

Monthly GK Digest

July 2021



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Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a **complete docket** of important news and events that occurred in a month of 'July-2021'. This file is important for, **Bank, SSC, and Railway's** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

- 1. Axis Bank** has partnered with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to accelerate its digital transformation programme.
Note: Axis bank and AWS signed a multi-year agreement, under which the bank will use AWS to build a portfolio of new digital financial services and modernise core banking applications. Axis Bank has deployed over 25 mission-critical applications on AWS, including a Buy Now Pay Later product and a new loan management system to support it, Account Aggregator, Video-Know Your Customer, and WhatsApp banking.
- 2. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** has partnered with digital lender LoanTap to provide personal loans to salaried professionals.
Note: This move comes as part of Ujjivan's Small Finance Bank's API banking initiative. Through this initiative over 150 APIs will be made available, which in turn will offer fast and secure tie-ups for the purposes of digital lending, digital liabilities and payments to fintechs. This move also serves a dual purpose of extending the bank's financial services to a larger array of customers through LoanTap's platform, which will make these activities smoother and more convenient for their salaried class customers who are seeking loans.
- 3. Reliance Industries** has signed an agreement with the UAE's state-run oil giant Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) to form a mega petrochemical joint venture in Al Ruwais city, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
Note: This project, a joint venture of ADNOC and ADQ (formerly known as Abu Dhabi Development Holding(ADDH) Co), will be constructed at the TA'ZIZ Industrial Chemical Zone in Ruwais Abu Dhabi, UAE. This is the first investment by Reliance in UAE. This agreement enhances the ADNOC's downstream and industry growth plans in line with ADNOC's 2030 strategy. Contracts have been awarded for the first stages of development of the TA'ZIZ site.
- According to the Financial Stability Report (FSR), released by the Reserve Bank of India, the Gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) of banks may rise to **9.8 per cent** by March 2022.
Note: According to the Financial Stability Report (FSR), released by the RBI the Gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) of banks may rise to 9.8 per cent by March 2022 under a baseline scenario, from 7.48 per cent in March 2021. Under a severe stress scenario, GNPA of banks may increase to 11.22 per cent.
- According to the report "COVID-19 and Tourism: An Update" jointly released by UNCTAD and the UN World Tourist Organisation, India experienced a drop in tourist arrivals in 2020 by **54%**.
Note: According to report tourism will at least \$4 trillion in terms of global GDP for 2020 and 2021 due to pandemic. India experienced a 54% drop in tourist arrivals in 2020. Some 100 -120 million tourism jobs are at stake as per the report.
- \$20 billion** of funding in total has been announced by the World Bank for Covid-19 vaccines for developing countries.
Note: The World Bank is expanding its financing available for Covid-19 vaccine financing to \$20 billion over the next 18 months, adding \$8 billion to the previously announced \$12 billion. Further, the Bank also provided over \$4 billion for the purchase and deployment of Covid vaccines for 51 developing countries, half of which are in Africa.
- e-commerce company **Flipkart** has launched Shopsy, an app that will enable Indians to start their online businesses without any investment.
Note: Flipkart aims to enable over 25 million online entrepreneurs by 2023 with the help of Shopsy. Users of Shopsy will be able to share catalogues of a wide selection of 15 crore products offered by Flipkart sellers.
- NABARD has sanctioned Rs 388 crore under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for four drinking water and 20 rural road projects in **Odisha**.
Note: The RIDF assistance is for setting up of four mega piped drinking water supply projects, one each in Boipariguda block of Koraput district, Nilgiri block of Balasore district and two in Malkangiri district. The water supply projects are intended to provide 70 litre per capita per day safe and portable drinking water at the consumer-end through functional household tap connection.
- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 25 lakh on **Punjab and Sind Bank** for non-compliance

with certain provisions of directions on 'Cyber Security Framework in Banks'.

Note: The state-owned bank had reported a few cyber incidents to the RBI on May 16 and 20, 2020.

Examination of the incident reports and the report of the forensic analysis of the said incidents, revealed, non-compliance with aforesaid directions. The RBI issued a show-cause notice to the bank.

- 10. HDFC Bank** has launched 'Salaam Dil Sey' initiative to pay tribute and show gratitude to doctors across the country for their tireless service during the pandemic at the risk of their own lives.

Note: Under this, bank has created a web platform www.salaamdilsey.com. Using this platform, general public can logon on and share the thank you message for doctors which can be immediately shared via e-mail, social media, and WhatsApp to acknowledge and celebrate doctor's contribution.

- 11. ICICI Bank** has launched 'Salute Doctors', a comprehensive banking solutions for doctors.

Note: The solution will provide customized banking as well as value-added services for every doctor, beginning from a medical student to a senior medical consultant to an owner of a hospital or a clinic. It consists of Salute Doctors Savings Account, Salute Doctors Current Account, Home loans, Medical equipment loan, Business Loan, Personal Loan, Education Loan, etc.

- 12.** As per the new auction methodology of Reserve Bank of India for the benchmark securities of **30-year & 40-year both** tenor the auction will continue to be multiple price-based auction.

Note: For other benchmark securities i.e. 30-year and 40-year, the auction will continue to be multiple price-based auction, as hitherto. The above arrangement will continue till further review. This was noted by the regulator while reviewing market conditions and market borrowing program of the govt.

- 13.** digital payments and financial services platform **Paytm** has launched 'Postpaid Mini', a small ticket loans that will give users flexibility to access loans ranging from Rs 250 - Rs 1,000, in partnership with Aditya Birla Finance Ltd.

Note: It is a small ticket loans that will give users flexibility to access loans ranging from Rs 250 - Rs 1,000, in partnership with Aditya Birla Finance Ltd. The product is an extension of its Buy Now, Pay Later service, driving affordability amongst those new to credit.

- 14.** With **Aditya Birla Finance Ltd** the digital payments and financial services platform Paytm launched a small ticket loans 'Postpaid Mini' that will give users flexibility to access loans ranging from Rs 250 - Rs 1,000.

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in partnership with Aditya Birla Finance Ltd. The product is an extension of its Buy Now, Pay Later service, driving affordability amongst those new to credit. These small ticket instant loans will give flexibility to users and also help manage their household expenses to maintain liquidity during the ongoing Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

- 15. PhonePe** has partnered with Flipkart to launch contactless 'Scan and Pay' feature for the e-commerce major's pay-on-delivery orders.

Note: PhonePe's QR code solution will now enable customers who earlier opted for cash on delivery to pay digitally through any UPI app at the time of delivery. This is intended to help reduce personal contact while ensuring safety, and drive contactless payments for customers who are traditionally more comfortable with cash on delivery.

- 16.** State-run power giant NTPC has partnered with another Public Sector Undertaking **ONGC** to boost the development of offshore wind energy in India.

Note: India is blessed with a coastline of about 7,600 km surrounded by water on three sides and has good prospects of harnessing this clean source. Earlier in May last year, NTPC and ONGC had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to accelerate their footprint in the renewable energy space.

- 17. PayU** provider has partnered with WooCommerce to enable WooCommerce merchants with digital payments infrastructure, and end-to-end digitalization of business processes.

Note: WooCommerce merchants is an open-source, customizable e-commerce platform. The partnership will offer merchants exclusive pricing on transactions, no hidden charges, and contactless payment solutions to scale growth and profitability. A recent survey has shown 82 percent of small businesses have experienced a negative impact due to the pandemic and adoption of technology can aid in the revival of up to 35 percent SMBs, post-pandemic.

- 18.** As per the provisional data released by the coal ministry India's total coal production registered a marginal decline of **2.02%**.

Note: Of the total output, a chunk of 685.951 MT was produced by the public sector, and the remaining production of 30.133 MT was from the private sector. In FY 21, Chhattisgarh registered the highest coal production followed by Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, and Jharkhand. Jharkhand was the top producer of coking coal.

- 19. Aeldra Financial Inc** is offering a unique US bank account to the students gearing up for admissions in the US.

- Note:** It also provides a Mastercard Global Debit Card that can be opened and operated from India, even before students get an F-1 visa. Aeldra is a Silicon-valley based pioneering 'digital neo bank'. It has no minimum balance requirement and it doesn't have foreign currency mark-up fees.
- 20.** Fitch Ratings has cut its projection for India's real GDP growth in 2021-22 to **10%** percent from 12.8%.
Note: The ratings agency also warned that banks' asset quality challenges have increased and will remain under threat due to mobility restrictions, medical exigencies and rising job losses, with MSME and retail loans to low- and moderate-income borrowers most likely at risk. Indian economy contracted by 7.3 per cent in fiscal 2020-21 as the country battled the first wave of Covid, as against a 4 per cent growth in 2019-20. RBI too earlier this month cut India's growth forecast to 9.5 per cent for this fiscal, from 10.5 per cent estimated earlier.
- 21.** The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) has been brought under the administrative control of **Ministry of Finance** to facilitate govt's ambitious disinvestment programme.
Note: Earlier, DPE was part of Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. The other 5 departments under the Finance Ministry are Economic Affairs, Revenue, Expenditure, Investment & Public Asset Management and Financial Services. The government has budgeted Rs 1.75 lakh crore from stake sale in public sector companies and financial institutions during 2021-22.
- 22.** Neobank FREO has partnered with **HDB Financial Services** to offer a credit line and high-ticket personal loans to customers across multiple cities in India.
Note: Through this association, FREO will be providing customers with two innovative credit products: a credit line and a high-ticket personal loan across multiple cities in India. HDBFS in partnership with FREO will offer a credit line that enables consumers to get access to credit anywhere, anytime via a smartphone. An individual will get a personalized amount approved which they can start using immediately. As they repay the borrowed amount, the credit limit is replenished and they can continue withdrawing as much as they need.
- 23.** With **Bank of India** the Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has entered into a corporate agency agreement for the distribution of its insurance products through the bank's network _____.
Note: Under the agreement, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance will offer a number of personal lines of products such as – motor insurance, health insurance, home insurance, travel insurance to the bank's customers. It will also offer the commercial line of products such as – engineering insurance, marine insurance, etc. The agreement will enhance the distribution of Bajaj Allianz's products to remote areas of the country.
- 24.** Fintech Company, Drip Capital has collaborated with **SBM Bank India** to offer customised trade financing solutions to empower Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) exporters in India.
Note: Under the partnership, Drip Capital will provide collateral-free working capital to MSME exporters at competitive rates through its invoice discounting facility. Unlike traditional financial institutions, Drip Capital leverages data analytics and technology to underwrite its transactions, allowing it to provide a seamless financing experience to MSME businesses.
- 25.** With **Razorpay** the payment technology company Mastercard has launched a recurring payment interface named 'MandateHQ', to support card-issuing banks that wish to enable recurring payments for its customers.
Note: MandateHQ is an API (Application Programming Interface)-based plug-n-play solution, which would reduce the go-live time of card-issuing banks. It will also help the banks to implement the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) new framework on automatic debit and recurring payments. It would also support the banks to send a 24-hour pre debit notification (mandated by RBI) via electronic e-mail, SMS, and WhatsApp.
- 26.** Amazon India has launched its first 'Digital Kendra' in **Surat**, as part of its commitment to digitise 10 million Indian micro, small and medium enterprises by 2025.
Note: Amazon Digital Kendras are brick and mortar resource centres that will provide MSMEs information about the benefits of e-commerce and help avail third-party services such as shipping and logistics support, cataloguing assistance, digital marketing services, GST and taxation support to start their digital journey.
- 27.** NIIT Institute of Finance Banking and Insurance (NIIT IFBI) and **Axis Bank** have launched a fintech professional programme to build future-ready professionals for the private sector lender.
Note: The programme offers graduates with zero to three years of experience an opportunity to join Axis Bank as a deputy manager (IT). NIIT the programme is immersive in nature where the learners perform tasks of similar complexity as they would face in their role.
- 28.** **Axis Bank** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army to offer a defence service salary package to the Indian Army under its 'Power Salute' initiative.
Note: The MoU will cover all ranks of army officers viz. serving Defence personnel as well Defence pensioners under its ambit. During the signing ceremony Indian Indian Army was represented by Lt Gen (Lieutenant General) Rana Pratap Kalita, and Axis Bank

- was represented by Reynold D' Souza, Executive Vice President and Lt Col MK Sharma National Accounts Head, Axis Bank.
- 29. Axis Bank** has entered into a bancassurance partnership with Max Bupa Health Insurance to provide comprehensive health insurance solutions to its customers and employees.
Note: Under the partnership, Max Bupa will offer indemnity as well as fixed benefit products, and their customizable variants to the bank's customers across the country. The Axis Bank customers are also enabled to get access to quality healthcare solution products that are offered by Max Bupa through the tie-up. The Health Insurance would cover medical emergencies in Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- 30. SBI General Insurance** has launched a comprehensive health insurance plan named 'Arogya Supreme' with multiple benefits and coverages.
Note: Under the policy the insured persons will get a wide range of sum insured options up to Rs 5 crore for their medically necessary hospitalization due to illness or accident that occurred during the policy period. Options: Based on the sum insured and coverage features, 3 different options viz Pro, Plus, and Premium were provided for the customers to choose under the plan. Policy Term: Customers also have a facility to choose the policy tenure ranging from 1 to 3 years i.e. 1year/2years/3years.
- 31.** Under the modified risk management guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the bank staff working in sensitive positions like treasury operations and currency chests will get **10 days** mandatory leave in a single spell every year.
Note: RBI has given banks six months to comply with these directions. It asked banks to ensure that employees, while on 'mandatory leave', do not have access to physical or virtual resources related to their work responsibilities, with the exception of internal/corporate email which is usually available to all employees for general purposes. Mandatory leave for staff was first introduced in May 2011 after the RBI saw a sharp increase in frauds in banks following forensic studies.
- 32. IDFC First Bank** has launched unique Employee-funded program titled as 'Ghar Ghar Ration' for its low-income customers who were affected by Covid-19.
Note: Under this scheme, employees of the bank have contributed their personal income to help such customers who are affected by COVID. It is a first such employee-led initiative by any bank. Ghar Ghar Ration program will supply ration kits to 50,000 low-income customers whose livelihood have been impacted by COVID.
- 33.** To facilitate investment in **Government Securities** by individual investors the RBI has introduced RBI Retail Direct facility.
Note: Under this facility, retail investors will have the facility to open and maintain the Retail Direct Gilt (RDG) Account with RBI. RDG account can be opened through an Online portal provided for the scheme. Saving Account holders in India with PAN, Valid KYC documents, email ID and Registered number are eligible to open this account.
- 34.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved **Equitas Small Finance Bank** to apply for the amalgamation of its promoter into itself.
Note: As per the RBI's SFB licensing guidelines, the promoter of SFB should exit or cease to be a promoter after a lock-in period of 5 years. In the case of Equitas SFB, the initial promoter lock-in period for Equitas Holdings expires on September 4, 2021, hence the Equitas SFB requested RBI for amalgamation of its promoter before completion of the lock-in period. Now RBI has approved the bank to apply for amalgamation of its promoter into itself.
- 35.** International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has issued framework for Setting up and operating International Trade Finance Services Platform (ITFS). The IFSCA is situated in **Gandhinagar**.
Note: It will enable Exporters and Importers to avail various types of trade finance facilities at competitive terms for their international trade transactions through a dedicated electronic platform. This will help in their ability to convert their trade receivables into liquid funds and to obtain short-term funding. ITFS will provide Trade Finance Services at IFSC
- 36. Axis Bank** has tied up with Mumbai Metro to launch 'One Mumbai Metro Card' powered by Mastercard, to ensure contactless and cashless travel for Mumbaikars.
Note: It is a prepaid, open loop contactless card which can be used as a part of the daily transit journey with just a tap. With this solution, Mastercard has continued to contribute in changing the way India commutes and helping the transit eco-system go completely digital. This is a card that can be used for all daily purchases from food, groceries, medicines as well as tickets.
- 37. IndusInd Bank** has partnered with TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha to launch a fully digital network for facilitating electricity bill payment across the state.
Note:
- 38. Airtel Payments Bank** has launched 'Pay to contacts' which allows customers to initiate a UPI payment by

