

# SSC & Railway Bi-weekly Current Affairs (16-30 June 2021)

## Bi-Weekly One Liners Updates 16-30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear readers,

**Bi-Weekly One Liners Updates** is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **two weeks** (16-30<sup>th</sup>) of **June 2021**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

### **Banking & Financial Awareness**

1. Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) will be expanded by 31st August 2021. BBPS functions under the aegis of the \_\_\_\_ **NPCI**.  
**Note:**
  - Also, 'mobile prepaid recharges' are added as a biller category.
  - It will help millions of prepaid phone subscribers in the country.
  - BBPS is an integrated bill payment system that offers interoperable bill payment service to customers online as well as through a network of agents on the ground.
2. Which bank will be the lead sponsor of National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) or bad bank with 12 per cent stake in the entity \_\_\_\_ **Canara Bank**.  
**Note:**
  - The board of Canara Bank has given in-principle approval for taking stake in NARCL,
  - The IBA was appointed nodal agency to constitute the Asset Reconstruction and Asset Management Companies designated as NARCL and India Debt Management Company Ltd (IDMCL) respectively.
  - Bad bank refers to a financial institution that takes over bad assets of lenders and undertakes resolution.
3. The Reserve Bank of India proposed to remove interest rate caps for which financial institutions \_\_\_\_ **Microfinance Institutions**.  
**Note:**
  - Microfinance institutions will get the freedom to set rates and end regulatory cap on interest rates.
  - Microfinance is a form of financial service which provides small loans and other financial services to poor and low-income households.
4. According to global consultancy BCG report, the financial wealth in India grew by what percent in 2020 \_\_\_\_ **11 percent**.  
**Note:**
  - This growth was at par with the compounded annual growth rate for the five years to 2020.
  - Financial wealth is defined as the total wealth excluding real assets and liabilities held by adult individuals.
  - As per the report India is expected to lead the percentage growth of individuals with fortunes of over USD 100 million till 2025.
5. What amount of rice has been allocated by the central government at a subsidized rate of Rs 20 per kg to distilleries for ethanol production for 2020-21 \_\_\_\_ **78,000 tonnes**.  
**Note:**
  - As per Food Ministry figures, a quantity of 12,956 metric tonnes of rice has been lifted by six distilleries till April 30, 2021.
  - The government has set a target of blending 20-percent ethanol with petrol by 2025-26.
  - To achieve that target, over 1,000 crore liters of ethanol will be required to blend with the petrol.
6. Which public sector company has signed a pact with National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) to develop solar and wind energy projects \_\_\_\_ **SJVN Limited**.  
**Note:**
  - SJVN has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Institute for 'technical consultancy services' for development of solar, wind, hybrid (wind and solar) and hybrid (wind, solar and battery storage) energy projects of SJVN, according to a statement.
  - NIWE will support SJVN to assess the feasibility and techno-commercial aspects of the projects and preparation of detailed project reports, estimates and bid documents covering all relevant aspects from the concept to the commissioning of these projects.

7. Which foundation has joined hands with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for the implementation of its 'Employability through Skill Initiative Project (ESIP) Phase II \_\_\_\_\_ **Ambuja Cement Foundation**.
- Note:**
- The foundation received grant assistance from NABARD under the Gramya Vikas Nidhi, a fund created for the development of off-farm sector activities.
  - The project will provide skill training across 19 locations for two years in 12 trades. It has already reached over 4,000 youth despite the pandemic, the foundation said in a statement.
  - Besides skill training, the course also includes soft skills and leadership skills as part of the training module.
8. Which Small Finance Bank has collaborated with MoEngage to drive digital banking experiences in the unserved and underserved areas of the country \_\_\_\_\_ **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank**.
- Note:**
- MoEngage is a leading customer engagement platform.
  - This will foster a holistic customer experience across all organic channels, like the website, app, email, text message, social media, and branches to drive business growth.
  - Utilizing MoEngage's expertise, the SFB will target SMS campaigns to encourage digital repayments.
9. With which intergovernmental bank the Government of India has signed a \$484 million loan to improve transport connectivity and facilitate industrial development in the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu \_\_\_\_\_ **ADB**.
- Note:**
- CKIC is part of India's East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC)
  - ADB is the lead partner of the Government of India in developing ECEC.
  - The project will upgrade about 590 km of state highways in the CKIC influence areas that cover 23 of the 32 districts between Chennai and Kanyakumari.
10. Which digital payment digital payment platform has tied up with a clutch of leading Indian banks to offer tokenized card services to customers on its UPI app \_\_\_\_\_ **Google Pay**.
- Note:**
- It has now added debit cards by SBI, IndusInd Bank and Federal Bank and Credit cards by IndusInd Bank and HSBC India to its tokenized offerings.
  - It is a feature that enables users to make debit or credit card payments through a secure digital token attached to their phone.
  - The network partner for these transactions is Visa.
11. According to 'UNESCO Science Report 2021: The race against time for smarter development', India's Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research & Development (GERD) remained at \_\_\_\_ **0.7%**.
- Note:**
- India's Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research & Development (GERD) remained at 0.7% of the GDP for several years.
  - India has one of the lowest GERD/GDP ratios among the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) nations.
12. What is the rank of RBI in terms of reserves transferred to the government as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) for the fiscal year 2020-21 \_\_\_\_\_ **2<sup>nd</sup>**.
- Note:**
- In FY20, the RBI stood fourth when ranked by the ratio of surplus as a percentage of GDP.
  - The RBI transferred a Rs 99,122-crore surplus to the government — 73% higher than the Rs 57,128 crore paid out in 2019-20.
  - The surplus transferred by RBI constitutes 0.44% of GDP, while that of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey constitutes 0.5% of GDP.
13. In the last one year, the country's foreign exchange reserve rose by \_\_\_\_\_ **US\$ 103 Billion**.
- Note:**
- According to the RBI, Foreign exchange reserves of the country reached an all-time high of US\$ 605.0 billion on June 4, 2021.
  - RBI estimated that, In terms of projected imports for 2021-22, the current level of reserves provides cover for less than 15 months.
  - In the foreign exchange markehe Indian rupee appreciated against the US dollar in May 2021 and gained further in June.

14. For which country the Asian Development Bank has approved USD 250 million loans for improving the inclusiveness and responsiveness of the country's social development and resilience program \_\_\_\_\_ **Bangladesh**.
- Note:**
- The Strengthening Social Resilience Program will include institutional and policy reforms to address cross-sector issues of social development in Bangladesh.
15. Which financial institutions got RBI's "in-principle" approval to set up a small finance bank to take over Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC Bank) \_\_\_\_\_ **Centrum Financial Services Ltd.**
- Note:**
- Then, the SFB will take over the beleaguered Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC Bank).
  - Centrum Capital, the holding entity for CFSL, and its partner BharatPe, a payments system company, will infuse Rs 1,800 crore into the small finance bank.
16. Which power generator will acquire the 1,200 MW Essar Power's Mahan Project located at Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh \_\_\_\_\_ **Adani Power Limited**.
- Note:**
- Resolution Professional of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) issued a Letter of Intent to Adani Power.
  - Essar Power's Mahan power plant supplies power through the Mahan-Sipat transmission line and is also connected with a railway siding 18 km away from the plant for the supply of coal and other raw materials.
  - Adani Power will shell out close to Rs 3,000 crore for the Mahan Project.
17. Which financial Technology company has signed 'lead generation agreements' with 12 financial institutions \_\_\_\_\_ **PayPoint India**.
- Note:**
- The aim of the deal is to assist with loans to the underserved using technology, and to generate leads for housing, personal and business loans through the partnership with banks and NBFCs.
  - Under the agreement, PayPoint India will help the financial institutions to get access to the remote locations where they are unable to reach on their own, and provide capital.
18. Which NBFCs has has acquired 54% stake in fintech startup Paymatrix by buying out existing investors \_\_\_\_\_ **Muthoot Fincorp**.
- Note:**
- The takeover is as part of its added focus on digital payments segment.
  - Paymatrix was set up in 2016 with a vision to streamline property rent payments and rent collections for tenants and landlords.
19. According to World Investment Report 2021, released by the N Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) what is India's position as a recipient of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) \_\_\_\_\_ **5<sup>th</sup>**.
- Note:**
- As per the report, India becomes the fifth largest recipient of FDI inflows in 2020.
  - It received a total of \$ 64 billion as FDI an increase of 27% from USD 51 billion in 2019.
  - The US with 156 Billion was the top destination for FDI in 2020 followed by China (USD 149 billion) & Hong Kong, China (USD 119 billion).
20. Which bank has entered into an MoU with National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) under the 'NSIC Bank Credit Facilitation Scheme' to support MSMEs with credit requirements \_\_\_\_\_ **Union Bank of India**.
- Note:**
- Under the MoU, the NSIC branch offices which are also functioning as Finance Facilitation Centers (FFCs) will assist MSMEs in getting their loan requirements from Union Bank of India.
  - The agreement was signed by PK Das, FGM-Delhi on behalf of Union Bank of India and PR Kumar, CGM, NSIC.
21. All housing finance companies with what asset size has now allowed by the Finance Ministry to use SARFAESI law to recover dues \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 100 crore**.
- Note:**
- SARFAESI law, enacted in 2002, empowers lenders to attach the pledged assets of the borrowers in the event of non-payment of dues.
  - Till now, HFCs with assets over ₹500 crore and notified by the Finance Ministry, were allowed to use SARFAESI law to recover dues.
  - Currently, there are nearly 100 HFCs that are registered with NHB.

