary and Swiss Heidi Gerber Diethelm also made it among the top eight semi-finalists to finish seventh.

4. Akash Kumar is associated **Boxing** sports has won a bronze medal recently in a world championship.

Note: With this win he became the 7th Indian male boxer who won a medal at the World Boxing Championships and also received \$25,000 as prize money and a belt for his accomplishment. He suffered a 0-5 loss against Kazakhstan's Makhmud Sabyrkhan.

5. **West Indies** Veteran cricketer Dwayne Bravo announced his retirement from international cricket.

Note: Dwayne Bravo hails from Santa Cruz, Trinidad. Dwayne Bravo has played in all seven T20 World Cups and he has been a part of the West Indies team that won the T20 Title in 2012 and 2016. He has scored 1245 runs at an average of 22.23 and a strike rate of 115.38 and he has picked up 78 wickets.

6. **Max Verstappen** has won the Mexico City Grand Prix 2021.

Note: Starting from the second row, Verstappen made a brilliant move on the outside going into Turn 1 to take over Mercedes-Benz AMG's Valtteri Bottas and Lewis Hamilton, who started at pole and second

place, respectively. Verstappen was never unsettled from there and comfortably took the win, with Hamilton eventually crossing the line in second place some 16 seconds behind after managing to hold off local hero Sergio Perez.

7. **Mitrabha Guha** has become India's 72nd chess Grand Master by bagging his third and final GM norm during a tournament in Serbia.

Note: The 20-year old Guha achieved the GM title after securing the final norm at the ongoing GM Mix 220 tourney in Novi Sad, Serbia. The Indian, who beat GM Nikola Sedlak of Serbia in the ninth round, has so far scored seven points with six wins, two draws and a loss to Russian GM Vladimir Zakhartsov in the seventh round.

8. **Novak Djokovic** has won 2021 Rolex Paris Masters final title.

Note: This is the sixth Paris Masters title for the Serbian Djokovic and overall 37th ATP Masters 1000 title. Rolex Paris Masters: It is the annual tennis tournament for male professional players. It is a part of the ATP Tour Masters 1000.

9. **Lewis Hamilton** has won the won the Brazilian Grand Prix 2021, and gained momentum in his Formula One title fight.

Note: Hamilton, a seven-time world champion, beat Verstappen despite starting from 10th position on the grid due to a penalty. Verstappen, the winner of the race's previous edition in 2019, finished second and saw his lead in the driver's championship shrink to 14 points. The winner of a race gets 25 points.

10. **Australia** has won their maiden T20 World Cup title held the Dubai International Stadium.

Note: Chasing a stiff target of 173, the Aussies overhauled New Zealand's score with seven balls remaining. David Warner was chosen as Player of The Tournament for his effort with the bat.

11. Women's cricket T20 tournament will be making its debut in **2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham**.

Note: This will be 1st time that women cricket will be included in Commonwealth Games. Earlier, cricket was played as List A men's tournament at 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 2022 matches will be played under Twenty20 format and there will only be women's tournament.

12. **Pakistan** will host the 2025 ICC Men's Champions Trophy.

Note: This will also be the first major global cricket tournament played in Pakistan since 1996. India gets 2026 T20 World Cup jointly with Sri Lanka, 2029 Champions Trophy and the 2031 World Cup jointly with Bangladesh. In October 2028 the T20 World Cup will be played in Australia and New Zealand and 12 months later India will host the Champions Trophy.

13. Garbiñe Muguruza held from **Spain** country who has won her first WTA Finals Championship.

Note: In doubles, Czech's Barbora Krejčíková and Kateřina Siniaková beat Hsieh Su-wei (Chinese Taipei) and Elise Mertens (Belgium) by 6-3, 6-4 points. Garbiñe has won the biggest title of her career and it was her 3rd title of the year. Garbiñe becomes the first Spaniard to win the WTA Finals singles title in the event's history.

14. **Lewis Hamilton** has won F1 Qatar Grand Prix 2021, which was held on November 21, 2021.

Note: Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won 2021 F1 Qatar Grand Prix, that was held on November 21, 2021. Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) came second, followed by Fernando Alonso (Alpine- Spain).

15. Erik Kynard belongs to **US** who was upgraded to a 2012 Olympic high jump gold medal after original gold medalist Ivan Ukhov of Russia was previously stripped for doping, the IOC announced.

