

Monthly GK Digest

August 2021



Monthly Digest August-2021

Dear readers,

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

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. e-voucher-based digital payment solution, e-RUPI has been developed by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** that was launched by the prime minister Narendra Modi.
Note: The e-RUPI initiative will be one of the programmes launched over the years to limit touch points between the government and the beneficiary and "ensure that the benefits reach its intended beneficiaries in a targeted and leak-proof manner". e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payments. It acts as an e-voucher based on a QR Code or SMS string, which is delivered to the mobile phones of the beneficiaries. e-RUPI connects the sponsors of the services with the beneficiaries and service providers in a digital manner without any physical interface.
2. **Walmart** ranked first in the 2021 Fortune Global 500 list released recently.
Note: China National Petroleum was ranked fourth and Sinopec Group fifth. Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd slipped 59 places to rank 155th on the 2021 Fortune Global 500 list. Reliance took a beating on the rankings as revenues dropped owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)** are not included in the 2021 Fortune Global 500 list released recently.
Note: China National Petroleum was ranked fourth and Sinopec Group fifth. Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd slipped 59 places to rank 155th on the 2021 Fortune Global 500 list. Reliance took a beating on the rankings as revenues dropped owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. **State Bank of India** has launched a 'SIM Binding' feature in its digital banking platforms to protect customers from various frauds.
Note: Under this, YONO and YONO Lite apps will work only on those devices which have SIM of mobile numbers registered with the Bank. Aim: To provide enhanced security to customers and help them with convenient and safe online banking experience.
5. **DBS Bank** has been awarded as the global winner for Most Innovative in Digital Banking by Financial Times publication, The Banker in its 2021 Innovation in Digital Banking Awards.
Note: He was also recognised as Asia-Pacific winner and won in the Cyber Security category for its Secure Access and Remote Working Solution. Banker's Innovation in Digital Banking Awards: It recognise the most innovative banks across the world for their digital banking initiatives, strategy, and overall commitment to digital transformation.
6. **IndusInd Bank** has been empanelled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to act as an 'Agency Bank' to facilitate transactions related to government businesses.
Note: After being an agency bank, IndusInd becomes eligible to carry out transactions related to all kinds of government led businesses. The Bank can carry out general banking business on behalf of the central and state government, apart from its normal banking business. It can handle transactions pertaining to revenue receipts under CBDT, CCBIC and GST on behalf of the state/central government.
7. **HDFC Bank** has launched an overdraft facility for small retailers titled as 'Dukandar Overdraft Scheme' to help shopkeepers and merchants in easing their cash crunch.
Note: It has been launched in partnership with Common Service Centres Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC SPV) Eligibility: Retailers operating for a minimum of 3 years. Beneficiaries need to provide six months bank statement from any bank.
8. **\$650 billion** has been approved by the Board of Governors of International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help boost global liquidity.
Note: Aim: To support member countries, especially emerging and developing nations, battling the coronavirus pandemic and the economic downturn it has caused. The allocation will become effective from August 23, 2021. The newly created SDRs will be credited to member countries in proportion to their existing quotas shareholding in the Fund.
9. As per the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment Bill), 2021 - The minimum threshold for

initiating pre-packaged insolvency resolution has been increased to **Rs 1 crore**.

Note: The bill seeks to replace the IBC Amendment Ordinance, 2021 promulgated in April which introduced pre-packs as an insolvency resolution mechanism for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with defaults up to Rs 1 crore. As per the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the bill, it seeks to specify a minimum threshold of not more than Rs 1 crore for initiating the pre-packaged insolvency resolution process as well as provisions for disposal of simultaneous applications for initiation of the insolvency resolution process and pre-packaged insolvency resolution process, pending against the same corporate debtor.

- 10. World Bank** has approved USD 250 million project in India titled as Second Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP-2) agreement for long-term dam safety program and performance of existing dams of India.

Note: The agreement was inked between World Bank, Govt of India, Central Water Commission (CWC), and government representatives from 10 participating states. Implementing agency: CWC. At state level, approximately 120 dams will be undertaken across the states.

- 11.** The Securities and Exchange Board of India has allowed **Payments Banks** to carry out the activities of investment bankers to provide easy access to investors to participate in public and rights issues by using various payment avenues, markets regulator.
- Note:** Non-scheduled payments banks, which have prior approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), will be eligible to act as a banker to an issue (BTI). This is subject to fulfilment of the conditions stipulated in the BTI rules. Further, payments banks registered as a BTI will also be permitted to act as self-certified syndicate banks, subject to the fulfilment of the criteria laid down by the Sebi in this regard from time to time.”
- 12.** According to the bi-monthly monetary policy released by the RBI in August 2021 **9.5%** is the GDP growth forecast for FY22.
- Note:** RBI keeps the GDP growth forecast for FY22 unchanged at 9.5%. RBI to conduct two more auctions of ₹25,000 crores each on August 12 and August 26 under the G-sec Acquisition Programme (GSAP). CPI inflation is projected at 5.7 % during 2021-22 – this consists of 5.9% in Q2, 5.3% in Q3 and 5.8% in Q4 of 2021-22 with risks broadly balanced.
- 13.** The government has inked a USD 250 million loan pact with **World Bank** to make the existing dam infrastructure safe in the country.

Note: The Central Water Commission as well as the government representatives from 10 participating states are also part of the loan agreement. The USD 250 million project for the long-term is for dam safety programme and improving the safety and performance of existing dams across various states of India.

- 14. SBI General Insurance** announced a partnership with Manipal Business Solutions, the promoter of SahiPay to increase non-life insurance penetration in the rural market.

Note: Through this partnership, SBI General will provide a bouquet of non-life insurance solutions to SahiPay customers, the insurer said in a release. The tie-up is a right fit to support the company’s endeavour to maximise its reach to rural segments.

- 15.** Multilateral funding agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) has okayed an over Rs 831 crore (USD 112 million) loan to finance water supply infrastructure in **Jharkhand**.

Note: The project will cover four towns in the state, ADB said in a release. The project supports the Jharkhand Vision and Action Plan 2021 to improve the quality of life of its urban residents through better quality urban infrastructure.

- 16. Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB)** has launched ‘Health and Wellness Savings Account’ to help customers grow their wealth and also take care of their family’s health amid the covid-19 pandemic.

Note: The account offers an attractive interest rate and comes with three major benefits for a family of four — top-up health insurance of ₹25 lakh, annual healthcare package and on-call emergency ambulance medical care services. Top-up health insurance and healthcare package are free of charge for one year after opening the account. Free ambulance service up to a distance of 20 km will be available at 102 locations across the country till March-end 2022.

- 17.** National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has entered into an MoU with **Punjab National Bank** to extend financial assistance through the Bank.

Note: The government created the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) in 2018-19 and is being implemented with a total fund size of Rs 7,522.48 crore comprising Rs 5,266.40 crore to be raised by Nodal Lending Entities (NLE), like NABARD, NCDC & all scheduled banks.

- 18. SBI General Insurance** company has partnered with the Manipal Business Solutions, to tap customers of fintech platform SahiPay, in a bid to increase its non-life insurance penetration in the rural market.

Note: Manipal Business Solutions is the promoter of SahiPay, which provides digital and financial services in the semi-urban and rural parts of the country, to

different business entities. Under this, SBI General will provide a range of non-life insurance solutions to SahiPay customers. This initiative is part of the strategy of SBI General in strengthening its distribution footprints in the country and becoming the most trusted general insurer for India.

19. **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** has partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to provide the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) AUTOPAY facility to customers.
Note: It will allow customers to buy insurance policies and make premium payments digitally, from their homes - a facility that assumes relevance amid the COVID-19 pandemic. With this tie-up, ICICI Prudential Life has become the first such life insurance company to provide the UPI AUTOPAY facility. To avail the facility, customers can link their bank accounts with UPI AUTOPAY and make premium payments, at the time of purchasing a life insurance policy.
20. **CoinDCX** became India's first cryptocurrency unicorn after the exchange raised 6.70 billion rupees (\$90 million) from investors led by Facebook Inc.
Note: The latest funding round values the firm at \$1.1 billion. Other investors include existing partners Coinbase Ventures, Polychain Capital, Block.one, and Jump Capital. The 30-year-old engineer from the elite Indian Institute of Technology spent several hours daily reading about blockchain and cryptocurrencies before setting up CoinDCX in 2018.
21. **Central Bank of India** has entered into a strategic co-lending partnership with Dhanvarsha Finvest Ltd (DFL) to offer loans against gold ornaments under priority sector to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) borrowers at competitive rates.
Note: Under this partnership, DFL will originate and process loans against gold ornaments as per jointly formulated credit parameters and eligibility criteria and CBoI will take into its book 80 per cent of the gold loans under mutually agreed terms, as per the public sector bank's stock exchange filing. DFL will service the loan account throughout the life cycle of the loan.
22. Asian Development Bank has approved an additional USD 300 million loan for rural roads in **Maharashtra**.
Note: The ongoing project, approved in August 2019, has been improving and maintaining the condition and safety of 2,100 kilometres (km) of rural roads across Maharashtra. The additional financing will improve an additional 1,100 rural roads and 230 bridges for a total length of 2,900 km in 34 districts, the Multilateral funding agency added.
23. **Indian Bank** has signed up with NSRCEL, the incubation arm of IIMB, for extending exclusive credit to startups.

Note: NSRCEL is known for bringing up start-ups, industry mentors and eminent academicians from the parent institution, IIM Bangalore and researchers who thrive on continuous interaction of theory and practice. IIMB also nurtures technology and knowledge-based ventures. Startups require funding to expand and grow. One of the most common problems they face is maintaining a positive cash flow.

24. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to levy monetary charges of **Rs 10000** on ATMs that run out of cash, starting 1 October, 2021.
Note: Therefore, been decided that the banks/ White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs) shall strengthen their systems/ mechanisms to monitor availability of cash in ATMs and ensure timely replenishment to avoid cash-outs. Any non-compliance in this regard shall be viewed seriously and shall attract monetary penalty. Launching the 'Scheme of Penalty for non-replenishment of ATMs', the central bank said that a penalty of ₹10,000 per ATM will be levied in the event of a cash-out situation for more than 10 hours in a month.
25. **SIDBI** in partnership with Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK (FCDO UK) has launched 'Swavalamban Challenge Fund' (SCF).
Note: A challenge fund is a fund support mechanism to allocate funds for specific purposes using competition among organisations. Suppose there is an idea which needs to be piloted or scaled up, but funds are an issue, challenge fund provides solution platform to present the idea in prescribed theme, implement and validate it. Later the same can be scaled up by leveraging other donor / financier support.
26. The Reserve Bank of India has raised the limit for collateral free loans to Self-Help Groups (SHG) under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) from Rs 10 lakhs to **Rs 20 Lakhs**.
Note: Generally, commercial banks provide loans to SHG. No collateral and no margin will be charged will be there for SHGs loan of up to 10 Lakhs. For SHGs loans of 10 lakh to 20 lakh: No collateral should be charged and no lien should be marked against savings bank account of SHGs.
27. The Indian Navy has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **IDFC FIRST Bank** to initiate 'Honour FIRST', a premium banking solution for serving personnel and veterans of the Indian Navy.
Note: The Honour FIRST Defence Account is specially designed keeping in mind the needs of the Armed Forces and its veterans. Account holders of Honour FIRST are supported by a dedicated team of defence veterans. The Honour FIRST Defence account comes