22. SBI General Insurance has signed a corporate agency agreement with which bank for distribution of non-life insurance solutions \_\_\_\_\_ **IDFC FIRST Bank.**

**Note:**

- Under this strategic agreement, SBI General Insurance will offer insurance products such as health, personal accident, home, motor and travel to the bank's customers.
- It will also offer the commercial line of insurance products such as property, marine and engineering insurance.

23. Which bank has introduced the instant 'Cardless EMI' facility to online purchases made on e-commerce platforms \_\_\_\_\_ **ICICI Bank.**

**Note:**

- It will allow the bank customer to buy products or services online through EMIs in only a few clicks using their mobile phone and PAN.
- The Bank has tied up with digital lending platforms namely FlexMoney and ShopSe to offer this facility across 2,500 brands.

24. Bharti Airtel has partnered with which industry group for 'Made in India' 5G network solutions \_\_\_\_\_ **Tata Group.**

**Note:**

- The partnership with Tata Group allows telecom operator Airtel to take head-on, rival Jio's pitch on homegrown 5G solutions.
- Tata Group has developed O-RAN (Open Radio Access Network) based Radio and core elements and integrated a totally indigenous telecom stack.

25. According to the Moody's Investors Service's revised estimate what will be the growth rate of Indian GDP in FY 2021-22 \_\_\_\_\_ **9.6%.**

**Note:**

- This prospect was published in the 'Macroeconomics India: Economic shocks from second COVID wave will not be as severe as last year's' report.
- Indian economy contracted by 7.3 per cent in fiscal 2020-21 as against a 4% growth in 2019-20.

26. Lending marketplace Paisabazaar.com and which bank announced the launch of Step Up Credit Card – a credit builder product designed for consumers with limited access to formal credit, due to ineligible credit score \_\_\_\_\_ **SBM Bank India.**

**Note:**

- It is a credit builder product designed for consumers with limited access to formal credit, due to ineligible credit score.
- The Step Up Credit Card, built in partnership with SBM Bank India, is the first product to be launched under Paisabazaar's neo-lending strategy.

27. Which digital payment company has launched India's first Wallet Auto Top-up feature using UPI e-mandates for its customers \_\_\_\_\_ **PhonePe.**

**Note:**

- The amount for Auto top-up ranges from Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000.
- Under this feature, when a customer will set up a UPI e-mandate the PhonePe will automatically top up the wallet balance when it drops below a minimum level.

28. As per the new definition of small and medium sized companies (SMCs) by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) what should be the sale limit of the company \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 250 Crore.**

**Note:**

- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has expanded the definition of small and medium sized companies (SMCs) by raising their turnover and borrowing limits.
- The move is to simplify accounting processes and lessen compliance burden for small firms.

29. S&P Global Ratings cut India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to what per cent from 11 per cent earlier \_\_\_\_\_ **9.5 per cent.**

**Note:**

- The agency lowered the growth outlook saying that a severe second COVID-19 outbreak in April and May led to lockdowns imposed by states and sharp contraction in economic activity.
- It projected India's growth at 7.8 per cent in the next fiscal ending March 31, 2023.

30. World Bank has signed a \$32 million loan agreement with the Government of India (GoI) and which state government for healthcare projects in the state \_\_\_\_\_ **Mizoram.**

**Note:**

- The project will strengthen the governance and the management structure of the Department of Health and Family Welfare (DoHFW) and its subsidiaries, improve the quality and coverage of services delivered by the state government health systems, and invest in a comprehensive Quality Assurance program which would enable quality certification of health facilities.
31. Which bank has launched Aarogyam Healthcare Business Loan under that the entire healthcare ecosystem such as hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic centres etc can avail loans of up to ₹100 crore repayable in 10 years \_\_\_\_\_ **State Bank of India.**
- Note:**
- Under this facility the entire healthcare ecosystem such as hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic centres etc can avail loans of up to ₹100 crore repayable in 10 years.
  - The loan can be availed either as term loan to support expansion/modernisation or as working capital facilities such as cash credit, bank guarantee/letter of credit.
32. Which card service firm has in partnership with Fabindia has launched a co-branded contactless credit card to offer a rewarding shopping experience to its premium customers \_\_\_\_\_ **SBI Card.**
- Note:**
- The contactless credit card provides reward points for the premium cardholders on their retail spending with the value back on varied spending categories.
  - The cards offer 10 percent value back to customers for buying in-stores at Fabindia along with complimentary domestic airport lounge access.
33. The Afthonia Lab private Limited has announced a strategic partnership with which bank to support the fintech companies in India \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes Bank.**
- Note:**
- The partnership will also support the efforts to innovate and inject new ideas to transform the financial sector of India.
  - Under this partnership, the Afthonia Lab's portfolio startups will develop APIs in a sandbox environment, enabling the startups to experiment with innovative ideas and test their solutions in real time.
34. What amount of stimulus package has been announced by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to boost economy during the fight against COVID-19 pandemic in June 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **6, 28, 993 crores.**
- Note:**
- Finance Minister announced 1.1 lakh crore rupee Loan Guarantee Scheme for COVID affected sectors.
  - Also announced 1.5 lakh crore rupees for Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme
  - Credit Guarantee Scheme which is a new scheme to facilitate loans to 25 lakh people through Micro Finance Institutions, MFI.

### Obituaries

1. Renowned personality Sanchari Vijay passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Actor.**
- Note:**
- Vijay meet with a road accident and was in critical condition.
  - Doctors performed an emergency brain surgery but could not save him.
  - Vijay, who made his debut with Rangappa Hogbitna in 2011, appeared in many Kannada films such as Dasavala, Harivu, Oggarane, Killing Veerappan, Varthamana, and Sipaayi.
2. Renowned personality Surat Singh Mathur passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Sportsman.**
- Note:**
- He was marathon runner, complete the Olympic marathon race, at the 1952 Helsinki Games.
  - Running with the legendary Emil Zatopek in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, Mathur completed the marathon in the 52nd place in 2:58.92s.
  - He was a bronze medallist at the first Asian Games in 1951.
3. Renowned personality Raghbir Singh has passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Army man.**
- Note:**
- Brigadier Raghbir Singh was honoured with Maha Vir Chakra, the second highest gallantry award in India by the then President of India, Dr S Radhakrishnan.
  - He is fondly called as "Dadosa"
  - He served as the Provost Marshal in the Military police, during the 1971 Indo-Pak war.

- During the 1965 Indo Pak war, he was commanding his battalion, 18 Rajputana Rifles (later 11 Mechanised Infantry).
4. Renowned personality Milkha Singh passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Sportsman**.
- Note:**
- He is the only athlete to win gold in 400 metres race at the Asian Games as well the Commonwealth Games.
  - He also won gold medals in the 1958 and 1962 Asian Games.
  - He represented India in the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome and the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo
5. Renowned personality Kenneth Kaunda passed away recently, he was president of which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Zambia**.
- Note:**
- Mr Kaunda served as the first President of independent Zambia from 1964 to 1991.
  - In 1991, he was forced to hold the first multi-party elections for 23 years, which he lost to long-time foe, trade unionist Frederick Chiluba.
  - Zambia gained independence from Britain in October 1964.
6. Renowned personality Guruprasad Mohapatra passed away recently, he was former \_\_\_\_\_ **DPIIT Secretary**.
- Note:**
- Before serving as DPIIT secretary, he served as **Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI)**.
  - He was a **Gujarat cadre 1986 batch IAS officer**, who had earlier served as joint secretary in the Department of Commerce.
  - He was also a **member of Gujarat Electricity Board** between 2002 and 2004.
7. Renowned personality Benigno Aquino passed away recently, he was former president of which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Philippine**.
- Note:**
- Known popularly as Noyonoy, he rode a wave of public emotion all the way to the presidency after his mother, Corazon Aquino, died in 2009.
  - He was a three-term member of the House of Representatives between 1998 and 2007, representing the sugar-growing Tarlac province north of Manila.
8. Renowned personality John McAfee passed away recently, he was a pioneer of \_\_\_\_\_ **Antivirus software**.
- Note:**
- A court in Spain had approved the extradition of McAfee to the U.S., where he was set to stand trial on federal tax-evasion charges.
  - Authorities are investigating the cause of death.
  - He was known widely for his eponymous antivirus software.
9. Renowned personality Sivan passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **cinematographer**.
- Note:**
- The ace cinematographer rose to fame in the Malayalam film industry with the photographs, he took for a film titled Chemeen. He has won a National Award three times in his career.
  - His popular films include Abhayam, Yagam, Keshu, Kochu Kochu Mohangal, Oru Yathra, etc.

