

[Top Current Affairs of the Week \(05 - 11 September 2021\)](#)

Pramod Bhagat wins first ever badminton gold for India

- **Pramod Bhagat** has won Men's Singles SL3 event badminton gold medal match at **2020 Tokyo Paralympics**.
- He defeated **Daniell Bethe of Great Britain**.
- He is one of the best para-shuttlers of India with 45 international medals under his belt.
- This is **India's first medal in badminton at the Paralympics Games**.
- Apart from him, **Manoj Sarkar** beat Daisuke Fujihara of Japan and clinched the Bronze medal in the same category.

Suman Sharma appointed as the MD of Solar Energy Corporation of India

- **Suman Sharma** (IRS officer of 1990 batch) has been appointed as the **Managing Director (MD) of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)**.
- She is currently serving as the **Additional Directorate General of Foreign Trade of Department of Commerce**.
- She will succeed **Jatindra Nath Swain**.
- **SECI**: It is the only Central Public Sector Undertaking dedicated to solar energy sector under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- Headquarters of SECI: **New Delhi**.

Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise 'SIMBEX-2021' concludes

- The **28th edition of Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)** has been concluded.
- It took place from **September 2 to 4, 2021**.
- **SIMBEX-2021** is an annual bilateral maritime exercise and was hosted by Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) in the southern fringes of South China Sea.
- Indian Navy was represented by **Guided Missile Destroyer INS Ranvijay, ASW Corvette INS Kiltan** and Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora and one P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

Cyrus Poncha elected as Vice-President of Asian Squash Federation

- **Cyrus Poncha** has been unanimously elected as **Vice-President of the Asian Squash Federation (ASF)**, during the 41st annual general meeting of ASF.
- His tenure will be of **4 years**.
- He is current serving as the **Secretary-General of Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI)**.
- **David Mui of Hong Kong** was elected as President of ASF for 2nd term.
- Fayez Abdullah S.Al-Mutairi of Kuwait and Tae-sook Hee of Korea have been also elected as the Vice-Presidents of ASF.



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Centre signs tripartite 'Karbi Anglong' peace accord in Assam

- **Govt of India** has signed **tripartite peace accord with State government of Assam** and five insurgent groups from **Karbi Anglong region in Assam**, to end decades of violence in the region.
- Peace accord will grant greater autonomy to **Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council** and provide protection to the language, culture and identity of the region and reservation to the Karbi people.
- **Special development package of Rs 1000 crore** will also be released by state and centre government

Coal India launches Spectral Enhancement (SPE) software

- **Coal India Ltd (CIL)** under Ministry of Coal has launched new software titled as '**Spectral Enhancement' (SPE)**
- It will identify thin coal seams under the earth crust and improve assessment of coal resources using seismic survey during coal exploration process
- It will help in enhancing resolution of seismic signals
- It has been developed by **Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI)** in association with **Gujrat Energy Research and Management Institute (GERMI)**

PhonePe launches first Indian digital geospatial platform titled Pulse

- **PhonePe** has launched India's first interactive platform, named as **PhonePe Pulse**
- Pulse is India's first interactive platform with data insights and trends on digital payments
- It shows more than 2000 crore digital transactions by customers on an interactive map of India.
- **PhonePe** also launched **Pulse Report**, which is an in-depth study on the evolution of digital payments over the past **5 years**.
- The report also has insights about how digital payment adoption across India.

Angelina Jolie pens 'Know Your Rights and Claim Them: A Guide For Youth'

- Hollywood actress **Angelina Jolie** has penned down book titled as '**Know Your Rights and Claim Them: A Guide for Youth**'.
- It has been written jointly by **Angelina Jolie** and Amnesty International and human rights lawyer **Geraldine Van Bueren QC**.
- It will be helpful to young people and children from around the world in making them aware of their rights and how to claim these rights, decided years ago based on what would make them healthy, balanced, safe and stable adults

National Teachers' Day: 5th September

- **Teachers' Day in India** is observed every year on **5th September** to mark the **birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan** (second President of India), who defined the role of the teacher as someone who acts not only as an educator but also as a moral mentor
- It was first observed in **1962**.
- Ministry of Education presents National Teachers Awards on this occasion every year.