Note: Kynard's leap of 2.33 meters placed second behind Ivan Ukhov, who was proven years later to have taken part in the Russian state-backed steroid doping program. Ukhov was banned for four years in 2019 at the Court of Arbitration for Sport. He went back to the same court last year for an appeal hearing but failed to overturn the ruling.

16. **West Bengal's** school and higher education department have won the prestigious SKOCH GOLD awards.

Note: School Education Department and Higher Education Department of GoWB – both have won the prestigious SKOCH GOLD awards. Instituted in 2003, the Skoch award recognizes efforts in digital, financial, social inclusion, governance, inclusive growth, technology and applications and corporate leadership.

17. Union Minister for Commerce, Industry, Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal virtually launched India's first Food Museum in **Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu**.

Note: The museum has been established by Food Corporation of India (FCI) in association with Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum (VITM), Bengaluru, at an investment of about ₹1.1 crore. Spread over an area of 1,860 square feet, the museum showcases the evolution process – the transformation of the nomadic hunter gatherers' to settled agriculture producers leading to the beginning of civilizations. Models of various ancient grain storage methods, both global and indigenous, are displayed at the museum.

18. In which year India and Bangladesh will jointly host the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup -- **2031**.

Note: The hosts were selected via a competitive bidding process which was overseen by a board sub-committee chaired by Martin Snedden along with Sourav Ganguly and Ricky Skerritt. The ICC confirmed the 14 host countries for the ICC men's white ball events from 2024-2031. It includes 11 full members and three associate members who will host two ICC Men's World Cups, four ICC Men's T20 World Cups and two ICC men's Champions Trophy events.

19. Tamil Nadu team has won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title in New Delhi.

Note: Tamil Nadu became the most successful team as they won their 3rd title. Batsman Shahrukh Khan pulled off a stunning heist as he hit 33 runs of 15-ball, including a last-ball six when Tamil Nadu

needed 5 runs in the last delivery of their 152-run chase. 2021 was the 13th edition of Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (Twenty20 competition of India)

20. Alexander Zverev has won 2021 ATP Finals title, after defeating World No.2 Daniil Medvedev of Russia.

Note: This is Zverev's second Nitto ATP Finals title, after winning the first in 2018. Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut of France clinched the men's double title by defeating Rajeev Ram of US and Joe Salisbury of UK.

21. RuPay has bag the title sponsor of the Prime Volleyball League for three years which is scheduled to take place in early 2022.

Note: The card payment network has acquired the title sponsorship rights of the sporting league for three years of the league, which is scheduled to take place in early 2022.

22. Harshwanti Bisht has been elected as the first woman president of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF).

Note: She won 60 out of a total of 107 votes to get elected to the post IMF's President. She scaled Nanda Devi peak in 1981 for which she was honored with the Arjuna award. IMF: It is an apex national body to organize and support, mountaineering and rock-climbing expeditions at high altitudes in Himalayas. It was founded in 1958.

October 2021

1. Indian men's table tennis team created history by winning a medal at the **Asian Table Tennis Championship 2021**.

Note: The team consisting of Sathiyana Gnanasekaran, Sharath Kamal, Harmeet Desai, Sanil Shetty, and Manav Thakkar won the bronze medal after losing to South Korea 0-3 in the semi-finals. This is India's second medal at Asian Championships since 1976. The Indian team was assured of a medal after beating Iran 3-1 in the quarterfinals.

2. Smriti Mandhana became first Indian woman to score a Test hundred on Australian soil.

Note: She completed her century to shape up India's first innings on the second day of the first pink-ball day and night One-off Test match being played between India and Australia women at the Carrara Oval in Queensland, Australia. She scored 127 runs with 22 fours and a six. Put into bat, India women were off to a

solid start with both openers Mandhana and Shafali Verma scored together a 93-run partnership.

3. FC Goa has won the 2021 Durand Cup football title held in Kolkata.

Note: Captain Eduardo Bedia scored the all important goal in the 105th minute after the final match went into the extra time. The Durand Cup crown also marks FC Goa coach Juan Ferrando Fenoll's first-ever trophy on Indian soil. FC Goa got 40 lakh rupees for winning the title, while Mohammedan Sporting received 20 lakh rupees.

4. Magnus Carlsen has won inaugural Meltwater Champions Chess Tour (MCCT) to claim the non-fungible token (NFT) trophy, and \$1,00,000 in the finals.