### Important Days

1. World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **17th June**.
- Note:**
- The day's focus is to turn the degraded land that has lost its natural productivity due to human activity into healthy land.
  - The UN-designated day is all about a green planet, sustainable development, and health and welfare of people.
  - This year's theme is "Restoration.Land.Recovery. We build back better with healthy land".
2. The Autistic Pride Day is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **18th June**.
- Note:**
- The day is represented by a rainbow infinity symbol which denotes the infinite possibilities that autistic people have.
  - Autistic Pride Day was first celebrated in Brazil in 2005, at the initiative of an organisation named Aspies for Freedom.
3. Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed every year globally on \_\_\_\_\_ **18th June**.

**Note:**

- The day was designated by UN General Assembly on 21 December 2016.
- Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed on 18 June globally to focus the attention of the world on the role that sustainable gastronomy plays in our lives.
- The day was designated by UN General Assembly on 21 December 2016.

4. World Sickle Cell Day, observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_ **19 June.****Note:**

- The day is observed to raise awareness of sickle cell disorders. Sickle cell Anaemia is a genetic red blood cell disorder
- People with sickle cell disorders don't have enough healthy red blood cells to carry oxygen throughout the body
- The day came into existence in 2008 after the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) acknowledged sickle cell disease as a public health problem

5. International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is observed globally every year on \_\_\_\_\_ **19th June.****Note:**

- The day aims to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence, honour the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world
- In 2015 the United Nations adopted 19 June as the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict.

6. World Refugee Day is celebrated every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **20th June.****Note:**

- Theme 2021: Together we heal, learn and shine.
- United Nations General Assembly recognised this day on 4 December 2000 to mark the 50th anniversary of 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.
- It was observed for the first time on 20th June, 2001.

7. What is the theme of the 7th International Yoga Day 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Yoga for Wellness.****Note:**

- International Yoga Day is observed annually on June 21.
- The idea of an International Yoga Day was proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014 in the UNGA.
- On the PM MODi launched "mYoga app" in collaboration with WHO and it will be available worldwide.

8. World Music Day' is celebrated every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **21<sup>st</sup> June.****Note:**

- It is also known as 'Fete de la Musique' in French and Make Music Day as well.
- World Music Day celebrations began in the year 1982 in France.
- The day is dedicated to all the musicians and music lovers around the world.
- World Music Day, also known as 'Fatede la Musica', means a music festival.

9. International Widows Day is celebrated every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **23rd June.****Note:**

- The day is observed since 2011 to draw attention to the voices of widows, highlight the problems they face and galvanize the support that they need.
- The day was established by The Loomba Foundation to raise awareness about the issue of widowhood.
- The first International Widows Day took place in 2005.

10. International Olympics Day is observed every year on which date to celebrate sports and health \_\_\_\_\_ **23rd June.****Note:**

- The occasion marks the day when International Olympic Committee was founded in 1894.
- The day aims at promoting sports and spreads the message of making sports an integral part of life.
- The first Olympic Day was celebrated in the year 1948.
- The theme for this year is Stay healthy, stay strong, stay active.

11. United Nations Public Service Day is observed globally every year on \_\_\_\_\_ **23rd June.****Note:**

- This day is to highlight the contribution of public service in the development process and to value public service to the community.

- This day is widely known by various public service organisations and departments around the world by organising several events to recognise the role of public servants in making developments and improvements in the community.
12. World Vitiligo Day is observed every year on which date to build global awareness about vitiligo \_\_\_\_ **25<sup>th</sup> June**.
- Note:**
- Vitiligo is a skin disorder leading to **loss of colour in the skin** creating a variety of patterns on the skin from loss of pigment.
  - Vitiligo is often called a disease instead of a disorder and that can have a significant negative social or psychological impact on patients. The first World Vitiligo Day was observed on **June 25, 2011**.
13. The International Day of the Seafarers is celebrated every year on which date \_\_\_\_ **25<sup>th</sup> June**.
- Note:**
- On this day, their efforts are appreciated in boosting global economics and commerce.
  - The seafarers play an important role in the same.
  - A lot of industries rely on sea routes and ships for the transportation of their good to get the business.
  - Therefore, they are extremely imperative in making it all happen.
14. International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed globally every year on \_\_\_\_ **26<sup>th</sup> June**.
- Note:**
- The day is observed by the United Nations as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.
  - The theme of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2021 is “Share Facts On Drugs, Save Lives”.
15. International Day in Support of Victims of Torture is observed every year on \_\_\_\_ **26<sup>th</sup> June**.
- Note:**
- This day is observed by the **United Nations** to raise awareness among the people about human torture that it is not only unacceptable but it is also a crime.
16. The United Nations Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day is observed every year on \_\_\_\_ **27<sup>th</sup> June**.
- Note:**
- The day also recognises the contribution of these industries in the implementation of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
  - In 2021, the theme is “MSME 2021: key to an inclusive and sustainable recovery.”
17. National Statistics Day is celebrated every year on which date \_\_\_\_ **29<sup>th</sup> June**.
- Note:**
- The first National Statistics Day was observed on June 29, 2006.
  - The key contribution of PC Mahalanobis is known as "Mahalanobis distance'.
  - Theme: End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture.
18. International Day of the Tropics is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_ **29<sup>th</sup> June**.
- Note:**
- The day intends to acknowledge and celebrate the importance of the Tropics.
  - The Tropics are a region of the Earth that fall between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn.
19. International Asteroid Day (IAD) is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_ **30<sup>th</sup> June**.
- Note:**
- UN General Assembly declared June 30 as IAD in 2016 to mark the anniversary of the Tunguska (Earth's largest asteroid) impact over Siberia, Russian Federation on 30 June 1908.
  - Asteroids (minor planets) are rocky, airless remnants left over from the early formation of our solar system.
20. International Day of Parliamentarism is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_ **30<sup>th</sup> June**.
- Note:**
- It was first observed in 2018 as adopted by UN General Assembly.
  - June 30 is the day on which Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) which is a global organization of parliaments was established in 1889.

## New Appointments

1. Mukesh Sharma is faculty of IIT who has been appointed as an honorary member of World Health Organisation's (WHO) Global Air Pollution and Health - Technical Advisory Group (GAPH-TAG) \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Kanpur.**

**Note:**

- Mukesh Sharma has been associated with WHO, Geneva, International Council for Clean Transport, Clean Air Asia United National Environmental Program, Bangkok, and the World Bank.
- He will now be part of the WHO advisory group on interventions and policies for air pollution control in 194 member states.

2. Who has been appointed as the as the Chairman of the Microsoft Corp \_\_\_\_\_ **Satya Nadella.**

**Note:**

- He will succeed John Thompson, who will now serve as lead independent director.
- Nadella took over as CEO in 2014 from Steve Ballmer.
- He has been instrumental in scaling up its business including billion-dollar acquisitions like LinkedIn, Nuance Communications and ZeniMax.
- Nadella has transformed the software titan into America's second-largest firm by value after tech giant Apple.

3. Who has been named as the named as a member of a High-Level Advisory Group formed by the World Bank and IMF \_\_\_\_\_ **Montek Singh Ahluwalia.**

**Note:**

- He was former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and distinguished fellow at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP).
- The group will be jointly led by Mari Pangestu, Managing Director for Development Policy and Partnerships, World Bank; Ceyla Pazarbasioglu, Director, Strategy, Policy and Review Department, International Monetary Fund; and Lord Nicholas Stern of the London School of Economics.

4. Who has been appointed as Director at India's WTO mission \_\_\_\_\_ **Aashish Chandorkar.**

**Note:**

- For the first time, a private person has been appointed at the Mission.
- Chandorkar is director of Bengaluru-based policy think tank Smahi Foundation of Policy and Research.
- The WTO is a 164-member multi-lateral body, which deals with global trade.

5. International lawyer Karim Khan belongs to which country who has sworn in as the new chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Court \_\_\_\_\_ **England.**

**Note:**

- He has years of experience in international lawyer as a prosecutor, investigator and defense attorney.
- He takes over from Fatou Bensouda of Gambia.
- Most recently, Khan led a United Nations team investigating atrocities in Iraq.