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- This year confer **National Awards** will be conferred on 44 teachers from across the country

Max Verstappen won Dutch Grand Prix 2021

- **Max Verstappen** won the **Netherlands Grand Prix 2021** and reclaimed the **Formula One** championship lead from Lewis Hamilton.
- The **Red Bull** driver's leading seventh win of the season and 17th of his career.
- Championship leader **Lewis Hamilton** could only manage second place in his Mercedes F1
- Hamilton's Mercedes teammate **Valtteri Bottas** was third.

Suhas Yathiraj becomes first IAS officer to win Paralympic medal

- India's **Suhas Lalinakere Yathiraj** won silver medal of badminton SL4 category at **2020 Tokyo Paralympics**.
- He lost gold medal match to the top seeded Lucas Mazur of France.
- **Suhas** is currently the **District Magistrate** of Noida and became the first-ever IAS officer to win a medal at the Paralympics.
- Suhas had lost to Mazur, who has won three gold medals in European Championships as well.
- Suhas had earlier outwitted Indonesia's **Fredy Setiawan** 21-9 21-15 in the semifinal.

Avani led Indian contingent at closing ceremony of Tokyo Paralympics

- Indian shooter **Avani Lekhara** led India's contingent at the **Closing Ceremony of Tokyo Paralympics** as the flag-bearer.
- 19-year-old shooter won **gold and bronze** medals at the **Paralympic Games**.
- A total of 54 para-athletes from India across nine sports disciplines participated in the event.
- Indian contingent finished their campaign at the Paralympic Games at an all-time high by securing a total of **19 medals** which includes **5 gold, 8 silver, and 6 bronze medals**.

Gujarat launches Vatan Prem Yojana

- The 1st meeting of the governing body of **Vatan Prem Yojana** was held at Gandhinagar under the chairmanship of **CM Vijay Rupani**.
- Works to the tune of **Rs 1,000 cr** has been proposed to be completed by **December 2022**.
- A project management unit has been formed for the smooth implementation of the scheme
- It has also been made possible for donors to send money online.
- Under the scheme NRIs can contribute **60% of the cost** of a village-level project, rest will be borne state govt.

LIC picks up nearly 4% stake in BoI through open market transaction

- The **LIC** has picked up nearly 4% equity shares in **Bank of India** through an Open Market Transaction.
- Before the latest acquisition of shares in the bank, LIC held over a 3.17% stake in the state-owned bank.



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- LIC's stake in **Bank of India** has now increased to 7.05%, equivalent to 28,92,87,324 shares.
- With this QIP, government shareholding in the bank has come down to **82.50%** from **90.34%** earlier.
- Bol MD and CEO: **Atanu Kumar Das**

Former Union health Secretary Keshav Desiraju passes away

- Former Union Health Secretary **Keshav Desiraju** passed away in Chennai.
- He was grandson of former President **Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**.
- He was an IAS officer (1978) of Uttarakhand cadre.
- He has held many positions with the govt of Uttarakhand and UP and the Government of India and retired as the Union Secretary in the **Department of Consumer Affairs**.
- After he retired, he was appointed as the chairperson of the governing board of the **Population Foundation of India**.

PM Modi's approval rating is 70%, highest among 13 global leaders

- PM Narendra Modi has an approval rating of 70% which is the highest among 13 global leaders polled in the survey conducted by **The Morning Consult**.
- In the survey, PM Modi is ahead of Mexican president **Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador**, Italian PM Mario Draghi, German Chancellor **Angela Merkel**, US President Joe Biden.
- The Morning Consult's graph shown that PM Modi's disapproval rating reached a peak in May when the second wave of the Covid hit the country hard.

India's 1st dugong conservation reserve to be in Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu govt declared 500 sq.km of the biodiversity-rich waters in the Palk Bay as India's 1st dugong conservation reserve.
- The reserve will span the northern part of the Palk Bay from Adiramapattinam to Amapattinam.
- According to Wildlife Institute of India (WII) estimates, only 200-250 Dugongs are left in the wild, of which 150 are found in the **Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar** in Tamil Nadu.
- It also found **Gulf of Kutch** and **Andaman and Nicobar** Islands.