- selecting the receiver's mobile number from their phonebook.
Note: 'Pay to Contacts' displays the valid UPI ID associated with the selected contact, irrespective of the UPI app used by the receiver. This eliminates the need to enter the UPI ID or bank account details to process the payment and saves time.
- 39.** The Reserve Bank of India has imposed restrictions on **Mastercard** for adding new domestic customers with effect from 22nd July 2021.
Note: This means MasterCard will not be allowed to add customers, be it for debit, credit or pre-paid cards onto its network as the entity has failed to comply with the directions on Storage of Payment System Data. It will not impact existing Mastercard customers. It may be recalled that RBI had issued a circular in April 2018, directing all system providers to ensure that all information related to payments systems operated by them are stored in India.
- 40.** In July 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the license of **Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar Urban Co-operative Bank**.
Note: Bank ceases to carry on banking business with effect from the close of business on July 14, 2021. RBI cancelled the license of the bank as the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects and does not comply with the provisions of section 11(1) and section 22 (3) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- 41.** BUSY, a business accounting software, partners with **ICICI Bank** for banking solutions.
Note: The integration will help BUSY users gain better accessibility in managing their banking, improving their business efficiencies. Under this partnership, ICICI Bank's current account holders can securely connect their bank account to BUSY Accounting Software. This integration will allow BUSY users to reconcile their bank statements automatically, do accounting, fetch bank details, make payments, etc.
- 42.** The government notified a hike in the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in pension fund management to **74 percent** under the national pension system (NPS).
Note: The higher foreign investment limit in pension fund managers (PFMs) follows a Parliament nod in March to hike FDI limit in insurance business to 74% from 49%. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Act links the FDI ceiling in the sector to the same in the insurance sector. Four out of seven PFMs managing the NPS corpus namely HDFC Pension Management, ICICI Prudential Pension Funds, Kotak Mahindra Pension Fund and Aditya Birla Sun Life Pension Management have significant foreign investments.
- 43.** **RBI** is the regulator of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) launched by the government as Bad Bank to clean up bank books.
Note: It was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget Speech 2021-22. RBI is the regulator of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs). RBI has already prescribed a regulatory framework for the functioning of ARCs and there are well-laid norms for transfer of stressed assets by banks and non-banking finance companies to ARCs.
- 44.** The duration of Stand-Up India Scheme has been extended till **2025**.
Note: Centre has extended the duration of 'Stand Up India Scheme' up to the year 2025. The scheme was launched in 2016 to facilitate loans to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and women borrowers promoting entrepreneurship among them.
- 45.** **100 crore** is the authorized capital of the recently incorporated National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL).
Note: The National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) is a legal entity now and has been registered with the Registrar of Companies (RoC) Mumbai. According to data available with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), NARCL was incorporated on July 7 with an authorised capital of Rs 100 crore and paid-up capital of Rs 74.6 crore. The Indian Banks Association (IBA) is likely to approach the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) this week to seek an ARC (asset reconstruction company) licence.
- 46.** **Reliance Retail Ventures** has Acquires 40.95% Stake in Just Dial for Rs 3,497 Crore.
Note: RRVL will make an open offer to acquire additional up to 2.17 crore equity shares of Just Dial, representing 26 per cent stake, in accordance with Sebi Takeover Regulations, a regulatory filing said. VSS Mani will continue as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Just Dial through the next phase of growth, it added.
- 47.** **Bank of Maharashtra** has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NABARD to boost ongoing developmental initiatives linked to priority sector lending in Maharashtra.
Note: Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) to boost ongoing developmental initiatives linked to priority sector lending in Maharashtra. The MoU envisages joint initiatives for the benefit of farmers, farmer producer organisations, joint liability groups, self help groups, rural artisans, weavers, agripreneurs, agri start-ups, micro, small and medium enterprises in the State

- 48. Microsoft** has acquired the RiskIQ, a San Francisco-based provider of cybersecurity services, including malware and spyware monitoring and mobile app security.
Note: RiskIQ's services and solutions will join Microsoft's suite of cloud-native security products, including Microsoft 365 Defender, Microsoft Azure Defender, and Microsoft Azure Sentinel. While Microsoft hasn't valued the deal, Bloomberg reported that the company is said to be paying more than \$500 million for RiskIQ.
- 49. Razorpay** has acquired artificial intelligence (AI)-based risk analysis platform TERA Finlabs, marking its third acquisition since inception.
Note: Bengaluru-based TERA Finlabs provides risk management software, along with customized credit offerings to make lending more affordable for consumers and profitable for lenders.
- 50. China** is the world's largest consumer of gold.
Note: India is the world's second largest consumer of gold after China. Swiss gold accounted for almost half of India's imports of the yellow metal, at \$16.3 billion, in 2020-21. India imported gold worth \$34.6 billion last fiscal against \$28.2 billion in the previous year despite the raging Covid-19 pandemic.
- 51.** The Asian Development Bank has downgraded India's economic growth forecast for the current financial year to **10 per cent**.
Note: The projection for FY2022 (ending in March 2023), by which time much of India's population is expected to be vaccinated, is upgraded from 7 per cent to 7.5 per cent as economic activity normalises.
- 52.** Banking and financial services major Goldman Sachs has opened a new facility in **Hyderabad**.
Note: The new office is expected to have about 800 people by year-end and grow to over 2,500 people by 2023. The new office will host functions across engineering, finance, human capital management, and support for consumer banking, and specialise in digital banking, artificial intelligence and machine learning areas.
- 53. LIC** institution has launched new health insurance plan called Arogya Rakshak.
Note: Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has launched new health insurance plan called 'Arogya Rakshak', which is a non-linked, non-participating, regular premium and individual health insurance plan. It will provide fixed health insurance cover against certain specified health risks and provides timely support in case of medical emergencies.
- 54. SBI** has selected Paisalo Digital as its National Corporate Business Correspondent.
Note: SBI has selected Paisalo Digital as its National Corporate Business Correspondent in order to boost financial inclusion drive with the help of kiosk-based banking services. Paisalo Digital Limited is systemically important Non-Deposit taking NBFC registered with RBI.
- 55. Rs. 6322 crores** is the budgetary outlay of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for specialty steel.
Note: Speciality Steel is value-added steel, which is made by processing normal finished steel. It is done by converting normal finished steel into high value-added steel by way of coating, plating and heat treatment. In order to boost domestic manufacturing and cut down on import bills, the central government in March 2020 introduced a PLI scheme that aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units. Duration of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for specialty steel is 5 years from 2023-24 to 2027-28
- 56.** Indian Navy has signed MoU with **Kotak Mahindra Bank** for salary account.
Note: The bank will offer special salary account benefits to the Indian Navy like enhanced complimentary personal accident insurance cover, special education benefit for children, etc.
- 57.** International Finance Corporation (IFC), the investment arm of the World Bank Group has provided \$250 million loan to **HDFC Ltd** for green housing.
Note: Green housing is regarded as a luxury market in the country, but has climate benefits. Green affordable housing can help India on its path to deliver on its commitments under the Paris Agreement, to reduce a third of its carbon emissions by 2030 from 2005 levels. Green and energy-efficient housing can help cut emissions, as residential housing accounts for about 24 percent of the nation's electricity consumption.
- 58.** Sunseap Group, a solar energy system developer, owner, and operator in Asia plans to build the world's largest floating solar farm in **Indonesia**.
Note: The floating photovoltaic system is expected to have a capacity of 2.2 gigawatts (peak). It will cover 1600 hectares (4000 acres) of the Duriangkang Reservoir on Batam Island and cost about \$2 billion to construct. An agreement between Sundeap and the Batam Indonesia free zone authority (BP Batam) to move forward with the project was signed on July 19.
- 59.** The Reserve Bank of India has raises limit for loan to other banks' directors up to **Rs 5 crore**.
Note: As per the amendments, the central bank has allowed banks to extend personal loans up to ₹5 crores to directors of other banks and directors' relatives other than spouses without board approval. The earlier limit

for such loans was ₹25 lakh. The regulations apply to directors, including the Chairman/Managing Director, of other banks.

60. Export Import (Exim) Bank of India said it has extended a USD 35.26 million loan for a power transmission project being executed by Kalpataru Power Transmission in **Senegal**.

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

61. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) **9.5 per cent** will be the economic growth of India in the financial year 2021-22 (FY22).

Note: The downward revision in the GDP growth rate is due to a lack of access to vaccines and the possibility of renewed waves of coronavirus. For FY23 (2022-23), IMF has estimated the gross domestic product (GDP) of India at 8.5 per cent, which is 160 basis points higher than its earlier projection of 6.9 per cent. In the case of the global economy, IMF has projected 6.0 per cent growth in 2021 and 4.9 per cent in 2022.

62. The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 5 crore on **Axis Bank**.

Note: Penalty has been imposed for contravention of certain provisions of directions issued by RBI on 'Strengthening the Controls of Payment Ecosystem between Sponsor Banks and SCBs/UCBs as a Corporate Customer', 'Cyber Security Framework in Banks', 'RBI (Financial Services provided by Banks) Directions, 2016' 'Financial Inclusion- Access to Banking Services; and 'Frauds - Classification and Reporting'.

63. According to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **30.19 percent** of growth in digital payments in

India have been recorded during the financial year 2020-21.

Note: The newly constituted Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) in its report said that at the end of March 2021, the index rose to 270.59 from 207.84 the previous year. The RBI-DPI index has shown the significant growth in its index represents the rapid deepening and adoption of digital payments across India in the recent few years.

64. In July 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of **Madgaum Urban Co-operative Bank Limited**.

Note: The RBI further said that as per the data submitted by the bank, about 99 per cent of the depositors will receive full amounts of their deposits from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakh only from the DICGC.

65. Health insurer Max Bupa Health Insurance has rebranded itself to **Niva Bupa Health Insurance**.

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

66. **Indian Bank** signed an MoU with IIT Guwahati Technology Incubation Centre for funding eligible Startups under the "IND SpringBoard" scheme of the Bank.

Note: Indian Bank supports start-ups by extending credit facilities up to Rs 50 crore for working capital requirements. IITG-TIC is a space for new-age entrepreneurs and young minds to transform their innovative ideas into viable business propositions. It is one of its kind in the North-Eastern part of India.

Obituaries

1. Renowned personality Raj Kaushal passed away recently, he was a veteran **Film Maker**.
Note: He was married to actor-TV presenter Mandira Bedi. Apart from direction, Kaushal had also produced filmmaker Onir's 2005 acclaimed drama "My Brother... Nikhil", starring Sanjay Suri and Juhi Chawla. His last directorial was the 2006 thriller, "Anthony Kaun Hai?", starring Arshad Warsi and Sanjay Dutt.
2. Renowned personality K.V. Sampath Kumar has passed away recently, he was a veteran **Journalist**.

Note: He, along with his wife, was selected for the Padma Shri honour from the Government of India in 2020 for his contribution to the field of Literature & Education. He has also received several awards like the Siddharudha award, the Shivaratri Deshikendra Media award, the Abdul Kalam award and others.

3. Renowned personality Donald Rumsfeld passed away recently he was veteran **Politician**.

Note: He served two-time as defense secretary and a one-time presidential candidate of USA. Regarded by

- former colleagues as equally smart and combative, patriotic and politically cunning, Rumsfeld had a storied career under four presidents and nearly a quarter-century in corporate America.
4. Renowned sportsman M Prasanna passed away recently, he was associated with **Football**.
Note: He played for Kerala, Maharashtra and Goa in Santosh Trophy National Football Championship. He was part of the Indian team coached by PK Banerjee and captained by Inder Singh in the Merdeka Cup in 1973.
 5. Legendary actor Dilip Kumar passed away recently.
Note: Legendary actor Dilip Kumar (98) passed away after a prolonged illness in Mumbai. Dilip Kumar made his Hindi film debut in 1944 with the movie 'Jwar Bhata'. In a career spanning over six decades, Dilip Kumar gave multiple hits such as 'Mughal-e-Azam', 'Naya Daur', 'Baabul', 'Deedar', 'Madhumati', 'Devdas', 'Ganga Jamuna', 'Ram Aur Shyam', 'Karma' and others. Dilip Kumar's portrayal in various doomed movies earned him the title of 'tragedy king'.
 6. Renowned personality Richard Donner passed away recently he was a veteran **Film Maker**.
Note: He is known for directing blockbuster and classic films such as "Superman", "The Goonies" and "Lethal Weapon". Donner, whose real name was Richard Donald Schwartzberg, was born in New York to Jewish parents in 1931. Early in his career, Donner had aspired to be an actor but found his calling in direction.
 7. Renowned sportsperson Keshav Chandra Datt passed away recently, he was associated with **Hockey**.
Note: Born in Lahore Datt was part of the 1948 London Olympics Indian Hockey team. Later as Vice-Captain of Indian team he won Gold in 1952 Helsinki Olympics. In his autobiography Goal, Dhyan Chand rated Datt as one of the finest half-backs of that time.
 8. Recently, renowned sportsman Yashpal Sharma passed away, he was associated with **Cricket**.
Note: He was also a member of the Kapil Dev-led World Cup-winning team. He had got India off to a brilliant start in the 1983 World Cup as he scored a match-winning 89 against the West Indies in what was India's first match of the showpiece event. He scored 1606 runs at 33.45 in Test career and scored 883 runs at 28.48 in ODIs.
 9. Renowned personality Mahesh Kathi passed away recently, he was a veteran **Telugu film critic and actor**.
Note: He had last month met with an accident near Chandrasekharapuram village in Kodavalur Mandal of Nellore district. He was known for films like Nene Raju Nene Mantri, Hrudaya Kaleyam, Amma Rajyam Lo Kadapa Biddalu, and most recently Krack, which released in January this year. He also directed a movie in 2015 called Pesaratu.
 10. Renowned personality Mamnoon Hussain passed away recently, he was former President of **Pakistan**.
Note: He was born in 1940 in Agra, British India and migrated to Pakistan during the 1947 partition. Mamnoon Hussain served as the 12th President of Pakistan from 2013 to 2018. In 1999, he was appointed as the governor of Sindh by then-President Rafiq Tarar, later he was removed from the post when the Government of then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was overthrown by then Pakistan Army Chief General Pervez Musharraf in a military coup d'état.
 11. Tennis Player and Grand Slam winner Shirley Fry Irvin belongs to **USA** was inducted in the International Tennis Hall of fame in 1970 has passed away recently.
Note: She is one of the 10 women to win singles titles at all four major championships (championships of Australia, France, Britain (Wimbledon), and the United States). Shirley Fry Irvin won her first Grand Slam title(singles) at the 1951 French Open against her doubles partner Doris Hart. She was ranked among the world's top ten in 1946 and 1948 and from 1950 to 1956.
 12. Renowned personality Gautam Benegal passed away recently he was a veteran **Filmmaker**.
Note: At 16, Gautam illustrated for children's magazine Sandesh. He made films for the Films Division of India and his movies have also been nominated for film festivals in Teheran, Belarus, Hiroshima, and Cairo among other places. He had received the National award (Rajatkamal) Best animation Film for 2010: The Prince and the Crown of Stone.
 13. Satish Kalsekar was a renowned poet and writer of **Marathi** language who passed away recently.
Note: He was honored with Sahitya Akademi Award in 2014 for his collection of essays 'Vachanaryachi Rojanishee'. He is known for outstanding contribution in the fields of poetry, translation, prose writing and editing. Famous poem: Lenin (1977), Sakshat (1982), Vilambit (1997). His literary career started with collection of poems Indriyopanishad (1971)
 14. Renowned personality Jayanthi passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.
Note: She started her acting career in 1963 and had starred in over 500 films that span across five languages including Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi. She was fondly known as Abhinaya Sharadhe (Goddess of acting) in Kannada industry. Awards: Karnataka State Film Awards and Filmfare Awards
 15. Former cricketer Mike Hendrick passed away recently belongs to **England**.
Note: Hendrick, who played for Derbyshire, was suffering from liver and bowel cancer and featured in 30 Test matches for England. Playing at the highest level

from 1974 to 1981, Hendrick took 87 wickets at an average of 25.83 in Test cricket