Note: It is a 10-month long online chess tournaments, which was held on chess24.com from November 22, 2020 till October 4, 2021. Tournaments are not rated by FIDE. MCCT tour comprised of 10 total

- tournaments. It was the most viewed online chess event in history of the game.
5. **Manu Bhaker** has won a gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol event at the ISSF junior world championship.
Note: Esha Singh, 16, grabbed the silver medal in a one-two finish for India while Rhythm ended in fourth place in the finals after missing out on a podium by just .2 points. India's Rudranksh Patil claimed the silver medal in the men's 10m air rifle competition. Ramita won bronze in the women's 10m air rifle junior event with a total score of 229.1, even as the well-known Mehuli Ghosh finished fifth in the final and Nisha Kanwar eighth.
 6. Indian women wrestler **Anshu Malik** has won a silver medal in the **World Wrestling Championships** in Oslo, Norway.
Note: 19-year old Anshu becomes India's first-ever woman finalist at the World Championship. **Sushil Kumar** (2010) remains India's lone world champion wrestler till date.
 7. Sarita Mor is associated with **Wrestling** sports has won a bronze medal in a World championship recently.
Note: Sarita Mor is an Indian Wrestler who won bronze medal in women's 59kg. Sarita ended defeated Sweden's Sara Johanna Lindborg 8-2 in bronze medal play-off
 8. **Valtteri Bottas** has won Formula 1 Turkish Grand Prix 2021, held at Istanbul Park in Tuzla, Istanbul.
Note: This is V. Bottas first victory of F1 season. Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) came second, followed by Sergio Perez (Mexico- Red Bull). Lewis Hamilton finished fifth in the race.
 9. **India** has the highest medal tally at 2021 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship.
Note: Indian shooters claimed a historic victory with 43 medals included 17 Gold, 16 Silver and 10 Bronze medal to stand atop in the medal table at 2021 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship. USA finished second on the medal table.
 10. **India** pulled out of the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games' hockey competition stating the risk of contracting COVID-19 and the discriminatory quarantine rules by the United Kingdom (UK) for travellers.
Note: The UK has refused to consider India's COVID-19 vaccination certificates and imposed a 10-day quarantine on travellers coming from India even if fully vaccinated. India has also imposed reciprocal rules on all UK nationals arriving in the country following UK's discriminatory quarantine rules.
 11. The official mascot of the U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 -- **Ibha**.
Note: Ibha aims to inspire women and girls across India and around the world to realise their potential. The tournament will be held in India from October 11-30 next year.
 12. **Indonesia** has won the 2021 Thomas Cup trophy in Aarhus, Denmark.
Note: Indonesia is the most successful nation in the history of the team championship of men's badminton with 14 titles. China settled for silver while Japan and hosts Denmark shared the bronze.
 13. **China** has won the Uber Cup title by defeating Japan in the final in Aarhus, Denmark.
Note: This is China's 15th Uber Cup title win in 19 finals. Japan began the final in a stunning fashion when world number five Akane Yamaguchi beat reigning Olympic Champion in women's singles Chen Yu Fei 21-18, 21-10 to give Japan 1-0 lead. Yamaguchi had also beaten Chen Yu Fei at the recent Sudirman Cup.
 14. South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship was held in **Maldives**.
Note: India clinched the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship for eighth time defeating Nepal 3-0 in Male. Sunil Chhetri scored in the 49th minute of the match, which put him level with Lionel Messi on 80 international goals. This is the Indian football team's first title triumph under head coach Igor Stimac.
 15. Chennai Super Kings (CSK) has defeated **Kolkata Knight Riders** in the final to win the 2021 Indian Premier League (IPL) title.
Note: This was the 14th edition of IPL which is an India-based Cricket league in 20-20 format. This was the 4th victory of Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in IPL, having previously won the tournament in 2010, 2011, and 2018. Captain of CSK: **M.S. Dhoni**
 16. **Divya Deshmukh** became India's 21st Woman Grand Master after achieving her 2nd International Master in Budapest, Hungary.
Note: She scored 5 points in the 9 rounds and ended up with a performance rating of 2452 to secure her final WGM norm. She also secured her 2nd IM-norm and is now a norm away from becoming an International Master. The Nagpur teenager had earned the first two WGM norms at the Velammal International women's round-robin tournament and the Aeroflot Open 2019.
 17. **Nagaland** will host the 'South Asian Federation Cross Country Championship 2022 and 56th National Cross Country Championships.
Note: While the 56th National Cross Country Championships which is also being hosted by Nagaland will be clubbed with the South Asian Federation Cross Country Championships. Top athletes from the eight south Asian countries – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives will participate in the event.

