

Monthly GK Digest

November 2021



Monthly Digest November -2021

Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a **complete docket** of important news and events that occurred in a month of '**November-2021**'. This file is important for all Defence exams.

Important News – India

- 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 Atmanil Barbarat.
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 -- Atmabirbhar 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 Vasilij 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, Tiruchirappalli, 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.

Important News – State

- 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.

- 2.** Union Minister, Rajeev 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.

- 3. 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).

- 4.** 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 (CVPPPL), a joint venture company of National Hydro Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) and Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC). CVPPPL has been entrusted with 3,094 MW hydro power projects for construction in Jammu and Kashmir.

- 5. 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.

- 6. 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.

7. '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.

8. **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 NDDB during a virtual ceremony. This will promote dairy sector in the northern State, while providing the dairy farmers required economic resilience.

9. **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.

10. **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.

11. 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.

12. **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.

Important News - World

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 moto 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, Incheo 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 an 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 sidelines 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).



Honor & Awards

- 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.
- 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.
- 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).
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Sports News

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.

Books and Authors



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 Salaam'.
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.

Science and Defence

1. India has launched First Manned Ocean Mission 'Samudrayan' at Chennai. So far five other countries have launched such mission **Australia**.

Note: 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.

2. DRDO and Indian Air Force have carried out two successful flight tests of indigenously-developed **Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW)**.

Note: An electro-optical seeker based flight test of this class of bomb was conducted for the first time in India. Meant to disable airfield runways, SAAW is capable of hitting ground targets up to a range of 100 kilometres. It can carry a warhead of 125 kilograms.

3. In Association with NASA **Australian** space agency announced plans to send a rover to the moon by 2026 that will harvest lunar soil containing oxygen, which could eventually be used to support human life in space.

Note: The rover will harvest lunar soil containing oxygen, which could eventually be used to support human life in space. If all goes to plan, it will be the first rover with Australian-made components to reach the moon.

4. "Zolfaghar-1400" is an annual military exercise of **Iran** that was conducted in Gulf of Oman recently.

Note: Navy and air force units as well as ground forces were participating in a more than 1 million square-kilometer (386,100 square-mile) area east of the strategic Strait of Hormuz. The war games are aimed at "improving readiness in confronting foreign threats and any possible invasion. Nearly 20% of all oil shipping passes through the strait to the Gulf of Oman and Indian Ocean.

5. **China** has launched Earth science satellite named as 'Guangmu' into space.

Note: It was launched via Long March-6 carrier rocket. Guangmu: World's first Earth-science satellite dedicated to serving the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

6. Defence manufacturing facility **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd** has delivered the fourth Scorpene Submarine of Project P-71 to the Indian Navy which will be commissioned as 'INS Vela'.

Note: The MDL has earlier delivered submarines Kalvari, Khanderi, and Karanja to the Navy. The fifth submarine in the series, Vagir, was launched on November 12, 2020 and has commenced her harbour trials and is likely to go for her maiden surface sortie on December 21, while the sixth one is in an advanced stage of outfitting. Two SSK submarines built by MDL in 1992 and 1994 are still in service today.

7. India's 1st Centre for Excellence in Research on Drone/UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) technology and Artificial Intelligence has been launched **IIT Guwahati**.