16. Famous **badminton player** Nandu Natekar passed away recently.
Note: In the 1950s and 1960s, Natekar was a household name all over India, thanks to his exploits on the court

Important Days

- National Doctors' Day is celebrated every year on **1st July** to acknowledge the role of doctors in keeping the nation healthy.
Note: Government established Doctors' Day in 1991 to recognize the contributions of former Bengal Chief Minister Dr BC Roy. He played an important role in the establishment of Medical Council of India and Indian Medical Association. He was also conferred with Bharat Ratna on 4th February, 1961.
 - The National Postal Worker Day is observed every year on **1st July**.
Note: The day is a unique opportunity to say 'thank you not only to postmen but also to all delivery personnel, as online shopping has become a lifeline for many of us. The day was initiated by a popular postal service provider from Seattle, the United States of America in 1997 to felicitate and honour the co-postal workers for their dedication.
 - Goods and Services Tax (GST) is observed every year on **1st July**.
Note: The date of July 1 has been designated by the central government as 'GST Day' in 2017 (this year is its fourth anniversary). During these years, several key policy initiatives were taken by the government to make the GST system and compliance mechanism simple, transparent and technology driven. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is an indirect, multi-stage, comprehensive tax in India, imposed on the supply of goods and services.
 - World Sports Journalists Day is observed globally every year on **2nd July**.
Note: The day aims to acknowledge the work of sports journalists & to encourage them to do better at their work. Sports journalists help millions of people in the world to receive information on various sports. This professional has helped in the development of many kinds of games all over the world. These journalists have their associations to maintain their standards in their profession.
 - International Day of Cooperatives (#CoopsDay) is celebrated every year on **first Saturday of July (3 July 2021)**.
Note: This year, it is being observed today (July 3) with the theme "Rebuild better together". This day was
- officially started by the UNGA on the centenary of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) in 1995. It aims to strengthen and unite everyone in this pandemic.
- World Zoonoses Day is held every year on **6th July** to raise awareness of the risk of zoonotic diseases.
Note: Zoonoses are infectious diseases (virus, bacteria and parasites) that can spread from animals to humans, and vice versa, either with direct contact with animals or indirectly, vector-borne or food-borne. It was on July 6, 1885, when Louis Pasteur successfully administered the first vaccine against Rabies virus, which is a zoonotic disease.
 - World Chocolate Day or International Chocolate Day is observed every year on **7th July**.
Note: The day celebrates the existence of chocolate in our lives. It is marked by eating chocolates and sharing with dear ones. The day is an annual global celebration of chocolate, which allows people to gorge and indulge, hopefully guilt-free, in it. On this day, chocolate lovers from all over relish eating different kinds of chocolate or create several dishes with it like cakes, pastries, sinful and gooey brownies, hot chocolate or chocolate mousse, without any guilt.
 - National Fish Farmers' Day is celebrated every year on **10th July** by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in association with the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB).
Note: The event aims to draw attention to changing the way the country manages fisheries resources to ensure sustainable stocks and healthy ecosystems. This day is made to honour the fish farmers, aquapreneurs, fisherfolks, stakeholders and whoever else is associated in the fishery for their contribution in the fishery.
 - World Population Day is observed globally every year on **11th July**.
Note: This day is observed to raise awareness among people about the impact of a growing population and issues including gender equality, the importance of family planning, poverty, maternal health, human rights, etc. This year theme of World Population Day 2021: "the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on fertility".
 - World Malala Day is observed every year on **12th July** by the United Nations.

- Note:** Malala Day is commemorated, the birthday of Malala Yousafzai to honour women and children's rights around the world. On October 9, 2012, Malala was shot in the head by Taliban gunmen after she publicly advocated for the education of girls. Despite the attack, Malala soon returned to the public eye, fiercer in her views than earlier and continued her advocacy for gender rights.
11. **'Reimagining Youth Skills Post-Pandemic'** is the theme of the 'World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) 2021'.
Note: World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) is observed on July 15 every year in order to recognize the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship, and to highlight the crucial role of skilled youth in addressing current and future global challenges. United Nations General Assembly declared 15 July as World Youth Skills Day in November 2014.
 12. World Day for International Justice, also referred to as Day of International Criminal Justice or International Justice Day is marked every year on **17th July**.
Note: The theme for the celebration of this year's World Day of International Justice is "A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy."
 13. Nelson Mandela International Day is observed every year on **18th July** in honour of Nelson Mandela's birthday.
Note: The day was officially declared by United Nations in November 2009 and the day was held for first time on 18 July 2010. Theme 2021: One Hand Can Feed Another. UN General Assembly introduced Nelson Mandela Prize in 2014, which is given once every five year on 18th July to recognize the achievements of those who dedicated their lives to the service of humanity.
 14. When International Chess Day marked every year on **20th July**.
Note: The day celebrate one of the most ancient and most popular games in history that promotes fairness, equality, mutual respect and understanding among nations. It was first observed in 1966, as proposed by UNESCO.
 15. The Science Exploration Day (Moon Day) is observed every year on **20th July**.
Note: In 1969, on this day Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin became the first humans to land on the Moon's surface. The duo spent 21.5 hours on the surface of the moon out of which they spent 2.5 hours outside of their capsules. Neil Armstrong was the first man to set foot on the moon's surface. The day was first observed in 1984 by then US President, Ronald Reagan.
 16. World Brain Day is observed every year on **22nd July**.
Note: Many public awareness programmes and educational & social media activities are promoting the movement to stop multiple sclerosis, commencing July 22, 2021, & continuing until October 2022. The theme for this World Brain Day is "Stop Multiple Sclerosis". World Brain Day advocates early diagnosis of this condition that can help improve the quality of life of the patient.
 17. National Broadcasting Day is observed on **23rd July**.
Note: On this day in 1927, the first-ever radio broadcast in the country went on the air from the Bombay Station under the Indian Broadcasting Company. The first radio broadcast was made on July 23, 1927, from Bombay Station. The station was then owned by a private company called the Indian Broadcasting Company.
 18. World Drowning Prevention Day is observed every year on **25th July**.
Note: This global advocacy event serves as an opportunity to highlight the tragic and profound impact of drowning on families and communities and to offer life-saving solutions to prevent it.
 19. The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem (or World Mangrove Day) is celebrated annually on **26th July**.
Note: The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as "a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem" and to promote solutions for their sustainable management, conservation and uses. The day was adopted by the General Conference of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2015.
 20. Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on **26th July** in honour of the heroes of the Kargil war of 1999.
Note: On this day in 1999, the Indian Army announced that Pakistani forces and intruders have been driven out from all occupied territories on the Indian side in Kargil. To concur the Kargil war Indian Army launched the 'Operation Vijay' (II) in 1999. First Operation Vijay was launched in 1961 that led to the capture of Goa, Anjediva islands and Daman and Diu.
 21. World Hepatitis Day is observed every year on **28 July**.
Note: 28 July was chosen for World Hepatitis Day as it is the birthday of Nobel-prize winning scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg, who discovered hepatitis B virus (HBV). Theme of World Hepatitis Day 2021: 'Hepatitis Can't Wait'.

22. World Nature Conservation Day is observed every year on **28th July** to raise awareness about protecting nature and adopting best practices for conserving our natural resources.
Note: The main objective of celebrating this day is to raise awareness about protecting nature and adopting best practices for conserving our natural resources. The Earth is supplied a limited amount of properties that we all rely upon each day like water, air, soil and trees.
23. Global Tiger Day or International Tiger Day is observed every year on **29th July** to raise awareness about the declining population of wild cats and making efforts to conserve them.
Note: The goal of the day is to promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation issues. This year marks the 11th International Tiger Day. The theme/Slogan for the 2021 International Tiger Day celebration is "Their Survival is in our hands".
24. World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is observed every year on **30th July**.

- Note:** The 2021 theme for World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is **Victims' Voices Lead the Way**. This year's theme puts victims of human trafficking at the centre of the campaign and will highlight the importance of listening to and learning from survivors of human trafficking.
25. International Day of Friendship is observed globally on **30th July**.
Note: This day is celebrated to mark the importance of friends and friendship in life. The day also advocates the role that friendship plays in promoting peace in several cultures across the world.
 26. World Ranger Day is observed every year on **31st July**.
Note: World Ranger Day offers a chance to support their vital work, which ranges from environmental campaigning to education. The day is also an opportunity to pay tribute to rangers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. A Ranger is a person tasked with preserving and protecting parklands and natural protected areas. A Ranger typically refers to a forest ranger or a park ranger.

New Appointments

1. **Vivek Ram Chaudhari** has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of Indian Air Force.
Note: He will succeed Air Marshal Harjit Singh Arora. He is currently serving as commander-in-chief of the IAF's Western Air Command (WAC). An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Air Marshal Chaudhari was commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF on December 29, 1982.
2. **Satish Agnihotri** took charges as the new Managing Director of National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL).
Note: He had worked as the Chairman and Managing Director of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for close to nine years. NHSRCL has been incorporated in 2016 with an object to finance, construct, maintain and manage the High Speed Rail Corridor in India.
3. **Nitin Gadkari** has become Brand Ambassador of Khadi Prakritik Paint.
Note: He will promote this paint across the country to encourage young entrepreneurs to take up the manufacturing of cow dung paint. He Inaugurated a new automated manufacturing unit of Khadi Prakritik Paint in Jaipur. The Minister appreciated Khadi and Village Industries Commission for the successful research.
4. **Pushkar Singh Dhama** was sworn in as the 11th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.

- Note:** Governor **Rani Maurya** administered the oath to Mr. Dhama at Rajbhawan in **Dehradun**. Pushkar Singh Dhama is the youngest CM of the state. He will be the **third CM** in nearly four months. He is a two-time MLA from the **Khatima** constituency in the **Udham Singh Nagar** district of the state.
5. Veteran lawyer KN Bhattacharjee has been appointed as the new Lokayukta of **Tripura**.
Note: It will deal with the complaints of corruption against public servants and administrative functionaries under the Tripura Lokayukta Act, 2008. Bhattacharjee will be the 3d Lokayukta of the state. He was succeeded by a former judge of Kolkata and Andhra Pradesh high courts, Justice Subal Baidya, in 2017.
 6. **PVSLN Murty** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFi).
Note: He took charge as the new CMD on 1st July 2021 succeeding B. Paul Muktieh, who served as the CMD of NEDFi from 2010 to June 2021. Prior to his appointment as the CMD of NEDFi, PVSLN Murty served as the Chief Strategy Officer(CSO) at State Bank of India (SBI), based at the Corporate Office, Mumbai. He has served as the Chief General Manager (CGM) and CSO of the SBI.

7. Stefan Lofven has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of **Sweden** within weeks after he was ousted in a no-confidence vote.
Note: Löfven won a majority of 117 IN 349 seats. Head of the Social Democrat's Party, Löfven was supported by lawmakers to form a new government after leading the country in a caretaking capacity since late last month.
8. **Amit Shah** has been appointed as the minister incharge of the newly formed formulated Ministry of Co-operation in Modi's new cabinet.
Note: This is in addition to the portfolio he already holds in the Narendra Modi government that is the Home Ministry. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had created a new 'Ministry of Cooperation', looking to provide added impetus to the cooperative movement in the country. The Ministry will work to streamline processes for 'ease of doing business' for cooperatives and enable the development of Multi-State Co-operatives (MSCS).
9. **Kiren Rijiju** has been appointed as the Union Minister of Law & Justice.
Note: A prominent face from the northeast in the Modi government, Rijiju was elevated as a Cabinet minister in a major reshuffle and expansion of the Union Council of Ministers. Rijiju takes over the key ministry from Ravi Shankar Prasad, who has resigned from the government.
10. **Mansukh Mandaviya** becomes the new Health Minister of India.
Note: Mandaviya has replaced Dr Harsh Vardhan who was in charge of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Ministry of Science & Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences since 2019. Mandaviya will also be the in charge of Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
11. **Ashwini Vaishnaw** becomes the new Minister of Railways.
Note: He also took charges as the Minister of Communications and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology. The Jodhpur-born Mr. Vaishnaw was a brilliant student from the beginning. After graduating with a gold medal in electronics and communications engineering course from Rajasthan's Jai Narayan Vyas University in 1992, he pursued his M.Tech programme from IIT Kanpur. He immediately cracked the coveted civil service examination with an all-India rank of 27 in 1994.
12. **Vinay Prakash** has been appointed as the Resident Grievance Officer of Twitter for India.
Note: The appointment announcement was made on the official website of Twitter. This appointment is mandatory for all social media companies under the new Information Technology (IT) Rules of the country. Guidelines under the new IT Rules were issued in February and require all social media intermediaries to comply by May 26.
13. Abiy Ahmed has been elected as the Prime Minister of **Ethiopia** for a second 5-year term, after his ruling 'Prosperity Party' won the country's parliamentary election in landslide victory.
Note: Prosperity Party won 410 seats out of 436 parliamentary electoral constituencies at the general elections of Ethiopia. Abiy Ahmed is serving as the 4th Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia since 2018.
14. Shyam Srinivasan has been reappointed as the MD & CEO of **Federal Bank** for three years with effect from September 23, 2021.
Note: He will hold the office till September 22, 2024. He has served three terms as CEO of the Federal Bank since September 23, 2010. He is the longest-serving MD & CEO of the bank, after its founder, late K P Hormis. Federal Bank's Headquarters: Kochi, Kerala.
15. **Sher Bahadur Deuba** has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Nepal.
Note: He has been administered the oath of office by President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari. He has been appointed Prime Minister under Article 76(5) of the Constitution, which makes it mandatory for him to secure a vote of confidence in the House within 30 days of taking oath. He succeeded K P Sharma Oli.
16. **Piyush Goyal** has been appointed as the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha after the resignation of Thawar Chand Gahlot.
Note: He succeeded Thaawarchand Gehlot, who has taken charge as the Governor of Karnataka. He is a two-time Rajya Sabha Member and is currently the deputy leader of the NDA. He is serving as the Union Minister of Textiles, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
17. **Deepak Kabra** has become 1st Indian to be selected as gymnastics competition judge of the Olympic Games.
Note: He will be seen officiating the men's artistic gymnasts at the Tokyo Games, which gets underway on July 23. Commonwealth Games 2020 in India was his first international assignment and Kabra went on to become the first Indian judge to officiate in the 2014 Asian Games and Youth Olympics.
18. Bandaru Dattatreya has been sworn in as the 18th governor of **Haryana**.
Note: He was administered the oath of office by Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Ravi Shanker Jha. Prior to this, he was the Governor of Himachal