- with a range of privileges and features such as a zero balance salary account that earns up to 5 per cent interest per annum and a netbanking and mobile App that offers superior user interface and experience.
- 28. SIDBI** has launched an app-based digital-lending platform named as 'Digital Prayaas' to sanction loans to entrepreneurs from low-income groups.
Note: Loan will be sanctioned by the end of the day. SIDBI has tied up with BigBasket to cater to the needs of aspiring youth in urban areas and will on board BigBasket's delivery partners and provide loans at an affordable interest rate for purchase of environment friendly e-Bikes and e-Vans.
- 29. RBL Bank** has chosen Amazon Web Services (AWS), an Amazon.com company, as its preferred cloud provider.
Note: RBL Bank has chosen Amazon Web Services (AWS), an Amazon.com company, as its preferred cloud provider. AWS helps RBL bank to strengthen its AI-powered banking solutions and drive digital transformation at the Bank, adding significant value to the Bank's innovative offerings, saving costs, and tightening risk controls.
- 30. State Bank of India** has inked an MoU with NABARD and Jammu and Kashmir Gramin Bank (JKGB) for Joint Liability Groups financing.
Note: Aim of the MoU is to finance 1000 Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) and to enhance the flow of credit to tenant farmers, oral lessees, sharecroppers, Small and Marginal farmers (SF/MF), etc. The MoUs on JLG financing were signed and exchanged between NABARD J&K Regional Office, SBI, and JKGB.
- 31.** In August 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on **Co-operative Rabobank U.A.**
Note: The penalty has been imposed for contravention of certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and directions related to 'transfer to reserve funds'. Examination of the risk assessment report pertaining to the same, revealed contravention of the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act and the directions issued by RBI.
- 32. Paytm Payments Bank Ltd** became the first bank in India to achieve the milestone of issuing 1 crore FASTags.
Note: It has 28 percent share as FASTag issuer bank. As per the data of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), around 3.47 crore FASTags were issued by all banks together till the end of June 2021. PPBL also exists as India's largest acquirer of toll plazas under the National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) program.
- 33.** Partnering with **HDFC Bank** the Government of Punjab introduced online payment of water supply bills in villages.
Note: The information for the same was provided by Punjab Water Supply and Sanitation Minister Razia Sultana who launched an online billing and revenue monitoring system (RMS) for online payment of water supply bills in the villages of district SAS-Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali). This system is being implemented in collaboration with HDFC (Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd) bank which has provided a technological and banking platform.
- 34. Indian Bank** has launched a flagship Business Mentoring Programme "MSME Prerana" in West Bengal.
Note: MSME Prerana is a unique and innovative business mentoring programme in collaboration with Poornatha and Co. to empower MSME entrepreneurs in driving business more efficiently by optimizing value and capacity. The programme will be in the local language of the state which is Bengali. "MSME Prerana" has been launched with an aim to develop managerial and financial capabilities of MSME entrepreneurs besides creating awareness on various initiatives taken by Union and state governments and other regulators.
- 35.** The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the license of Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited. The bank is located in **Maharashtra**.
Note: Order has been issued for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank. RBI has informed that 95% of depositors will receive full amounts of their deposits. On liquidation, every depositor will be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakhs
- 36.** Digital lending platform, **KreditBee** in partnership with RuPay and RBL Bank launched a virtual prepaid card in RuPay platform.
Note: It will provide the unserved and underserved banking customers with an access to short-term liquidity with multiple repayment options. Features of KreditBee Card: Under the card, the customers could avail credit limit of up to Rs 10,000, which has to be repaid in a single billing cycle within 45 days.
- 37. DBS Bank India** has made a partnership with ODeX India Solutions Pvt. Ltd to introduce 'ODeX Pay Later Solutions' to provide credit solutions to Freight forwarders in shipping industry.
Note: To enable the ODeX customers to access comprehensive payment and financing solutions for all their ocean shipping transaction. The ODeX Pay Later Solutions will allow freight forwarders to make direct payments to ship liners. Businesses with a turnover of

- Rs 3 Crore to Rs 200 Crore and have completed over 5 years in the same industry and are eligible to avail unsecured loan of up to Rs 50 lakhs from DBS Bank.
- 38. Kotak Mahindra Bank** has launched DIY repayment platform for missed loan repayments.
Note: Kotak Mahindra Bank has deployed a secure, Do It Yourself Digital Repayment Platform for missed loan repayments, in a tie-up with Creditas Solutions. Powered by artificial intelligence and machine learning, the 'Neo Collections' platform delivers a personalised and non-intrusive experience thereby enabling customers to manage their dues seamlessly on their own through an intuitive repayment platform. Using data analytics to target the right customer segments, the 'Neo Collections' platform creates hyper-personalised scenarios to connect with each customer.
- 39. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank** has launched 'Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System' (FRUITS) portal.
Note: The Dharwad-headquartered Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB), in association with the Karnataka government, has launched 'Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System' (FRUITS) portal. In this latest initiative by the Karnataka government, all the farmers will be registered and given a FRUITS ID (FID) number. Using this number, the financial and lending institutions can access the land details of farmers as well as their borrowings and take a quick decision on lending to them depending on their requirements
- 40.** India has signed a USD 500 million loans agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in order to expand metro rail network in **Bengaluru**.
Note: An agreement in this regard was signed between the Government of India and the ADB. The project will construct two new metro lines, mostly elevated, along Outer Ring Road and National Highway 44 between Central Silk Board and Kempegowda International Airport with 30 stations.
- 41.** An ambitious 'Ubharte Sitaare Fund' has been launched for **Export-oriented firms and startups**.
Note: The fund has been set up by Exim Bank and SIDBI. It will be launched in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. In her Budget speech last year, Sitharaman had mentioned that MSMEs are vital to keep the wheels of economy moving. They also create jobs, innovate and are risk takers.
- 42.** According to the India Ratings (Ind-Ra) **9.4%** will be the growth rate of Indian GDP for FY22.
Note: It would be 15.3 per cent in the first quarter, 8.3 per cent in the second quarter and 7.8 per cent in each of the remaining two quarters of the year. The agency's estimate suggests that 5.2 million daily doses would have to be administered from now on to fully vaccinate more than 88 per cent of the adult population as well as to administer single doses to the rest by March in the current financial year.
- 43. Apple** has been declared as the World's most valuable company with USD 2,443 billion according to the Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021.
Note: Apple is followed by Microsoft and Amazon. India: Reliance Industries (USD 188 billion) is ranked at 57 and is the top Indian company in the list. There are total 12 Indian companies in this list with WIPRO, HCL and Asian Paints.
- 44.** Social media giant, **Facebook** in partnership with online lending platform Indifi has launched Small Business Loans Initiative in India.
Note: India is the first country where Facebook is rolling out this programme to help small and medium businesses (SMBs) that advertise on Facebook to get quick access to credit/loans through independent lending partners. This will make business loans more easily accessible to small businesses, and reduce the credit gap within India's MSME sector.
- 45.** NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has tied-up with **Mashreq Bank** to launch payment system facility of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the UAE.
Note: This move will benefit the Indian tourists and who travel to UAE for business or leisure purposes to pay for their purchases using UPI-based mobile applications across shops and merchant stores in the UAE. Mashreq Bank is the oldest privately owned bank in the United Arab Emirates.
- 46.** USAID and the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) would jointly sponsor a \$50 million loan portfolio guarantee to **Kotak Mahindra Bank** to support increased financial access to women borrowers, and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India.
Note: This comes against the backdrop of the covid-19 pandemic, a statement from the US embassy said adding that the partnership will help MSMEs impacted by the pandemic to easily access loans to rebuild and scale up their businesses. Under the program, Kotak Mahindra Bank will provide loans to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) operating in the MSME and Microfinance (MFI) space.
- 47.** NTPC Ltd has commissioned the largest floating solar PV project of 25MW on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal power station in **Visakhapatnam**.
Note: This is also the first solar project to be set up under the Flexibilisation Scheme, notified by the Government of India in 2018. The floating solar installation has a unique anchoring design and is spread over 75 acres of reservoir.

- 48. World Bank** has launched a new 'Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund', to better roll out cybersecurity development agenda in a systematic manner.
Note: The new fund has been developed as an associated trust fund under the broader Digital Development Partnership (DDP) umbrella program. World Bank has partnered with four countries, namely Estonia, Japan, Germany, and the Netherlands, to launch the fund.
- 49. AU Small Finance Bank** has unveiled a mega Brand Campaign titled 'BADLAAV Humse Hai'.
Note: This is the first integrated marketing communication campaign from AU Bank since its inception – a creative endeavor that will showcase the bank's passion for innovation. As a part of this campaign, AU will release a series of ad films on products and practices such as monthly interest, anywhere banking, Video banking, UPI QR and new age Credit Cards to bring alive the proposition of BADLAAV through tangible offerings.
- 50. Indian Bank** has signed an MOU with Paralympic Committee of India to become one of the Banking Partners ahead of the Paralympic Games, Tokyo 2020.
Note: The Paralympic Games are scheduled to start from the 24th of August, 2021. In an year-long association, the bank will provide financial assistance to Paralympic athletes to prepare for the coveted sporting events in domestic arena as well as global platforms.
- 51. Bank of Maharashtra** has been emerged as the top performer among public sector lenders in terms of loan and savings deposit growth during the first quarter of the current financial year.
Note: The Pune-headquartered lender recorded 14.46 per cent increase in gross advances at Rs 1,10,592 lakh crore in April-June period of 2021-22, as per the published data of BoM. It was followed by Punjab & Sind Bank which posted 10.13 per cent growth in advances with aggregate loans at Rs 67,933 crore at the end of June 2021.
- 52. PayNearby** has partnered with Visa and **RBL Bank** to launch SoftPoS and mPoS for its over 1.5 million retail network.
Note: With the addition of these options, PayNearby said it is the first company to launch an all-inclusive digital package for retailers that is form-factor agnostic and provides a wide choice to end consumers. Its upgraded digital payment package now supports QR code payment, UPI payment, Aadhaar Pay, SMS payment, and card payment through mobile tokenization.
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- 56. Bharat Petroleum Corporation** has launched an AI-enabled chatbot, named as 'URJA' to provide a platform for seamless self-service experience and faster resolution of queries/issues to its customers.
Note: URJA is the first AI chatbot in oil and gas industry in India. It has been launched under Project Anubhav of BPCL and currently supports 13 languages
- 57. Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has imposed a penalty of Rs. 200 crores on **Maruti Suzuki India Limited** for restricting discounts by dealers.
Note: The CCI passed the order against the company for indulging in anti-competitive conduct of Resale Price Maintenance in passenger vehicle segment by implementing discount control policy.
- 58. HDFC Bank** has partnered with the Paytm to share their network and provide digital lending and payment solutions for consumers and merchants across India.
Note: Under the partnership, HDFC Bank will act as the payment partner, while Paytm will be the distribution and software partner. A co-branded point of sale (POS) product in the retail segment was jointly launched by Paytm and HDFC Bank. The product would be offered by Paytm to its customer base.
- 59. Citibank NA** received the approval from International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to open a

banking unit at India's GIFT IFSC to carry out offshore transactions.

Note: In 2020, Citibank received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to start a banking unit after which it has waited for the final nod from IFSCA to start operations. Recently, Deutsche Bank became the 1st German bank to set up its IFSC banking unit at GIFT IFSC.

- 60. BharatPe** has launched peer-to-peer (P2P) lending app titled as '12% Club' that will allow consumers to invest and earn up to 12% annual interest or borrow at a similar rate.

Note: BharatPe has partnered with LenDenClub for this app and lending arrangement. Under this, consumers can invest their savings anytime by choosing to lend money. Apart from this, consumers can avail collateral-free loans of up to Rs 10 lakh on the 12% Club app for a tenure of 3 months.

- 61. Infosys** becomes the 4th Indian company to touch a market capitalization (m-cap) of USD 100 billion.

Note: Prior to Infosys, TCS, Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank are the first three companies to cross the market capitalization of USD 100 billion. According to the latest m-cap data, RIL is the most-valued firm at Rs 13.7 trillion, followed by TCS at Rs 13.4 trillion and HDFC Bank at Rs 8.42 trillion.

- 62. Bajaj Finserv Ltd** has got in-principle approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for launching the mutual fund (MF) business.

Note: As per the SEBI's regulations, the company would now set up an Asset Management Company (AMC) and the Trustee Company directly or indirectly (i.e by itself or through its subsidiary) to sponsor MF. In December 2020, SEBI has eased the MF business regulations and allowed the sponsors who do not fulfill profitability criteria at the time of making an application will also be considered to be eligible to sponsor a MF.

- 63.** The Central Govt has approved Indian Banks' Association's (IBA) proposal to increase the family pension to **30** per cent of the last salary drawn.

Note: After this, family pension would go up to as much as Rs 30,000 to Rs 35,000 per family of bank employees. Govt has also approved the proposal to increase employers' contribution under the NPS to 14% from the existing 10%.

- 64.** The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a mobile app ANANDA.

Note: ANANDA stands for Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital Application or ANANDA, the paperless solution for new business processes that the insurance major had unveiled last year. This digital application will help in onboarding process to get insurance policy

by a paperless module with the help of agent or intermediary.

- 65. HDFC Bank** becomes the first Indian bank to list its \$1 billion foreign currency additional tier-I (AI-1) bonds.

Note: Global Securities Market, the primary market platform of India INX, has received significant interest since it was established in 2018 and has over \$55 billion medium term notes and over \$28 billion of bond listings till date. India INX, BSE's international arm, began trading activity on 16 January 2017 and is India's first international exchange set up at the GIFT IFSC.

- 66. Apple** has been declared as the World's most valuable company with USD 2,443 billion according to the Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021.

Note: Apple is followed by Microsoft and Amazon. India: Reliance Industries (USD 188 billion) is ranked at 57 and is the top Indian company in the list. There are total 12 Indian companies in this list with WIPRO, HCL and Asian Paints.

- 67. Facebook** in partnership with online lending platform Indifi has launched Small Business Loans Initiative in India.

Note: India is the first country where Facebook is rolling out this programme. Aim: to help small and medium businesses (SMBs) that advertise on Facebook to get quick access to credit/loans through independent lending partners.

- 68.** NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has tied-up with **Mashreq Bank** to launch payment system facility of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the UAE.

Note: This move will benefit the Indian tourists and who travel to UAE for business or leisure purposes to pay for their purchases using UPI-based mobile applications across shops and merchant stores in the UAE. Mashreq Bank is the oldest privately owned bank in the United Arab Emirates.