- Note:** V K Singh inaugurated the Skill development Centre for Drone/UAV operation and maintenance, and Nodal Centre for overall administrative Drone Data management for the northeastern region. 'AXOM Droneports' was also launched to support cargo drones that are delivering urgent medical and emergency supplies to remote areas of the region.
8. Indian navy conducted 6th edition of the biennial training exercise 'EX SHAKTI 2021' with navy of **France**.
Note: Indian Army will be represented by Gorkha Rifles Infantry Battalion and France Army will be represented by troops of 21st Marine Infantry Regiment of 6th Light Armoured Brigade. Focus: Counter Terrorism operations, military cooperation and inter-operability between the two Armies.
9. India has conducted 32nd edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) exercise with **Thailand**.
Note: It is a three-day bi-annual CORPAT exercise. Indian Navy was represented by Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk while Royal Thai Navy participated with Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Tayanchon. It was conducted for 1st time in 2005 along their International Maritime Boundary Line.
10. **Russia** has begun the delivery of S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile systems to India.
Note: The Biden administration has not yet clarified whether it will impose sanctions on India under the provisions of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) for procuring the S-400 missile systems. The CAATSA, which was brought in 2017, provides for punitive actions against any country engaged in transactions with Russian defence and intelligence sectors.
11. India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-21 was conducted in **Andaman Sea**.
Note: The Navies of the India, Singapore and Thailand will participate in the event. Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk is participating in the 3rd edition from India. It is an indigenously built Missile Corvette.
12. Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has signed a \$21-million export contract for Counter Measures Dispensing System (CMDS) with **Airbus Defense & Space**.
Note: Under the Contract, BDL will supply its Counter Measures Dispensing System to the Spanish entity. The public sector firm is looking at export opportunities for offerings such as Akash Weapon System, Astra Weapon System, Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon and Helina and Light Weight Torpedo and Heavy Weight Torpedo.
13. Indian airlines **Akasa Air** has announced the purchase of CFM LEAP-1B engines to power its recently purchased Boeing 737 MAX airplanes.
Note: The agreement, that also includes spare engines and long-term services agreement, is valued at nearly \$4.5 billion at list price. Akasa had ordered 72 Boeing 737 MAX airplanes valued at nearly \$9 billion at list price. The LEAP-1B engine entered into service on the Boeing 737 MAX in 2017.
14. Researchers at **IISc, Bengaluru** have identified potential blood-based biomarkers to predict disease progression and survival times in those with late-stage brain tumours.
Note: The team behind the innovation comprised researchers from the Centre for BioSystems Science and Engineering (BSSE) at IISc, Mazumdar Shaw Centre for Translational Research and Mazumdar Shaw Medical Foundation. They analysed tumour and blood samples from individuals with gliomas – tumours that occur in the brain – to identify surface proteins on immune cells in the blood whose levels were closely linked to tumour progression. This study was published in *Oncolmunology*.
15. India's first Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) project will come up in **Maharashtra**.
Note: There are currently a couple of such labs in the US – at Hanford in Washington and Livingston in Louisiana – which study the gravitational waves. The project will provide opportunities to scientists and engineers to dig deeper into the realm of gravitational waves.
16. Indigenously developed missile destroyer that was commissioned into Indian Navy in Mumbai -- **INS Visakhapatnam**.
Note: It is the first stealth-guided missile destroyer ship of Project 15B and a crucial step for the Navy to demonstrate its indigenous capability to build complex combat platforms. The destroyer is capable to enhance the Navy's capacity and firepower to battle threats by a margin. The event marked the formal induction of the first of the four Visakhapatnam class destroyers, into the Indian Navy.
17. Four-days Mega military exercise '**Sagar Shakti**' was conducted in **Kutch peninsula**.
Note: During the exercise India's combat capability and readiness to confront any multidimensional security threat was elaborately tested. The Sagar Shakti exercise, held from November 19 to 22, witnessed participation of the Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian



Air Force, Indian Coast Guard, Border Security Force, Gujarat Police and the Marine Police.

18. The 15th edition of biennial trilateral exercise 'Dosti' was conducted by the coast guard forces of three countries **India, Sri Lanka and Maldives.**

Note: Indian Coast Guard vessels, ICGS Vajra and ICGS Apoorva, and Sri Lanka Coast Guard's SLCGS Suraksha participated in the exercise. It was introduced in 1991 between Indian and Maldives coast guards. Sri Lanka joined the exercise in 2012 for the first time

19. **Indian School of Business (ISB)** has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to undertake research to analyze the effect of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) on commercial air travel in the country.

Note: This MoU marks the extension of the socio-economic impact study of UDAN scheme conducted by ISB pro-bono basis in 2020. RCS was launched in 2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and making air travel affordable to the masses. It will be jointly funded by the central government and state governments.