- Pradesh. He succeeded Satyadeo Narain Arya, who has been moved to Tripura. He was four-time MP and was first elected to Lok Sabha in 1991 from Secunderabad constituency
19. IFSCA has constituted an expert committee under the chairmanship **Kaku Nakhate and Gopalan Srinivasan** to recommend the road map and approach towards the development of the 'Longevity Finance Hub' in GIFT International Financial Services Centre. **Note:** The objective the committee is to serve the investment and wealth management needs of the 'Silver Generation' (People with age group 60 and above), comprising people aged 60 and above. The expert committee will be co-chaired by Kaku Nakhate, Bank of America, Country Head (India), and Gopalan Srinivasan, Ex-CMD, New India Assurance Company Ltd.
 20. **Sanjay Gupta** has been appointed as the Chairman of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI). **Note:** IMAI has also named Facebook India Vice President and Managing Director Ajit Mohan as Vice Chairman of its association by succeeding Dhruv Shringi, Yatra.com co-founder and CEO. Harshil Mathur, CEO and Co-founder of Razorpay was elected as the Treasurer of IMAI succeeding Satyan Gajwani, Vice Chairman of Times Internet Ltd.
 21. **Kambhampati Hari Babu** has been sworn in as the 22nd Governor of Mizoram at Raj Bhavan in Aizawl. **Note:** He has been administered the oath of office by Gawahati High Court Judge, Justice Michael Zothankhuma. He succeeded P.S Sreedharan Pillai, who was appointed as the Governor of Goa. Gawahati High Court has jurisdiction over the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Mizoram.
 22. **B K Sinha** has been appointed as the Press Attache of India's Olympic contingent at the Tokyo Olympic Games 2021. **Note:** B K Sinha has been appointed as the Press and Security Attache of India's Olympic contingent at the Tokyo Games. He is a former Haryana DGP and also a recipient of the President's Police Medal.
 23. **Ariel Henry** has been sworn-in as the Prime Minister of Haiti. **Note:** Ariel Henry was sworn in during a ceremony in the capital Port-au-Prince the same day that official commemorations were held to honour Moise. A 71-year-old Henry is a neurosurgeon and former cabinet minister of Haiti. He is also acting President of Haiti.
 24. **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** has been appointed as the Deputy Leader of Rajya Sabha. **Note:** Naqvi takes over from Piyush Goyal who has been elevated as the leader of the house in the Upper House. A former minister of state for parliamentary affairs minister, Naqvi is well versed in Parliamentary affairs. He is also known for his cordial relations across party lines.
 25. **Pedro Castillo** has been declared as the President of Peru. **Note:** Rural teacher-turned-political novice Pedro Castillo has become the winner of Peru's presidential election after the country's longest electoral count in 40 years. As per the final results declared by the electoral authorities, Pedro Castillo defeated right-wing politician Keiko Fujimori by just 44,000 votes.
 26. **Basavaraj S Bommai** has been unanimously elected as the new Chief Minister of Karnataka. **Note:** He will succeed BS Yediyurappa, who resigned on July 26, 2021. Prior to this, he was the Home Minister in the BSY government. He is a 3-time member of Karnataka Legislative Assembly from Shiggaon since 2008. He was a member of Karnataka Legislative Council between 1998 and 2008.
 27. **Rakesh Asthana** has been appointed as the Police Commissioner of Delhi with immediate effect. **Note:** He was set to retire on July 31. He was serving as Director General, Border Security Force. This is one of the very few instances when an IPS officer outside of AGMUT cadre has been appointed as Delhi Police chief.
 28. **Najib Mikati** has been appointed as Lebanon's new prime minister-designate following binding parliamentary consultations with President Michel Aoun. **Note:** He ran virtually unopposed, receiving 72 votes, with former ambassador Nawaf Salam receiving just one vote. Forty-two MPs voted blank, and three MPs did not vote at all. His appointment comes just 11 days after Saad Hariri resigned as prime minister-designate, following nine months of political deadlock and dispute with President Aoun and his son-in-law MP Gebran Bassil.

Important News - India

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

Note: The country was in the 17th spot in 2019 and slid six spots down in 2020 and stood at 23. Like last year,

- the US, the UK, Israel, Canada and Germany are in the top five spots. The report has a score for each location, which is calculated as the sum of three parameters — quantity, quality and business environment.
2. In July 2021, flagship programme of government of India, **Digital India** has completed six years of its implementation.
Note: The vision of Digital India programme is to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched this ambitious programme on 1st July, 2015. The Digital India journey in the past 6 years has centred around empowerment, inclusion, and digital transformation. It has positively impacted all aspects of the lives of Indian citizens through Aadhaar, Direct Benefit Transfer, Common Services Centres, DigiLocker and mobile-based UMANG services.
 3. From **Cochin** port the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways launched the maiden voyage under the Green Freight Corridor-2.
Note: MoS Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the first voyage under the service, which is operated by Mumbai-based Round the Coast Pvt Ltd. The newly launched service will connect Cochin with Beypore-Azhikkal and later Kollam ports in Kerala.
 4. **NPCI** has curated the Financial Literacy Textbook for students of Class VI that was introduced by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) recently.
Note: The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has curated the book. This book will be used for a newly introduced elective subject 'Financial Literacy'. It will enable students to have an understanding of basic financial concepts at a preliminary stage of their education.
 5. **Google** social media giant has published its first transparency report under the new Information Technology (IT) Rules 2021.
Note: It has published the report for April 2021. Google received a total of 27,762 complaints for the month of April, and the number of removals stood at 59,350. The new IT rules require significant social media intermediaries (SSMIs) such as Google, Facebook, etc. to publish a monthly report on the action taken on user complaints that they have received.
 6. The Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM) has signed an MoU with **Microsoft** for a strategic partnership to build an AI and emerging technologies Centre of Excellence at AJNIFM.
Note: The collaboration seeks to explore the role of cloud, AI and emerging technologies for transforming and shaping the future of public finance management in India. The Centre of Excellence will serve as a central body for research, AI scenario envisioning and tech led innovation. AJNIFM and Microsoft will jointly explore use cases of emerging technologies in finance and related areas, across central and state ministries and public sector enterprises.
 7. The Central Government funded for setting up a new Vaccine Testing Laboratory in National Institute of Animal Biotechnology in **Hyderabad**.
Note: The funds have been sanctioned for the laboratory from PM- Cares Fund. It will be set up at National Institute of Animal Biotechnology in Hyderabad and will be under Department of Biotechnology. It is a big step towards development of Pharmacy sector in Hyderabad.
 8. According provisional statistics of 2020-21 released by the coal ministry, in FY 2020-21, **Chhattisgarh** registered highest coal production.
Note: According to the data released, India's total coal production registered a marginal decline of 2.02% to 716.084 million tonnes during the last fiscal year. The country had produced 730.874 million tonnes (MT) of coal in FY'20. Of the total production of 716.084 MT, 671.297 MT was non-coking coal and the remaining 44.787 MT was coking coal
 9. **NIPUN Bharat** project has been launched by the Ministry of Education to create an enabling environment to ensure universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy, so that every child achieves the desired learning competencies by 2026-27.
Note: Aim: to create an enabling environment to ensure universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy, so that every child achieves the desired learning competencies by 2026-27. It will be implemented by the Department of School Education and Literacy and will be set up at National- State- District- Block- School level.
 10. World's third-largest cricket stadium will come up in **Jaipur**.
Note: The stadium will be constructed in Chomp village on Jaipur-Delhi highway. It will be constructed in two phases and construction work for both phases will take 5-years to complete. Two largest stadium: Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera and Melbourne Cricket Stadium in Australia.
 11. The Ministry of Tourism has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Yatra** to strengthen the country's hospitality and tourism industry.
Note: The primary objective of the MoU is to provide extensive visibility to accommodation units, which have self-certified themselves on SAATHI on the OTA platform. The MoU also outlines both parties to encourage units to register on NIDHI and thereby on SAATHI and encourage the local tourism industry with

appropriate safeguards for curbing the spread of COVID-19.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

the working of the industry, particularly of the less efficient units. The council would also work for standardization of accounting and costing methods and practice.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 21. NAFED** has signed MoU with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for strengthening export linkage of farmer cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organisation. **Note:** It facilitates APEDA registered exporters getting assistance under all the government schemes implemented through NAFED. The MoU also envisages ensuring sustainability and growth of exports by Cooperatives
- 22.** Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated India's first private Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Facility plant at **Nagpur, Maharashtra**.
Note: Emphasizing the importance of alternate biofuels for diversification of agriculture towards the energy and power sector, Gadkari stated that India is spending 8 Lakh Crore for the import of petrol, diesel & petroleum products. The Government has designed a policy which encourages development of cost effective pollution free and indigenous ethanol, bio CNG (Compressed Natural Gas), LNG and hydrogen fuels.
- 23.** NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd will India's single largest solar park at **Rann of Kutch, Gujarat**.
Note: This will be India's largest solar park to be built by the largest power producer in the country. As a part of its green energy portfolio augmentation, NTPC Ltd, India's largest energy integrated company, aims to build 60 GW Renewable Energy Capacity by 2032. Currently, the state-owned power major has an installed capacity of 66 GW across 70 power projects with an additional 18 GW under construction.
- 24.** Hyderabad based Startup incubator 'T-Hub' has launched a new program called 'AIC T-HUB Foundation' with **Atal Innovation Mission** with an aim to support deep tech startups in the field of life science & healthcare sector.
Note: The program is launched with an aim to support deep tech startups in the field of life science & healthcare sector. It is a 3-month long foundational course, which is conducted in collaboration with various Industrial and education organisations. A series of workshops will be conducted in the 3-months program, covering various sectors like – Financial Planning, Lead Generation, Value proposition, among others.
- 25.** Union cabinet has approved the continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'National AYUSH Mission (NAM)' till **2026**.
Note: It will now be implemented from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026. Govt has allocated Rs. 4607.30 crore (Rs 3,000 crore as Central Share and Rs. 1607.30 crore as State Share) for the scheme to be invested for five years. NAM Mission was introduced in 2014 and is being implemented by Ministry of AYUSH to provide cost effective AYUSH Services.
- 26. Manduadih Railway Station** has been renamed as **Banaras Railway Station** by the Northeastern railways (NER).
Note: NER has replaced the old signboard with the new one which read 'Banaras' in Hindi, Sanskrit, English, and Urdu. Code for the station with the new identity will now be 'BSBS,' starting from 12am today and will be reflected on all the tickets booked.
- 27.** PM Modi inaugurated a five-star hotel built on the top of **Gandhinagar Railway Station**.
Note: The newly-built 318-room five-star hotel atop the redeveloped Gandhinagar Railway Station will be the first such hotel in India. The redevelopment of the Gandhinagar Railway Station and construction of the five-star hotel on top of the station started in January 2017 after Prime Minister Modi performed the ground-breaking. The redevelopment of Gandhinagar Railway Station has been completed at a cost of 71.5 crore rupees.
- 28.** With **Ministry of Earth Sciences** the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for mutual collaboration in the field of Polar Biology.
Note: Under the agreement, both organizations will work under one roof and work jointly to address relevant questions in Polar Biology. The centre point of collaboration between the 2 entities will be the biotechnological applications of polar microbes. The MoU was signed by Renu Swarup, Secretary of DBT & Dr. Madhavan Nair Rajeevan, Secretary of MoES.
- 29.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated International Cooperation and Convention Centre named as 'Rudraksh' in Varanasi, which has been constructed with financial assistance from **Japan**.
Note: The centre will provide opportunities for social and cultural interactions between people at the international convention centre. It is ideal for holding international conferences, exhibitions and music concerts and other events and the gallery is done up with murals depicting Varanasi's art, culture and music. As many as 108 Rudraksha have been installed at this convention centre and its roof is shaped like a Shiva Linga.
- 30.** The Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MORTH) has signed pact with **University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia** to set up a Centre for Advanced Transportation Technology and Systems (CATTs) at its headquarter in Noida.
Note: CATTs will be a centre of excellence (CoE) to promote industries and startups from Australia and