6. Who has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of PUMA motorsports in India \_\_\_\_\_ **Yuvraj Singh.**

**Note:**

- Singh will showcase his passion for fast cars and sports-inspired fashion. With this, he also joins the brand's global league of legends like Thierry Henry, Boris Becker and Usain Bolt.
- An ardent fan of Formula 1 driver Max Verstappen, Singh keenly follows Scuderia Ferrari Formula1 team.
- Globally, PUMA is associated with Scuderia Ferrari, Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team, Aston Martin Red Bull Racing, BMW M Motorsport and Porche Motorsport.

7. Which petroleum company has decided to set up a grain-based ethanol plant in the Una, Himachal Pradesh \_\_\_\_\_ **HPCL.**

**Note:**

- The state government would provide about 70 acres of land and a rail-fed POL terminal of higher capacity.
- This plant would have a capacity to generate 125 KL ethanol per day.
- These projects would be set up at a cost of 400 crore rupees and would provide direct and indirect employment to about 300 persons.

8. Who has won the 2021 Iranian presidential election \_\_\_\_\_ **Ebrahim Raisi.**

**Note:**

- He will succeed **Hassan Rouhani.**
- He will take charge of the office of President in August 2021 for four year term.

- He is presently serving as the **Chief Justice of Iran since March 2019**.
9. Antonio Guterres, was re-elected as the Secretary General of United Nations (UN) for a 2nd 5-year term, he held from which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Portugal**.
- Note:**
- His appointment was made by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on the recommendation of the 15-nation UN Security Council (UNSC) and announced by the President of the 75th session of the UNGA, Volkan Bozkir.
  - It should be noted that as per UN Charter, the Secretary-General is appointed by the UNGA on the recommendation of the UNSC.
  - He is an ex-Prime Minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002, he has been serving as the Secretary General since 2017.
10. Who has become the first woman from Jammu and Kashmir to become a fighter pilot \_\_\_\_\_ **Mawya Sudan**.
- Note:**
- She was inducted as a fighter pilot during the combined graduation parade ceremony in Hyderabad.
  - She is the 12th woman fighter pilot in the IAF.
  - 24 yrs old Mawya originally belongs to Lamberi village on the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district.
11. Who has been inducted as 'Ambassador of Forest Frontline Heroes' at WWF India \_\_\_\_\_ **Upasana Kamineni**.
- Note:**
- The move will appreciate the efforts of frontline workers in hospitals and in the wildlife protection space.
  - The focus of this will be on several States across the country covering most eco-regions.
12. Who has been appointed as the chairman of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) \_\_\_\_\_ **Meenesh Shah**.
- Note:**
- Shah had taken over the post for a period of six months with effect from June 1.
13. Whose tenure has been extended as the Attorney General of India by the central government \_\_\_\_\_ **K K Venugopal**.
- Note:**
- Last year, his tenure was extended by one year.
  - Venugopal was appointed as AG on July 1, 2017.
  - He took over as the 15th Attorney General of India after former AG Mukul Rohatgi resigned.
14. Who has been appointed as the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Suresh N Patel**.
- Note:**
- He has been appointed in place of **Sanjay Kothari**
  - He is currently serving as the **incumbent Vigilance Commissioner** and is the only VC in the commission.
15. Whose term has been extended by one year by the central government as the CEO of the NITI Aayog, the policy think tank of the government of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Amitabh Kant**.
- Note:**
- He played an instrumental role in initiatives such as Make in India, Start-up India, Incredible India and "God's Own Country" initiatives.
  - He has also been piloting the Union government's ease of doing business initiative.
  - He was appointed as the CEO of the public policy think tank in 2016.
16. Who has been appointed as the US's interim envoy to India \_\_\_\_\_ **Atul Keshap**.
- Note:**
- Ambassador Keshap's appointment will reinforce the close US partnership with the Government and people of India.
  - He most recently served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs and as the US Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives.

### Important News - India

1. Who addressed the UN 'High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation & Drought' \_\_\_\_\_ **Narendra Modi**.
- Note:**
- He said that three million hectares of forest cover has been added in India over the last ten years.
  - He listed steps taken by India to deal with the land degradation issue.
  - He conveyed that India is on track to achieve its national commitment of Land degradation neutrality.
  - He said India is also working towards restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.
2. According to the World Giving Index 2021 report what is India's position as the most charitable country \_\_\_\_\_ **14<sup>th</sup>**.

**Note:**

- This year's survey highlights the impact of lockdowns on charitable giving.
- Indonesia remains in the first place, followed by Kenya.
- Four African nations now sit in the top 10 -- three of them (Nigeria, Ghana and Uganda) for the first time.
- Most of the western countries which are usually in the Top 10 have fallen far down the rankings.

3. Which NGO has in collaboration with the India Meteorological Department & the ICMR is creating an India Interagency Expert Committee on Malaria and Climate (IEC) to explore and advance climate-based solutions for accelerating malaria elimination in India \_\_\_\_\_ **Malaria No More**.

**Note:**

- Aim of the collaboration is to explore and advance climate-based solutions for accelerating malaria elimination in India.
- India has set a target to eliminate malaria by 2030.

4. The central government has modified the 'Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in India Phase II' (FAME India Phase II) scheme. The FAME scheme is administered by which ministry \_\_\_\_\_ **Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises**.

**Note:**

- The FAME scheme was administered by the department of heavy industries (DHI)
- MoHI&PE has decided for the aggregation of electric three-wheelers and electric buses component of the scheme via state run Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), to bring down the cost of electric 3 Wheelers to that of ICE-3 Wheelers.

5. In a major boost to exports of GI certified agricultural produce, a consignment of fibre and mineral rich Jalgaon banana has been exported to which country \_\_\_\_\_ **UAE**.

**Note:**

- In 2016, Jalgaon Banana got GI certification which was registered with Nisargraja Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in Jalgaon.
- Country's banana export has been rising sharply because of adoption of farm practices as per the global standards.
- During 2020-21, India has exported banana worth of 1.91 lakh tonnes valued at 619 crore rupees.

6. Which country hosted the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus in that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh participated virtually \_\_\_\_\_ **Brunei**.

- He hailed the Indian values of 'Vasudhaive Kutumbakam' and 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah'.
- Minister called for a united fight against the pandemic.
- The ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) is a forum comprising 10 ASEAN member countries and 8 partner nations including India, China, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the United States.

7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 5th edition of VivaTech, the largest digital and start-up events in Europe. The event is being held which city every year \_\_\_\_\_ **Paris**.

**Note:**

- The Prime Minister has been invited as a Guest of Honour.
- He said that India is adaptable and agile even in the middle of the pandemic.
- VivaTech is being held in Paris every year since 2016.
- It is jointly organized by Publicis Groupe, a prominent advertising and marketing conglomerate and Les Echos - a leading French media group.

8. What is India's rank in the annual World Competitiveness Index 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **43<sup>rd</sup>**.

**Note:**

- The report was compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD).
- Top three nation in the 64-nation list are: 1. Switzerland; 2. Sweden; 3. Denmark.
- BRICS Nations rank order is China, India, Russia, Brazil and South Africa
- India has maintained its position for the past three years.

9. What is India's rank in the latest 15th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021, released by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Sydney \_\_\_\_\_ **135<sup>th</sup>**.

**Note:**

- Indian ranked 135th most peaceful country in the world
- Iceland remains the most peaceful country while Afghanistan is the least peaceful country in the world for the fourth consecutive year.
- Bhutan ranked as the most peaceful nation in South Asia.