20. The name that has been given to India's first privately developed fully cryogenic rocket engine that was successfully tested by spacetech start-up Skyroot Aerospace -- **Dhawan-1.**

Note: The engine runs on two high performance rocket propellants- Liquid Natural gas (LNG) & Liquid Oxygen (LoX). The test was conducted at Solar Industries India Ltd. in Nagpur. The test demonstrates the propulsion

technology in the upper stage of Skyroot's orbital vehicle, Vikram-2.

21. Space agency **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.

Note: The mission has a total worth of \$325 million and was launched into orbit from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

Aim: to crash a space probe into the asteroid so as to alter its speed and course so prevent it from hitting the Earth.

22. Fourth indigenously built Scorpene-class submarine of Project P-71 that was commissioned by Indian Navy -- **INS Vela.**

Note: INS Vela has an indigenous set of batteries and an advanced communication suite of indigenous make. INS Vela: It is the fourth in that series, following Kalvari, Khanderi and Karanj. This fourth warship is expected to further boost Indian capability to defend and secure its strategic sea lanes

23. The new docking module **Prichal** launched by the Russian rocket Soyuz that blasted off successfully to the International Space Station.

Note: It carries the Progress cargo ship with the Prichal (Pier) docking module. The new spherical module with six docking ports will allow potential future expansion of the Russian segment of the station.

Banking & Financial Awareness

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 'Velocipede' 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. Velocipede 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 invits 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 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.

Obituaries

1. Australian and New South Wales cricket all-rounder Alan Davidson (92 years) passed away.
Note: He was the first player to achieve the feat of scoring 100 runs as well as take 10 wickets in a single Test match.
2. Renowned personality and **Dronacharya Awardee Tarak Sinha** passed away recently, he was associated with **Cricket** sports.
Note: He was felicitated with the Dronacharya Award in 2018. He is known for training India's finest cricketers like Manoj Prabhakar, Raman Lamba, Ajay Sharma, Atul Wassan, Surinder Khanna, Sanjiv Sharma, Aakash Chopra, Anjum Chopra, Rumeli Dhar, Ashish Nehra, Shikhar Dhawan and Rishabh Pant.
3. Renowned personality Koneru Ramakrishna Rao passed away due to age-related illness, he was a veteran **Educationist**.
Note: Ramakrishna Rao was a former Chairman of Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (AP-SCHE). He served as the Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University and Chancellor of GITAM (Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management) deemed-to-be



university. He has also served as President of the US-based Parapsychological Association and as the President of Indian Academy of Applied Psychology.

4. Renowned personality and Padma Vibhushan awardee Balwant Moreshwar Purandare (Babasaheb Purandare) passed away recently, he was a noted **Historian**.

Note: Purandare (99), an authority on the Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Raja Shivchhatrapati, Purandare's popular two-part, 900-page magnum opus on Shivaji Maharaj in Marathi, was first published in the late 1950s and has since been a staple in Marathi households, going through numerous reprints over decades.

5. Renowned personality Wilbur Smith (88) passed away at his home in South Africa, he was a noted **Author**.

Note: Smith was born in today's Zambia in 1933 to a British family. He grew up experiencing the forest, hills and savannah of Africa on his parents' ranch. He credited his mother with teaching him to love nature and reading. In 1964, the author published his first novel, "When the Lion Feeds," which narrates the tale of a young man growing up on a South African cattle ranch.

6. Renowned personality Mannu Bhandari passed away recently, she was a noted **Hindi Writer**.

Note: Bhandari was the wife of illustrious Hindi fiction writer Rajendra Yadav and was best known for her novels 'Aapka Bunt' and 'Mahabhoj'. The well-received 1974 Hindi feature film 'Rajnigandha' was an adaptation from her novel 'Yahi Sach Hai'.