- India in the transportation sector. It will also provide opportunities for innovation, research and development of advanced transport systems.
- 31. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MapmyIndia to enable the map services in “UMANG App” in order to ease the lives of citizens.**
Note: After the integration of UMANG with MapmyIndia Maps, citizens will be able to find government facilities nearest to their location, such as mandis, blood banks, and much more, at the click of a button. They will also be able to see these on the most detailed and interactive street and village level maps of India, built by MapmyIndia.
- 32. National Commission for Women (NCW) has signed an MoU with Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) for gender sensitization of police personnel across India.**
Note: Aim: to ensure gender sensitization of police personnel with respect to legislation and policies concerning women and bringing attitudinal and behavioral changes in police officers while dealing with crimes against women. The training will be conducted for a duration of three-five days.
- 33. Google Cloud has launched its new cloud region in Delhi-NCR region of India.**
Note: This is the second Google Cloud region in India after Mumbai and the 10th in Asia-Pacific. The need for a second cloud region in India stems from the enormous growth in demand for capacity building, disaster recovery solutions and low latency. Apart from Delhi-NCR region, there are existing 25 Google Cloud regions across the Americas, Europe and Asia-Pacific connected via Google’s network.
- 34. Government has decided to set up ‘Indian Institute of Heritage’ in NOIDA.**
Note: It is being set up as Deemed to be University by integrating Institute of Archaeology, School of Archival Studies under National Archives of India, New Delhi, National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property Lucknow, National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology (NMICHM) and Academic Wing of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Delhi.
- 35. CII has organized the second edition of Digital Conference & Exhibition ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat – Self-Reliance for Renewable Energy Manufacturing’.**
Note: As a part of Conference a 15-day Digital Exhibition also initiated showcasing the latest from the Renewable Energy world. Union Minister Raj Kumar Singh announced that India will exceed its target of reducing carbon emission to 33% set by 2030 under the Paris agreement.
- 36. IIT Kanpur has partnered with Prasar Bharati to establish Centre of Excellence for Media and Broadcasting Technologies promoting NextGen broadcasting technology.**
Note: Prasar Bharati has partnered with IIT Kanpur to establish Centre of Excellence for Media and Broadcasting Technologies promoting NextGen broadcasting technology. It will be cover Next Generation Broadcast Technology Trial, Automatic Speech Recognition for Speech Subtitling and Archival Content Retrieval through Audio and Text Query.
- 37. Indian Oil Corporation will set up India’s first Green Hydrogen plant in Mathura.**
Note: Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will set-up first ‘green hydrogen’ plant of India at Mathura to meet the growing demand for both oil and cleaner forms of energy. Green hydrogen production is the ultimate clean hydrogen resource and uses renewable energy to create hydrogen fuel.
- 38. O.P. Jindal Global University has organized World Universities Summit 2021.**
Note: The O.P. Jindal Global University has organized the World Universities Summit 2021 (WUS 21), titled “Universities of the Future: Building Institutional Resilience, Social Responsibility and Community Impact’ today”. The event was inaugurated by the Vice-President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu. This summit has brought academicians and technical experts of more than 25 Countries onto a common platform.
- 39. Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) has setup Dairy Investment Accelerator under its Investment Facilitation Cell.**
Note: The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Government of India, with a view to provide dedicated focus towards promoting & facilitating investments in the Indian Dairy sector, has setup Dairy Investment Accelerator under its Investment Facilitation Cell. This Investment Accelerator is a cross functional team constituted to serve as the interface with investors.
- 40. Gwalior and Orchha cities have been selected by UNESCO under ‘Historic Urban Landscape Project’.**
Note: Development and management plan of these cities will be prepared by UNESCO, along with Government of India and Madhya Pradesh. Six cities of South Asia, including Ajmer and Varanasi in India are already involved in this project, which started in 2011.
- 41. APEDA institution has collaborated with Ladakh officials for giving boost to exports of agricultural produce.**
Note: Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has collaborated with officials of Ladakh to frame a comprehensive plan for

- giving boost to exports of agricultural produce from Ladakh. The plan will enhance farmers' as well as entrepreneurs' income.
- 42. 9th** is India's rank in the list of agricultural produce exporters in 2019.
Note: In 2019, Mexico and India, with 3.4% and 3.1% share in global agri exports, respectively, replaced Malaysia (7th) and New Zealand (9th) as the largest exporters, while the US, which topped the list in 1995 (22.2%), was overtaken by the European Union in 2019 (16.1%). The US's share fell to 13.8% in 2019. Brazil maintained its ranking as the third largest exporter, increasing its share from 4.8% in 1995 to 7.8% in 2019.
- 43.** The Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map phase II (I-STEM phase II) project has been extended till **2026**.
Note: Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM):
- National web portal for sharing R&D facilities and was formally launched in January 2020
 - It is an initiative of Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Govt. of India (PSA, GOI) under the aegis of Prime Minister Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) mission.
- 44.** In collaboration with **IIT Bombay**, the govt has decided to set up National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics for creating a world-class talent pool in India to cater to the Indian as well as global industry.
Note: It will be set up in collaboration with IIT, Bombay. Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute and Film and Television Institute of India run courses on Animation and VFX to support skilled manpower in the animation and VFX sector.
- 45. Dholavira** has been inscribed as 40th UNESCO World Heritage Site of India with effect from July 27, 2021.
Note: The historic of 'Dholavira' was on the UNESCO's tentative list since 2014. Dholavira: a Harappan city' is one of the very few well preserved urban settlements in South Asia dating from the 3rd to mid-2nd millennium BCE. With this, India has entered the Super-40 club for World Heritage Site inscriptions.
- 46. Puri** became first Indian city where people can avail high quality drinking water directly from the tap on 24-hour.
Note: Due to this, people will need not have to store or filter drinking water. No metropolitan city in India has such facility till now. Similar facilities are available only in cities like London, New York and Singapore. Puri would no more be burdened with 400 metric tonne of plastic waste. Water fountains have been developed at 400 locations in Puri.
- 47. Indore** has been selected for International Clean Air Catalyst Programme.
Note: It will also help USAID to better understand local pollution sources and identify, test, accelerate, and scale solutions for cleaner, healthier air. It is a new flagship program that has been launched by The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and a global consortium of organizations, which will be led by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF).
- 48.** Union Home Minister, Amit Shah inaugurated the much-awaited Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme at Sohra in **Meghalaya**.
Note: The Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme was conceptualised by the Meghalaya government and an amount of Rs. 24.08 cr was sanctioned by the DoNER ministry in 2019 under North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS). He also planted tree saplings in Sohra as part of the Sohra Afforestation Project of the Assam Rifles.
- 49.** Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in collaboration with **Border Security Force (BSF)** launched Project Bold with the primary aim of developing green cover in the Indian deserts of Rajasthan.
Note: KVIC along with the BSF planted 1000 bamboo saplings under Project Bold. The saplings were planted in Tanot village in Jaisalmer. Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, the chairman of KVIC, launched this first of a kind plantation program in the presence of Shri Surendra Panwar, Special DG of the BSF.
- 50. Satpura Tiger Reserve** has won the 'Natwest Group Earth Heroes Award' in the Earth Guardian category for best management.
Note: About Satpura Tiger Reserve
- It is in Hoshangabad district and is spread over an area of 2130 square km.
 - It is part of the Deccan Bio-Geographic Region.
 - It is the oldest forest wealth of the country with 26 species of flora of Himalayan region and 42 species of Nilgiri forests
 - It is also named as the Northern Ghats
 - It accounts for 17% of India's tiger population and 12 per cent of tiger habitat.
- 51. Fourteen** Tigers Reserve of India have received 'Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CATS)' accreditation for meeting a set of standards for effective conservation of big cats.
Note: CATS: Globally accepted conservation tool that sets best practices and standards to manage tigers and

assessments to benchmark progress. It is being implemented across 125 sites in seven tiger range countries, including 94 in India. Implementation partner for CATS assessment in India: Global Tiger Forum (GTF), World Wildlife Fund India National Tiger Conservation Authority.

52. **Narendra Modi** has launched 'SAFAL initiative' for Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), on July 29, 2021, on the first anniversary of National Education Policy (NEP).
Note: SAFAL stands for Structured Assessment For Analysing Learning. SAFAL is a competency-based assessment programme for grades 3, 5 and 8 introduced by CBSE to assess the progress of

foundational skills and basic learning outcomes among students. It will be conducted on a pilot basis in CBSE schools during the academic year 2021-22, in key curricular areas of Language, Mathematics, and EVS, Science.

53. **Bangalore International Airport Limited** has signed a ten-year partnership with the company IBM to set up the 'Airport in a Box' platform.
Note: The partnership is designed to help Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) improve its productivity, automate its information technology services, increase operational flexibility to handle future growth in passenger traffic and reduce costs.

Important News – State

- Andhra Pradesh** government has unveiled the new 'AP Information Technology Policy 2021-24', that is expected to generate more than 55,000 jobs over the next three years.
Note: It is expected to generate more than 55,000 jobs over the next three years. New policy is also expected to create 1.65 lakh indirect employment thereby ensuring a holistic eco system development. The policy would be in force till March 31, 2024.
- Delhi** state government has launched 'Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojna, a social sector scheme for COVID 19 affected families.
Note: It is a social security scheme for COVID-19-affected families. Under the scheme, Delhi government will disburse an ex gratia payment of ₹50,000 for each death to the family of the deceased and ₹2,500 monthly to those families who have lost breadwinners. Children who were orphaned would be provided ₹2,500 monthly till they turn 25.
- Panchmuli lake is located in **Gujarat** from where as many as 194 crocodiles have been relocated for the safety of tourists.
Note: The Panchmuli lake, situated near the 182-meter tall statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Kevadia. The Panchmuli lake, also known as 'Dyke-3' of the Sardar Sarovar Dam, was developed for tourists visiting the Statue of Unity. There are still many crocodiles in the lake
- MoEFCC approved the conversion of the Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary Tiger Reserve is located in **Rajasthan** that becomes the 4th Tiger Reserve in the state.
Note: Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary will link Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in the Northeast & Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve on the southern side. According to a 2018 tiger census, there are 102 tigers in three reserves -- Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Sawai Madhopur, Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar, and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve in Kota.
- Andhra Pradesh** has launched the 'YSR Bima' scheme with new guidelines, where the government itself will directly pay the insurance amount to the family of the deceased to make the insurance claims easier.
Note: In order to support **1.32 lakh families** through the YSR Bima scheme, the State government allocated **Rs 750 crores** for the year 2021-22. In the last two years, the State government had spent **Rs 1307 crore for YSR Bima**.
- West Bengal** government has launched 'Students Credit Card' an education loan scheme for the students aiming for higher studies.
Note: The scheme will provide soft loan upto Rs. 10 lakh with simple annual interest. The loan will be available for undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral and postdoctoral studies within the country or abroad. Students residing in the state for at least 10 years will be eligible for the scheme till 40 years of age and can repay the loan in 15 years.
- Karnataka** government is planning to introduce the Model Tenancy Act in the state, aimed at ending tenant-owner disputes within two months and aiding the rental housing sector.
Note: The tweaked tenancy law — once brought in — will help owners get tenants and rentals will soften a bit. The Centre sent the law to states either to enact fresh legislation based on the template or suitably

- amend the existing laws. Without a valid notice, tenants cannot be evicted during the agreement period.
8. **Uttar Pradesh** government has formulated a proposal for population control and welfare, rewarding couples that adhere to a 'two-child policy'.
Note: The policy will be voluntary — it will not be enforced upon anyone. However, if any person decides to "voluntarily" keep the number of their family members limited, they will be eligible for government schemes. On the other hand, if someone doesn't follow the policy, they will face restrictions in government jobs, availing ration, and other benefits.
 9. Assam state government announced to create an independent department to protect and preserve the "faith, culture and traditions of tribes and indigenous communities" of the state.
Note: The Department of Indigenous Faith and Culture is aimed to preserve set of beliefs, customs and practices of tribal communities. The new 'Department of Indigenous Faith and Culture' will mainly focus on area dominated by illegal immigrants.
 10. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India partnered with **Rajasthan** to improve the Targeted Public Distribution System (TDPS) in the state.
Note: The partnership entails, among other things, the use of digitisation, data aggregation, performance dashboards for monitoring of the TDPS, thus providing a real-time and long-term solution to improve the food and nutritional security for millions. This partnership between the WFP and the Department of Food and Civil Supplies of the Rajasthan government is part of a wider strategic Memorandum of Understanding signed late last year.
 11. The National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY) at Dirang in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh has tied up with **National Insurance Company Ltd** for insuring yaks.
Note: This is the first such instance in the country that an insurance policy for highly valuable Himalayan cattle/yak have been approved. The insurance policy will be a big boon for the yak owners, as it will shield them against a number of risks posed by weather calamities, diseases, in-transit mishaps, surgical operation, strike or riots and permanent total disability for breeding or stud yaks
 12. NTPC signs MoU with **Ladakh** to set up country's first Green Hydrogen Mobility Project.
Note: MoU was also marked with the inauguration of NTPC's first solar installations in Leh in form of solar trees and a solar car port. It will enable NTPC to help Ladakh develop a carbon free economy based on renewable sources and green hydrogen.
 13. India's first cryptogamic garden housing nearly 50 species of lichens, ferns and fungi was inaugurated in **Uttarakhand**.
Note: India's first cryptogamic garden housing nearly 50 species of lichens, ferns and fungi was inaugurated in Uttarakhand's Dehradun district's Chakrata town. Around 50 species have been grown in the garden at Deoban in Chakrata at a commanding height of 9,000 ft.
 14. **Ladakh** signed an MoU with 'Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency' regarding the implementation of 'Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana' and Mission Organic Development Initiative in the region.
Note: Aim is to convert Ladakh into a certified organic UT by 2025. 3 Phases: The UT plans to achieve the organic status through 3 phases, in the first phase, 85 villages will be identified to convert 5000 hectares of land into organic and in the 2nd phase, 82 villages will be covered with 10,000 hectares and under the 3rd phase, 79 villages (the remaining areas) will be covered. Sikkim was declared as the 1st '100 percent organic state' in the world by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO).
 15. India's 1st Grain ATM called 'Automated, Multi Commodity, Grain Dispensing Machine' has been installed in **Haryana**.
Note: It has been set up as part of a pilot project under the 'World Food Programme' of the United Nations. The machine which works like Bank ATMs can dispense approximately 70 kg of grains in 5-7 minutes' It will dispense the quantity of ration as allocated by the Haryana government per individual family in the respective food bag designated at the ATM machine.
 16. Annual month-long festival 'Asha Bonalu' is celebrated in **Telangana**.
Note: During this, Ministers of State Talasani Srinivas Yadav for Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Cinematography of Telangana and Allola Indrakaran Reddy for Endowments, Law and Forest, Environment, Science and Technology presented the silk robes to the goddess on behalf of the state government. The festival will culminate on August 8, 2021.
 17. **Karnataka** government has unveiled an Electric Bike Taxi scheme-2021 to ensure affordable first-and last-mile connectivity in major cities in the state.
Note: This will serve as a bridge between public transport and daily commuters. It will boost self-employment, promote eco-friendly environment, fuel conservation, reduce travel time and inconvenience, strengthen public transport and encourage establishing related industries. The distance between the origin and destination for a trip shall not be more than 10 km.