- 69.** According to the ministry of finance, as on August 2021, the number of bank accounts under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna (PMJDY) have increased to **43 crores**.

Note: It is government's flagship financial inclusion scheme completes seven years of implementation. The PMJDY was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address on August 15, 2014 and was simultaneously launched on August 28 to foster financial inclusion.

- 70.** The Reserve Bank of India has increased the limit of fund transfer under Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility Scheme from Rs 50,000 per transaction to **Rs 2 lakh**.

Note: Earlier, there was a ceiling limit of 12 transactions in a year. Now, this limit has also been removed. However, for cash-based transfers under

- Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility, the per transaction limit of Rs 50,000 will still be present with a maximum number of transfers in a year allowed at 12.
71. Digital payments platform, **PhonePe** has been issued an insurance broking license from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
Note: Last year, PhonePe entered insurtech sector with a limited insurance 'corporate agent' license which restricted the company to partnering with only three insurance companies per category. Now, with this new 'direct broking' license, PhonePe can distribute insurance products from all insurance companies in India.
72. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has increased the entry age for National Pension System (NPS) to **70 years**.
Note: Prior to this, eligible age to invest in NPS was 18-65 years which has now been revised to 18-70 years. As per the revised norms, any Indian Citizen, resident or non-resident and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) between 65 to 70 years can join NPS and continue or defer their NPS Account till 75 years.
73. **IDBI Bank's** board has approved to divest its entire stake of 19.18% in Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited (ARCIL).
Note: Board has approved proposal for sale of IDBI Bank's entire holding of 6,23,23,800 fully paid-up equity shares of ARCIL. ARCIL: Oldest ARC entities operating in India and was founded in 2002.

Obituaries

- Renowned personality Man Kaur passed away recently she was a veteran **Athlete**.
Note: She was diagnosed with cancer some months back. She was referred to as 'Miracle from Chandigarh'. She belongs to Patiala, Punjab and started as an athlete at the age of 93.
- Classical exponent Nellyodu Vasudevan Namboothiri associated with **Kathakali** who passed away recently.
Note: He was 81 and was battling cancer for some time. Known for the portrayal of the negative 'chuvanna thadi' (red beard) characters in the classical dance drama, he also excelled in enacting the roles of "vattamudi" and "penkari."
- Padma Shri awardee Padma Sachdev passed away recently, she was first modern woman poet of **Dogri**.
Note: Sachdev (81), who was born in Purmandal area of Jammu in 1940 in the house of Sanskrit Scholar Prof Jai Dev Badu. She authored many books in Dogri and Hindi, and her poetry collections, including 'Meri Kavita Mere Geet', won her the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1971.
- Renowned personality Rashid Irani passed away recently, he was a veteran **film critic**.
Note: Irani, who had contributed several articles in national dailies like Times of India, Hindustan Times and the website Scroll.in, was "one of the pillars of the Mumbai Press Club Film Society.
- Renowned sportsperson Subramaniam Sankar Narayan passed away recently he was associated with **Football**.
Note: He played at the 1956 and 1960 Olympics. He was famously known as S. S. Babu Narayan and had represented India as a goalkeeper at the 1956 (Melbourne) and 1960 (Rome) Olympic Games. He was also a part of Maharashtra's Santosh Trophy-winning campaign in 1964.
- Renowned personality Kasargod Patnashetti Gopal Rao passed away recently he was a veteran **Navy Man**.
Note: He was a 1971 war hero and recipient of the Maha Vir Chakra, India's second highest military decoration. He was the commander of two Arnala-class anti-submarine corvettes INS Kiltan and INS Katchall which were part of the task group that attacked Karachi Harbour during Operation Trident on December 4, 1971 (Navy Day). He was commissioned into the Indian Navy on April 21, 1950.
- Renowned personality P.S. Banarji passes away recently, he was a veteran **Cartoonist, Sculptor & Folk Singer**.
Note: A resident of Sasthamcotta in Kollam district, he was undergoing treatment for post-COVID-19 complications. A recipient of the Lalithakala Akademi Fellowship, Banarji was noted for his Ayyankali and Buddha sculptures at Venganur and Koduman. Known for his rendition of a string of folk songs, including the popular 'Tharaka Pennale', he was working as a graphic designer in an IT firm in the capital.
- Renowned personality Anupam Shyam Ojha passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.
Note: He is known for his work on the TV show Mann Ki Awaaz: Pratigya where he played Thakur Sajjan Singh. He has also featured in Slumdog Millionaire, Bandit Queen Dil Se, Lagaan and Hazaaroon Khwaishein Aisi. Actor was undergoing dialysis thrice a week while shooting for Pratigya 2.
- Renowned personality Balaji Tambe passed away recently, he was veteran **Ayurvedacharya**.

- Note:** The founder of 'Atmasantulana Village', a holistic healing centre near Lonavala, Dr Tambe had written several books on spirituality, Yoga and Ayurveda. He is survived by his wife, two sons and daughters-in-law as well as four granddaughters.
10. Veteran footballer Gerd Muller belonged to **Germany** who passed away recently.
Note: He represented West Germany at international level, scoring 68 goals in 62 appearances, and at club level, he played for Bayern Munich, with which he scored a record 365 goals in 427 Bundesliga games. He was nicknamed as 'Bomber der Nation' (the nation's Bomber) or simply Der Bomber for his scoring-prowess.
 11. Famous sports personality Chinmoy Chatterjee passed away recently, he was associated with **Football**.
Note: He played for the three Maidan heavyweights in his prime in 1970-80s and was a member of Indian team at 1978 Bangkok Asian Games where they finished 4th in quarterfinal league. He played for Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting, during his domestic career. He also represented Bengal in the Santosh Trophy four times.
 12. Former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Kalyan Singh who passed away recently was former governor of **Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh**.
Note: Former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Kalyan Singh passed away. He had served as the CM of Uttar Pradesh twice — June 1991 to December 1992 and September 1997 to November 1999 and was the CM of UP during the demolition of the Babri Masjid.
 13. Renowned sportsman Syed Shahid Hakim associated with **Football** who passed away recently.
Note: He is the son of legendary football coach Syed Abdul Rahim. He has served as the coach of several teams including the Mahindra & Mahindra (Now Mahindra United), Salgaocar and Hindustan FC and Bengal Mumbai FC(2004-2005).
 14. Famous sportsman O Chandrasekharan, popularly known as Olympian Chandrasekharan passed away recently, he was associated with **Football**.
Note: He had been suffering from dementia for a decade or so. Chandrasekharan, who played as a defender, was a member of the Indian team in the 1960 Rome Olympics, the last time the country participated in football at the Games.
 15. Renowned personality Pt Subhankar Banerjee passed away recently, he was a veteran **Percussionist**.
Note: Banerjee, who had done jugalbandi with all legendary classicists from Pt Ravi Shankar, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan to Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma had been admitted to the hospital on June 20 and was on oxygen support for months. He was a recipient of Sangeet Samman and Sangeet Maha Samman by the West Bengal government.
 16. Renowned personality Naushad passed away recently, he was a veteran **Chef**.
Note: Naushad was introduced to the culinary world by his father who had a catering business in Thiruvalla. After completing his hotel management course, he became a full-time chef and shot into the spotlight by hosting cooking shows on television.
 17. Renowned personality Buddhadeb Guha passed away recently was a noted author of **Bengali** language, who authored several popular books including Madhukari (Honey Gatherer).
Note: His novels and short stories have been highly acclaimed by critics which helped him win several awards, including the Ananda Purashkar and Sharat Puraskar. He was also a noted classical singer and proficient illustrator. Besides Madhukari, some of Guha's notable works include Koeler Kachhe, Sobinoy Nibedon and Baba Howa.

Important Days

1. Muslim Women's Rights Day in India is being observed every year on **1st August**.
Note: It was first observed in 2020. Govt enacted law against Triple Talaq making it a criminal offence on August 1, 2019. Law is formally called Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act 2019
2. **Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility** is the theme of the World Breastfeeding Week 2021 observing every year in the first week from 1 August to 7 August.
Note: World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) is observed every year in the first week from 1 August to 7 August to raise awareness on the importance of breastfeeding for mothers and infants. This week is organized by WABA, World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). It was introduced in 1991.
3. World Lung Cancer Day is observed every year on **1st August**.
Note: It was first organized in 2012 by Forum of International Respiratory Societies, in collaboration with International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer and American College of Chest Physicians. IASLC: largest organization that only deals with lung cancer.

4. Hiroshima Day is observed every year on **6th August**.
Note: The horrific incident took place on August 6, 1945, when the United States dropped an atomic bomb named “Little Boy”, on the town of Hiroshima in Japan. This bomb attack was done with the motive to end the Second World War in 1945. This day is remembered to promote peace and spread awareness about the danger of nuclear energy and nuclear weapons.
5. National Handloom Day is observed every year on **7th August**.
Note: The day is to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement and to celebrate our country’s rich fabrics and colourful weaves. The whole nation will mark the day to showcase the legacy of the Indian handloom industry and to honour the weavers across the country. It was first observed in 2015 by the Govt of India. National Handloom Day seeks to focus on the contribution of handloom to the socio-economic development of the country and also increase the income of weavers.
6. The International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples is observed every year on **9th August**.
Note: The day was recognised by UN General Assembly in December 1994 to marks the day of the inaugural session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations at the United Nations in 1982. Theme 2021: Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract.
7. Every year, the Quit India Day (or August Kranti Day) is observed on **8th August**.
Note: In 2021, we are celebrating the 79th anniversary of Quit India Day. Quit India Movement also known as Bharat Chodo Andolan and August Kranti Movement was a ‘do or die’ call to the people of India initiated by Gandhiji to demand an end to the British rule in India.
8. World Lion Day is celebrated every year on **10th August**.
Note: Three objectives:
 1. To raise awareness about the plight of the lion & other issues that the species faces in the wild.
 2. To find ways to protect its natural habitat and for creating more such habitats like national parks.
 3. To educate people who live near wild cats on the dangers and how to protect themselves.
 World Lions Day is celebrated across the world since 2013. The day was co-founded by Dereck and Beverly Joubert of the Big Cat Initiative and National Geographic in a partnership.
9. **Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health** is the theme of the International Youth Day 2021.
Note: International Youth Day is observed every year on August 12, as recommended by World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in Lisbon to UN General Assembly. International Youth Day was first observed in 1999. The day is organized by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in association with Food and Agriculture Organization and Major Group for Children and Youth.
10. World Elephant Day is observed every year on **12th August**.
Note: It was officially celebrated for the first time in 2012. The day was co-founded by Canadian Patricia Sims and the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation of Thailand, an initiative of HM Queen Sirikit of Thailand.
11. World Organ Donation Day is observed every year on **13th August**.
Note: Organ Donation Day provides an opportunity to all to come ahead and pledge to donate their precious organs, because one organ donor can save up to eight lives. First-ever successful living donor organ transplant was done in 1954 in United States.
12. **The Human Race** is the theme of the World Humanitarian Day 2021.
Note: World Humanitarian Day is commemorated annually on August 19, 2021 to honour those who are working for a humanitarian cause across the world. The day is observed to pay tribute to all the people who lost their lives working for humanitarian causes and those who continue to provide protection and life-saving support to people in need.
13. Akshay Urja Diwas is observed every year on **20th August** to raise awareness about the developments and adoption of renewable energy in India.
Note: The Akshay Urja Day was initiated by the Indian Ministry for New & Renewable Energy Sources in 2004. Energy such as Biogas, Solar Energy, Wind energy, hydroelectrical power is a few examples of Akshay Urja.
14. To commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi the Sadbhavana Diwas is celebrated every year on **20th August**.
Note: This year on 20th August 2021, we are going to celebrate the 77th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The Indian National Congress instituted Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award in 1992, a year after his death.
15. **Reaching the zero-malaria target** is the theme of the World Mosquito Day 2021.
Note: This day is observed to highlight the efforts of healthcare officials, NGOs, and others in fighting diseases caused by malaria. On World Mosquito Day every year, awareness is created around diseases caused by mosquitoes. This year amid the coronavirus

pandemic, the theme of World Mosquito Day 2021 is "Reaching the zero-malaria target".

16. World Senior Citizen Day is observed every year on **21st August**.

Note: It was officially founded by former President of USA, Ronald Reagan in 1988 to dedicate a day to older adults and their issues. The Day was proclaimed by UN General Assembly on Dec 14, 1990.

17. International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed every year on **21st August**.

Note: The day was adopted by United Nations General Assembly in 2017. It was first celebrated on 2018. Theme of International Day is 'Connections'.

18. The World Sanskrit Day 2021 was observed on **22nd August**.

Note: This Indo-Aryan language has been declared as a classical language that's identified for its scientific construction and is in excessive demand throughout the world.

19. International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed every year on **23rd August**.

Note: The Day is observed to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples. It is a day to honour the memory of the men and women who, in Saint-Domingue in 1791, revolted and paved the way for the end of slavery and dehumanization.