7. Renowned personality Gurmeet Bawa passed away recently, she was a veteran **Punjabi Folk Singer**.

Note: Gurmeet was best known for her long 'hek' (Breathless opening of a Punjabi folk song calling "ho")

to create a melodious voice with an unbreakable wave) that she could hold for about 45 seconds. She came to fame after she started performing on Doordarshan and thus became the first Punjabi female singer to appear on the national television channel.

8. Renowned personality Novy Kapadia passed away recently he was a veteran **Sport commentator**.

Note: He was often called as '**the voice of Indian football**'. The noted commentator had covered nine FIFA World Cups, as well as Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. As an author, Kapadia had written books like Barefoot To Boots, The Many Lives Of Indian Football among others.

9. Renowned personality Robert Bly passed away. He was a noted **Poet**.

Note: But Bly found his greatest fame for a work of prose called, Iron John: A Book About Men. His meditation on modern masculinity was released in 1990 and spent more than two years on the New York Times bestseller list.

10. Renowned personality **Chun Doo-hwan** passed away recently he was former president of **South Korea**.

Note: He was a South Korean politician, who was also a former army general and led 1979 military coup that sparked massive democracy protests in the country. He had served as the fifth president of South Korea from 1980 to 1988.

11. Renowned personality Stephen Sondheim passed away recently, he was a veteran **songwriter**.

Note: He's a recipient of Tony Awards plus a 2008 Special Tony Award for lifetime achievement. He also received a Pulitzer Prize ('Sunday in the Park'), and an Academy Award for the song 'Sooner or Later'.

Important Days

1. World Vegan Day is celebrated every year on **1st November** to promote vegan diet.

Note: The day is celebrated to promote vegan diet. Vegan diet bars the consumption of animal-based food products. The event was started in 1994 by then Chair of The Vegan Society, Louise Wallis, in the United Kingdom.

2. The United Nations declared 2021 as the year of **International Year of Fruits and Vegetables**.

Note: The Minister also released operational guidelines for the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme and QR code of the guidelines. The conference was organized as part of the celebration of

the "International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, 2021" declared by United Nations Organization.

3. United Nations (UN)'s International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (IDEI) is annually observed across the globe on **2nd November**.

Note: The day aims to create awareness and to formulate ways to counter the threats of violence and crimes against journalists to protect the freedom of expression for all.

4. The International One Health Day is annually observed across the globe on **3rd November**.

Note: The day is observed to create awareness about the need for a One Health approach to address the



shared health threats at the human-animal-environment interface. 3rd November 2021 marks the 6th One Health Day, a global campaign that highlights the importance of one health approach.

5. World Tsunami Awareness Day was observed across the world on **5th November**.

Note: The day is celebrated to spread awareness among people across the world in matters related to the dangers of tsunami. In 2021, World Tsunami Awareness Day promotes “**Sendai Seven Campaign,**” target (f), which aims to ‘substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of the present Framework by 2030.’

6. The National Cancer Awareness Day is observed annually in India on **7th November**.

Note: In 2018, approximately 18 million cases were there globally, of which, 1.5 million were in India alone. In 2018, there were around 0.8 million cancer deaths in India against 9.5 million globally.

7. The International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict observed annually on **6th November**.

Note: On 5 November 2001, the UN General Assembly declared 6 November of each year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict.

8. World Urbanism Day, also known as “World Town Planning Day”, is annually observed across the globe on **8th November**.

Note: The day aims to focus on the aims, objectives and progress of urban and regional planning across the globe. The celebration of World Urbanism Day is promoted by the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP).

9. International Day of Radiology is observed globally every year on **8th November**.

Note: The day is celebrated to promote the awareness of the value that radiology contributes to safe patient care, and improve public understanding of the vital role radiologists and radiographers play in the healthcare continuum. The theme for 2021 is ‘**Interventional Radiology – Active care for the patient**’. Radiology is the medical discipline that uses medical imaging to diagnose and treat diseases within the bodies of animals and humans.

10. In India, the “National Legal Services Day” is observed every year on **9 November** by all Legal Services Authorities.