Eight major banks join the account aggregator network

- **SBI, ICICI, Axis Bank, IDFC Bank, KM Bank, HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank, and Federal Bank**, have joined the **Account Aggregator** network.
- AA network will enable customers to easily access and share their financial data.
- **Neo bank Fi** has also joined the AA network and is one of the first fintech to join the ecosystem.
- This was created through an inter-regulatory decision by **RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA through and initiative of the FSDC**.
- The licence for AAs is issued by the **RBI**.

Biennial AUSINDEX maritime warfare exercises to commence this week



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- Australia's Northern Territory will host the biennial **AUSINDEX** maritime warfare exercises between the Royal Australian and the Indian navies.
- The exercise will be conducted ahead of the two countries holding their first "2+2" **Foreign and Defence Ministers** meet in New Delhi.
- **AUSINDEX 21** will provide both the Navies an opportunity to strengthen joint defence capabilities in support of a stable and secure **Indo-Pacific region**.

Indian and Australian Navies begin fourth edition of AUSINDEX exercise

- **Indian Navy** and **Royal Australian Navy (RAN)** have kicked-off bilateral maritime exercise, titled as **AUSINDEX 2021**.
- The exercise will be conducted from **6th to 10th September** at **COVIDSafe harbour phase in Darwin**, followed by a sea phase in the **North Australian Exercise Area**.
- This is the first time the naval exercises are being held in the **Northern Territory**.
- Exercise was conducted for the first time in **2015**.

International Day of Clean Air for blue skies: 7 September

- **International Day of Clean Air for blue skies** is observed on **September 7** globally to promote and facilitate actions to improve air quality.
- It was held for the first time in **2020**.
- Theme 2021: **Healthy Air, Healthy Planet**.
- **United Nations General Assembly** adopted the Resolution to hold this day on **December 19, 2019** to raise public awareness at all levels that clean air is important for health, productivity, the economy and the environment.

130th edition of Durand Cup kicks off in Kolkata

- The **130th edition of Durand Cup** has been kicked off at the **Vivekananda Yubabharati Krirangan in Kolkata**.
- 16 teams will be participated in this edition of the oldest club football tournament in Asia while two clubs East Bengal and Mohun Bagan are not participating.
- **Mohammedan Sporting Club** started their campaign in the tournament with an emphatic win against the Indian Air Force Football team.
- The final match will be held on **3rd October**.

International Literacy Day: 8th September

- **International Literacy Day** is observed on **September 8** annually across the world to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies.
- The day was declared by UNESCO on **26 October 1966** during 14th session of UNESCO's General conference.
- It was observed for the first time in **1967**.
- Theme of 55th International Literacy Day: **Literacy for a human-centred recovery: Narrowing the digital divide**.



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PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Shikshak Parv-2021

- PM Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated **Shikshak Parv-2021** and addressed the inaugural conclave
- Theme: **Quality and Sustainable Schools: Learnings from Schools in India.**
- Shikshak Parv has been organised by Ministry of Education from September 7 to 17, 2021.
- **Aim:** encourage innovative practices to ensure not only continuity of education at all levels but to improve quality, inclusive practices and sustainability in the schools across the country as well.

Piyush Goyal appointed as India's Sherpa for G20

- Commerce and Industry Minister, **Piyush Goyal** has been appointed as the **India's Sherpa for the G20** which is an influential grouping that brings together the world's major economies.
- He replaced former **Union Minister Suresh Prabhu** as **India's Sherpa for G20**
- G20 Summit is scheduled to take place from 30th to 31st October under Italian Presidency.
- India will be holding the G20 Presidency from **1st December 2022** and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit in 2023 for the first time.