- 18. Maharashtra** govt has launched the new Electric Vehicle Policy -2021 to accelerate the adoption of Battery Electric Vehicles in the country.
Note: This new EV policy is a revision of the 2018 policy and will exempt EVs from road tax and registration charges. It is introduced with an aim to make Maharashtra the topmost producer of battery-powered electric vehicles in India. It also aims for electric vehicles (EVs) to make up 10% of all new vehicle registrations, by 2025.
- 19. Zurich Airport** international airport has signed a shareholder agreement with Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) for the development of the Noida International Airport at Jewar.
Note: As per the agreement, NIAL will hold one golden share in Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd (YIAPL) and the right to nominate two directors to the board. Two directors who will be part of the airport board are Arun Vir Singh, chief executive of NIAL, and Vishak Iyer, Director Civil Aviation, UP.
- 20. India's 1st Pod taxi service** to be launched in **Uttar Pradesh**.
Note: 'Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority' (YEIDA) has reported about the final Detailed Project Report (DPR) about the Project. The project will cost Rs.862 crore and it will run around 14.5 km between the airport and film city. On July 17, 2021, Zurich Airport International AG, the Swiss company, signed a shareholder agreement with Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) for the development of the NIA in Jewar, UP.
- 21. 'Shravan Harela' festival** celebrated in **Uttarakhand**.
Note: The word Harela means "Green Leaves". The day also symbolises the new harvest and it is celebrated by planting the saplings. The Harela festival also commemorates the wedding of Hindu Gods Shiva and Parvathi.
- 22. Maharashtra** state will be the first Indian state to issue educational documents using blockchain technology.
Note: Currently only Singapore, Malta and Bahrain are the only other countries using this technology. For this, Maharashtra government has partnered with LegitDoc and Each student will receive a "certificate_LegitDoc.zip" digital file containing the original PDF diploma certificate
- 23. Gujarat** state has recently held first ever elections of Balika Panchayat that will take up issues pertaining to adolescent girls and women in the village.
Note: Young females aged between 10 to 21 years contested elections for this unique Panchayat. This Panchayat will be run by the girls and for the girls.
- 24. Uttar Pradesh** state announced to set up panchayat secretariat in all panchayats of the state.
Note: Panchayat secretariat will be established in all gram panchayats for the first time in the state. Panchayat assistant will be given Rs 6,000 as remuneration.
- 25. Jivlag Yojna** scheme is associated **Covid-19 orphans** field that has been launched by the NCP MP Supriya Sule.
Note: The scheme will take care of children who have lost both parents during Covid-19 pandemic. Under this, NCP and its welfare trust will take care of 450 Covid orphans and have deputed 450 individuals to connect with these children.
- 26. Kakatiya Rudreswara Temple** is located in **Telangana** state that has been inscribed by UNESCO as Indian 39th World Heritage Site.
Note: Also known as Ramappa temple, it is located in Palampet village in the newly formed Mulugu District in Telangana. The 13th century temple is probably the only temple known by its chief sculptor, Ramappa. This is the first site which got heritage tag from UNESCO ever since Telangana state formed in 2014.
- 27. Global agricultural firm Corteva Agriscience** has signed a 3-year project with the 2030 Water Resources Group (2030 WRG) hosted by the World Bank Group, to promote sustainable rice cultivation in **Uttar Pradesh**.
Note: The project provides a framework for Corteva, 2030 WRG and a task force of multiple stakeholders to work towards transforming 40,000 acres of land from traditional methods of transplanting rice to the Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) technique. This practice will reduce agricultural water consumption by 35-37% thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20-30%.
- 28. Arunachal Pradesh** state government has signed an MoU with Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis-IIM Shillong for collaborating as a knowledge partner _____.
Note: The MoU was signed between Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar and Prof D. P Goyal, Director IIM Shillong in presence of Chief Minister Pema Khandu. The MoU aims at promoting mutual agreement between the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research Analysis of IIM Shillong and the Finance Planning and Investment Department of the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
- 29. The Ministry of Science & Technology** will set up a first-of-its-kind Centre of Excellence for Northeast in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
Note: It was sanctioned by Department of Biotechnology. Location of the project: Kimin, Papum Pare in Arunachal Pradesh. Entire North-eastern Region will be able to use its fruit and organic food potential to the maximum extent. It will also help in exploring many vast areas and to find hitherto lesser known or

unknown new species including diverse habitats and diverse flora.

- 30. Uttar Pradesh** govt has launched the 'MyGov-Meri Sarkar' portal through which the people of the state can give various feedbacks to the government.
Note: Through this portal, the people of the state can give various feedbacks to the government and the UP government can also inform them about the various schemes of the state. The portal will be used efficiently to further enhance the engagement of the common citizens of the state with the Uttar Pradesh state government.
- 31. Delhi** govt has partners with Google to Give Real-time Info About Buses to Commuters.
Note: The Delhi government joined hands with tech giant Google to provide real-time information about buses to commuters and make public transport in the national capital more user friendly. With this partnership with Google Maps, Delhi joins the league of global cities that provide seamless, real-time information about public transport.
- 32. Madhya Pradesh** state government has prepared the Ayush-based economic upgradation scheme 'Devaranya Yojana' with the twin objectives of improving people's health and livelihood of tribals.
Note: For this, medicinal plants should be cultivated in the beautiful plains of the villages. Ayush Super Specialty Hospitals are being constructed in Indore and

Bhopal. AYUSH and tourism will be brought together to boost employment opportunities in tribal areas under the scheme.

- 33.** Recently the foundation stone of a Bamboo Industrial Park laid down in **Assam**.
Note: The project will be implemented with Rs. 50 crores from DoNER Ministry. The project, once completed, would usher in a new era in the economy of the region and create vast employment opportunities for the local youths.
- 34. Karnataka** becomes the first state in the country to provide one per cent reservation for the 'transgender community in all the government services.
Note: The government submitted a report to the High Court in this regard informing that a notification had already been issued after amending the Karnataka Civil Service (General Recruitment) Rule, 1977. The specifies one per cent reservation in all general as well as reserve categories for the third gender.
- 35. Kerala** state police launched a new initiative called the Pink Protection project for the protection of women in public, private and digital spaces.
Note: The Pink Protection project aims to prevent dowry-related issues, cyber-bullying & humiliation in public places. It has 10 components, one of which is activating the existing Pink Police Patrol system, named Pink Janamaithri Beat.

Important News – World

- 1. Singapore** has signed an agreement with the Royal Government of Bhutan on the establishment of Model Technical Training Centres (MTTC) as part of growing between the two countries.
Note: The agreement was signed by Sonam Tobgay, Director of Bilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bhutan, and Simon Wong, Ambassador of Singapore to Bhutan. It is seen as one of the outcomes of Bhutan's opening up to the outside world. India with whom Bhutan has a special relationship has warm ties with Singapore with the city state setting up vocational training institutes for Indian youth in places like Rajasthan and Assam in recent years.
- 2.** USA ranked first in the Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021 by Startup Blink.
Note: The country was in the 17th spot in 2019 and slid six spots down in 2020 and stood at 23. Like last year, the US, the UK, Israel, Canada and Germany are in the top five spots. The report has a score for each location, which is calculated as the sum of three parameters — quantity, quality and business environment.
- 3.** To be commissioned in December 2021 the Rampal Maitree Power project is being built by India in **Bangladesh**.
Note: The event will be coinciding with the Golden jubilee celebration of the liberation of Bangladesh. The second unit is expected to be commissioned matching with the implementation of the associated transmission system. The Power Secretaries of both the countries held a meeting through video conferencing
- 4.** World's second-biggest hydroelectric dam, the Baihetan Dam is located in **China** that was turn on officially.
Note: The Baihetan Dam on the Jinsha River, a tributary of the Yangtze, is part of Chinese efforts to curb surging fossil fuel demand by building more hydropower capacity at a time when dams have fallen out of favor in other countries due to environmental complaints. Plans call for the 289-meter-tall (954-foot-tall) Baihetan Dam to have 16 generating units with a capacity of 1 million kilowatts each. That will make it second in size after the Three Gorges Dam, opened in 2003 on the Yangtze, with 22.5 million kilowatts of generating capacity.

5. **China** was certified as malaria-free by the World Health Organisation, following a 70-year effort to eradicate the mosquito-borne disease.
Note: China was certified as malaria-free by the World Health Organisation, following a 70-year effort to eradicate the mosquito-borne disease. The country reported 30 million cases of the infectious disease annually in the 1940s but has now gone four consecutive years without an indigenous case.
6. Jovenel Moise the President of **Haiti** was assassinated in an attack on his residence.
Note: The acting Prime Minister Claude Joseph declared a state of seige in the country. Haitian National Police have detained two suspects and killed four others connected to the assassination. Haiti is a Caribbean country that shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic to its east.
7. **International Air Transport Association (IATA)** has launched a global mobility aids action group to examine and improve the transport journey of mobility aids, including wheelchairs, with the objective of improving the handling of this vital equipment for travelers with disabilities.
Note: The action group will be the first of its kind aimed at tackling issues around the safe and secure transport of mobility aids—an issue of huge importance to a growing number of travelers. It will also provide advice and recommendations to airlines and other stakeholders concerning the establishment of policy, process and standards related to the handling and transport of mobility aids.
8. Nepal Investment Board has signed a pact with **SJVN Ltd** to develop the 679-megawatt (MW) Lower Arun Hydro Electric Project in eastern Nepal.
Note: The National Investment Board of the Himalayan Nation announced that the pact was signed with India's state-owned Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) which is the second mega project undertaken by Southern neighbour. The memorandum of understanding MoU was signed by SJVNL Chairman and Managing Director Nand Lal Sharma and IBN Chief Executive Officer Sushil Bhatta.
9. Recently Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched BHIM–UPI services in **Bhutan**.
Note: With launch of BHIM–UPI in Bhutan, payment infrastructures of the two countries are seamlessly connected and will benefit a large number of tourists and businessmen from India who travel to Bhutan each year. Bhutan is the first country to adopt UPI standards for its QR deployment, and the first country in our immediate neighbourhood to accept mobile based payments through the BHIM App.
10. **21** targets have been set up in the first official draft of a new Global Biodiversity Framework released by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to guide actions worldwide through 2030 to preserve and protect nature and its essential services to people.
Note: The framework includes 21 targets for 2030 that call for, among other things, at least 30 per cent of land and sea areas global, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, conserved through effective, equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.
11. **Singapore** has unveiled one of the World's largest floating solar panel farms, which can produce enough electricity to power its five water treatment plants quadrupling its solar energy production by 2025.
Note: It is located on a reservoir in western Singapore. It is 60 megawatt-peak solar photovoltaic farm with 1,22,000 solar panels and has been built by a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sembcorp Industries. It will help to reduce carbon emissions by about 32 kilo tonnes annually, comparable to taking 7,000 cars off the roads.
12. **UAE** has become the first Gulf country to open an embassy in Israel.
Note: UAE embassy is situated in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, Israel, followed by the inauguration of Israel's embassy in the UAE last month. Normalisation of ties between UAE and Israel were discussed for the first time on trade and investment opportunities across various fields, including economy, air travel, technology and culture. Sudan and Morocco have since also moved to establish ties with Israel
13. European Commission (EC), the executive branch of European Union (EU) proposed plans to impose World's 1st 'Carbon Border Tax' from **2026**.
Note: It aims to protect European industries from competitors abroad not subject to the same carbon levies. During the transitional phase from 2023-25, Importers will monitor and report their emissions.
14. **India** is not a part of the Quad group formed for Afghanistan peace process.
Note: Representatives of the United States, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan agreed in principle to establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform focused on enhancing regional connectivity. The parties consider long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan critical to regional connectivity and agree that peace and regional connectivity are mutually reinforcing. The parties see the establishment of the group as a means to bolster regional trade, build new transit routes and strengthen business ties.

15. Russia will conduct military drills with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan near Afghan border.
Note: The joint drills will take place August 5-10 at the Kharbmaidon training ground in Tajikistan near the Afghan border. The troops will run drills to defeat illegal armed units that invaded the territory of an allied country.
16. Historic Urban Landscape Project of UNESCO was started in **2011**.
Note: It is an approach to the management of heritage resources in dynamic and constantly changing environments. It is based on the recognition and identification of a layering and interconnection of natural and cultural, tangible and intangible, international and local values present in any city.
17. World's first 3D-printed stainless-steel bridge has been inaugurated in **Amsterdam**.
Note: It was developed by MX3D, a Dutch robotics company, in collaboration with a consortium of experts, and represents a major milestone for 3D-printing technology. After four years of development, the bridge was unveiled by **Her Majesty Queen Máxima** of the Netherlands. It was installed over one of the oldest canals in Amsterdam's city centre – the Oudezijds Achterburgwal.
18. **Naples** city hosted the G20 Environment Ministerial Meeting 2021.
Note: The host city of this meet was Naples, Italy. The meeting was held as part of 16th G20 Leaders' Summit, scheduled to be held in October 2021, under the Presidency of Italy, with primary theme of 'People, Planet and Prosperity'. Union Environment Minister of India, Bhupender Yadav participated in the two-day G20 Environment Ministerial Meeting 2021 virtually, along with Minister of State for Environment Ashwini Choubey and senior officials
19. **Philippines** will become the first country in the world to be able to cultivate a variety of rice enriched with nutrients to help reduce childhood malnutrition, after receiving the green light from regulators.
Note: Golden Rice was developed by Dept of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute (DA-PhilRice) in partnership with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) to contain additional levels of beta-carotene, which the body converts into vitamin A. Golden Rice is genetically engineered to provide up to 50% of the estimated average requirement (EAR) for vitamin A of young children.
20. **Uzbekistan** has hosted a high-level International Conference titled "Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities".
Note: Challenges and Opportunities" at Tashkent. The conference was an initiative of the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev. It was attended by President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani, Ministers from Central Asian, West Asian and South Asian countries, including Minister of External Affairs of India Dr. S. Jaishankar.
21. Landscape garden, Sitio Burle Marx site is located in **Brazil** that has been added to UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites.
Note: The garden features more than 3,500 species of plants native to Rio and is considered a laboratory for botanical and landscape experimentation. It has been named after Burle Marx, a Brazilian landscape architect whose designs of parks and gardens made him world-famous. It is the 23rd Brazilian location recognized on UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites
22. **Alphabet** has announced to launch a new company, known as Intrinsic, which will focus on building industrial robot software.
Note: It will focus on releasing new robotic software and projects related to artificial intelligence that will develop delivery drones and self-driving cars. The motive is to add flexibility to the smaller businesses performing a USB connection task. It will help the manufacturing industry to ensure that user's demands are kept in mind.