20. International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief is observed every year on **22nd August**.

Note: The day was adopted at 73rd UN General Assembly on 28 May 2019 as proposed by Poland. Aim: To remember the victims and survivors of evil acts on the basis of or in the name of religion or belief.

21. International Dog Day is observed every year on **26th August**.

Note: The day was started as National Dog Day in the US in 2004 by pet & family lifestyle expert, animal rescue advocate, conservationist and dog trainer Colleen Paige. August 26 was chosen as on this day, Paige's family had adopted their first dog "Sheltie" from an animal shelter when she was just 10 years old.

22. **Building Resilience Faster** is the theme of the World Water Week 2021 that has been organised from 23rd to 27th August in entirely digital format.

Note: 2021 edition of World Water Week has been organised from 23rd to 27th August in entirely digital format. World Water Week is an annual event organized by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) to address the global water issues and related concerns of international development.

23. The International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed globally on **29th August**.

Note: The day aims to increase awareness about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

24. National Sports Day in India is observed every year on **29th August**.

Note: The first National Sports Day was celebrated on 29th August 2012, on the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand who was the star of hockey team of India.

25. In India, the National Small Industry Day is celebrated every year on **30th August**.

Note: The industry day is a medium to provide balanced growth to existing small, medium and large scale enterprises and render assistance for setting up new industries to boost the state's financial health.

26. International Day of the Disappeared is observed every year on **30th August**.

Note: The day was adopted by UN General Assembly on 21 December 2010 and was first observed in 2011. Enforced disappearance has become a global problem and is not restricted to a specific region of the world.

New Appointments

1. The caretaker govt of Myanmar headed by the Chief of the military Senior General Min Aung Hlaing announced to hold elections by **2023**.

Note: Gen. Hlaing also pledged to hold elections by 2023. General Hlaing took over power in Myanmar in February after removing the government headed by the State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi on February 1. Myanmar has witnessed regular protests since February against the military govt.

2. **Priyanka Chopra** has been appointed as the global brand ambassador of the Italian luxury brand Bvlgari. **Note:** In her new role, the company Priyanka will support the Roman high jewellery house in amplifying the brand around the world, with a particular focus on themes of women empowerment, diversity and inclusion. Bvlgari is known for its gemstone jewellery, watches, fragrances, accessories and leather goods. Chopra Jonas is also a global UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, and recipient of the prestigious Danny

- Kaye Humanitarian award, serving as a symbol of power and strength for millions of young women.
3. **Deepak Das** has been appointed as the 25th Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
Note: He succeeded Soma Roy Burman. He has held various important positions at different levels in Ministries. He has also been Director of Institute of Government Accounts and Finance. He served as the Principal Chief Controller of Accounts in CBDT.
 4. Nikol Pashinyan has been re-appointed as the Prime Minister of **Armenia**.
Note: Nikol Pashinyan (46 years) has been re-appointed officially as the Prime Minister of Armenia by the President Armen Sarkissian with effect from August 2, 2021. He is the leader of the Civil Contract Party and won majority of seats around 71 in parliamentary elections in June 2021. He was first appointed as the Prime Minister of Armenia in 2018.
 5. **Ebrahim Raisi** has taken over as eighth president of Iran.
Note: He replaced moderate President Hassan Rouhani who was not allowed run for a third consecutive term by Iranian constitution. He won Iranian presidential elections in June with 61.95% of the vote. Ebrahim Raisi has also become the first Iranian president to be sanctioned by US even before assuming office as he was designated in 2019.
 6. **Mini Ipe** has taken charge as Managing Director of the IPO-bound Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
Note: Ipe is a post-graduate in commerce and joined LIC in 1986 as a direct recruit officer. She has a diverse experience in LIC having worked in various capacities. LIC is India's 2nd-largest financial services institution with a Rs 31 lakh crore balance sheet, next to the country's largest bank, State Bank of India (SBI), with assets of Rs 39.51 lakh crore.
 7. **Dhriti Banerjee** has been appointed as director of the 105-year-old Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).
Note: The appointments committee of the Cabinet approved the proposal for appointment of Dr Dhriti Banerjee, scientist E, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) as director. The 51-year-old has had an illustrious career as a scientist, conducting research in taxonomy, zoogeography, morphology and molecular systematics.
 8. **Rajiv Gauba** tenure has been extended by one year as Cabinet Secretary by the appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
Note: He is a 1982-batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre and was appointed to the top bureaucratic post of the country in August 2019 for two years. Prior to this, Mr Gauba was Union Home Secretary from August 2017 to August 2019. His term of service was to end on August 30, 2021.
 9. **Rekha Sharma** has been reappointed as the Chairperson of National Commission for Women (NCW).
Note: Her appointment is approved by Women and Child Development Ministry of India. She assumed the charge of NCW chairperson on August 7, 2018 and has been associated with the Commission as a member since August 2015. NCW was established as statutory body in January 1992 under National Commission for Women Act, 1990.
 10. **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** has been entered into a three-year strategic partnership with home interiors brand HomeLane as an equity partner and brand ambassador.
Note: As part of the partnership, Dhoni will own equity in HomeLane and will be the company's first brand ambassador. With the upcoming cricket and festive season, HomeLane and MS Dhoni are jointly working on a brand new campaign that will be released during the new IPL season. As HomeLane expands into new markets and deepens its presence in its existing 16 cities, its strategic association with MS Dhoni will enable the company to create high decibel visibility and connect with its consumers
 11. **Neeraj Chopra** has been appointed for RBI's public awareness campaign to warn people against digital banking frauds.
Note: The central bank has asked people to be a little cautious as doing so can protect them from a lot of troubles."@RBI Kehta Hai...Along with @Neeraj_chopra1. A little caution takes care of a lot of trouble. Never respond to requests to share PIN, OTP or bank account details. Block your card if stolen, lost or compromised.
 12. **Ayushman Khurana** has been appointed as UNICEF's Celebrity Advocate for their global campaign Ending Violence Against Children (EVAC), and he wants to build awareness on a national level about online safety for children in India.
Note: The star is flagging off Facebook India and Unicef India's one-year joint initiative to protect children's rights. "The partnership between Facebook and UNICEF is a powerful example of stakeholders from diverse fields and sectors coming together to protect children and their rights.
 13. **Noopur Chaturvedi** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) Bharat BillPay Ltd.
Note: He will work on RBI's vision to scale up the Bharat Bill Pay System (BBPS) platform and make it the most preferred solution for all bill payments. NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL): It is a wholly owned

- subsidiary of NPCI and came into effect from 1 April 2021.
- 14. Kamlesh Kumar Pant** has been appointed as the new Chairperson of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).
Note: He succeeded IAS officer Shubhra Singh, who has been the chief of drug price regulator from November 2018. NPPA: Government regulatory agency that controls the prices of pharmaceutical drugs in India since 1997.
- 15. Ajay Kumar Bhalla** is present home secretary whose term has been extended for one year.
Note: Mr. Bhalla is a 1984 batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre and was to retire on August 22, 2021. This is the second extension given to Ajay Bhalla. He replaced Rajiv Gauba as the Home Secretary in August 2019.
- 16. Kumar Ram Narain Karthikeyan** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the JK Tyre & Industries Limited.
Note: As the brand ambassador of JK Tyres, he will be the face of the brand and highlight the company's efforts to promote innovation and excellence in the industry. Narain Karthikeyan hails from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. He was the first Indian racing driver to participate in F1 racing, he made his debut as an F1 racer in 2005 for the Jordan team.
- 17. Ganga Prasad** is appointed as the governor of Manipur.
Note: His oath of office has been administered by Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur PV Sanjay Kumar. He will take charge of Manipur Governor, in addition to his own duties during the absence on leave of Dr. Najma Heptulla.
- 18. BD Mishra** has been appointed as the governor of Mizoram.
Note: Brigadier (Dr.) B. D. Mishra (Retd), governor of Arunachal Pradesh has been given additional charges as the Governor of Mizoram.
- 19. Nadir Godrej** has been appointed as the Chairman of Godrej Industries with effect from 1st October 2021.
Note: He is currently the Managing Director of Godrej Industries (GIL). He will replace Adi Godrej, who will continue to serve as the Chairman of Godrej Group. Godrej Industries (GIL) is the holding company of the Godrej group.
- 20. Hakainde Hichilema** (59 years) has been elected as the new President of **Zambia**.
Note: He had secured 2,810,757 votes (59%) against 1,814,201 votes of Edgar Lungu. He led United Party for National Development since 2006. Zambia is a landlocked country at the crossroads of Central, Southern and East Africa.
- 21. Priyanka Chopra** has been appointed as the Chairperson of Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival.
Note: The Mumbai Academy of Moving Image (MAMI) unveiled its plans for the coming year, edition and the change in leadership. Chopra Jonas was unanimously nominated by MAMI's Board of Trustees which comprises Nita M Ambani (Co-Chairperson), Anupama Chopra (Festival Director), Ajay Bijli, Anand G. Mahindra, Farhan Akhtar, Isha Ambani, Kabir Khan, Kaustubh Dhavse, Kiran Rao, Rana Daggubati, Riteish Deshmukh, Rohan Sippy, Siddharth Roy Kapur, Vikramaditya Motwane, Vishal Bhardwaj and Zoya Akhtar.
- 22. Mirabai Chanu** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Amway India.
Note: The association with Chanu is in line with Amway's focus on consolidating its health and nutrition category, especially targeting women and youth in the country.
- 23. NK Singh** has been elected as the president of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) Society.
Note: He succeeds Dr. Manmohan Singh, former Prime Minister of India, who retired from the presidency of the IEG Society earlier this month. Tarun Das, former director general, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is the current chairman, board of governors and professor Ajit Mishra is the director of the institute.
- 24.** Under chairmanship of **Sunil Sethi** govt has constituted Committee for doubling the production and quadrupling the exports of handlooms within three years.
Note: It will be headed by Chairman of Fashion Design Council of India, Sunil Sethi. This Committee will submit the final report within 45 days from the day of constitution. It will suggest the strategy and policy framework for doubling the production and for improving the quality of handloom products with the aim of enhancing income of the weavers.
- 25. Shanti Lal Jain** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indian Bank with effect from September 1, 2021.
Note: His tenure will be for three years. He will succeed Padmaja Chundururu, who is set to retire on 31st August 2021. He is currently serving as the Executive Director (ED) at Bank of Baroda.
- 26.** Ismail Sabri Yaakob has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of **Malaysia**.
Note: He will succeed Muhyiddin Yassin as the PM, who resigned from the post after losing majority support in the lower house of parliament. The appointment of Yaakob was done by Malaysia's King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah.

- 27. TM Bhasin** has been re-appointed as the chairman of the Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF) by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).
Note: The panel was constituted to examine bank frauds of over Rs 50 crore and recommend action. The former vigilance commissioner, CVC, Mr Bhasin will now continue to head the board for a further period of two years, with effect from August 21, 2021.
- 28. La. Ganesan** has been appointed as the 17th Governor of Manipur.
Note: He Succeeded Najma Heptulla, who retired earlier this month. Earlier, the Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad served as a Governor-in-charge of Manipur.
- 29. Nakul Chopra** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of television monitoring agency Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC), India.
Note: He will replace Sunil Lulla, who has resigned to pursue his ambition as an entrepreneur. BARC is a joint-industry body that represent Broadcasters (IBF), Advertisers (ISA) and Advertising & Media Agencies (AAAI) with headquarters at Mumbai.
- 30. Abhay Kumar Singh** has been appointed as the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Cooperation by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by PM Modi.
Note: He has been appointed for a combined tenure of 7 years against the newly created post. Ministry of Cooperation: It was formed in July 2021 to provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement.
- 31. Sandeep Bakshi** has been reappointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICICI Bank.
Note: Prior to this, he was the whole-time director and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of ICICI Bank. He was serving as MD & CEO of ICICI since October 2018.
- 32. Carol Furtado** has been named as the interim CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.
Note: She is currently serving as the CEO of Ujjivan Financial Services. Her appointment is subject to the approval of the Reserve Bank of India.
- 33. Ajay Kumar** has been appointed as the Executive Director (ED) of Reserve Bank of India with effect from August 20, 2021.
Note: Prior to being promoted as ED, he was heading the New Delhi Regional Office of RBI as Regional Director. He has served RBI for three decades in areas like foreign exchange, banking supervision, financial inclusion, currency in management, etc
- 34. Shanti Lal Jain** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indian Bank with effect from September 1, 2021.
Note: He will succeed Padmaja Chundur, who is set to retire on 31st August 2021. He is currently serving as the Executive Director (ED) at Bank of Baroda.
- 35. Atul Kumar Goel** is the MD and CEO of **UCO Bank** whose term of office has been extended for two years.
Note: The central government, through a notification dated August 26, extended the term of office of Atul Kumar Goel as UCO Bank's managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO), for a period of two years or until further orders, whichever is earlier, the bank said in a regulatory filing. Goel's current term was to expire on November 1, 2021.
- 36. Pramod Kumar Meherda** has been appointed as the managing director in National Food Security Mission (NFSM).
Note: He will also serve the post of secretary, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB). Earlier, Meherda had served as Secretary to the Governor and as Health Secretary in the Government of Odisha.
- 37. Sonu Sood** has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the Delhi government's 'Desh ke Mentor' initiative for the school kids.
Note: The programme entails "adopting" one to ten government school students who can be mentored by citizens who are successful in their respective fields. Mentors will take out 10 minutes every week to guide students over the phone.
- 38. Mansukh Mandaviya** has been appointed as the Chairperson of Stop TB Partnership Board.
Note: He succeeded former Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan. India aims to end TB by 2025 while the UN aims to end TB by 2030.
- 39. Shanti Lal Jain** has been appointed Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Bank for three years.
Note: Jain is currently Executive Director (ED), Bank of Baroda. Department of Financial Services for appointment of Jain as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer in Indian Bank for a period of three years with effect from the date of assumption of office on or after September 1, 2021.
- 40. Rajnish Kumar** has been appointed as an independent director of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Asia entity with effect from August 30, 2021.
Note: He has also been appointed as the member of Audit Committee and Risk Committee of HSBC Asia. Rajnish Kumar retired as SBI Chairman in October 2020 after a 40-year career at SBI. He is currently