- New Zealand, Denmark, Portugal ranked 3rd, 4th, and 5th resp.
10. With which country India has signed an MoU for developing cooperation between two countries in the area of the environment \_\_\_\_\_ **Bhutan**.
- Note:**
- The MoU was signed virtually by the Minister of Environment.
  - Union Minister Prakash Javadekar from the Indian side and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairperson of the National Environment Commission Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji from the Bhutanese side.
  - The MoU will open new vistas of bilateral cooperation in the area of climate change, waste management etc.
11. Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) joins hand with which entity for conducting programs across 350 functional EMRS schools across the country \_\_\_\_\_ **NCERT**.
- Note:**
- Under this collaboration, 120 EMRS teachers and principals from 3 states completed **NISHTHA-National initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement Program** to build competencies among teachers and school principals and Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training.
12. Under whose chairman ship the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has constituted a committee to probe complaints of post-poll violence in West Bengal \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajeev Jain**.
- Note:**
- The committee will be headed by NHRC member Rajeev Jain.
  - Atif Rasheed, Rajulben L Desai, Pradip Panja, and Raju Mukherjee are other members.
  - The committee has been entrusted with examining complaints received by NHRC or those that it may receive.
13. Who is the newly inducted member in the reconstituted Takeover Panel by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) \_\_\_\_\_ **N Venkatram**.
- Note:**
- The panel looks into the applications seeking exemption from the mandatory open offer that an acquirer needs to make to minority shareholders.
  - N Venkatram MD and CEO, Deloitte India as the new member of the Takeover Panel.
  - The panel is chaired by N K Sodhi, the former chief justice of the high courts of Karnataka and Kerala.
14. Who is the chairman of the reconstituted Takeover Panel by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) \_\_\_\_\_ **N K Sodhi**.
- Note:**
- The panel looks into the applications seeking exemption from the mandatory open offer that an acquirer needs to make to minority shareholders.
  - N Venkatram MD and CEO, Deloitte India as the new member of the Takeover Panel.
  - The panel is chaired by N K Sodhi, the former chief justice of the high courts of Karnataka and Kerala.
15. According to Ease of Living Index 2020 released by the Centre for Science and Environment, which is the most livable city of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Hyderabad**.
- Note:**
- According to the index, Bengaluru is the most livable city of India followed by Chennai, Shimla, Bhubaneshwar and Mumbai.
  - Delhi, however, ranked as the worst capital in the perception of citizens contacted for the survey.
  - Four parameters viz. quality of life, economic ability, sustainability, and citizens' perceptions are used to determine the ease of living Index.
16. With which country India has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and allied sectors \_\_\_\_\_ **Fiji**.
- Note:**
- Under the MoU, a Joint Working Group will be established to set down procedures and plan and recommend programs of cooperation towards achieving its aims.
  - The Working Group will hold its meetings alternatively in India and Fiji once every two years.
  - The MoU will remain valid for a period of five years from the date of its signing and any variation to its duration will be approved in writing by both Parties.
17. National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) has teamed up with which entity to develop an exclusive green rating system for high-speed rail (HSR) stations in the country \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)**.
- Note:**
- This world's first green rating system will be formulated for facilitating environmental sustainability at the stations.

- The rating system will allow new HSR stations to deploy energy-efficient notions during design and construction.
18. The union cabinet has approved allocation of additional foodgrain to National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (Phase IV) till \_\_\_\_\_ **November 30, 2021.**
- Note:**
- Under the scheme, the government will provide 5 kg foodgrains per person per month free of cost ration.
  - It will cover 81.35 crore beneficiaries covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Priority Households including those covered under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
  - PMGKAY was launched to help poor fight against Covid-19.
19. Which company has hosted the BRICS Green Hydrogen Summit \_\_\_\_\_ **NTPC.**
- Note:**
- Green Hydrogen is one of the most popular and demanding fields in the current times and considered to be the next carrier of energy.
  - Experts from BRICS countries participated to share their insights.
  - Professional views on ways to develop Green Hydrogen energy sources.
20. What is India's rank out of 46 countries in the Reuters Institute Digital News Report, 2021 on levels of overall trust in news \_\_\_\_\_ **31<sup>st</sup>.**
- Note:**
- Only 38% of the respondents from India said they trust news overall.
  - Finland had the highest levels of overall trust in news (65%) while the U.S. had the lowest levels of trust (29%).
  - The 10th edition of the report is based on an online survey of 46 media markets to understand how news is consumed in different countries.
21. Under whose chairmanship the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has constituted a committee to examine global best practices in ship financing and leasing \_\_\_\_\_ **Vandana Aggarwal.**
- Note:**
- This Committee will also identify opportunities and devise a roadmap to enable such activities.
  - The committee will be chaired by former Senior Economic Advisor, Vandana Aggarwal.
  - India is strategically located on the world's shipping routes and has a large coastline of over seven thousand 500 kilometres.
22. Who among the following is not a convener of the 'Toycathon 2021' in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with the participants of Toycathon-2021 via video conferencing \_\_\_\_\_ **NITI Aayog.**
- Note:**
- India's domestic market, as well as the global toy market, offers a huge opportunity to our manufacturing sector.
  - Globally, toy-making is a \$100 billion industry, with China, the USA, Germany and Japan as the key players.
  - India imports 80 to 85 per cent of its annual \$1.5-billion toy market.
23. Which state govt has partnered with UN World Food Programme (WFP) to improve household food and nutritional security by strengthening livelihood initiatives reaching thousands of state-supported Women's Self-Help Groups (WSHG) \_\_\_\_\_ **Odisha.**
- Note:**
- This was done reaching thousands of state-supported Women's Self-Help Groups (WSHG).
  - The partnership for achieving nutritional security in Odisha focused on empowerment, livelihood and incomes of women.
24. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) announced a partnership with which social media platform to launch the 'Digital Skill Champions Program' to train youth on digital skills, and make them employment ready \_\_\_\_\_
- WhatsApp.**
- Note:**
- NSDC is an apex body to manage Central backed Skill India or the National Skills Development Mission of India campaign.
  - Through this partnership, WhatsApp aims to enhance the digital skills of aspiring entrepreneurs and empower the youth of India to create a safe digital environment for all.
  - As part of WhatsApp Digital Skills Academy, youth from Tier-III & Tier-IV cities will be trained on critical aspects of digital safety and online privacy.
25. The Government of Indian has extended the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME Phase II) till \_\_\_\_\_ **2024.**

**Note:**

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

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

**Note:**

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

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

**Note:**

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

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

**Note:**

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

29. Which IIM has partnered with education platform Coursera to offer management courses to global learners \_\_\_\_\_ **IIM Kozhikode.**

**Note:**

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

30. What is India's rank in the the Global Cybersecurity Index 2020 (GCI) released by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) \_\_\_\_\_ **10<sup>th</sup>.**

**Note:**

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

### Important News – State

1. Export quality Jardalu mangoes are geographical indications (GI) certified mangoes from which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Bihar.**

**Note:**

- GI relates to a specific geographical origin of a product and certifies that it possesses qualities or a reputation due to that.
- The mangoes were packed in Lucknow before the Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority exported them in collaboration with the Bihar government.

2. Which state government has decided to set up a Vedic Education and Sanskar Board to revive the knowledge of ancient Sanskrit scriptures and connect the learnings of the Vedas with science and yoga \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajasthan.**

**Note:**

- Aim of this is to revive the knowledge of ancient Sanskrit scriptures and connect the learnings of the Vedas with science and yoga.
- The board is likely to be set up in the coming four to five months.
- The State, at present, has about 20 residential Vedic schools, including 'Gurukuls'.

3. Which state government has launched a program 'Revv Up' for Artificial intelligence (AI) startups \_\_\_\_\_ **Telangana.**

**Note:**

- The vision of T-AIM is to develop Telangana as a global hub for AI startups. Revv Up, which will begin its first cohort in July this year, is another step towards making Telangana and Hyderabad a global destination for AI and other emerging technologies.
  - The accelerator programme would be a torchbearer for future AI accelerators in the country.
  - NASSCOM will execute the envisioned strategy of T-AIM to identify and promote innovative and impactful AI solutions to solve real-world problems.
4. Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel has organised Flag Satyagraha programme in which place \_\_\_\_\_ **Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.**
- Note:**
- The programme was organised by **Union Culture Ministry** and **IGNCA** as part of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** to commemorate 75 years of Country's independence.
  - It reminisces the historic moments of **Jhanda Satyagraha held in Jabalpur in 1923** when the immortal martyrs first unfurled the flag at the Town Hall with great courage.
5. Which state government has launched a scheme named 'Ashirbad' to provide monthly financial support to all orphan children who have lost one or both their parents during COVID-19 from April 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **Odisha.**
- Note:**
- Children who lost their parents or main earning person of the family on April 1, 2020 or thereafter to Covid-19 will be eligible to be covered under the scheme.
  - Such children under distress have been divided into three categories.
  - Those who have lost both their parents, those who have lost either father or mother and those whose main earning member of family, either father or mother have died.
6. Which state government has signed an MoU with the Survey of India for implementing the Svamitva scheme in the state, which aims to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural areas \_\_\_\_\_ **Assam.**
- Note:**
- The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj, and Assam Government's Department of Revenue and Disaster Management will implement the scheme with the support of the Panchayat and Rural Development.
  - Survey of India, as the technology partner, will take steps for survey of inhabited rural land by drone as well as establishment of ground based control stations to enable a detailed spatial database of properties in rural areas.
7. World's first genetically modified (GM) rubber sapling was planted in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Assam.**
- Note:**
- It was developed by Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII), Kottayam, Kerala.
  - this GM rubber sapling is expected to grow well under the climatic conditions of the north east.
  - This is the first time any GM crop is developed exclusively for this region.
8. Which state ranked first in new job creation under India Business Process Outsourcing Promotion Scheme (IBPS) launched by the union government \_\_\_\_\_ **Andhra Pradesh.**
- Note:**
- Tamil Nadu ranked 2nd with 9,401 new jobs.
  - This was announced by the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous body under MeitY.
9. Which state government has launched e-launched Agricultural Diversification Scheme-2021 that will benefit vanbandhu-farmers in tribal areas \_\_\_\_\_ **Gujarat.**
- Note:**
- It will benefit vanbandhu- farmers in tribal areas.
  - The scheme will benefit more than 1.26 lakh farmers from 14 tribal districts of the state.
  - Under this scheme tribal farmers will get fertilizer-seed assistance of Rs 31 crores in which 45 kg of urea, 50 kg of NPK and 50 kg of ammonium sulphate will be provided.
10. Which state government has launched Mukhya Mantri Covid-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana \_\_\_\_\_ **Delhi.**
- Note:**
- This will offer a monthly financial assistance of ₹2,500 and one-time compensation of ₹50,000 to the families of those who have lost their earning member due to Covid-19.
  - These benefits will be in addition to the ongoing social welfare scheme of the Delhi govt such as old-age pension and widow pension.
  - Govt will also look after health and education needs of dependent children.
11. Which becomes the first rabies-free state in the country \_\_\_\_\_ **Goa.**