Note: The Day is celebrated to make people aware of the various provisions under the Legal Services

Authorities Act and the right of the litigants. On 11 October 1987, the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 was enacted, while the act took effect on 9 November 1995.

11. World Science Day for Peace and Development is celebrated each year on **10th November**.

Note: This day is celebrated to highlight the important role that science play in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. The year 2021 marks the 20th edition of World Science Day for Peace and Development.

12. In India, the National Education Day is celebrated every year on **11th November**.

Note: The day was announced by the Ministry of Human Resource Development on 11 September 2008. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad served as education minister from **15 August 1947 to 2 February 1958**.

13. The World Pneumonia Day is observed every year on **12th November** across the world to raise awareness, promote prevention and treatment and produce action to combat the disease.

Note: It was first celebrated in 2009. Pneumonia: Any infection causing an inflammatory response in the lung.

14. World Diabetes Day (WDD) is observed every year on **14th November** to growing concerns about the escalating health threat posed by diabetes.

Note: The day also birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who co-discovered insulin along with Charles Best in 1922. The day was launched in 1991 by the IDF and World Health Organization (WHO) and became an official UN Day in 2006. Theme for WDD 2021-23: Access to Diabetes Care – If Not Now, When?

15. Children’s Day is celebrated every year on **14th November** to mark the birth anniversary of India’s first Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.

Note: Children’s Day is popularly known as ‘**Baal Diwas**’ in India. The day aims at increasing the awareness of the rights, care and education of children. On this day, many educational and motivational programs are organised across the country, by and for children.

16. The United Nations observes “International Day for Tolerance” is observed every year on **16th November**.

Note: The United Nations is committed to strengthening tolerance by fostering mutual understanding among cultures and peoples. In 1994, UNESCO marked the 125th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi’s birth paving the way for the proclamation of



- 16 November as the International Day for Tolerance by the UN. This day pays tribute to the values of the Mahatma of peace, non-violence and equality.
- 17. National Press Day is observed every year on 16th November.**
Note: On this day the Press Council of India started functioning as a moral watchdog to ensure that the press maintains high standards and is not constrained by any influence or threats. It also commemorates the day when the Press Council of India started functioning.
- 18. In India, the first Audit Diwas was celebrated on 16th November.**
Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed an event on 16th November to mark the first Audit Diwas at the CAG office. He also unveiled the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on the occasion. Audit Diwas is being celebrated to mark the historic origin of the institution of CAG and the contribution it has made to the governance, transparency and accountability over the past several years.
- 19. In India, National Epilepsy Day is observed every year on 17th November.**
Note: Epilepsy is a chronic disorder of the brain characterized by recurrent 'seizures' or 'fits'. The month of November is observed as 'National Epilepsy Awareness Month'. Epilepsy is a varied set of persistent neurological disarray and causes sudden seizures and fits.
- 20. In India, the National Naturopathy Day is observed every year on 18th November.**
Note: The day was declared by the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy), Government of India. Naturopathy practitioners are trained through a five and half year BNYS — Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences. The first Naturopathy Day was observed in the year 2019.
- 21. World Philosophy Day 2021 was observed on 18th November.**
Note: It was first celebrated in 2002 by the United Nations. WPD aims to raise public awareness of the importance of philosophy. Philosophy comes from the Greek word *philosophía* which means 'the love of wisdom.' It is the study of the nature of reality and existence, of what is possible to know, and of right and wrong behaviour.
- 22. In India, the National Newborn Week is observed every year from 15 to 21 November.**
Note: The main purpose of the week is to reinforce the importance of newborn health as a key priority area of the health sector and reduce the infant mortality rate by improving healthcare conditions for babies in the neonatal period. The theme of National Newborn Week 2021 is 'Safety, quality and nurturing care – the birthright of every newborn'.
- 23. UN World Toilet Day is observed every year on 19th November.**
Note: It is an official United Nations international observance day that exists to inspire, educate and engage people to take action towards achieving the goal of "safely managed sanitation". The day is of huge significance because 3.6 billion people on our planet don't have access to proper toilets and sanitation, and an estimated 673 million people practice open defecation.
- 24. The Universal/World Children's Day is celebrated every year on 20th November.**
Note: November 20th is an important date as it is the date in 1959 when the UN General Assembly adopted the **Declaration of the Rights of the Child**. 2021 marks the **32nd** anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Universal/World Children's Day 2021 Theme: **A Better Future for Every Child**
- 25. World Fisheries Day is celebrated every year on 21st November.**
Note: It highlights the importance of healthy oceans ecosystems and ensuring sustainable stocks of fisheries in the world. 2021 is the **fifth** World Fisheries Day. The first World Fisheries Day was celebrated on November 21, 2015. On the same day, it was the grand opening of the **International Fisherman's organization** was held in New Delhi.
- 26. World Television Day is commemorated every year on 21st November.**
Note: The day is a reminder of the power of visual media and how it helps in shaping public opinion and influencing world politics. Television has played a significant role in the lives of people for years. It is a medium that provides entertainment, education, news, politics, gossip, etc. and helps in transmitting moving images in two or three dimensions and sound.
- 27. To commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr Verghese Kurien the National Milk Day is celebrated every year on 26th November.**
Note: This year marks the 100th birth anniversary of Dr Verghese Kurien. He was also the brains behind 'Operation Flood,' which led to dairy farming becoming the country's largest self-sustaining industry, as well as the largest rural employment sector. Kurien also helped set up the Amul cooperative society in 1946, in Gujarat's Anand, and, in later years, became synonymous with it.