Govt launches portal for National Livestock Mission

- Union Minister **Parshottam Rupala** has launched **National Livestock Mission (NLM) portal** to increase effectiveness and ensure transparency in the implementation of scheme
- **NLM Portal:**
 - It is developed by **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** and **Dept of Animal Husbandry and Dairying**
 - **Aim:** to enable a customized workflow between State Implementing Agency, lenders and Ministry
- **NLM:** It was introduced in 2014-15 for sustainable development of livestock sector

Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 (PACS-21) was held in Hawaii

- **Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 (PACS-21)** was held in **Hawaii** at **Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam** from August 30 to September 2, 2021.
- Theme of PACS 21: **Enduring Cooperation towards Regional Stability**
- It provided an opportunity for enhancing mutual understanding and deepening of relationships among participating nations.
- Participants of PACS-21 included Air Chiefs of countries in Indo-Pacific region.
- From India, Air Chief Marshal **RKS Bhaduria**, attended PACS-21.

TRIFED to setup Atmanirbhar Corner in 75 missions around the world

- **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)** in collaboration with **Ministry of External Affairs** is setting up an **Atmanirbhar Bharat corner** in 75 Indian Missions/ Embassies across the world in the next 3 months
- **First Atma Nirbhar Bharat corner** was successfully inaugurated at **Indian Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand** on **Aug 15, 2021**



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- **Aim:** It will be an exclusive space to promote GI-tagged tribal art and craft products besides natural organic products

Task Force and Expert Committee for Coal based Hydrogen Production

- **Ministry of Coal** has constituted **Task Force and Expert Committee to Prepare Road Map for Coal based Hydrogen Production**.
- This Task Force will be headed by **Additional Secretary of Coal Ministry**.
- Its broad terms and reference include identification of role to be played by each stakeholder Ministry, monitoring of activities towards achieving coal-based Hydrogen production
- Expert Committee will be headed by DG of Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry, **R.K. Malhotra**.

International Day to Protect Education from Attack: 9th September

- **International Day to Protect Education from Attack** is being observed on **9th September** across the world
- **Objective:** to raise awareness regarding the importance of safeguarding schools as places of protection and safety for students and educators and the need to keep education at the top of the public agenda.
- It was celebrated for the first time in **2020**.
- UN General Assembly proclaimed **9 September** as **International Day to Protect Education from Attack on 29 May 2020**.

Chandigarh gets India's tallest air purifier tower

- **India's tallest air purification tower** has been inaugurated in **Union Territory of Chandigarh**.
- Tower has been installed at the initiative of **Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee (CPCC)** at Transport Chowk, Sector 26, by Pious Air Pvt Limited.
- This is the highest air purifier tower of India and covers an area of around **500-metre radius** and is **24-metre-high**.
- It will clean up to **3.88 crore cubic ft** of air from the surrounding environment for **5 years** without any cost.

World's largest plant to capture CO2 from air starts in Iceland

- **World's largest plant designed to suck carbon dioxide (CO2)** out of the air and turning it into rock started commenced its operation in Iceland
- The plan is named as **Orca** or **orka** meaning energy.
- It has been developed by **Swiss startup Climeworks AG** and **Icelandic carbon storage firm Carbfix**.
- It consists of four units, each made up of two metal boxes, similar in appearance to the containers used for maritime transport.
- It can suck out up to **4,000 tonnes of CO2 per year**.

El Salvador became 1st country to adopt bitcoin as legal tender



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- El Salvador President **Nayib Bukele** plans to introduce a law that will make it the **world's first sovereign nation to adopt bitcoin as legal tender**.
- This law will mandate Bitcoin to be acceptable as a valid payment by all establishments, except those that do not have the technical wherewithal to do so.
- The move will put the digital currency that does not answer to any government monetary policies on the same footing as the country's primary currency, United States dollar.