Honor & Awards

1. Dr Rajendra Kishore Panda is poet of **Odia** language who won the prestigious Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar 2020.
Note: This national award was instituted in memory of late poet laureate Kuvempu to recognise litterateurs who had contributed in any language listed in 8th Schedule of Constitution. The prestigious award carries a cash award of Rs 5 lakh, a silver medal, and a citation. Born on June 24, 1944, Dr Panda writes in the Odia language. He has published 16 poetry collections and a novel.
2. **Korean Airline** International Airline has been selected as the "2021 Airline of the Year" award by the Air Transport World (ATW) also known as Oscar in the aviation industry.
Note: It is also called the Oscar in the aviation industry. The awards ceremony will be held in Boston on October 5. The ATW's Airlines of the Year award has a

- huge honour that called the Oscar in the global aviation industry.
3. The Indian Army has named a military firing range in Gulmarg after Indian Actor **Vidya Balan**.
Note: The Vidya Balan Firing Range is located in Gulmarg, Kashmir. Earlier this year, Vidya along with her husband Siddharth Roy Kapur had even attended the Gulmarg Winter Festival organised by the Indian Army. Also, a few days ago, it was announced that she has been invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the governing body behind the Oscars.
 4. Indian venture '**Invest India**' has won the world's most innovative Investment Promotion Agency award 2021 by OCO Global.
Note: **OCO Global** is a leading economic development advisory firm, working with govt and companies worldwide on international investment and trade. **Invest India**, set up in **2009**, is a non-profit venture under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
 5. Indian economist **Kaushik Basu** has been conferred with the Humboldt Research Award for 2021 by Dr Hans-Bernd Schäfer of Bucerius Law School Hamburg, Germany.
Note: The award recognizes excellence through an entire career and offers research collaboration opportunities. Basu is a professor of economics at Cornell University and the Carl Marks professor of International Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences and SC Johnson College of Business. He was the chief economist of the World Bank from 2012 to 2016, and chief economic adviser to the Indian government from 2009 to 2012.
 6. **Syed Osman Azhar Maqsumi** has recently been granted the prestigious United Kingdoms Commonwealth Points of Light Award for his initiative 'Hunger Has No Religion'.
Note: The hunger drive feeds about 1,500 people every day in five cities across the country. Presented by the British government, the award is given to the outstanding individual volunteers who make a positive difference through their services to the community around them.
 7. Malayalam Poet **Omchery N N Pillai** has been honoured with the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS)'s Literary Award for 2021 for his contribution to the Malayalam language and literature.
Note: NN Pillai hails from Vaikom, Kottayam, Kerala. The award constitutes a cash prize of Rs 50000 and a citation. The award was announced by P V Radhakrishna Pillai President of BKS, Varghese Karakal, general secretary of BKS and Firoz Thiruvathra, literary wing secretary.
 8. **Caleb Landry Jones** has won the best Actor award (male) in Cannes Film Festivals 2021.
Note: The Cannes film festival concluded in the south of France.
Here is a list of the main winners:

Award	Winer
Palme d'Or:	Julia Ducournau (Titane)
Best director:	Leos Carax "Annette"
Best actress: Person in the World)	Renate Reinsve (Worst Person in the World)
Best actor: (Nitram)	Caleb Landry Jones
Best screenplay:	Hamaguchi Ryusuke and Takamasa Oe (Drive My Car)
Best first film: (Murina)	Antoneta Kusijanovic
Best short film:	All The Crows In The World (Tang Yi)
 9. **Muhammad Yunus** will be awarded with the Olympic Laurel at the Tokyo Games.
Note: Yunus, whose pioneering micro-lender has been hailed for cutting poverty across the globe, will be honoured for "his extensive work in sport for development. The 81-year-old economist-turned-globe-trotting celebrity speaker won the Nobel in 2006. He will be given the award at the Tokyo 2020 opening ceremony on July 23.
 10. **Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer (APP) Company & Snehakunja Trust** have been awarded with the prestigious United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) Equator Prize for their work in the field of conservation and biodiversity.
Note: They are among the 10 awardees. UNDP gives biennial award to recognize community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. APP is a 1,700-member cooperative, managed and run entirely by indigenous people from Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in Tamil Nadu.
 11. **Sandesh Jhingan** has been chosen as the AIFF men's Footballer of the Year.
Note: Midfielder Suresh Singh Wangjam won the Emerging Player award for 2020-21. It is the 1st time

that the defender has received the AIFF Player of the Year award, having won the Emerging Player of the Year Award in 2014. The award winners were chosen on the basis of votes from the Indian Super League and I-League club coaches.

- 12. Kandla SEZ** of India has been awarded with IGBC Platinum Rating and is the First Green SEZ to achieve IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating for Existing Cities. **Note:** KASEZ is the oldest export zone in the country and has become the first green industrial city in India to receive a platinum rating in the industrial cities category. KASEZ has increased to 3.5 lakh trees from

25,000 trees in 2019. Most of these trees have been planted post 2019, using Miyawaki forestation method.

- 13. Vaidehi Dongre** has been crowned as the Miss India USA 2021. **Note:** Arshi Lalani from Georgia was declared the first runner-up of the beauty pageant while Mira Kasari, from North Carolina was the second runner-up. She also won the 'Miss Talented' title when she gave a flawless performance of Indian classical dance form Kathak. Miss India USA was started by New York-based Indian Americans Dharmatma and Neelam Saran under Worldwide Pageants.

Sports News

- 1. Abhimanyu Mishra** becomes the youngest chess Grandmaster, breaking the record of 12 years and seven months set by Sergey Karjakin in 2002. **Note:** Abhimanyu reached the milestone in 12 years, four months, and 25 days. The 12-year-old player from New Jersey scored his third GM norm in Budapest, having already crossed the required 2500 ELO rating barrier. He went on to defeat 15-year-old Indian GM Leon Luke Mendonca, securing a performance rating higher than 2600 over nine rounds, which constitutes a GM norm.
- 2. Sprinter MP Jabir** qualified for the Tokyo Olympics recently. **Note:** Jabir qualified through the World ranking quota where there are 14 spots available. The 25-year-old sailor hails from Malappuram, Kerala. He is currently ranked 34th in the World Athletics' Road to Olympics rankings where 40 athletes qualify.
- 3. Nihal Sarin** has won the Silver Lake Open chess tournament in Serbia. **Note:** The third-seeded Indian came on top of the field with eight points from nine rounds. In the final round, he defeated Branko Damjanovic of the host. The second and third places were also taken by Indians, as Raunak Sadhwani and Abhimanyu Puranik scored seven points each.
- 4. Max Verstappen** has won the Austrian Grand Prix 2021. **Note:** This is his third victory in a row from pole. It consolidates his world championship lead over Lewis Hamilton. Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas took second with McLaren's Lando Norris in third.
- 5. Hou Yifan** has won the FIDE Chess.com Women's Speed Chess Championship 2021. **Note:** She beats GM Harika Dronavalli from by 15-13 in the final. Hou, a four-time women's world champion

and the winner of the 2017 Biel tournament, added another prestigious title to her resume. Hou clinched the \$20,000 first prize in a tight match where she won the final two bullet games.

- 6. Levon Aronian** has won the wins Goldmoney Asian Rapid online chess title, he held from **Armenia**. **Note:** The Armenian grandmaster defeated the Russian chess player Vladislav Artemiev. He will receive a \$ 30,000 prize for winning first place. Goldmoney Asian Rapid is the 7th round of the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour organized by Magnus Carlsen.
- 7. Mariyappan Thangavelu** has been named the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent in the Tokyo Paralympics 2021. **Note:** The decision was taken by the executive committee meeting of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) due to his victory in 2016 Rio Paralympics. Mariyappan Thangavelu was conferred with the Khel Ratna. He had won the 2016 Rio Paralympics T-42 high jump gold by clearing 1.89m.
- 8. Manpreet Singh** will be the India's flag bearers at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics along with M C Mary Kom. **Note:** IOA also revealed that wrestler Bajrang Punia will be the flag bearer at the closing ceremony of the Games. The official size of the Indian contingent will be around 126 athletes and 75 officials, totalling 201. The Tokyo Olympics would be held from July 23 to August 8.
- 9. Bajrang Punia** will be the flag bearer at the closing ceremony of the Tokyo Games 2021. **Note:** IOA also revealed that wrestler Bajrang Punia will be the flag bearer at the closing ceremony of the Games. The official size of the Indian contingent will be around 126 athletes and 75 officials, totalling 201. The Tokyo Olympics would be held from July 23 to August 8.

- 10. Indian female swimmer Maana Patel** became the first female and only the third swimmer from the country to qualify for Tokyo Olympics 2021.
Note: Maana Patel qualified for the Olympics through the Universality quota. Universality quota allows one male and one female athlete from a country to participate in the Olympics. Maana Patel will join Sajan Prakash and Srihari Natarajan in India's swimming squad in Tokyo. Maana will compete in the women's 100m backstroke event.
- 11. AFC women's Asian Cup 2022** will be hosted by **Mumbai and Pune**.
Note: This move was taken by AFC to minimise the travel time and maintain an optimum bio-secure bubble for the players. The tournament set to take place from 20th January to 6th February, 2022 will be held at 3 Football Stadiums:
- Andheri Sports Complex – Mumbai
 - D Y Patil Stadium – Navi Mumbai
 - Chhatrapati Sports Complex – Pune
- 12. Indian Grandmaster Nihal Sarin** won the Serbia Open Chess Championship in Belgrade.
Note: This is the second consecutive tournament victory for sixteen-year old Sarin after he claimed the title in Silver Lake Open. The GM from Thrissur, Kerala played out a draw with GM Vladimir Fedoseev of Russia to finish with 7.5 points out of a possible nine to finish clear first in the 289-player field in the nine-round tourney.
- 13. Italy** has won the UEFA European Football Championship 2020.
Note: Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma saved two England penalties to win by a 3-2 shootout. It was the first final to be decided on penalties since Czechoslovakia beat West Germany in 1976. Italy's goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma was Best player of the tournament.
- 14. Argentina** has won the Copa America 2021 title.
Note: They beat Brazil 1-0 in the final at the historic Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro. Angel Di Maria scored the only goal of the match in the 22nd minute. This is Lionel Messi's first major trophy with the Argentina senior team. Messi elected joint best player along with Brazil's Neymar.
- 15. Gianluigi Donnarumma** has been adjudged as the best player of the tournament in the UEFA European Football Championship 2020.
Note: Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma saved two England penalties to win by a 3-2 shootout. It was the first final to be decided on penalties since Czechoslovakia beat West Germany in 1976. Italy's goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma was Best player of the tournament.
- 16. Novak Djokovic** won the Wimbledon 2021 men's singles titles.
Note: He beats Matteo Berrettini of Italy in final at All England Club in London. It his 20th Grand Slam title, Thus he equal Federer and Rafael Nadal's tally of 20 major wins in the Open Era. Djokovic also completed the Wimbledon hat-trick (2018, 2019 & 2021) to become the first male player since Federer to achieve the feat.
- 17. Ashleigh Barty** won the Wimbledon 2021 women's singles titles.
Note: Barty has become the first Australian woman to win Wimbledon women's singles title since 1980. Ashleigh Barty's victory comes 50 years after her idol, Australian Evonne Goolagong Cawley, won her first Wimbledon title.
- 18. Indian origin boy Samir Banerjee** won the Wimbledon boys' singles title 2021.
Note: All of 17, the boy from New Jersey just wanted to win a match at the biggest stage in the junior circuit, but little did he know that he would be the last boy standing at the hallowed grass courts. Up against compatriot Victor Lillov, the teenager won 7-5 6-3 in the summit clash that lasted one hour 22 minutes.
- 19. Cristiano Ronaldo** has won European Championships (EURO 2020) Golden Boot, as no one from England or Italy managed to surpass his tally in the tournament final at Wembley.
Note: He had scored 5 goals, the same as Czech Republic forward Patrik Schick. Three of his goals came from the penalty spot, while the other two came from open play against Hungary and Germany. Ronaldo also became the leading goal-scorer in the history of Euros with his 14th strike.
- 20. Haryana** will organize the Khelo India Youth Games 2021 to be held in February 2022.
Note: Earlier, Khelo India Youth Games was scheduled to be held from November 21 to December 5, 2021, but has been shifted due to the possible third wave of Covid-19 pandemic. Khelo India Youth Games 2021 are to be held for the under-18 category. Around 8,500 players will participate in the event of which 5,072 will be athletes, including 2,400 females and 2,672 males.
- 21. Sophie Ecclestone** belongs to **England** has been named as ICC Women Player of the Month for June.
Note: She is the 2nd English female to win the title after Tammy Beaumont, who was awarded this title for February 2021. Along with her, New Zealand opener Devon Conway has bagged ICC Men's Player of the Month for June.
- 22. All-rounder Mohammad Mahmudullah** Riyad belongs to **Bangladesh** has announced his retirement from Test cricket recently.

- Note:** Mahmudullah's decision to leave the Test game mid-way, has been criticized by Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Nazmul Hassan. He decided to stop playing Test cricket, after the end of the third day's play of the ongoing one-off Test between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.
23. According to the Badminton World Federation (BWF) India will host World Badminton Championships in year **2026**.
Note: This will only be the 2nd time that India will be hosting the world championship, with Hyderabad having played host to the prestigious event in 2009. Suzhou will now stage the 2023 edition of the BWF World Mixed Team Championships, with original 2023 hosts India accepting the opportunity to host the BWF World Championships in 2026.
24. **Babar Azam** becomes the fastest batsman to notch up 14 ODI centuries reaching the milestone in 81 innings.
Note: After failing to score in the 1st two matches, he returned to form, scoring 158 runs off 134 balls, including 14 boundaries and 4 maximums. Babar notched up the triple-figure with a four of Saqib Mahmood's bowling in the 38th over of Pakistan's innings.
25. **Lewis Hamilton** has won the British Grand Prix 2021 for a record 8 times.
Note: The win was the 99th of seven-times world champion Hamilton's Formula One career, fourth of the current campaign. The event was held at the Silverstone Circuit in the United Kingdom. Monaco based Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc finished at second. Hamilton's teammate Valtteri Bottas (Finland) finished third after being told to let Hamilton through to chase Leclerc.
26. In chess, **Viswanathan Anand** won the Sparkassen Trophy 2021 held in Dortmund, Germany.
Note: He defeated Vladimir Kramnik of Russia in his fourth and final round. Playing white in a Tarrasch variation, Anand, a former world champion, settled for a draw in 40 moves, to win the match 2.5-1.5. The event was played as part of the "No-Castling" Chess devised by the Russian GM.
27. **Mithali Raj** bagged top position in ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings in batting category.
Note: This is the ninth time that Mithali has reached the number one spot among batting players. Apart from her, Babar Azam (Pakistan) reign at the top of the MRF Tyres ICC Men's ODI Player Rankings.
28. **Tajikistan and Switzerland** country has been inducted as a member in International Cricket Council.
Note: Mongolia and Tajikistan have been inducted as the 22nd and 23rd Members from the Asia region while Switzerland is 35th Member from Europe region. These
- three newly inducted nations are now among ICC's 94 Associate members.
29. **Brisbane** has been chosen by International Olympic Committee for hosting for 2032 Summer Olympics Games.
Note: Australian city of Brisbane will be the host city for 2032 Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games as announced by International Olympic Committee (IOC). Brisbane will be the third Australian city to host the Olympic Games after Melbourne in 1956 and Sydney in 2000.
30. Web-based engagement platform 'Heroes Connect' has been launched by **Hockey India**.
Note: Hockey India has launched its own player-oriented web-based engagement platform titled as 'Heroes Connect'. It has been designed to encourage former and current Indian hockey players to initiate constructive discussions around the sport.
31. **Saikhom Mirabai Chanu** has won first medal for India in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
Note: This is the first medal for India at the ongoing Tokyo Olympics Game. She lifted a total of 202kg (87kg in snatch and 115kg in clean and jerk). China's Zhihui Hou bagged gold after lifting a total of 210kg, creating a new Olympic Record. Indonesia's Windy Cantika Aisah won bronze with a total of 194kg.
32. Indian Junior wrestler **Priya Malik** won the Gold Medal at the 2021 World Cadet Wrestling Championship in 73-kg category.
Note: The championship was held in Budapest, Hungary. She defeated Kseniya Patapovich by 5-0 in the summit clash. Cadet World Championship is a tournament where the best Greco-Roman, Freestyle and Women wrestlers worldwide below the age of 17 compete.
33. 13 years old Japanese Momiji Nishiya associated with **Skateboard** won the gold medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and became one of the youngest gold medalists ever at the Olympic Games.
Note: Nishiya won the gold on 26th July, 2021 in the women's street competition which debuted for the first time in Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Yuto Horigome of Japan won the men's competition on 25th July, 2021. This makes Japan the gold medal holder in both the categories. Nishiya landed her tricks perfectly to beat out Brazil's Rayssa Leal, also just 13 years of age.
34. Yuto Horigome belongs to **Japan** has won the first ever skateboarding gold medal at the Tokyo Olympic Games 2020.
Note: He scored 37.18 points to win the first ever Olympic Gold medal for skateboarding in the men's street skating competition, held at Ariake Urban Sports Center, Tokyo. Kelvin Hoefler of Brazil won silver and

- Jagger Eaton of United States clinched the bronze. Skateboarding's inclusion into the Olympics marks a turning point for the sport, that was originated in US
35. **Carissa Moore** become the first woman to ever win a gold medal at the Olympics women's surf champion. **Note:** She defeated Bianca Buitendag of South Africa and registered a score of 14.93. Italo Ferreira of Brazil has defeated Kanoa Igarashi of Japan with massive lead in men's surfing event and secured gold medal Surfing made its Olympic debut during three days of competition at Tsurigasaki Beach, in Chiba province, 40 miles from Tokyo.
36. **Vantika Agarwal** has won the National women online chess title. **Note:** With 9 points Arpita Mukherjee of West Bengal took the second spot. Tamil Nadu's Sreeja Seshadri with 8.5 points took the third spot in this competition.
- Maharashtra's Soumya Swaminathan and Tamil Nadu's R Vaishali of finished fourth and fifth respectively.
37. **China** has won gold in the first mixed team 10m air rifle final in Tokyo Olympic 2020 _____. **Note:** This is the second gold for Yang Qian, who won the first gold of Tokyo Olympics in the women's individual event The teams were locked at 9-9 after 10 series, but the Chinese pulled away outscoring the Americans in three straight series and four of the last five.
38. Weightlifter Polina Guryeva has secured first Olympic medal for **Turkmenistan**. **Note:** She won silver medal for the Central Asian nation at the Tokyo Games. She lifted a total 217 kilograms in the 59-kilogram category, edging Mikiko Andoh of Japan for second place. Kuo Hsing-Chun of Taiwan has won gold by lifting 236kg in weightlifting.