Important News – India

- Intel** has launched its new free initiative 'AI for All' in collaboration with CBSE and Ministry of Education to teach individuals the basics of artificial intelligence in India.
Note: It is a 4 hours self-paced program that anyone can attend for free. With this, Intel plans to educate more than 1 million individuals in 1 year. Free course is divided into two sections that would talk about artificial intelligence awareness and its applications.
- Bhubaneswar** becomes the first city in India to achieve 100% vaccination of its people against COVID-19.
Note: Additionally, about 1 lakh migrant workers have also been administered first dose of COVID vaccine. Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation had set benchmarks for different categories of people to complete the vaccination process within the specific timelines by the 31st July 2021. Those vaccinated include about 9 lakh people of 18 years of age and above.
- The central government will implement the Deep Ocean Mission at a total budget of over 4,077 crore rupees **five years**.
Note: All the components of the Mission will commence in 2021. A manned submersible to be developed carrying three people to a depth of six thousand metres in the ocean for exploration of deep-sea mineral resources and marine biodiversity.
- Sanjeev Singh** is the singer and composer of the theme song for the Indian Paralympic contingent 'Kar De Kamaal Tu'.
Note: The song is titled as Kar De Kamaal Tu. The singer and composer of the song is Sanjeev Singh (Divyang cricket player from Lucknow). Paralympic Games in Tokyo will begin from August 24, 2021 and 54 para-sports persons across 9 sports disciplines will participate in the same from India.
- As per the QS Best Student Cities 2022' ranking the rank of two Indian cities Mumbai and Bengaluru are **106th** and **110th** respectively.
Note: While Mumbai lost 29 places, Bengaluru fell by 21 places in the ninth edition of the rankings brought out by global higher education analysts QS Quacquarelli Symonds. However, among the different metrics as part of the methodology, Mumbai gained 27 places in the 'Affordability' indicator to rank at 21st globally. On the other hand, despite losing three places in the same indicator, Bengaluru was placed seventh globally in the affordability metric.
- The union government has approved the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Fast Track Special Courts till **31st March 2023**.
Note: 1,023 Fast Track Special Courts have been given get two-year extension. central share of outlay will be funded from Nirbhaya fund. This will provide speedy justice access to justice to victims of sexual crimes, quick justice to the hapless victims and declogging of their judicial system.
- The Union Cabinet has approved continuation of the Samagra Shiksha Scheme for school education for another **five years**.
Note: Provision of training of master trainers for Anganwadi workers, incinerator and sanitary pad vending machines in all girls' hostels, addition of new subjects instead of stream in existing senior secondary schools, holistic progress card for each learner, and upgrade of all Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas up to class 12 are among the initiatives in the revised scheme. Under 'Samagra Shiksha Scheme 2', financial outlay of Rs 2.94 trillion, which includes central share of Rs 1.85 trillion, has been made to implement the scheme.
- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has signed MoU with **University of Agricultural Science (UAS), Bangalore** to give boost agricultural and processed food products exports.
Note: Key areas of cooperation of MoU include developing technologies for advance alertness, efficient & precision farming for enhancing quality exports; diversifying the export basket, destinations and boost high-value Agri-exports. It will also help in strengthening forward and backward linkages, participations in international exhibitions and fairs, branding and marketing, establishment of market intelligence cell, developing traceability systems.
- TRIFED** in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs is going to set up an Atmanirbhar Bharat corner in 100 Indian Missions/ Embassies across the world.
Note: The corner will be an exclusive platform to promote GI tagged, natural and organic tribal products abroad. Catalogues and brochures that showcase the richness and variety of tribal products have also been shared with the Missions and embassies for display at the corner. Among the missions and embassies contacted, 42 of them, from countries such as Jamaica, Ireland, Turkey, Kenya, Mongolia, Israel, Finland, France, and Canada, have reverted.

- 10.** By **2031** India's nuclear power capacity is expected to reach 22,480 MegaWatts from the current 6,780 MegaWatts.
Note: Share of nuclear power in the total electricity generation in the country is about 3.1% in 2020-21. Govt has embarked on a large nuclear power capacity addition program to increase the share of nuclear power in electricity generation. There are presently 22 reactors with a total capacity of six thousand 780 MW in operation.
- 11. Tuticorin Port** becomes the first major port in the country to introduce e-cars for its officers as part of the various efforts taken by the port to go green.
Note: It has inducted three Tata Xpres-T electric vehicles in the first phase. These cars have been supplied by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a Joint venture of Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), under Ministry of Power, on wet lease basis, for a period of 6 years. As part of 'Maritime India Vision 2030', the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is committed to leading the world in safe, sustainable and green maritime sector.
- 12.** India's first National Heart Failure Biobank (NHFB) has been inaugurated in **Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST)** that would collect blood, biopsies, and clinical data as a guide to future therapies.
Note: The storage facilities include minus 20 to minus 80-degrees mechanical freezers and a liquid nitrogen storage system which can store bio-samples at minus 140 degrees perpetually for years. Currently, there are facilities to store nearly 25,000 bio-samples. The bio-samples include the blood, serum, tissue samples obtained during open-heart surgery and peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and genomic DNA collected from heart failure patients. The biobank activity is supervised by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with a member from ICMR.
- 13.** The prime minister Narendra Modi has launched the second edition of the government's free LPG connection scheme called Ujjwala scheme from **Uttar Pradesh**.
Note: Second edition of the scheme would launched from poll-bound Uttar Pradesh. Launch of Ujjwala-2 scheme will be marked by handing over of one crore additional LPG connection by Prime Minister through video conferencing at Mahoba district in Uttar Pradesh. First version of the scheme was launched in 2016 from Uttar Pradesh ahead of 2017 Assembly elections.
- 14. StartupBlink** has launched 'The Startup Ecosystem Podcast - The Covid-19 Innovation Report 2021' along with Health Innovation Exchange (HIEx) that includes the rankings of 100 cities and 40 countries.
Note: The report takes a deeper look into the sub-categories (such as innovations in Prevention, Treatment and Diagnostics) in each location. US leads global coronavirus innovation efforts, followed by Israel, Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, and UK.
- 15.** In which year was the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana launched **2016** 2.0 version was relaunched in August 2021.
Note: During Ujjwala 1.0 launched in 2016, a target was set to provide Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) connections to five crore women members of below poverty line (BPL) households. Subsequently, the scheme was expanded in April 2018 to include women beneficiaries from seven more categories (SC/ST, PMAY, AAY, Most backward classes, tea garden, forest dwellers, Islands).
- 16. Rs 11,000 crore** has been announced by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to invest in the recently launched National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) to make India self-sufficient in cooking oils.
Note: This is to make India self-sufficient in cooking oils, including palm oil, as he stressed on reducing the dependence on imports. Rs 11,000 crore will be invested in the edible oil ecosystem. India is the world's biggest vegetable oil importer
- 17. 122nd** is India's ranked in the 2020 Global Youth Development Index, which measures the status of young people in 181 countries around the world released by the Commonwealth Secretariat.
Note: Singapore ranked top for the first time followed by Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark. Chad, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Niger finished at the bottom, respectively. The index ranks countries between 0.00 (lowest) and 1.00 (highest), according to the developments in youth education, employment, health, equality and inclusion, peace and security, and political and civic participation.
- 18. Facebook** social media giant UNICEF India has launched a one-year joint initiative to end violence against children with a special focus on online safety.
Note: The partnership seeks to create a safe environment for children online and offline. It aims to improve children's resilience and capacity to access the digital world safely, increase awareness on violence against children and its impact on children, families and communities, as well as enhance the skills of communities and frontline workers to better prevent and respond to violence. The partnership will include a nationwide social media campaign and capacity building for 1,00,000 school-children on online safety, digital literacy and psychosocial support.
- 19. Inclusive Internet for Digital India** is the theme of the first-ever 'India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF)' to

- be hosted by India in October 2021 to bring together representatives from various platforms to discuss internet policy issues.
Note: It will be held for 3 days from 20th to 22nd October 2021. Coordination committee of India Internet Governance 2021 features Anil Kumar Jain as Chairman, TV Ramchandran, Jaijeet Bhattacharya, Rajat Moona as Vice Chairman and 12 other members.
- 20.** India has signed an agreement with **United States of America** on monsoon data analysis and cooperation to improve weather forecasts in the region.
Note: The agreement was signed by India's National Institute of Ocean Technology Director G A Ramadass and the US Assistant Administrator for Research and Acting Chief Scientist Craig McLean of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The agreement is a follow-up to the memorandum of understanding signed between the Ministry of Earth Sciences and NOAA last October for Technical Cooperation in Earth Observations and Earth Sciences.
- 21.** Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, **Virendra Kumar** has launched PM-DAKSH' Portal and 'PM-DAKSH' Mobile App under the scheme PM-DAKSH Yojana to ease the access of skill development schemes by the target groups.
Note: The portal and app were developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E), in collaboration with National e-Governance Division (NeGD). PM-DAKSH Yojana is the National Action Plan launched by the MoSJ&E in 2020-21 for skilling the target group.
- 22. Kaziranga National Park** in India to have been equipped with satellite phones, which are generally used by law-enforcing agencies.
Note: Satellite phones will give an edge to forest personnel over the poachers by boosting anti-poaching measures and during emergencies like floods. Public is barred from using satellite phones in India. For this, Assam State Disaster Management Authority had procured 10 satellite phones for Kaziranga at an estimated cost of ₹16 lakh.
- 23.** In association with **United Nations Industrial Development Organization**, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has launched a loan interest subvention scheme for innovative waste to energy biomethanation projects and business models.
Note: The industrial organic waste-to-energy biomethanation projects are generally capital intensive and financially sensitive to both operating costs, including waste availability, and revenue, particularly biogas yield and its utilisation scenario. The loan scheme provides financial assistance to beneficiaries to reduce the financial burden on account of interest on the loan component faced by such demonstration projects.
- 24. Indore** has been declared as the first 'water plus' city of India under the Swachh Survekshan 2021.
Note: Indore has been an example for the whole nation for its determination and dedication towards cleanliness. May it continue to bring glory to the state. Swachh Survekshan is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India launched as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- 25.** According to notified Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021 **July 1, 2022** prohibited manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of identified single-use plastic (SUP) items, including candy sticks, plates, cups and cutlery.
Note: The thickness of plastic carry bags will be increased from 50 microns to 75 microns from September 30, 2021, and to 120 microns from December 31, 2022, according to the notification dated August 12. This will also allow the plastic carry bags to be reused. Non-woven plastic carry bags should not be less than 60 gram per square metre (GSM) with effect from September 30, 2021.
- 26.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced 'Pradhan Mantri Gatishakti National Master Plan' with a total outlay of rupees **Rs. 100 lakh crores**.
Note: This plan will create employment opportunities for the country's youth and help in a holistic infrastructure growth. It will create jobs and new opportunities and bring in employment opportunities for the youth. "Gatishakti will help local manufacturers turn globally competitive and also develop possibilities of new future economic zones.
- 27.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi set a target of becoming 'energy independent' by **2047**.
Note: Delivering his Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort, he said India spends over Rs 12 lakh crore on energy imports every year. The roadmap for that is to increase usage of natural gas in the economy, setting up a network of CNG and piped natural gas network across the country, blending 20 per cent ethanol in petrol and electric mobility.
- 28. Jitendra Singh** has released 'IndiGau' chip, which is India's first Cattle Genomic Chip for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole etc.
Note: IndiGau chip has been developed by scientists of National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NAIB), Hyderabad. It will help in achieving the goal of conservation of our own breeds with better characters and help towards doubling farmers' income by 2022.