HDFC Bank partners with NSIC to provide credit support to MSMEs

- **HDFC Bank** has signed MoU with **National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)** for providing credit support to micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME)
- HDFC bank branches will extend support to MSME projects in the areas they are located and to other important industrial sectors.
- NSIC is an **ISO 9001:2015** certified Government of India Enterprise under **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**.
- CEO of HDFC Bank: **Sashidhar Jagdishan**
- Headquarters: **Mumbai**

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurates PRANA portal

- **Bhupender Yadav** has launched a portal titled as '**PRANA**' for regulation of air pollution in **132 cities across India**.
- PRANA stands for **Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities**.
- It can be accessed at **prana.cpcb.gov.in**.
- It will cover cities that comes under **National Clean Air Programme** for tracking physical and financial status of city air action plan
- He also dedicated first functional smog tower of India, installed in **Anand Vihar, Delhi**

Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya resigns

- Uttarakhand Governor **Baby Rani Maurya (64 years)** has announced her resignation with effect from 8th September 2021, almost two years before completing her term due to personal reason.
- She was appointed as the **Governor of Uttarakhand in August 2018**, succeeding Krishan Kant Paul.
- Prior to serving as the Governor of Uttarakhand, she served as the mayor of Agra in Uttar Pradesh, from 1995 to 2000.
- CM of Uttarakhand: **Pushkar Singh Dhami**.

Tata to be 1st private Indian firm to make military aircraft

- Cabinet Committee of security has approved the procurement of 56 **C-295MW transport aircraft** for Indian Air Force (IAF) and will make 40 aircraft in India within 10 years, while the rest will be delivered by Airbus from Spain.
- It will make **Tata as the first Indian private sector company to make military transport aircraft for Indian Air Force**
- All 56 aircraft will be installed with the indigenous Electronic Warfare Suite.

Jharkhand Assembly passes bill to reserve 75% seats for locals



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- **Jharkhand Assembly** has passed '**The Jharkhand State Employment of Local Candidates in Private Sector Bill, 2021**' to provide 75% reservation for locals in private sector jobs with a monthly salary of up to ₹40,000.
- After this, Jharkhand will become the third State, after Andhra Pradesh and Haryana to pass this law.
- As per the bill, every employer shall register such employees receiving gross monthly salary as wages not more than **₹40,000**.

PM Modi launches Vidyanjali 2.0 portal

- PM Narendra Modi has launched **Vidyanjali 2.0 portal** during the inaugural conclave of 'Shikshak Parv'
- **Vidyanjali 2.0** is an amalgamation of the words **Vidya meaning correct knowledge or clarity** and **Anjali meaning an offering with both hands in Sanskrit language**.
- Vidyanjali is an initiative of **Ministry of Education** to strengthen Schools through community and private sector involvement in schools
- It will connect schools with varied volunteers from Indian Diaspora

China launches Earth observation satellite that can obtain radioactive data

- China has launched **24th Gaofen-series Earth-observation satellite** on Long March 4C carrier rocket from **Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Shanxi province**.
- Aim: to monitor environmental protection efforts and boost its natural resources surveillance.
- It has been developed by **Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology** based on its **SAST3000 satellite platform**
- It is equipped with hyperspectral observational devices tasked with monitoring air, water and environments

Odisha government rolls out e-Receipt 2.0 system for tax payment

- **Odisha govt** has rolled out the revamped electronic receipt called **e-Receipt 2.0 system**, facilitating new modes of payment of taxes and other dues to the citizens.
- It will improve the delivery of services in electronic receipts and disbursement under **Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS)**.
- This will fulfil the objective of Mo Sarkar by providing service delivery at the doorstep of citizens.

MeitY constituted Task force to improve internet connectivity in Karnataka

- **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)** constituted taskforce consisting of officers of **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** and **Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)** to improve internet connectivity in Karnataka
- They will visit each district and meet people and will also visit State government officials and submit a report to Minister.

V. Vaidyanathan re-appointed as MD & CEO of IDFC First Bank



- **V. Vaidyanathan** has been appointed as the **Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of IDFC First Bank** with effect from December 19, 2021.
- His appointment is approved by RBI for a further period of **three years**.
- He first took charge as the **MD & CEO of IDFC FIRST Bank in December 2018**, after the merger of IDFC Bank and Capital First.
- Headquarters of IDFC First Bank: **Mumbai**
- **IDFC FIRST** bank received universal banking licence from RBI in **July 2015**.