28. The International Maritime Organisation Council has decided to establish an International Day for Women in Maritime to be observed on **18th May**.

Note: The observance will celebrate women in the industry, promote the recruitment, retention and sustained employment of women in the male-dominated maritime sector. It is a welcome move in the sector dominated by male, but many issues need to be addressed to get more women on board the shipping sector.

29. International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is celebrated worldwide on **25th November**.

Note: The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to various forms of violence and the true nature of the issue is often hidden. This year's theme for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is "Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!".

30. In India, Constitution Day is observed every year on **26th November**.

Note: In India, 26 November is celebrated as Constitution Day or Samvidhan Diwas. On this day in 1949, the constitution was adopted which came into force on January 26, 1950, marking the beginning of a new era in the history of India. The day aims to spread the importance of the constitution and to spread the thoughts and ideas of BR Ambedkar, the father of the Indian constitution.

31. In India, the 'National Organ Donation Day' is observed every year on **27th November**.

Note: The day aims to promote awareness and recognize the selfless contribution made by deceased donors to healthcare and mankind re-instill our faith in humanity. 2021 marks the 12th National Organ Donation Day. It is organised by the National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

32. The United Nations observes the International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People on which date every year on **29th November**.

Note: The UN traditionally celebrates the day by undertaking its annual debate on the question of Palestine. The day is being observed since 1978. The UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres called upon the international community to reaffirm its commitment to the people of Palestine in building their future.

33. The UN Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare is held every year on **30th November**.

Note: The day marks a tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, as well as to reaffirm the commitment of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to the elimination of the threat of chemical weapons, thereby promoting the goals of peace, security, and multilateralism.

New Appointments

1. **Yezdi Nagporewalla** has been appointed as the new chief executive of KPMG India for a four-year term.

Note: His term will commence on February 7, 2022, and end on December 31, 2026. Nagporewalla was nominated by the KPMG India Board and approved by the India Partners. He will be replacing Arun M Kumar, the current Chairman and CEO whose five-year term concludes on February 6, 2022.

2. **Ashok Bhushan** has been appointed as the Chairperson of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

Note: He has been appointed for four years or until he attains the age of 70 years, whichever is the earliest. Justice Bhushan was the former Chief Justice of Kerala High Court. NCLAT was formed under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013.

3. **Cabinet Secretary** has been appointed as the chairperson of the 20-member Empowered Group of

Secretaries to review and monitor PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP).