- 29. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has launched the brand and logo- 'SonChiraiya' - for marketing of Urban SHG products.
Note: DAY-NULM, under the aegis of MoHUA, has focussed on equipping the urban poor women with adequate skills and opportunities, and to enable them to promote sustainable micro enterprises. It mobilises women from urban poor households into SHGs and their federations to create a support system for these women. Over 5.7 lakh SHGs have been formed across various States/ UTs with almost 60 lakh members. Many of these SHGs are engaged in livelihood activities, producing goods such as handicrafts, textiles, toys, eatables and so on.
- 30. Ministry of Women and Child Development** has launched 2nd phase of SAMVAD (Support, Advocacy & Mental health interventions for children in Vulnerable circumstances And Distress).
Note: SAMVAD is a National Initiative for child protection, mental health and psychosocial care of children. The new initiative will begin work with Panchayati Raj systems to integrate child protection and mental health in aspirational districts across the country to facilitate awareness generation and improve service delivery at the grassroot level.
- 31.** For the expedition of **Siachen** glacier, the 'Operation Blue Freedom' has been launched from Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi on the 75th Independence Day.
Note: Operation Blue Freedom expedition comprise of a team of people with disabilities from across the country to reach Siachen Glacier to create a new World Record for the largest team of people with disabilities reaching the world's highest battlefield. The team of people with disabilities were trained by 'Team CLAW' (Team of Armed Forces veterans)
- 32. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** has launched an online portal titled as TAPAS (Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services) to provide free of cost filmed lectures/courses and e-study material in the field of social defence.
Note: Presently there are 5 courses under TAPAS: Drug (Substance) Abuse Prevention, Geriatric/Elderly Care, Care and Management of Dementia, Transgender Issues and on comprehensive course on Social Defence Issues. TAPAS is the initiative of National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- 33. Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated World's second-largest refurbished gene bank at National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Pusa, New Delhi.
Note: National Gene Bank was established in 1996 to preserve the seeds of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) for future generations and has the capacity to preserve about one million germplasm in the form of seeds. Presently it is protecting 4.52 lakh accessions, of which 2.7 lakh are Indian germplasm and the rest have been imported from other countries. NBPGR is meeting the need of in-situ and ex-situ germplasm conservation
- 34. All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS)** has become the 1st hospital of India to house a fire station inside the hospital premises to meet any emergency.
Note: AIIMS has collaborated with Delhi Fire Service (DFS). AIIMS will provide infrastructure for the fire station, while fire tender, equipment, and manpower will be managed by DFS.
- 35.** Vice President, M Venkaiah Naidu has laid foundation stone of Innovation and Development Centre of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) in **Bengaluru**.
Note: JNCASR Innovation and Development Centre: It will be developed into a facility where laboratory inventions will be taken forward for scale-up and technology transfer. Scientists will be provided with state-of-the-art processing and prototyping tools to enable translation of inventions.
- 36. Ghaziabad** has been named the second most polluted city in the world in 2020, as per HouseFresh report.
Note: Ghaziabad has been declared as the second most polluted city in the world in 2020, as per the report prepared by HouseFresh. As per the report, Bangladesh was the most polluted country in the world in 2020, followed by Pakistan, India and Mongolia.
- 37.** India ranked **2nd** in the 2021 Global Cryptocurrency Adoption Index released by blockchain data platform Chainalysis.
Note: India ranks second in terms of crypto adoption worldwide behind Vietnam, but ahead of countries such as the US, UK, and China, according to the 2021 Global Crypto Adoption Index by blockchain data platform Chainalysis. This comes even as worldwide crypto adoption grew by 880% between June 2020 and July 2021, according to the report.
- 38.** India ranked **26th** in the report titled "The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index" (CCRI) published in UNICEF.
Note: It ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks such as cyclones and heatwaves, as well as their vulnerability to those shocks based on their access to essential services. Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India are among four South Asian countries where children are at extremely high risk of the impacts of the climate crisis, with a ranking of 14th, 15th, 25th and 26th respectively.

39. According to the Cushman & Wakefield's 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index India ranked 2nd as the manufacturing destination across the world.
Note: The rising focus on India can be attributed to India's operating conditions and cost competitiveness. Also, the country's proven success in meeting outsourcing requirements has led to the increase in the ranking year on year.
40. The new geospatial planning portal 'Yuktdhara' launched by the Government of India (GoI) that will help in facilitating new MGNREGA assets using remote sensing and geographic information system-based data.
Note: The portal was launched by Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh. This platform will serve as a repository of assets, Geotags created under various national rural development programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Act, (MGNREGA), Integrated Watershed Management Programme, Per Drop More Crop and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana along with field photographs.
41. Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Jal Shakti Prahlad Singh Patel launched seven indigenous food products of **Manipur**.
Note: The food items include black rice laddoo, black rice fruit and nuts cookies, hot and spicy bhujia, kabok mixture, Manipuri casava barfi, bamboo shoot murabba and fig laddoo. These products were developed under the Incubation Lab project of Manipur Food Industries Corporation Limited (MFICL) in collaboration with TQS Global, Ghaziabad with a budget provision of Rs. 10 lakh.
42. New Delhi has been placed at 48th place in Safe Cities Index 2021, released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
Note: Mumbai is at 50th place with a score of 54.4. The Index was first released in 2015.
43. **NITI Aayog** entity and World Resources Institute (WRI), India, jointly launched the 'Forum for Decarbonizing Transport' in India as part of the NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) project.
Note: The project aims at bringing down the peak level of GHG emissions (transport sector) in Asia (in line with a well below 2-degree pathway), resulting in problems like congestion and air pollution. India has a massive and diverse transport sector, which is also the third most CO2 emitting sector.
44. SUJALAM Campaign is a 100 days campaign has been launched by **Ministry of Jal Shakti** as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
Note: It will help manage grey water and prevent the clogging of water bodies. This campaign seeks to create more ODF Plus villages by undertaking waste water management across villages in India.
45. The finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the fourth edition of the Public Sector Bank Reforms Agenda EASE- 4.0'. EASE-4 stands for Enhanced Access and Service Excellence Reform Agenda.
Note: The reforms agenda is focussed towards imbuing tech-enabled, simplified, and collaborative banking. The first edition of EASE 1.0 was launched in January 2018. EASE 4.0 aims to further the agenda of customer-centric digital transformation and deeply embed digital and data into PSBs' ways of working.
46. **Ministry of textiles** has launched Samarth Scheme for Capacity Building in the sector to meet the skill gap in the industry.
Note: First batch in each 63 training centers benefitted 1,565 artisans and 2nd batch will also complete during August 2021 benefiting 1,421 artisans. Samarth Scheme is being implemented in association with State Govt agencies, sectoral organizations of Ministry of Textiles, Manufacturing Industry, Industry Associations and MSME Associations.
47. **Ajit Doval** has virtually hosted the 11th Meeting of BRICS High Representatives Responsible for National Security, since India is the chair for 2021 BRICS summit.
Note: 15th BRICS Summit is scheduled to be held in September 2021. BRICS meeting of NSA provided a platform for the five countries to strengthen political security cooperation.
48. In association with **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), New Delhi**, the Ministry of Textiles has launched an India size survey, titled INDIAsize to create an anthropometric database of measurements for Indians.
Note: This initiative was launched with the aim of introducing a new standardised size chart in ready-to-wear clothing sector in India. New sizing chart will comprise of a size identification number. It will be created by mapping, categorising and defining the body size and type.
49. **NITI Aayog** and the US-based tech giant Cisco have launched the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).
Note: Titled 'WEP Nxt', this next phase of Niti Aayog's flagship platform will leverage Cisco's technology and experience working with India's start-up ecosystem to enable more women-owned businesses across the country, the statement added. The WEP is a first of its kind, unified access portal that brings together women from different parts of India to realise their entrepreneurial aspirations.
50. Under chairmanship of **Sunil Sethi** govt has constituted Committee for doubling the production and

quadrupling the exports of handlooms within three years.

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

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

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

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

Important News – State

- In **Ladakh** the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed the highest motorable road in the world at the height of 19,300 feet at Umlingla Pass.
Note: The BRO has constructed a 52-km long black-topped road through Umlingla Pass, bettering the previous record of a road in Bolivia connecting to its volcano Uturunco at 18,953 ft. The road at Umlingla Pass now connects the important towns in the Chumar sector of Eastern Ladakh.
- Uttarakhand** govt has launched earthquake early warning mobile application, titled as 'Bhookamp Alert'.
Note: It is India's first earthquake early warning' app for notifying people about earthquake alerts. It has been developed by IIT Roorkee, in association with Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA). It can detect the onset of the earthquake and issue warnings regarding an earthquake occurrence in the neighbourhood and the expected time of arrival and intensity at the location to prevent any loss of life.
- Madhya Pradesh** govt has won five Skoch Awards 2021 (a platinum, a gold and three silver awards) in four categories of governance.
Note: The MSME & textile department led from the front and won four out of the five awards, including the top two. The department's single-window system called Shilpa Sathi was selected for the highest award category, platinum. Another MSME project, auto-renewal of certificate of enlistment through online system for urban areas, won the gold award.
- Manipur**'s Investment Promotion Society signed an MoU with Invest India of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to boost trade and industries in the state.
Note: The objective of the MoU is to leverage investment opportunities in key development sectors to boost trade and industries in the state. The targets will be focussed on both short term and long term plans. This will enhance the entrepreneurial system in the state while also focussing on promoting one product-one district programme.
- Haryana** state creates history by securing first place in Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System (CCTNS) system with 100 percent score.
Note: It is for the first time that Haryana Police has secured the first position in the country with 100 percent marks under this system, while Gujarat has secured the second position with 99.9 per cent marks and Himachal Pradesh has got the third position with 99.6 per cent marks.
- Telangana** Government's Information Technology, Electronics and Communication (IT,E&C) department has won 'AI Gamechanger' Award in the Xperience-AI Summit.
Note: The summit was organised by National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), NASSCOM AI Gamechangers was

conceptualised to seed awareness and enthusiasm around this wonderful technology and encourage others to emulate the successes in the ecosystem.

7. **Gujarat** has launched eNagar mobile application and portal.
Note: The eNagar covers 10 modules with 52 services including property tax, professional tax, water & drainage, Complaints and grievance redressal, building permission, fire and emergency services. Gujarat Urban Development Mission has been appointed as a nodal agency for eNagar project. Total 170 locations including 162 municipalities and 8 Municipal Corporations are covered under the eNagar project.
8. **Delhi** state government has launched faceless transport services that will bring all the driving licences, registration and services related to permit online.
Note: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also launched 33 faceless services, in a function at I.P. Estate office. Four zonal offices namely, IP Estate, Sarai Kale Khan, Janakpuri and Vasant Vihar will be closed. Motor licensing offices (MLOs) of South zone, Raja Garden and Dwarka, respectively, will look after their Vahan and Sarathi related work.
9. **Nagaland** state government has been conferred with seven national awards on the first Van Dhan Annual Awards 2020-21, during the celebration of the 34th foundation day of the TRIFED.
Note: Nagaland has been conferred with seven national awards on the first Van Dhan Annual Awards 2020-21, during the celebration of the 34th foundation day of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED). The awards were presented by Union tribal minister, Arjun Munda through a Zoom webinar.
10. **Maharashtra** state government has announced Rajiv Gandhi Award for Excellence in Information Technology (IT).
Note: The award would be announced on August 20, birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister. The award, which will be announced on August 20, will be a lasting tribute to Late Shri Rajiv ji for his pioneering work in the technology sector in India. The award would be given before October 30.
11. Bhindawas is located in **Haryana** has been recognized as a Ramsar site.
Note: Four more wetlands from India have been added to the list of Ramsar sites, giving it the status of 'Wetland of International Importance'. These sites are:
 - Thol, Gujarat
 - Wadhvana, Gujarat
 - Sultanpur, Haryana
 - Bhindawas, Haryana

- With this, the total number of Ramsar sites in India have reached 46, covering a surface area of 1,083,322 hectares.