18. Indian Grandmaster who clinched the title in the La Nucia Open chess tournament -- **P Iniyán**.
Note: The 19-year-old Iniyán, with an Elo rating of 2529, finished equal on seven points with GMs Andrey Sumets (Ukraine) and Rodrigo Vasquez Schroeder (Chile) but the Indian won the event on the basis of a better tie-break score. Iniyán, who was seeded fifth, remained unbeaten in the nine-round tournament. He won six games and drew two, apart from getting a bye in the eighth round.
19. **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has partnered with **UNICEF to raise awareness** about the mental health issues and wellbeing amongst children and adolescents.
Note: Under this partnership, ICC will promote the #OnYourMind campaign of UNICEF at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021, beginning on October 17, 2021. The ICC will use its global platforms, including its broadcast and digital channels to support UNICEF's work and urge for greater commitment, connection and conversation around mental health and physical wellbeing.
20. Indian cricketers **Harbhjan Singh and Javagal Srinath** have been awarded the life membership of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
Note: Harbhajan is India's third-highest wicket-taker in Tests, with 417 wickets in 103 Tests, while Srinath is one of the country's greatest ODI players, having taken 315 wickets and ended his career as India's second-highest wicket-taker in 50-over internationals. Eight of the 12 Test-playing nations are represented in this year's list, which includes some of the most recognisable names in the modern game.
21. Indian fencer **Bhavani Devi** has won 2022 Charlellville National Competition in France in the individual women's sabre event.
Note: She also made history at Tokyo Olympics by becoming the first Indian to compete in the sport at the Games by winning her round of 64 match 15-3 against Tunisia's Nadia Ben Azizi before going down to eventual bronze-medallist, Manon Brunet of France in the round of 32. She is currently ranked 50th in the world and is the top-ranked fencer from India.
22. Renowned **Australian** cricketer James Pattinson announced his retirement from international cricket.
Note: The 31-year-old, who has played 21 Tests and 15 ODIs, though will continue to play domestic cricket. Pattinson claimed 81 Test wickets and 16 ODI scalps in his career after making his Test debut in December 2011 alongside Mitchell Starc and David Warner against New Zealand in Brisbane.
23. **Viktor Axelsen** has won men's single title in the 2021 Denmark Open Badminton championship held at the Odense Sports Park in Odense, Denmark.
Note: He defeated world number 1 Momota Kento of Japan. Akane Yamaguchi of Japan won her second title in women's category defeating An Se-young (South Korea). Men's double – Takuro Hoki, and Yugo Kobayashi (Japan). Women's double – Huang Dongping and Zheng Yu (China). Mixed double – Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino (Japan).
24. **Fabio Quartararo** has won the MotoGP world championship at the Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix.
Note: Pole Bagnaya led the Ducati home race when he crashed five laps to go, losing the race to Marc Marquez of Honda and the world title Quartararo. Quartararo's victory ended nearly a decade of Spanish domination after Marquez (six championships), Yamaha's Jorge Lorenzo (2012 and 2015) and Juan Mir of Suzuki (2020) won their last nine titles.
25. **Max Verstappen** has won the U.S. Grand Prix 2021 title.
Note: This is his eighth title of the season. Verstappen and Red Bull won on a track where Hamilton and Mercedes have been dominant for years. The victory doubled Verstappen's lead over Hamilton to 12 points in the standings with five races remaining and could prove to be a pivotal win in this classic championship battle.
26. Former cricketer **Mohd Azharuddin** unveiled World's biggest cricket bat in Hyderabad.
Note: President of Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) and former India captain Mohd Azharuddin has inaugurated World's biggest cricket bat in Hyderabad. This bat has been certified by the Guinness Book of World Records as the biggest cricket bat in the world. It has been designed by Pernod Ricard India (P) Ltd with poplar wood and has been fabricated by BSL Events.
27. Indian swimmer **Ridhima Veerendra Kumar** won the gold medal in 50 meter backstroke at 74th senior National aquatic championships.
Note: The 14-year-old relegated Maana Patel to second spot for the second successive race (after 100m backstroke on day one) by clocking 29.94s over 50m.