Note: Centre has constituted 20-member Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) to review and monitor the mechanism for the development and implementation of PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP). Chairperson of the EGoS is Cabinet Secretary (Present Office Holder – Rajiv Gauba)

4. **CS Venkatakrishnan** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Barclays with immediate effect.

Note: Prior to his appointment as head of global markets and co-president of BBPLC, Venkat served as chief risk officer at Barclays. Venkat holds S.B., S.M. and Ph.D. degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



5. **R. Hari Kumar** has been appointed as the next Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS).
Note: Presently, he is Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) Western Naval Command. He will take over on November 30 when incumbent Admiral Karambir Singh retires from service. Vice Admiral Kumar graduated from J-squadron, 61 Course National Defence Academy in December 1981 and was commissioned into the Executive Branch of the Navy on January 1, 1983.
6. **Kapil Dev** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Novo Nordisk India to create awareness on better diabetes management and early insulin adoption.
Note: Novo Nordisk is a company that provides diabetes innovative solutions for diabetes care. It also focuses on educating people about management of diabetes. World Diabetes Day observed on 14th November, it marks the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting who co-discovered Insulin.
7. **Satya Narayan Pradhan** has been appointed as the Director-General of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
Note: Mr Pradhan, a Jharkhand cadre 1988-batch IPS officer, was currently holding additional charge of NCB chief despite holding the responsibility of Director General of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). He was given additional charge of NCB Director-General after Rakesh Asthana was appointed as Delhi Police Commissioner.
8. **Morinari Watanabe** belong to **Japan** who has been re-elected as the President of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) for a period of three year.
Note: He was first elected as the President of FIG in 2016 for a four-year term beginning January 2017. His term was then extended by one year. He will now continue to hold the position till 2024. Headquarters of International Gymnastics Federation: Lausanne, Switzerland
9. **Atul Karwal** has been appointed as the Director General of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).
Note: He is an IPS Officer of 1988-batch Gujarat cadre. He will replace Satya Narayan Pradhan who has been appointed as Director-General of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
10. **Sheel Vardhan Singh** has been appointed as the Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
Note: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for appointments. Singh, a 1986 batch Indian Police Service officer of Bihar cadre, is currently Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau. Singh has been appointed as the Director-General, CISF up to 31.08.2023.
11. **Rajeev Srivastava** has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Standard Chartered Securities (India).
Note: His appointment is currently subject to regulatory approvals. Prior to this, he worked at HDFC Securities where he headed the products and business development functions of the organization. SCS: It is a leading broking company and is registered as a trading and clearing member with BSE and NSE.
12. **Daniel Brühl** has been named the Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations (UN) World Food Programme (WFP).
Note: He will support raising awareness for the millions of hungry people and engage his supporters in advocacy for a Zero Hunger world. As the goodwill ambassador, he will inform about the main drivers of hunger and showcase the efforts of UN WFP to tackle both immediate needs and root causes of hunger.
13. **Bimal Patel** has been elected to the International Law Commission for a five-year term, in a hard-fought election at the United Nation.
Note: He will serve a five-year term starting January 1, 2023. Prof. Patel has served in various roles such as the Director at the Gujarat National Law University and member of the 21st Law Commission of India. Prof. Patel garnered 163 votes in the UN General Assembly out of 192 members present and voting.
14. **Nandita Sinha** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the fashion and lifestyle e-commerce platform Myntra.
Note: Ms. Sinha succeeds Amar Nagaram, Before joining Flipkart, she was the co-founder at MyBabyCart.com, an e-commerce site. Myntra is a major Indian **fashion e-commerce company** headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka, India.
15. **Rohit Sharma** has been appointed as Team India's T20 International captain.
Note: He has replaced Virat Kohli. Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the decision, while also naming India's 16-man squad for the upcoming home series against New Zealand. Rohit Sharma was the frontrunner to replace Kohli as the T20I captain ever since Kohli made the announcement.