12. Investor Summit 2021 was held in **Gujarat**.
Note: The Investor Summit is being organised to invite investment for setting up vehicle scrapping infrastructure under the Vehicle Scrapping Policy. The summit is being organised by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the Gujarat government in Gandhinagar.
13. **Assam** state assembly passed the Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021 aimed at regulating slaughter, consumption and transportation of cattle in **Assam**.
Note: The Assam Assembly passed the Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021 aimed at regulating slaughter, consumption and transportation of cattle in the state. The Assam Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021 — which prohibits the sale and purchase of beef in areas inhabited by non-beef-eating communities and within a radius of 5 km of a temple or a satra (Vaishnavite monastery).
14. **Kerala's** police have launched "country's first-of-its-kind" Drone Forensic Lab & Research Centre.
Note: This lab-cum-research centre will look into both utility and threat aspects of a drone. It's a public partnership initiative. Cyberdome is a tech research and development centre set up by the Kerala Police.
15. Sultanpur National Park is located in **Haryana** that has recently been included in Ramsar site of international importance.
Note: The Ramsar list aims to conserve an international network of wetlands that are important for sustaining biological diversity. The wetlands that received the tag are Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary and Sultanpur National Park from Haryana; and Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary and Wadhvana Wetland from Gujarat. While these are the first two wetlands in Haryana to be recognised under the Ramsar Convention, Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary from Gujarat was given the tag in 2012.
16. **Uttar Pradesh** has the highest number of Ramsar site of international importance.
Note: With eight wetlands, Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of Ramsar site of international importance. After the Centre declared Agra's Keetham Lake a 'Ramsar site', UP now has eight Ramsar wetlands.
17. **Maharashtra** state government has launched e-crop survey initiative with effect from August 15.
Note: This project was initially introduced as a pilot in two districts. It is jointly implemented by the departments of revenue and agriculture along with Tata Trust. It will reduce the hardships of the farmers

- as it would provide them crop-related information without hassles.
- 18. The State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) of Odisha and Telangana** have been ranked 1st in the Transparency Index: Rating of Pollution Control Boards on Public Disclosure report released by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a Delhi based non-profit Organisation.
Note: It aims to encourage SPCBs/PCCs to disclose their information in the public domain. The report assessed 25 indicators of the data disclosure performance of 29 SPCBs and 6 Pollution Control Committee's (PCCs) from across India during the period of 2016-2021.
- 19. Chhattisgarh** has launched 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Majdur Nyay Yojana'.
Note: The Chhattisgarh government has launched the 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Majdur Nyay Yojana', with the provision of ₹200 crores benefiting 12 lakh landless families. The scheme was announced in the state legislature on July 28, by the Chief Minister of Chattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel. The amount has been included in the supplementary budget of the financial year 2021-2022.
- 20. Uttar Pradesh** state government has decided to set up training centre for Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) commandos.
Note: The UP government has decided to set up new training and operational centres for Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) commandos in Saharanpur's Deoband – known for its Islamic seminary Darul Uloom, and four other places in UP. The government has allotted 2,000 sq m land for the purpose. The other strategic places where the commando operational centres will be set up include Jewar (Gautam Buddh Nagar), where new international airport is coming up and Meerut district in west UP. Similar centres will come up in Bahraich and Shravasti districts on the Indian-Nepal border.
- 21. Odisha** state has launched Smart Health Cards to provide healthcare facilities to all.
Note: Through this, all the beneficiaries can avail treatment up to Rs 5 lakh per annum and Women can avail benefits up to Rs 10 lakh every year.
- 22. India's highest altitude herbal park** has been inaugurated in **Uttarakhand**.
Note: It has been developed in 3 years under central government's Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) scheme. This herbal park is situated at a height of 11,000 feet was and is close to the Indo-China border. Mana: Last Indian village in Chamoli bordering China and is adjacent to Badrinath temple
- 23. Madhya Pradesh** state government has launched comprehensive Talent Search Campaign in the field of sports to search for new talented players and train them in 18 sports academies of state.
Note: CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has appealed to the youth interested in sports to register themselves in the Talent Search Campaign of the state. So far, more than 50,000 play/ rs have applied for online registration of talent search.
- 24. Manipur** state government has launched Chief Minister's COVID-19 Affected Livelihood Support Scheme to provide assistance to those who had severely affected the COVID-19 pandemic in the State.
Note: The scheme was launched today by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in a function held at Imphal. The Government is for the people and is always ready to serve them.
- 25. Delhi** state government has inaugurated India's first smog tower to improve air quality ____ **Delhi**.
Note: The over 20-metre-tall structure, being set up to improve air quality in a radius of around 1 km, will "operate at full capacity" after the monsoon season. This smog-tower was built at the cost of Rs 20 crores.
- 26. Karnataka** becomes the first state in the country to officially implement the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020.
Note: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the NEP in the state virtually. Admission process under the new policy will be initiated by the Universities in the state.
- 27. Wanchuwa Festival** is celebrated in **Assam** to mark a good harvest.
Note: It comes with songs, dances, a bunch of rituals and people clad in their native attires. The people of Tiwa tribe associate the bountiful harvest with the higher power from nature. This takes the form of pigs' skulls and bones which act as deities and are preserved through many generations.
- 28. US-based Ohmium International Ltd** has started India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer manufacturing unit in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
Note: The unit will manufacture India-made Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) hydrogen electrolyzers. It has a capacity of manufacturing approximately 0.5 GW per year
- 29. Maharashtra** state government has launched a special mission called "Mission Vatsalya" in order to help women who lost their husbands to COVID-19.
Note: Mission Vatsalya will provide several services and some 18 benefits under one roof to those women. It been designed for widows, with special focus on widows coming from rural areas, poor backgrounds and deprived sections.

30. India's highest altitude herbal park has been inaugurated in **Uttarakhand**.
Note: It has been developed in 3 years under central government's Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) scheme. This herbal park is situated at a height of 11,000 feet was and is close to the Indo-China border.

31. **Madhya Pradesh** state government has launched comprehensive Talent Search Campaign in the field of sports to search for new talented players and train them in 18 sports academies of state.
Note: CM has appealed to the youth interested in sports to register themselves in the Talent Search Campaign of the state. So far, more than 50,000 players have applied for online registration of talent search.

Important News – World

- A hotline has been set up between the Indian and Chinese armies in **Sikkim**.
Note: The hotline is between the Indian Army in Kongra La, North Sikkim and China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) at Khamba Dzong in Tibetan Autonomous Region. The inauguration of the hotline was attended by ground commanders of the two sides and a message of friendship and harmony was exchanged.
- India** has the Presidency of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for August 2021.
Note: India will decide the agenda for August and coordinate important meetings and other related issues. India will focus on three priority areas during its presidency: maritime security, peacekeeping, and counter-terrorism. India joined UNSC in January 2021 for 2-year term as one of the 10 rotating non-permanent members.
- Germany** country became the 5th country to sign International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement after amendments to it entered into force on 8th January 2021, opening its Membership to all Member States of the United Nations.
Note: Membership to the ISA was earlier limited to 121 countries, which were partially or entirely located within the tropics. This didn't allow major solar energy economies to join the alliance. ISA initiative was launched in 2015.
- The lightest trainset and Pune's first metro was unveiled in **Italy**.
Note: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs said that the train will be delivered to India by December this year. It is being manufactured by Titagarh Wagons Ltd, a company based out of Titagarh in West Bengal. They conducted a virtual ceremony to showcase their first train manufactured for Pune metro. The Rs 11,420 crore Pune Metro Project is being executed jointly by the Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited and the Government of Maharashtra as 50:50 stakeholders.
- The US has approved the sale of Harpoon Joint Common Test Set (JCTS) and related equipment to **India**.

- Note:** It will help strengthen the bilateral strategic ties and improve the security of a major defensive partner in the Indo-Pacific region. The Pentagon's Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) delivered the required certification notifying the US Congress of this possible sale, according to an official statement.
- Singapore** ranked first in the 2020 Global Youth Development Index, which measures the status of young people in 181 countries around the world released by the Commonwealth Secretariat.
Note: Singapore ranked top for the first time followed by Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark. Chad, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Niger finished at the bottom, respectively. The index ranks countries between 0.00 (lowest) and 1.00 (highest), according to the developments in youth education, employment, health, equality and inclusion, peace and security, and political and civic participation.
 - 7th edition of International Army Games 2021 will be held in **Russia**.
Note: It is the seventh edition of International Army Games. The competition will be hosted in eleven countries in 2021 Games. The games are organised each year by Russian Ministry of Defence, since 2015.
 - The 11th Annual meeting of the Forum of the Election Management Bodies of SouthAsia (FEMBoSA) for the year 2021 was hosted by **Bhutan**.
Note: The meeting in Virtual mode was hosted by the Election Commission of Bhutan. Alongwith India, delegations from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated in the day-long meeting. Shri Sushil Chandra, CEC, as the outgoing Chair of FEMBoSA, virtually handed over the Chairmanship of FEMBoSA to H.E. Dasho Sonam Topgay, Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan.
 - China has set the goal of becoming carbon-neutral by **2060**.
Note: However, this also made China the biggest emitter of carbon dioxide. As a result, China has set the goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2060. Carbon neutral means cutting carbon dioxide emissions as large

as possible and offsetting what cannot be eliminated. This can be done by switching to renewable energy sources like using solar power instead of coal.

10. **Commonwealth Secretariat** has released the Global Youth Development Index in which India stood at 122nd globally among 181 countries.
Note: Singapore ranked top for the first time followed by Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark. Chad, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Niger finished at the bottom, respectively.
11. In collaboration with **United Nations**, India has launched a tech platform named "UNITE Aware" for improving the safety and security of the UN peacekeepers.
Note: The platform was launched in the presence of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the UN headquarters. The launch of the UNITE AWARE platform came as India assumed the Presidency of the 15-nation UN Security Council for the month of August
12. **Sweden** becomes the first country in the world to manufacture first fossil-free steel (Green Steel).
Note: It has been developed by HYBRIT Technology and its first delivery was done to truck-manufacturer Volvo AB as a trial run. The initiative was in process since 2016. Full-scale production of green steel will begin from 2026.
13. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and **UNCTAD** have extended their collaboration to facilitate international trade, particularly e-commerce.
Note: The extended partnership will enrich their history of working together. This includes the successful integration of air cargo messaging standards (CargoXML) into UNCTAD's automated customs management system ASYCUDAWorld. For the 100 countries choosing to deploy the latest version of ASYCUDAWorld, this enables more efficient processing of air cargo shipments.
14. According to a report prepared by British company HouseFresh **Hotan** has been named the most polluted city in the world.
Note: Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad was adjudged the second most polluted city out of the 50 'most polluted cities' in the world in 2020 by a report prepared by British company HouseFresh.
15. **India** will host the 2nd United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) in October 2022 on the theme 'Towards Geo-enabling the Global Village'.
Note: This information was provided during the curtain raiser event which was organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) on the lines of 11th Session of the United Nation Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) to be

held during the end of August 2021. It was inaugurated by Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST.

16. **Operation Devi Shakti** is the name that has been given by India to its operation of evacuating its citizens from war-torn Afghanistan.
Note: External affairs minister S Jaishankar called the evacuation process as 'Operation Devi Shakti' while saluting the efforts of Indian Air Force and Air India. This announcement was made after 78 people, including 25 Indian nationals, were brought to India from Dushanbe (Tajikistan) in a special Air India flight.
17. **Copenhagen** has been named as the world's safest city from among 60 global cities, in Safe Cities Index 2021, released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
Note: The Danish capital surpassed former frontrunners like Tokyo, Singapore and Osaka in the fourth edition of the EIU's biennial Safe Cities Index, which for the first time included environmental security metrics. In a study of five pillars of urban security — digital, health, infrastructure, personal and environmental — Copenhagen topped the charts, scoring 82.4 points out of 100.
18. **Shaping an Equitable, Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery** will be the theme of the World Economic Forum's annual Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2021 to be held on September 20-23, 2021 in Geneva, Switzerland.
Note: This year's event will focus strongly on inclusively revitalizing economies. The United Nations General Assembly, the summit convenes under the theme "Shaping an Equitable, Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery". It will welcome almost all leaders from government, business and civil society who will work together to drive action and build momentum for a more sustainable and inclusive future.
19. World's largest and tallest observation wheel is set to be unveiled in **Dubai**.
Note: This observation wheel is known as 'Ain Dubai'. It is 250 m (820 ft) in height and is located at Bluewaters Island. This record breaking wheel is 42.5 m (139 ft) taller than the current world's tallest observation wheel, High Roller, in Las Vegas, measuring 167.6 m (550 ft)
20. 27th Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress was held in **Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire** in that India has been elected to its Council of Administration (CA).
Note: India with 134 votes got highest votes in CA elections from South Asia and Oceania region. India was also elected with 106 votes out of 156 countries to the Postal Operations Council (POC) at the 27th UPU Congress in Abidjan.
21. **Sweden** becomes the first country in the world to manufacture first fossil-free steel (Green Steel).

Note: It has been developed by HYBRIT Technology and its first delivery was done to truck-manufacturer Volvo AB as a trial run. The initiative was in process since

2016. Full-scale production of green steel will begin from 2026.

Honor & Awards

- Cyrus Poonawalla** has been selected for the prestigious Lokmanya Tilak National Award for 2021.
Note: He has been named for his work during COVID-19 pandemic by manufacturing Covishield vaccine.