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 Bethe of Great Britain. He is one of the best para-shuttlers of India with 45 international medals under his belt. This is India's first medal in badminton at the Paralympics Games.
 10. The 130th edition of Durand Cup, the oldest football tournament being hosted by **Kolkata**.
Note: 16 teams will be participated in this edition of the oldest club football tournament in Asia while two clubs East Bengal and Mohun Bagan are not participating. Mohammedan Sporting Club started their campaign in the tournament with an emphatic win against the Indian Air Force Football team.
 11. Emma Raducanu held from **Britain** has won Women's Singles title at 2021 US Open Tennis tournament by defeating Leylah Fernandez of Canada.
Note: Rising British sensation Emma defeated her Canadian opponent in straight sets 6-4, 6-3 in the summit clash held at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York. She has become the first British woman to win the title in 53 years. Raducanu has also become the first British woman in 44 years to win a Grand Slam singles title.
 12. **Daniil Medvedev** has won 2021 US Open men's singles Tennis Title.
Note: Medvedev, the 2019 US Open runner-up, captured his first Grand Slam title in his third Slam final. Medvedev became the third Russian man to win a Grand Slam title after Yevgeny Kafelnikov at the 1996 French Open and 1999 Australian Open and Marat Safin at the 2000 US Open and 2005 Australian Open.
 13. **Daniel Ricciardo** has won the won Formula One Italian Grand Prix 2021 title held at Autodromo Nazionale Monza.
Note: This is the first victory for McLaren in 9 years. Lando Norris (McLaren-Mercedes) came second, followed by Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes). Lewis Hamilton and Max Verstappen crash out of Italian Grand Prix 2021 due to collision. It was the 14th round of 2021 F1 World Championship and second Grand Prix in Italy of the season.
 14. International Olympic Committee (IOC) has formally suspended **North Korea** from the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics.
Note: IOC president Thomas Bach said the North Korean national Olympic body will also now forfeit money it was due from the previous Olympics. The unspecified amount — potentially millions of dollars — had been withheld because of international sanctions.
 15. **MS Dhoni** has been appointed as the Team India's mentor for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup 2021 by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
Note: MD Dhoni has announced his retirement from international limited-overs cricket on August 15, 2020. Dhoni had last played for India in the 2019 ICC World Cup semi-final against New Zealand. Dhoni, who leads Chennai Super Kings, is a three-time IPL-winning captain and has brought home three major ICC

- trophies — World T20, Champions Trophy and World Cup.
16. **Jeev Milkha Singh** has become the first professional golfer in the world to receive the prestigious 10-year Dubai Golden Visa in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sport.
Note: The 49-year-old Jeev has had a long association with Dubai, having featured in several tournaments and making many friends in the city. Jeev, winner of four titles on the European Tour, four on Japan Golf Tour and six on the Asian Tour, has received the 10-year 'Gold card' for being an elite professional athlete.
17. Harmilan Kaur Bains associated with **Sprint** sports.
Note: Harmilan, undefeated in eight national-level 1,500 metres races since January 2020. With this achievement, the 23-year-old athlete broke the 19-year-old record held by Sunita Rani in 1500m at the 2002 Asian Games in Busan by clocking 4:06.03.
18. **Pankaj Advani** has won 'Asian Snooker Championship 2021' at Al Messila in Doha, Qatar.
Note: He emerged victorious in the best of 11 frames final. He has won this title for a second consecutive time. He is also the winner of the last Asian Snooker Championship held in 2019.
19. R Raja Rithvik held from **Telangana** state has become India's 70th and newest chess Grandmaster (GM).
Note: He has achieved his third and final norm at First Saturday Chess Tournaments in Budapest, Hungary, to enter the GM club. Rithvik earned his first GM norm in 2019. He touched the magical 2500 Elo mark in the fourth round of the tournament after beating Vaclav Finek.
20. 2022 Winter Olympics and Paralympics games scheduled to be held in **China**.
Note: Three sets of official posters and 11 promotional pieces featuring elements of winter sports and Chinese culture highlighting Beijing 2022 motto Together for a Shared Future. The slogan reflects power of Games to overcome global challenges as a community, with a shared future for humankind and work together towards a better tomorrow, especially given the difficulties faced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
21. The 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 Sindu defeated **He Bing Jiao**.