**Note:**

- As there not a single case of rabies has been registered the last three years.
- The task of rabies control has been carried out by Mission Rabies project, which is being run through a central government grant.

12. Which state government has announced Rs 10 lakh financial assistance to eligible Dalit beneficiaries under the Chief Minister Dalit Empowerment Programme \_\_\_\_\_ **Telangana**.

**Note:**

- The amount will be transferred directly to the bank accounts of the selected Dalit beneficiaries as was done in the case of Rythu Bandhu Scheme.
- In the first phase, the assistance would be given to 100 families selected from each of the 119 Assembly Constituencies.

13. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar has inaugurated Asia's longest high-speed track — NATRAX in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Madhya Pradesh**.

**Note:**

- NATRAX, one of the state-of-the-art automotive testing and certification centre under NATRiP.
- It is a flagship project of the Ministry of Heavy Industries, planned under the Automotive Mission Plan launched by the Centre.

14. Which state government has decided to set up district-level industry and investment promotion agencies to create more economic opportunities in the State \_\_\_\_\_ **Odisha**.

**Note:**

- These agencies should be dedicated towards facilitation and handholding of the micro, small and medium enterprises
- These agencies would operate as single-point contact for entrepreneurs and investors.

**Important News – World**

1. Which country is at top position in the World Giving Index 2021 report \_\_\_\_\_ **Indonesia**.

**Note:**

- Four African nations now sit in the top 10 -- three of them (Nigeria, Ghana and Uganda) for the first time.
- Most of the western countries which are usually in the Top 10 have fallen far down the rankings.
- 61 per cent of Indians helped strangers; 34 per cent volunteered; and 36 per cent donated money.

2. The European Space Agency (ESA) will launch world's first satellite, WISA Woodsat from which country \_\_\_\_\_ **New Zealand**.

**Note:**

- The objective of the satellite is to test the applicability of wooden materials like plywood in spacecraft structures and expose it to extreme space conditions, such as heat, cold, vacuum and radiation.
- It will be launched by Rocket Lab Electron rocket from the Mahia Peninsula launch complex in New Zealand.
- designed and built in Finland will orbit at around 500-600 km altitude in polar Sun-synchronous orbit.

3. Recently, United Kingdom has agreed on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Australia**.

**Note:**

- It will make it cheaper for the UK to sell its cars and Scotch whisky Down Under and remove barriers for business.
- An FTA with Australia is also dubbed as a gateway into the fast-growing Indo-Pacific region, which covers India.
- The UK-Australia trade relationship was worth 13.9 billion pounds last year and is set to grow under the deal.

4. With which country India has signed an agreement extending a US\$ 100 million Line of Credit (LOC) for projects in the Solar Energy Sector \_\_\_\_\_ **Sri Lanka**.

**Note:**

- The agreement was signed between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Export-Import Bank of India.
- This US\$ 100 million LOC will help finance various projects in the solar energy sector in Sri Lanka, such as rooftop solar photo-voltaic systems for households and government buildings.
- Some of the projects were announced during the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) held in March 2018 in Delhi.

5. Which country ranked 1st in the World Competitiveness Index 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Switzerland**.

**Note:**

- The report was compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD).

- Top three nation in the 64-nation list are: 1. Switzerland; 2. Sweden; 3. Denmark.
  - BRICS Nations rank order is China, India, Russia, Brazil and South Africa
  - India has maintained its position for the past three years.
6. Which country declared the least peaceful country in the world in 15th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021 released by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Sydney \_\_\_\_\_ **Afghanistan**.
- Note:**
- Indian ranked 135th most peaceful country in the world
  - Iceland remains the most peaceful country while Afghanistan is the least peaceful country in the world for the fourth consecutive year.
  - Bhutan ranked as the most peaceful nation in South Asia.
  - New Zealand, Denmark, Portugal ranked 3rd, 4th, and 5th resp.
7. According to the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021, which country is the most peaceful country in the world \_\_\_\_\_ **Iceland**.
- Note:**
- The 15th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021 was released by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Sydney.
  - Indian ranked 135th most peaceful country in the world
  - Bhutan ranked as the most peaceful nation in South Asia.
  - New Zealand, Denmark, Portugal ranked 3rd, 4th, and 5th resp.
8. Which country has decided to make a vaccine passport available from next month for Japanese travellers in a bid to relaunch tourism and business trips abroad \_\_\_\_\_ **Japan**.
- Note:**
- The certificate will be paper-based rather than digital and will be issued by local governments from sometime next month.
  - The European Union is working on a digital vaccine passport for this summer so it can welcome back badly needed tourists, and some EU countries plan to introduce certificates at the national level.
  - The EU version will feature information on whether a person has been vaccinated, or had the virus, tested negative, and recovered.
9. World's third-largest diamond unearthed in which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Botswana**.
- Note:**
- This newly discovered diamond is believed to be the third-largest gem-quality stone ever to be mined in the world.
  - It has been presented by Debswana Diamond Company to President of Botswana, Mokgweetsi Masisi.
  - **Cullinan stone in South Africa** and **Lesedi La Rona of Botswana** are the other largest diamond.
10. Which country has successfully tested an airborne high-power laser that can shoot down drones mid-air \_\_\_\_\_ **Israel**.
- Note:**
- It will deploy this technology on a larger scale in the coming years.
  - The trial, which is planned for later this year, will test the system's ability to shoot down incoming rockets and mortar fire at close range.
  - The ground-based laser system is being developed by the Rafael weapons manufacturer.
  - This will supplement the Iron Dome or Israel's other air defense systems.
11. Nikol Pashinyan is acting PM of which country whose party has won a parliamentary election with 53.92 per cent votes in the country \_\_\_\_\_ **Armenia**.
- Note:**
- The local news agency reported today, citing the electoral commission.
  - Pashinyan had earlier claimed victory in Sunday's election based on preliminary results, with his party taking an early lead over its closest challenger, the Armenia Alliance, led by former President Robert Kocharyan.
12. According to the International Energy Forum (IEF) announcement which country will host the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9) next year \_\_\_\_\_ **India**.
- Note:**
- The summit will take forward the understandings reached in the previous meeting in Abu Dhabi during 2018, which was co-hosted by India.
  - The International Energy Forum (IEF) is the world's largest energy organisation with 71 member countries, accounting for 90 per cent of the global energy market.

13. Rosatom is a company of which country that has started the construction work for unit 5 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP) \_\_\_\_\_ **Russia**.

**Note:**

- The commenced with the first concrete pouring into the foundation plate of the reactor building.
- The General Framework Agreement (GFA) between India and Russia was signed on April 10 2014, on construction of Units 3 and 4.

14. Which country ranked first in the Global Cybersecurity Index 2020 (GCI) released by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) \_\_\_\_\_ **USA**.

**Note:**

- India is ranked 10th in the Global Cybersecurity Index 2020 (GCI) released by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- It is a United Nations (UN) agency for information and communication technologies (ICT).
- India jumps 37 places from 47th in the previous ranking.

### Honor & Awards

1. Who has been honoured with the European Inventor Award 2021 in the 'Non-European Patent Office countries' category \_\_\_\_\_ **Sumita Mitra**.

**Note:**

- She successfully integrated nanotechnology into dental materials to produce stronger and more aesthetically pleasing fillings.
- The award, one of Europe's most prestigious innovation prizes, is presented annually by the European Patent Office (EPO) to recognise outstanding inventors from Europe and beyond.