Books and Authors

- Dhaval Kulkarni** has authored the book titled 'Nathuram Godse: The True Story of Gandhi's Assassin'. **Note:** It is the biography of Nathuram Godse, the assassin of Mahatma Gandhi. Pan Macmillan India will the book by 2022. The book features the unknown aspects of Godse's life, his ideologies and other factors that led to the assassination of Gandhi.
- Shruthi Rao & Sushant Singh** has authored the children's book titled "India To The Rescue". **Note:** The illustrations of the book were done by Shangnik Chakraborty. The book features the rescue operation "Operation Cactus" which averted the Maldives crisis on 3rd November 1988. Operation Cactus is India's one of the quickest and most successful missions.
- Rajpal Punia & Damini Punia** has authored the book titled "Operation Khukri" which is set to release on 15th July 2021. **Note:** The book is published by the Penguin Random House India (PRHI). The book is dedicated to Havildar Krishan Kumar, Sena Medal (posthumous), the only Indian soldier who died in Operation Khukri. The book is the first-hand account of Major General Rajpal Punia, the Commanding Officer (CO) of the 58th Gorkha Rifles, who orchestrated "Operation Khukri".
- Kaushik Basu** has authored the book titled "The Republic of Beliefs: A New Approach to Law and Economics". **Note:** In the book he argues that the traditional economic analysis of the law has significant flaws and has failed to answer certain critical questions satisfactorily. Recently, Kaushik Basu conferred with the Humboldt Research Award for 2021 by Dr Hans-Bernd Schäfer of Bucerius Law School Hamburg, Germany. Basu is a professor of economics at Cornell University and the Carl Marks professor of International Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences and SC Johnson College of Business.
- Kaushik Basu** has authored the book titled "Policymaker's Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, D.C.". **Note:** The book features the journal records of his career of 7 years, during which he served as the Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) to the Indian Government and the Chief Economist at the World Bank in Washington D.C., The book is published by Simon & Schuster Publishers India Pvt Ltd.
- Baljit Kaur Tulsii** has authored the book titled "The Ramayan of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji". **Note:** The book has been authored by Late Baljit Kaur Tulsii. The book has been published by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi. Guru Gobind Singh: He was the tenth and last of Sikh gurus in human form. He was a spiritual master, warrior, poet, and philosopher, who was enthroned at the 'Guru Gaddi'.
- J.S. Iftekhar** has authored the book titled 'Urdu Poets and Writers - Gems of Deccan' which was received by the Vice President, Venkaiah Naidu. **Note:** It is authored by senior journalist, J.S. Iftekhar. The book is an anthology of prose and poetry that encapsulates the life and works of 51 outstanding poets and writers of the Deccan region. The book traces the rich literary and cultural traditions of Deccan, right

from the time of Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, the founder of Hyderabad, to the present times.

8. **Jairam Ramesh** has authored the book titled 'The Light of Asia'.

Note: This book is a biography of an epic bio-poem on the Buddha. Ramesh, the author, Member of Parliament, former Union Minister, and Congress leader, digs deep in his new book to bring out the fascinating story behind the epic 1879 poem, "The Light of Asia" by Sir Edwin Arnold, that took the world by storm and in some ways, brought the Buddha's story to the world at the turn of the last century.

9. **Ashok Chakravarti** has authored the book titled "The Struggle Within: A Memoir of the Emergency".

Note: The Book is Published By Harpercollins India. The Struggle Within: A Memoir of the Emergency book deals with one of independent India's darkest hours during the emergency period. The Emergency (1975-1977) was one of independent India's darkest hours. In that period, over 150,000 people were imprisoned without trial; as many as eleven million forcibly sterilized, and countless killed in police firings or otherwise eliminated.

10. **Bimal Jalan** is the author of the book titled "The India Story".

Note: The book focuses on India's economic history and aims to provide lessons for the future of India's political economy. The India Story is published by Rupa Publications India. He has previously written three books namely 'India Then and Now' (2020), 'India Ahead' (2018) and 'Politics Trumps Economics' (2012).

11. **Imtiaz Anees** has authored the book titled 'Riding Free: An Olympic Journey'.

Note: HarperCollins announced to present the story of an Indian equestrian rider and his Olympic dream 'Riding Free: My Olympic Journey' by Imtiaz Anees. Imtiaz Anees is an equestrian Olympian, trainer, competitor, NBC commentator, qualified Level 2 instructor and coach educator. As the only equestrian Olympian in India, he wants to share his knowledge and

experience with all other riders and offers internship programmes to teach equine management through the book.

12. **Vijay Gokhale** has authored the book titled "The Long Game: How the Chinese Negotiate with India".

Note: India and China have had a fractured relationship since the 1950s. **The Long Game by Vijay Gokhale**, published by Penguin Random House, details the various diplomatic strategies and tactics used by the Chinese for negotiation. Gokhale, who has spent nearly four decades in the Indian Foreign Service before retiring as foreign secretary in January 2020, is an expert on Chinese diplomacy.

13. **Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra** is the author of the book titled as 'The Stranger In The Mirror'.

Note: It is published by Rupa Publications. The book features accounts of noted personalities from cinema and advertising world like A R Rahman, Bajpayee, Abhishek Bachchan, etc.

14. **Dr. C K Garyali** has authored the book titled 'Bank with a Soul: Equitas'.

Note: Dr. C K Garyali is a founder trustee of EDIT (Equitas Development Initiative Trust) and the book chronicles the journey of Equitas and EDIT in transforming the lives of women with frequent social reform initiatives helping them setup micro-enterprises and pioneering financial inclusivity right from its inception. The book documents the journey of Equitas & EDIT in transforming the lives of women with frequent social reform initiatives and how they helped in establishing micro-enterprises and in pioneering financial inclusivity.

15. **Ashok Lavasa** has authored the book titled 'An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation'.

Note: In this book, he narrated about his father, Udai Singh, and his own experience on how his father's principles served as a moral compass in his life, and can in ours too. He resigned as election commissioner in 2020 to become vice-president of the Asian Development Bank

Science and Defence

1. Starlink is a satellite internet constellation of **SpaceX** that will provide broadband internet everywhere in the world except polar regions by August 2021.

Note: Space Exploration Technologies Corp. has launched more than 1,500 satellites so far and has Starlink operations in about a dozen countries. SpaceX aims to offer broadband to as much as 5% of the world's population where conventional fiber and wireless networks can't reach. Starlink will provide so-called

"data back haul" spines for their networks. The satellite network currently moves about 30 terabits of data per second.

2. India born US astronaut **Sirisha Bandla** becomes the second women from India to fly into space after Kalpana Chawla.

Note: She is a part of the team which will make its first crewed flight to space in which her flight role is that of a Researcher Experience. The 34-year-old aeronautical

- engineer was born in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur district and brought up in Houston, Texas. Prior to Bandla, Rakesh Sharma and Sunita Williams were the other Indians who went into space
3. For **Pension Disbursement** an integrated system SPARSH has been implemented by the Defence Ministry. **Note:** This web-based system processes pension claims and credits pension directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners without relying on any external intermediary. A Pensioner Portal is available for pensioners to view their pension related information, access services and register complaints for redressal of grievances.
 4. From **USA** the Indian Navy has received the 10th anti-submarine warfare aircraft P-8I. **Note:** Defence Ministry had signed a contract for eight P-8I aircraft in 2009 but in 2016, it signed a contract for four additional P-8I aircraft. Remaining two aircrafts are expected to be delivered in the last quarter of 2021. P-8I is a long-range maritime reconnaissance and Anti-Submarine Warfare Aircraft, and a variant of the P-8A Poseidon used by the US Navy.
 5. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh has launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered grievance management application in New Delhi that was developed by Ministry of Defence with the help of **IIT-Kanpur**. **Note:** The application has been developed by Ministry of Defence with the help of IIT-Kanpur. It is the first AI based system developed to improve grievance redressal in the Government. It has the capability to understand the content of the complaint based on the contents therein and can identify repeat complaints or spam automatically.
 6. Ordnance Factory of Tiruchirappalli handed over the locally assembled 12.7 mm Stabilized Remote Control Gun (SRCG) system to the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard for enhanced surveillance. The weapon is assembled through the transfer of technology (ToT) initiative with the support of **Israel**. **Note:** The first batch consisted of 25 weapons. They were assembled in the Trichy factory through the transfer of technology (ToT) initiative with the support of Israel-based defence company Elbit Systems. The SRCG is fitted with a 12.7 mm M2 NATO standard heavy machine gun.
 7. The Indian Navy has received first two MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters (MRH) from **USA**. **Note:** Indian Navy and the US Navy had signed Rs 15,157 crore (\$2.13 billion) deal to buy 24 MH-60 Romeo helicopters, manufactured by Lockheed Martin, under foreign military sales from the US government in February 2020 It will begin the new era of defence collaboration and partnership between the US and India.
 8. The researchers at **IIT Madras** have developed an Artificial Intelligence-based mathematical model to identify cancer-causing alterations in cells. **Note:** It will help to pinpoint genetic alterations responsible for cancer progression, which is difficult using present methodologies. It will make use of a relatively unexplored technique of leveraging DNA composition
 9. **Russia** has successfully test-fired the Zircon Hypersonic Cruise Missile. **Note:** Zircon meaning 'Invincible' is a winged, anti-ship hypersonic cruise missile. During the testing, the missile reached speeds of up to Mach 7. Tsirkon hypersonic Cruise Missile is developed & manufactured by NPO Mashinostroyeniya. It is capable of hitting targets at sea and on land, it has a range of 1000 kms and is capable of flying at the speed of Mach 9. It is set to be deployed on both warships and submarines.
 10. **Russia** nation has successfully test-fired S-500 air defence missile systems recently. **Note:** Russia successfully test-fired new S-500 air defence missile systems from southern training range, Kapustin Yar. S-500 is also known as Prometey or 55R6M Triumfator-M and is a Russian surface-to-air missile/anti-ballistic missile system and has been developed by Almaz-Antey Air Defence Concern.
 11. **IIT Ropar** has developed first-of-its-kind Oxygen Rationing Device named as 'AMLEX'. **Note:** The device will supply a required volume of oxygen to the patient during inhalation and trips when the patient exhales CO₂, saving oxygen which otherwise unnecessarily get wasted. It can operate on both portable power supply (battery) as well as line supply (220V-50Hz).
 12. **DRDO** has successfully tested New Generation Akash Missile (Akash-NG) from Odisha coast. **Note:** Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully tested New Generation Akash Missile (Akash-NG) from Integrated Test Range (ITR) off the coast of Odisha. Akash-NG weapon system is a surface-to-air Missile that can strike targets at around 60 km and fly at a speed of up to Mach 2.5.
 13. DRDO has successfully flight-tested indigenously developed MPATGM that has been launched for **Indian Army**. **Note:** DRDO has successfully flight-tested indigenously developed third generation Man Portable Antitank Guided Missile (MPATGM) for its minimum range. It is a

low weight, fire and forget missile, incorporated with state-of-the-art Miniaturized Infrared Imaging Seeker along with advanced avionics.

14. The 'Operation White Sea' is related with **Kargil War**.

Note: Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated on 26th July in honour of the heroes of the Kargil war of 1999. To concur the Kargil war Indian Army launched the 'Operation Vijay' (II) in 1999. First Operation Vijay was launched in 1961 that led to the capture of Goa, Anjediva islands and Daman and Diu. Indian Airforce along with Army also launched 'Operation White Sea' during the Kargil war.

15. US space agency NASA has selected **SpaceX** to launch its probe of Jupiter's moon Europa, which has liquid oceans that could harbour life.

Note: The Europa Clipper mission, scheduled to launch in October 2024 on a Falcon Heavy rocket from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, is worth \$178 million. Europa Clipper will conduct a detailed survey of the icy Jupiter moon Europa and use a sophisticated suite of science instruments to investigate whether the moon has conditions suitable for life. Jupiter's moon Europa is approximately 390 million miles (630 million kilometers) from Earth and the journey is expected to take more than 5 years.

16. **IIT Kanpur** has launched the 1st technology innovation hub to find cybersecurity solutions for anti-drones

technologies, intrusion detection systems, block-chain, and cyber-physical systems.

Note: As many as 13 start-ups and 25 research and development principal investigators were selected after a rigorous application process. C3i hub of IIT Kanpur will focus on safeguarding cyberspace which will also include critical infrastructure.

17. 'INDRA 2021' is a Joint Military Exercise between India and **Russia**.

Note: It is the 12th Edition of Indo-Russia joint military exercise that will be held from 1 to 13 August 2021. 250 personnel from both the nations will form part of this exercise that will involve conduct of counter terror operations against international terror groups, under UN mandate.

18. **Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad** has developed India's first Rapid electronic Covid-19 RNA Test kit that allows self-testing at home called 'COVIHOME'.

Note: This test kit can produce results within 30 minutes for both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients. The major benefit of this testing kit is that it does not require RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction), an expert human resource, and a BSL 2 lab facility for the extraction of RNA, so it has the potential for one to take the test at home without expert supervision.

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