Note: She defeated He Bing Jiao of China by 21-13 and 21-15 in the bronze medal match and became the first Indian woman to win two Olympic medals. She has also

- won silver at Rio 2016. Wrestler Sushil Kumar is the first and only other Indian to win two Olympic medals.
2. **PV 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. Zaur 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 Shaili Singh will lead the Indian challenge in World Athletics U20 Championships. India have had a champion at the U20 Athletics World Championships in each of the last two editions.
- 28.** Shaili Singh is associated with **Long Jump** who won a silver medal at the U-20 World Athletics Championships in Nairobi, Kenya.
Note: She missed Gold medal by a mere 1 centimetre. Shaili's personal best effort of 6.59 metre was not enough for Gold as Sweden's reigning European junior champion Maja Askag managed 6.60 metre for the top

- spot on the final day of the championships. Shaili Singh is trained by veteran long jumper Anju Bobby George and her husband Robert Bobby George.
29. Youth World Archery Championship was held in **Wroclaw (Poland)** where India has won highest ever 15 medals.
Note: 15 medals (8 Gold, 2 Silver and 5 Bronze medals) which is India's best ever performance in the Youth World Archery Championship till date. Five Youth archers who won medals, have also been selected as members of the senior team that is going to participate in the USA-World Championships-September, 2021. Komalika Bari became the second Indian after Deepika Kumari to win both the Cadet and Junior Recurve Women World Champions' titles.
30. Indian table tennis player **G Sathiyan** has won Czech International Table Tennis Federation tournament tournament at Olomouc in Czech Republic, after beating Yevhen Ryshchepa of Ukraine.
Note: This is only his third ITTF Challenger title following triumphs in Belgium Open 2016 and Spanish Open 2017. Prior to this, he paired up with Manika Batra to win mixed doubles title at WTT Contender in Budapest.
31. **Army Sports Institute Stadium, Pune** has been named after Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Neeraj Chopra.
Note: At the inaugural event, Army Chief General MM Naravane and Neeraj Chopra were also present. ASI, Pune has produced 34 Olympians, 22 Commonwealth Games medalists, 21 Asian Games medalists, six Youth Games medalists and 13 Arjuna Awardees so far.
32. **Avani Lekhara** has won the gold medal in Women's 10 metre Air Rifle Shooting at Tokyo Paralympics.
Note: She has won the first Gold for the country at the Tokyo Paralympic Games. Yogesh Kathuniya won Silver medal in Discus Throw. This is the fifth medal for the country at the Tokyo Paralympics.
33. Yogesh Kathuniya is associated with **Discus Throw** who won a silver medal at Tokyo Paralympics.
Note: Yogesh threw 44.38 in his sixth and final attempt to take up the top spot before Claudiney Batista of Brazil fired 44.57 in his first attempt to dethrone the Indian athlete. Yogesh got off to a poor start as his first throw was deemed as foul but the Indian para-athlete soon made up for it as he registered a massive 42.84 in his second attempt.
34. Indian table tennis player **Bhavinaben Patel** has won historic silver medal at 2020 Paralympic Games at Tokyo in the women's singles table tennis summit clash.
Note: She lost to Chinese paddler Ying Zhou by 0-3, in her maiden Paralympic Games. This is the first medal for
- India at the ongoing Tokyo Paralympic Games. She is the only second Indian woman to win a medal at the Paralympics, after Deepa Malik, who claimed silver in shotput at 2016 Rio Olympics.
35. Nishad Kumar is associated with **High Jump**, won a silver medal at Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
Note: This is the second medal for India at Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. He made a jump of 2.06m, and in doing so created an Asian record. He also equaled his jump with USA's Dallas Wise, who also took home silver.
36. Indian para-athlete **Sumit Antil** won a gold medal for a record three time in javelin throws after winning the third one in final of the Tokyo Paralympics.
Note: With this, World No. 1 in the F64 category, Sumit Antil won India's second gold in the Tokyo Paralympics and the first in athletics. The 23-year-old from Sonapat in Haryana, who lost his left leg below the knee after he was involved in a motorbike accident in 2015, sent the spear to 68.55m in his fifth attempt, which was the best of the day by quite a distance and a new world record.
37. Indian para-athlete **Devendra Jhajharia** won a silver medal in the men's javelin throw F46 final at Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
Note: Earlier he won gold medal twice. The 40-year-old Jhajharia, already India's greatest Paralympian after winning gold medals in the 2004 and 2016 Games, pulled off a new personal best throw of 64.35m for the silver.
38. Indian grandmaster **P 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.
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