2. Environmental organization 'Family Forestry' of which state has won the 2021 Land for Life Award by UN \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajasthan**.

**Note:**

- The **2021 Land for Life Award** has been won by **Familial Forestry** of Rajasthan, a unique concept that relates a tree with a family, making it a green "family member."
- The **UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** organises the **Land for Life Award** every two years to recognize excellence and innovation in efforts towards land in balance.
- The theme for the 2021 Award is "**Healthy Land, Healthy Lives**".

3. Who has been awarded with the Central European University's (CEU) highest award – 'Open Society Prize 2021' \_\_\_\_\_ **K K Shailaja**.

**Note:**

- She has been selected for the award in recognition of her commitment to public health services.
- Open Society Prize, the highest civilian recognition by the university, is annually awarded to persons of exceptional distinction who serve the ideals of an open society.

4. Which Indian PSU has been recognized as a 'Great Place to Work' for the 15th year in a row by the Great Place to Work (GPTW) Institute \_\_\_\_\_ **NTPC**.

**Note:**

- Under the category of 'India's Great Place to Work' it ranked at 38th position from its 47th position of 2020, it also won its first-ever recognition of – 'India's Best Employers among Nation-Builders 2021' from GPTW.
- Great Place to Work Certification: It is the most definitive 'Employer-of-Choice' recognition that organizations aspire to achieve, it is considered the 'Gold Standard' in identifying and recognizing Great Workplaces with High Trust and High-Performance Cultures.

5. Which International Airport has won the Airport Council International (ACI) Director General's Roll of Excellence award in Airport Service Quality \_\_\_\_\_ **Cochin International Airport, Cochin**.

**Note:**

- This was established by Director General of Airport Council International (ACI).
  - It is a global body of airport operators.
  - The award will be presented during the ACI Customer Experience Global Summit to be held in Sep in Montreal, Canada.
6. Who has emerged as the biggest philanthropist in the world over the last 100 years, as per a report prepared by Hurun Research and EdelGive Foundation \_\_\_\_\_ **Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata.**
- Note:**
- The report pegs the current valuation of India's pioneer industrialist Jamsetji Tata's donations at \$102.4 billion over the past century.
  - He is followed by Bill and Melinda Gates (\$74.6 billion), Warren Buffett (\$37.4 billion), George Soros (\$34.8 billion) and J D Rockefeller (\$26.8 billion).
  - He was regarded a 'Father of Indian Industry'.
7. Which two cities of India has jointly won the Smart Cities Award 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **Surat and Indore.**
- Note:**
- India Smart Cities Awards Contest (ISAC) 2020 has been released to rank cities on different themes ranging from Social Aspects, Governance, Culture, Urban Environment, Sanitation, Economy, etc
  - Award was organized under Smart Cities Mission project, by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
8. Name the Indian journalist has been selected as one of the three recipients of the Fukuoka Prize for 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **P. Sainath.**
- Note:**
- Mr. Sainath will receive the 'Grand Prize' of the Fukuoka Prize while the Academic Prize and the Prize for Arts and Culture will go to Prof. Kishimoto Mio of Japan and filmmaker Prabda Yoon of Thailand respectively.
  - The Fukuoka Prize is given annually to distinguished people to foster and increase awareness of Asian cultures, and to create a broad framework of exchange and mutual learning among the Asian people.

### Sports News

1. Who has won the won the \$15,000 Gelfand Challenge chess title and with it, a 'wild card' for the elite Meltwaters Champions Chess Tour \_\_\_\_\_ **D. Gukesh.**
- Note:**
- He won all four rounds, including the key battle against Praggnanandhaa, and emerged on top after a series of favourable results from the games involving other title-contenders.
2. Who has won the 2021 French Grand Prix 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Max Verstappen.**
- Note:**
- This race is the seventh round of 2021 Formula-One World Championship.
  - With this victory, Max Verstappen has 131 points and now leads Lewis Hamilton (119 points) in the Formula One drivers' title race, after seven matches.
  - Britain's Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) stood second in the 2021 French Grand Prix, followed by Sergio Perez (Mexico- Red Bull).
3. Name the Indian archer who won a gold medal in the men's individual compound event in Archery World Cup Stage 3 in Paris \_\_\_\_\_ **Abhishek Verma.**
- Note:**
- He defeated American Kris Schaff via shoot-off in a nerve-wracking final.
  - This was Verma's second World Cup individual gold medal.
  - He won the first one in Wroclaw, Poland, in 2015.

4. Name the Indian shooter duo who won the the silver medal in the 10m air-pistol mixed team event at the ISSF Shooting World Cup \_\_\_\_\_ **Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker.**

**Note:**

- The tournament is being held in Osijek, Croatia.
- The duo lost to Russia's Vitalina Batsarashkina and Artem Chernousov in the gold medal match.
- Russia currently leads the medal tally with three golds as many silver and one bronze.

5. Who has won Formula One Styrian Grand Prix 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Max Verstappen.**

**Note:**

- Verstappen has won three of the last four races.
- With a clean start from pole Verstappen denied Lewis Hamilton an early attack and he remained ahead for the entire race.

6. Who becomes the youngest Indian cricketer to make debut across formats after being picked for the first ODI against England Women \_\_\_\_\_ **Shafali Verma.**

**Note:**

- On her ODI debut, Verma scored 15 runs off 14 balls before being dismissed by Katherine Brunt.
- The Haryana girl took 17 years and 150 days to make her debut across format

7. Who has become the first Indian swimmer to qualify for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics \_\_\_\_\_ **Sajan Prakash.**

**Note:**

- He achieved the feat as he clocked 1 minute 56.38 seconds in the men's 200m butterfly at the Sette Colli Trophy in Rome.
- Qualification cut-off was 1 minute 56.48 seconds.
- Tokyo **Olympics** will begin on July 23 and the Games will run up to August 8 2021.

8. Name the Indian shooter who won the gold medal in women's 25 metres pistol event at the ISSF Shooting World Cup in Osijek, Croatia \_\_\_\_\_ **Rahi Sarnobat.**

**Note:**

- Rahi shot 39 out of 50 in the 25m pistol final to win the first gold for India in the ongoing World Cup.
- The silver went to France's Mathilde Lamolle, who scored 31 in the final.
- In the in the women's 25m pistol event she along with Chinki Yadav and Manu Bhaker won the team gold medal.

9. Name the Indian archer completed a hat-trick of gold medals at the Archery World Cup Stage 3 after winning the women's individual recurve event \_\_\_\_ **Deepika Kumari.**

**Note:**

- Deepika Kumari beat Elena Osipova of Russia 6-0 in the women's individual recurve final
- Deepika also won gold medals in the mixed team and women's recurve team events
- Deepika's 2nd gold medal came with husband Atanu Das in the mixed team recurve event.

10. Which two countries will host the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 amidst second wave of Covid 19 outbreak in India \_\_\_\_\_ **UAE and Oman.**

**Note:**

- It was announced by the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- The tournament is scheduled to be held from October 17 to November 14.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which holds the hosting rights of this year's event, will inform the International Cricket Council (ICC) in this regard.

### Books and Authors

1. Who has authored the book titled "Beyond Here and Other Poems", released by Naveen Patnaik \_\_\_\_\_ **Bishnupada Sethi.**

**Note:**

- The book was published by Har Anand Publications.
- The poems featured in the book reflect the experiences of life, perception of death, and philosophical contemplation.
- The preface of the book was written by noted Odia poet Haraprasad Das.

2. Who has authored the book titled 'The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis' \_\_\_\_\_ **Amitav Ghosh.**

**Note:**

- This Book is Published by John Murray and will be released on October 14, 2021.
- This book is about the history of the influence of colonialism on the world today, told through the story of the nutmeg.
- It discusses everything from the global history of the oil trade to the migrant crisis and the animist spirituality of indigenous communities around the world.

3. Who has author the book titled 'The 7 Sins of Being A Mother' \_\_\_\_\_ **Tahira Kashyap Khurrana.**

**Note:**

- This is her fifth book and the second she wrote amid the pandemic.
- Last year, the filmmaker had released 12 Commandments of Being A Woman, which she finished writing during the coronavirus-induced lockdown.
- The writer has also penned books like Cracking The Code: My Journey in Bollywood and Souled Out.

4. The book titled 'Will' is a memoir of who among the following \_\_\_\_\_ **Will Smith.**

**Note:**

- His book will be published by Penguin Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House and co-authored by Mark Manson.
- Smith will also narrate the audiobook of Will from Penguin Random House Audio.
- Will looks to tell a story about Smith's life and career.
- The book will delve into him being raised in West Philadelphia to entering superstardom as an actor and rapper.