World Suicide Prevention Day: 10th September

- World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) is observed every year on 10 September to provide worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides through various activities around the world.
- It was first introduced in 2003.
- Theme 2021: Creating hope through action.
- It is hosted by International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH).

IIT Madras retains top spot in overall category of NIRF India Ranking 2021

- Union Minister, **Dharmendra Pradhan** has virtually released **6th edition of NIRF India Rankings 2021**, that ranks higher educational institutions based on criteria to promote competitive excellence.
- **List of Winners**
 - Overall Winner: **IIT Madras**
 - Best University: **IISc Bangalore**
 - Management: **IIM, Ahmedabad**
 - College: **Miranda House, Delhi**
 - Pharmacy: **Jamia Hamdard, Delhi**
 - Medical: **AIIMS, Delhi**
 - Engineering: **IIT, Madras**
 - Architecture: **IIT, Roorkee**
 - Law: **NLSUI, Bengaluru**

Jal Shakti Ministry launches Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021

- **Jal Shakti Ministry** has virtually launched **Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021** under **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II** at an event organized by **Dept of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS)**
- DDWS had commissioned Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) in 2018 and 2019 respectively.
- 17,475 villages in 698 Districts across India will be covered.
- Direct Observation of sanitation in villages including public places: **30%**
- Service Level Progress on sanitation: 35%

RBI allows tokenization in Card-on-File services

- **RBI** has allowed two enhancements in **card tokenization services**. They are as follows:



- **Device-based tokenization framework** will now be applicable to **Card-on-File Tokenisation (CoFT) services** as well. CoF means that the Credit/Debit card details are stored by merchants for ease of payment.
- **Card issuers (banks)** to offer **card tokenization services as Token Service Providers**. It shall be done with explicit customer consent requiring Additional Factor of Authentication

Centre forms panel to frame new law for drugs, medical devices

- **Ministry of health and family welfare** has constituted **8-member expert committee for framing new laws for drugs, cosmetics and medical devices**
- The new law will replace existing **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940** that regulates only import, manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs and cosmetics
- The new Drugs, Cosmetics and Medical Devices Act will incorporate regulation of medical devices as well
- It will be chaired by Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) Dr **VG Somani**.

Hyderabad gets India's first indigenous Coal Gasification based Plant

- **India's first indigenously designed high ash coal gasification based Methanol Production Plant** has been inaugurated at BHEL R&D Centre, **Hyderabad**.
- The plant was funded by **Department of Science and Technology** at the initiative of **NITI Aayog, PMO-India** and **Ministry of Coal**.
- It can create 0.25 ton per day (TPD) Methanol from high ash Indian coal using 1.2 TPD Fluidized bed gasifier.
- Purity of the crude methanol produced is between 98 and 99.5%.

ADB approves loan to improve water supply infrastructure in Jharkhand

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and **Govt of India** have signed **\$112 million loan** to develop water supply infrastructure and strengthen capacities of urban local bodies (ULBs) for improved service delivery in four towns in the state of Jharkhand.
- This is the **first project of ADB in Jharkhand**.
- It will help establish a model for continuous water supply combined with policy reforms for a sustainable operation, providing safe drinking water to urban households.

MoHUA launches 'Main Bhi Digital 3.0' campaign

- **Ministry of Housing and urban Affairs (MoHUA)** in collaboration with **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology** has launched pilot drive '**Main Bhi Digital 3.0**'
- It is a special campaign for digital onboarding and training for street vendors under PM SVANidhi scheme across **223 cities** in India
- **PM SVANidhi** was launched in **2020** as a **Central Sector Scheme** to facilitates working capital loan of up to ₹10,000 with an interest subsidy @7% on regular repayment.

CAG GC Murmu elected as Chairman of ASOSAI



- CAG **G C Murmu** has been elected as the **Chairman of Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI)** for the period from 2024 to 2027.
- India will host **16th Assembly of ASOSAI in 2024**.
- India will focus on the areas of environmental audit and leveraging emerging technologies for audit.
- **ASOSAI** is one of the Regional Groups of **International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI)**.
- **ASOSAI** was established in **1979**.

Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura takes charge as Chairman of NCM

- **Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura** (IPS officer of Punjab cadre) has taken charge as the **Chairman of National Commission for Minorities (NCM)**.
- He replaced **Ghayorul Hasan**.
- Prior to this, he was serving as the national **spokesperson of Bharatiya Janata Party from Punjab**.
- NCM was set up under **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992**.
- NCM shall consist of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Five Members to be nominated by the Central Government

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs 13th BRICS Summit

- Prime Minister, **Narendra Modi** has virtually chaired **13th BRICS Summit**.
- Theme: **BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus**
- Apart from this, India has highlighted 4 priority areas:
 - reform of multilateral system
 - counter-terrorism cooperation
 - using digital and technological tools to achieve SDG
 - enhancing P-to-P exchanges
- BRICS: **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa**.
- Summit concluded with adoption of '**New Delhi Declaration**'.

India's first emergency landing strip on highway inaugurated in Rajasthan

- Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and MoRTH **Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated an emergency landing strip at **Gandhav Bhakasar section on National Highway-925** in Barmer, Rajasthan for Indian Air Force (IAF) planes
- With this, **NH-925 has become India's first national highway to be used for emergency landing of IAF aircraft**.
- Its landing strip has been developed by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) over 3 km stretch at a total cost of Rs 43 crore.

ICICI Lombard ceases to be subsidiary of ICICI Bank

- **ICICI Lombard General Insurance** has ceased to operate as the subsidiary of **ICICI Bank**, as the shareholding of the ICICI Bank in the company has come down from 51.86% to 48.08%, after the merger of Bharti AXA with ICICI Lombard.
- For being a subsidiary, parent company must own at least 50% of the equity in the subsidiary company.



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- CEO of ICICI Bank: **Sandeep Bakhshi**.

President appoints new Governors of TN, Uttarakhand, Punjab & Nagaland

- President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind** has appointed **new governors of Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Nagaland**.
- New appointed governors are as follows:
 - Governor of Uttarakhand: **Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh** (retired deputy chief of Army).
 - Governor of Tamil Nadu: **R. N. Ravi** (former Nagaland governor).
 - Governor of Punjab: **Banwarilal Purohit** (former Governor of Tamil Nadu).
 - Governor of Nagaland: Prof. **Jagdish Mukhi** (incumbent Governor of Assam).

Centre revises TMA scheme for Specified Agriculture Products

- Centre has revised '**Transport and Marketing Assistance**' (TMA) scheme for Specified Agriculture Products.
- TMA scheme for Specified Agriculture Products was launched in **Feb 2019** to provide assistance for international component of freight and to mitigate disadvantage of higher freight costs of agriculture products by Indians
- Dairy products will also be eligible for assistance
- Rates of assistance have been increased by **50% for exports by sea** and by **100% for exports by air**

Union Food Minister inaugurates food processing projects at UP, Andhra, TN

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, **Pashupati Kumar Paras** has inaugurated **7 food processing projects at Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu**
- **Total cost of these 7 projects:** Rs.164.46 crores and a grant in aid of Rs. 27.99 crores has been approved by the Ministry.
- Along with this, **3,100 people** will get direct and indirect employment, and **16,500 farmers and entrepreneurs** will be benefited from these projects.

POSHAN Abhiyaan– Sahi Poshan Desh Roshan webinar organised

- **Regional Outreach Bureau (ROB)** and **Press Information Bureau (PIB), Chandigarh** and **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** has organised webinar on **POSHAN Abhiyaan– Sahi Poshan Desh Roshan**.
- **POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Abhiyaan** is Government's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescent Girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

MSME Tool Room, Hyderabad bags Patent for Fireworks making Machine



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- **MSME Tool Room Central Institute of Tool Design (CITD), Hyderabad** has obtained patent for the invention entitled **Automatic Machine for Production of Conical Shaped Fireworks (Anaar)** for 20 years
- CITD signed an MOU with Standard Fireworks Pvt Ltd (SFPL) for automation processes
- As a first project, CITD has taken up for Module-1 for flower pot chemical filling-packing
- It consists of 10 different stations like paper cutting, pasting, chemical filling, etc.



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