- 16. PC Mody** has been appointed as the new Secretary General of Rajya Sabha.
Note: He was formerly working as the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). He replaced P.P.K. Ramacharyulu, who was appointed to the post on 1st September, 2021 and has now been appointed as an adviser to the Rajya Sabha chairman.
- 17. Ashok Desai** has been elected to the International Law Commission for a five-year term, in a hard-fought election at the United Nations.
Note He will serve a five-year term starting January 1, 2023. Prof. Patel has served in various roles such as the Director at the Gujarat National Law University and member of the 21st Law Commission of India.
- 18. VVS Laxman** has been named as the next head of the National Cricket Academy (NCA) by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
Note: He will assume the office as NCA's head on 4th December 2021. He will replace Rahul Dravid, who has been appointed as Team India's national men's head coach NCA. It was the brainchild of cricket administrator and former BCCI President Raj Singh Dungarpur.
- 19. Sourav Ganguly** has been appointed as the Chairman of the ICC men's Cricket Committee, the global cricket governing body.
Note: He will replace Anil Kumble, who stepped down after serving a maximum of a three-year term. Sourav Ganguly was appointed as the president Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in October 2019. Johnny Grave, CEO of Cricket West Indies has been appointed to the ICC Women's Cricket Committee.
- 20. Geoff Allardice** has been appointed as the permanent CEO of International Cricket Council (ICC).
Note: Geoff Allardice has been appointed as the permanent CEO of the International Cricket Council (ICC). He succeeded Manu Sawhney who officially resigned from his position in July 2021.
- 21. Magdalena Andersson** becomes first female prime minister of **Sweden**.
Note: Magdalena Andersson has been reappointed Prime Minister, less than a week after she resigned within hours of taking the job. Earlier, Magdalena Andersson, leader of the centre-left Social Democratic Party, became the country's first female prime minister following the elections and her historic term lasted about seven hours.
- 22. Praveen Sinha** has been elected as a delegate for Asia on the executive committee of the Interpol.
Note: The elections for various positions for the top panel were held at the ongoing 89th Interpol General Assembly in Istanbul. It has 13 members, including the president and three vice presidents, apart from nine delegates. All members come from different countries to keep the geographic balance. Among the delegates, Sinha will sit with representatives from Sudan, Argentina, China, USA, UK, Kenya, Spain and Turkey.
- 23. Vivek Johri** has been appointed as the chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
Note: He is a 1985-batch Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Indirect Taxes) officer and is currently working as the member in CBIC. He succeeded M Ajit Kumar, who will complete his tenure on 30th September 2021
- 24. Petr Fiala** has been appointed as the prime minister of the Czech Republic.
Note: Fiala leads a center-right coalition and was able to oust the outgoing populist Prime Minister Andrej Babis with the support of several left-wing parties. Czech Republic is also known as Czechia and was formerly known as Bohemia.
- 25. Nageswar Rao Y** has been appointed as Administrator of the Reliance Capital Ltd (RCL) by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) after superseding its board of directors.
Note: The central bank has appointed Nageswar Rao Y, former Executive Director, Bank of Maharashtra, as the Administrator of the company under Section 45-IE (2) of the RBI Act. The Reserve Bank will shortly initiate the process of resolution of the company under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Rules, 2019.
- 26. Magdalena Andersson** has been reappointed Prime Minister of **Sweden** less than a week after she resigned within hours of taking the job.
Note: Earlier, Magdalena Andersson, leader of the centre-left Social Democratic Party, became the country's first female prime minister following the elections and her historic term lasted about seven hours. Earlier, Social Democrats have been in power since 2014 supported by parties united by little else than their desire to keep the Sweden Democrats from influencing policy.
- 27. Parag Agrawal** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the Twitter.
Note: He succeeded Twitter's co-founder Jack Dorsey, who will continue to serve on the board of Twitter until his term expires in 2022 to help with



the transition, before moving on. Parag Agrawal is an IIT alumnus and joined Twitter in 2011 and

became the CTO in 2017.

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