5. The book titled 'Monk in a Merc' is memoir of which Indian Neurologist to be released Posthumously \_\_\_\_\_ **Ashok Pangariya.**

**Note:**

- The book gets released after the demise of Dr. Ashok Pangariya who passed away in June 2021.
- The book talks of his life and experience in achieving eternal happiness and mental peace while pursuing all of life's luxuries and professional success.
- Ashok Pangariya was a Neurologist and previously served as the vice chancellor of Rajasthan University of Health Sciences.

6. Who has authored the book titled "It's a Wonderful Life" \_\_\_\_\_ **Ruskin Bond.**

**Note:**

- This book is written in a Perceptive, uplifting, deeply moving and in a non fictional way.
- It is about the joys and positive truths to be found in the smallest of incidents that occur in our lives
- Ruskin Bond, Indian author of British descent, is one of India's most well-known children's writers.

7. Who has authored the book titled "Anomalies in Law and Justice" \_\_\_\_\_ **R V Raveendran.**

**Note:**

- The book has been authored by former Supreme Court Judge Justice (retd) R V Raveendran.
- He explains the various deficiencies in the law which needs to be overcome.
- The book is an attempt to explain to a common man that the law and the legal system is still evolving.

8. Who has authored the book titled 'Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story' \_\_\_\_\_ **Sundeep Mishra.**

**Note:**

- The Book chronicles Chand's journey with a detailed narrative of the gender-identity controversy that made her an iconic figure in Indian sport.
- Dutee Chand, the first openly homosexual athlete from India, scripted history in 2019 when she became the first Indian to win a gold in a 100 metre event at the World Universiade in Naples.

**Science and Defence**

1. Which IIT has developed a device "Jivan Vayu" which can be used as a substitute for Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machine \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Ropar.**

**Note:**

- This is the nation's first such device which functions even without electricity and is adapted to both kinds of oxygen generation units like CO2 cylinders and oxygen pipelines in hospitals.
- These provisions are not available in otherwise existing CPAP machines.

2. China launched a spacecraft 'Shenzhou-12' carrying three astronauts to its own space station which is to be complete by which year \_\_\_\_\_ **2022.**

**Note:**

- It was launched from Gobi Desert.
- This launch begins the first crewed space mission in five years for an increasingly ambitious space program.
- China becomes the third country to send astronauts into space.
- This is the third of the 11-mission needed to complete the China's space station by 2022.

3. Which IIT hosted a three-day virtual Conference of BRICS Network Universities on the theme of electric mobility \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Bombay.**

**Note:**

- This conference is part of the engagements that India is hosting under the education stream during its Chairship of the 13th BRICS Summit this year.
- Over 100 students, researchers and faculty from the BRICS Network Universities of the five member countries are expected to participate in the conference.
- BRICS Network University is a union of higher education institutions of the five BRICS member countries, formed with the objective of enhancing educational cooperation in general, and especially in the realm of research and innovation.

4. The maiden Indian Navy and European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) exercise was conducted in which sea \_\_\_\_\_ **Gulf of Aden.**

**Note:**

- A total of five warships from four navies were participated in the two-day exercise.
- The exercise aims to enhance and hone their war-fighting skills to promote peace, security and stability in the maritime domain.
- INS Trikand, mission deployed for anti-piracy operations, is participating in the exercise.
- Other warships include Italy's ITS Carabinere, the Spanish Navy's ESPS Navarra, and FS Tonnerre and FS Surcouf of France.

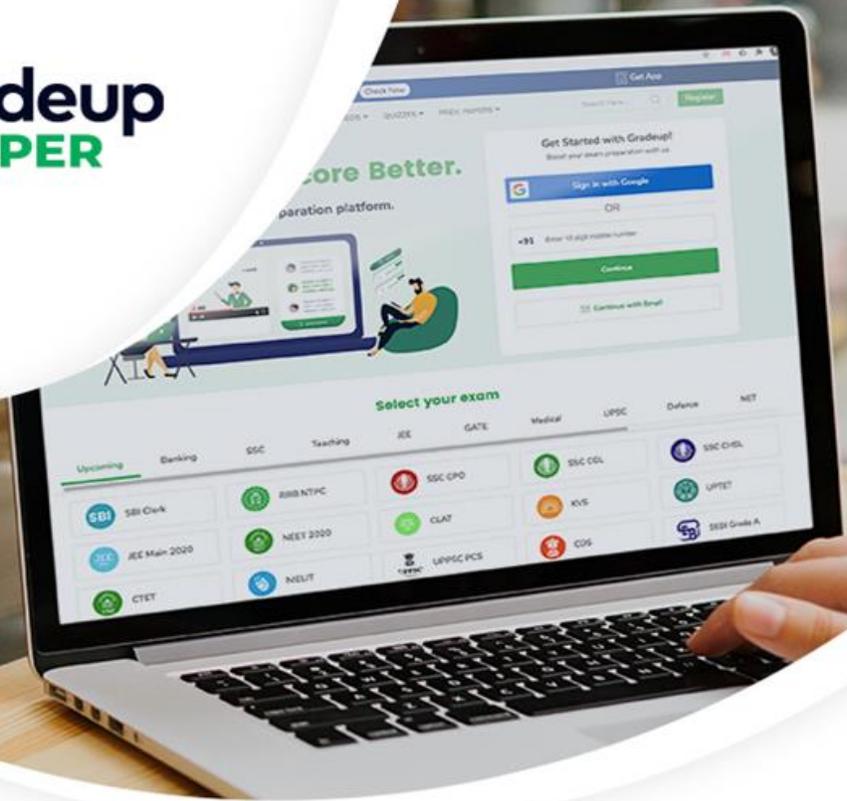
5. Which country plans to send its first crewed mission to Mars in 2033 \_\_\_\_\_ **China.**

**Note:**

- It aimed a long-term plan to build a permanently inhabited base on the Red Planet and extract its resources.
- It will intensify a race with the United States to plant humans on Mars.
- Crewed launches to Mars are planned for 2033, 2035, 2037, 2041 and beyond.

6. Which IIT has launched a 'Centre for Research on Start-Ups and Risk Financing' (CREST) to provide academic and thought leadership in innovation, entrepreneurship and risk capital \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Madras**.
- Note:**
- It will also create a unique world-class data repository on start-ups and ventures.
  - It will address hurdle for engaging in high-quality research.
  - This would be made accessible for researchers and policymakers that can result in top-tier publications.
7. The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy participated in a 2-days 'Passage Exercise' with the navy of which country in Indian Ocean in June 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **USA**.
- Note:**
- As part of the exercise, Sukhoi, Jaguars, IAF refuelling aircraft and warships and maritime patrol aircraft of the Navy participated in the exercise.
  - INS Kochi and Teg, along with P8I and MiG-29K aircraft participated with US Navy CSG Ronald Reagan.
  - Passex is part of regular exercises between India and US
8. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated infrastructure projects constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) \_\_\_\_\_ **63**.
- Note:**
- From Kunjan bridge on Leh-Loma Road, he inaugurated all bridges in Eight States across the country virtually.
  - Amongst the bridges, 11 in Ladakh, Four in Jammu and Kashmir, Three in Himachal Pradesh, Six in Uttarakhand, Eight in Sikkim, 29 in Arunachal Pradesh and one each in Nagaland and Manipur.
9. Which Indian Naval Ship has been deployed for naval exercises in Africa, Europe that will participate in exercises like Konkan, Varuna and Indra \_\_\_\_\_ **INS Tabar**.
- Note:**
- It will visit a number of ports in Africa and Europe till the end of September.
  - It will also participate in a number of joint exercises with friendly navies.
  - The ship will transit across the Gulf of Aden, Red Sea, Suez Canal, Mediterranean Sea, North Sea and Baltic Sea while making port calls at Djibouti, Egypt, Italy, France, UK, Russia, Netherlands, Morocco, and Arctic Council countries like Sweden and Norway.
10. What is the strike range of the new variant of nuclear-capable Agni P missile test fired by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully off Odisha coast \_\_\_\_\_ **1000 km - 2000 km**.
- Note:**
- The first test of the new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile Agni Prime was conducted from the launching complex IV of the Abdul Kalam Island at about 10.55 am.
  - Indigenously developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the missile met all mission objectives.
11. With which country the United States launched joint Sea Breeze naval exercises \_\_\_\_\_ **Ukraine**.
- Note:**
- The drills come just days after the British Royal Navy's HMS Defender passed near Russian-annexed Crimea in the Black Sea.
  - The Sea Breeze drills — which have taken place 21 times since 1997 — will involve some 5,000 military personnel from more than 30 countries.
  - The exercises will last two weeks and involve around 30 ships, including the missile destroyer USS Ross.

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