 - Lokmanya Tilak national award:
 - It comprises cash prize of Rs 1 Lakh and a memento.
 - It is presented annually since 1983 on August 1 (death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak by the Lokmanya Tilak Trust).
- Jagdish Bhagwati and B. C Rangarajan** has been conferred with the inaugural Prof CR Rao Centenary Gold Medal (CGM) by the Indian Econometric Society (TIES).
Note: Dr Bhagwati is a professor of economics, law and international relations at Columbia University and Director of the Raj Centre on Indian Economic Policies. Dr Rangarajan is the former chairman, Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister and former governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The award has been constituted by the TIES to commemorate the contribution of Prof Rao, who is the founder president of the Society, and is the doyen of mathematical statistics.
- Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd ranked at **155th** in the 2021 Fortune Global 500 list.
Note: Reliance took a beating on the rankings as revenues dropped owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is its lowest ranking since 2017. Walmart continues to top the Fortune list with a revenue of USD 524 billion, followed by China's State Grid at USD 384 billion. With USD 280 billion revenue, Amazon came in at the third spot, replacing Chinese giants. China National Petroleum was ranked fourth and Sinopec Group fifth.
- Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** has been renamed as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.
Note: The Prime Minister said the move was based on the numerous requests he received from across the nation. Dhyan Chand, whose birthday is celebrated as National Sports Day, won three Olympic golds for the country in Hockey. The award was inaugurated in 1991-92, the award comprises a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of ₹ 25 lakh.
- Hamad International Airport, Qatar** airport has been named as the Best Airport in the World in 2021 Skytrax World Airport Awards.
Note: Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in New Delhi has been placed at 45th position in 2021 Skytrax Awards. Other Indian Airports in the list:
 1. Hyderabad (rank 64)
 2. Mumbai (rank 65)
 3. Bengaluru (rank 71)
- Babu Ram** has been conferred with Ashok Chakra by the President of India on the occasion of 75th Independence Day.
Note: President Ram Nath Kovind has conferred 144 Gallantry awards to armed forces, police and paramilitary personnel on the occasion of Independence Day 2021.
Awards includes:
 - Ashok Chakra - Babu Ram (posthumously)
 - Kirti Chakra - Altaf Hussain Bhat (posthumously)
 - Shaurya Chakras - Arun Kumar, Ravi
 - Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry)
 - Sena Medals (Gallantry)
 - Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry)
 - Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry)
- Women Sub-Inspector Rita Debnath of **Tripura** police has been awarded the 'Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation' for the year 2021.
Note: The list of awardees were announced by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The 'Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation' for the year 2021 has been awarded to 152 police personnel all over the country including 28 women police officers across the country are to receive the award.
- Mohammad Azam** has been awarded the National Youth Award recently by the Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur in Delhi for displaying exemplary leadership qualities.
Note: He informed that he has been providing skills to youth and conducting personality development camps for them from Chintakunta and Rekurthy villages in his district.
- State Bank of India** is the Overall winner of the EASE Reforms Index Award 2021 (EASE 3.0 Awards).
Note: Bank of Baroda is second and Union Bank of India is third. **Indian Bank** won the award for the **best**

improvement from the baseline performance. SBI, BoB, Union Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and Canara Bank won the top awards in different themes of the PSB Reforms Agenda EASE 3.0.

10. Basavalinga Pattaddevaru (senior seer of Bhalki Hiremath) has been selected for the prestigious Sri

Basava International Award by the Karnataka government.

Note: Minister for Kannada and Culture V. Sunil Kumar will present the award at Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru. The septuagenarian seer has spent over five decades in the Lingayat religious institution in the Bidar district.

Sports News

- To win a bronze medal in badminton women's single match in Tokyo Olympics PV Sindu defeated **He Bing Jiao**.
Note: She defeated He Bing Jiao of China by 21-13 and 21-15 in the bronze medal match and became the first Indian woman to win two Olympic medals. She has also won silver at Rio 2016. Wrestler Sushil Kumar is the first and only other Indian to win two Olympic medals.
- PV Sindu** becomes the first Indian women to win two Olympic medals in individual category.
Note: She won bronze medal in women's single match in Tokyo Olympics. She defeated He Bing Jiao of China by 21-13 and 21-15 in the bronze medal match and became the first Indian woman to win two Olympic medals. She has also won silver at Rio 2016.
- The Indian women's hockey team qualified for the Tokyo Olympic Games 2020 semifinals for the **first time**.
Note: India stunned three-time champions Australia by a solitary goal in the biggest upset of the Olympics. A day after the Indian men's team entered the Olympic semifinals following a 49-year gap, the world no. 9 women's side also entered the history books with a phenomenally gritty performance. India's best performance in the Olympics came way back in the 1980 Moscow Games where they finished fourth out of six teams.
- Lamont Marcell Jacobs held from **Italy** who won the gold medal in men's 100m in 9.80s.
Note: American Fred Kerley clocked 9.84sec to take silver. Canada's Andre de Grasse, a bronze medallist at the 2016 Rio Games, won bronze medal this year too. In women's section, Jamaican sprinter Elaine Thompson-Herah won the gold medal in women's 100 metres in 10.61 seconds.
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Herah won the gold medal in women's 100 metres in 10.61 seconds.

- Yulimar Rojas** sets a new world record by winning Olympic gold medal in the women's indoor triple jump.
Note: Rojas jumped 15.67 metres on her sixth and final jump in Tokyo, smashing the previous best of 15.50m set by Ukraine's Inessa Kravets in 1995. It was the first world record of the Tokyo Olympics athletics programme. Portugal's Patricia Mamona won silver with a national best of 15.01m.
- Viktor Axelsen** won the badminton gold medal in men's singles in Tokyo Olympic 2020.
Note: The world number two beat China's defending champion Chen Long 21-15, 21-12, taking control early and never loosening his grip in a relentless performance. Axelsen, who won bronze at the 2016 Rio Games, followed in the footsteps of compatriot Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen, the Atlanta Games champion and the last winner from outside Asia.
- Chen Yufei** won the badminton gold medal in women's singles in Tokyo Olympic 2020.
Note: She defeated Tai Tzu-Ying of Taiwan 21-18, 19-21, 21-18. Tai Tzu-Ying had defeated PV Sindhu for a place in the gold medal match. PV Sindhu defeated China's He Bing Jiao to clinch bronze
- Esteban Ocon** has won the Hungarian Grand Prix 2021, which was held on August 1, 2021 at Hungaroring in Mogyoród, Hungary.
Note: This is the maiden F1 race victory for Esteban Ocon. Sebastian Vettel (Aston Martin-Mercedes/Germany) came second, followed by Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain). With this, he took the Formula One championship lead from Max Verstappen. Hungarian Grand Prix was the eleventh round of 2021 F-1 Championship.
- USA** has won 2021 CONCACAF Gold Cup in football.
Note: This is the seventh Football Gold Cup title for the USA, their first since 2017. CONCACAF Gold Cup: It is the biennial international men's football championship organized by CONCACAF, the football ruling body in North America, Central American, and Caribbean.
- Alexander Zverev is belongs to **Germany** who has won the gold in men's single tennis at Tokyo Olympics.

- Note:** With this victory, he has become the first German man to win a singles Olympic gold. He is yet to win a Grand Slam title of his career. He is also the only second German player to win Olympic singles gold, after Steffi Graff won at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.
- 12.** Lovlina Borgohain is associated with **Boxing** who won a bronze medal in Tokyo Olympic 2020.
Note: She is the only third Indian boxer to win a medal at the Olympics after Vijender Singh (2008) and MC Mary Kom (2012). She won bronze medal at the 2018 and 2019 World Championships She hails from Golaghat district of Assam.
- 13.** Indian men's hockey team has defeated **Germany** to win the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics.
Note: This is India's first Olympic medal in hockey since they won the gold medal in the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. This is India's fourth medal in Tokyo so far. This is India's fourth bronze medal at the Olympics and last won a bronze in the 1972 Munich Olympics.
- 14.** Shehroz Kashif belongs to which country **Pakistan** becomes the youngest mountaineer in the world to reach the summit of K2.
Note: He achieved the feat of scaling the 8,611-metre high peak with the aid of bottled oxygen, on July 27, 2021. Prior to Kashif, Sajid Sadpara, the son of the legendary climber Muhammad Ali Sadpara, was the youngest person to have climbed K2 at the age of 20.
- 15.** Ravi Kumar Dahiya is associated with **Wrestling** sports who won a silver medal in Tokyo Olympic 2020.
Note: The ROC wrestler registered a 7-4 win against Dahiya. There were expectations that the 23-year-old Dahiya would become India's youngest Olympic champion but the Russian defended well to win comfortably. India have won five medals—two silver and three bronze— so far, following Dahiya's feat.
- 16.** **Zavur Uguev** won Olympic gold medal in men's freestyle 57kg title in Tokyo Olympic 2020 after defeating India's Ravi Kumar Dahiya in final clash.
Note: The ROC wrestler registered a 7-4 win against Dahiya. There were expectations that the 23-year-old Dahiya would become India's youngest Olympic champion but the Russian defended well to win comfortably. India have won five medals—two silver and three bronze— so far, following Dahiya's feat.
- 17.** **Belgium** won the Olympic men's hockey title (gold medal) in a penalty shootout after the final finished in a 1-1 draw.
Note: Australia, who won the silver medal, claimed their last Olympic title in 2004. India took the bronze earlier after a thrilling 5-4 victory over Germany, giving the country its first Olympic medal in the sport since the 1980 Moscow Games. India forward Simranjeet Singh scored twice, including the winner.
- 18.** Japanese town Tokyo has handed over the flame of hope to **Paris** that will host the Olympic Games in 2024.
Note: Flame of hope or the flag was passed to Paris with the message of moving forward. It also remembered those who lost their lives to Covid-19 pandemic. Flame of Hope is the symbol of Special Olympics Games. It is used much in same spirit as the Olympic Flame is used at the Olympic Games. The Flame of Hope is lit during traditional ceremony in Athens, Greece. After lighting, it is relayed on foot towards the organizing city by the members of law enforcement agencies comprising of mostly policemen and policewomen along with Special Olympics athletes.
- 19.** **Neeraj Chopra** becomes the first Indian to win a gold medal in a track and field Olympic event.
Note: He became only the second Indian to win an individual Olympic gold after Abhinav Bindra. At his calmest best, he hurled the javelin 87.58m to script history for India. He ended India's 121-year wait for an athletics medal. No Indian had won a medal in athletics since 1920 when India started taking part in the Olympics in 1920 in Antwerp, Belgium.
- 20.** Peres Jepchirchir belongs to **Kenya** has won Women's marathon in Japan's northern city of Sapporo.
Note: She defeated world record holder Brigid Kosgei in the closing stages to win in 2 hours 27 minutes 20 seconds. American Molly Seidel took bronze. The race was run at midnight and the temperature still hit 88 degrees (31 C) and nearly 30 runners not getting to the finish line as Chepngetich captured gold.
- 21.** **USA** top in the medals tally in Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.
Note: Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games conclude; USA tops medals tally with 39 gold medals followed by China (38), Japan (27), Great Britain (22) and Russia (20); India 48th. Total 113 medal USA has won in the event. The USA was involved in a two-way battle with China on the final day of the Olympics.
- 22.** India stood at **48th** position in the in the medal table of Tokyo Olympic 2020 out of 86 countries.
Note: India stood at 48th position in the medal table out of 86 countries. 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics came to an end on August 8, 2021 and was commenced from July 23. This was for the fourth time that Japan hosted Olympic Games, after previously hosting in 1964 (Summer), 1972 and 1998. US has topped the overall medal table with 113 medals.
- 23.** **Kolkata** will host the Durand Cup, Asia's oldest and world's third oldest football tournament to be held in September 2021.
Note: The 130th edition of Durand Cup is scheduled to be held in and around Kolkata between September 05 to

- October 03, 2021. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the competition was cancelled last season.
- 24. Raunak Sadhwani** has won 19th Spilimbergo Open chess tournament 2021.
Note: He remained undefeated in the tourney, notching up five wins and four draws. He defeated Italian Joshuaede Cappelletto, Aron Pasti of Hungary, Lorezno Lodici of Italy and France's Loic Travadon. He was also U-10 Commonwealth Champion in 2015 in New Delhi, India.
- 25. Komalika Bari** is associated with **Archery**.
Note: India's Junior recurve archers also bagged gold in the men's and the mixed team event. In U21 men's recurve team final, Indian team of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Aditya Choudhary, and Parth Sushant Salunkhe clinched gold medal. Indian trio came from behind to clinch the 5-3 win against Spain.
- 26. Harshit Raja** belong to **Maharashtra** who became the 69th Chess GrandMaster of India.
Note: He won Silver in Under-13 National Chess Championship in 2014 held at Jamshedpur and Gold in School Games Federation of India (SGFI) Nationals held in Tamil Nadu in 2014. In April 2021, 18-years old Arjun Kalyan from Tamilnadu (TN) became India's 68th Chess GrandMaster(GM).
- 27.** 2021 edition of World Athletics U20 Championships is scheduled to be held in **Nairobi, Kenya**.
Note: Javelin Thrower Kunwar Ajai Raj Singh Rana and Long Jumper Shaili Singh will lead the Indian challenge in World Athletics U20 Championships. India have had a champion at the U20 Athletics World Championships in each of the last two editions.
- 28. Shaili Singh** is associated with **Long Jump** who won a silver medal at the U-20 World Athletics Championships in Nairobi, Kenya.
Note: She missed Gold medal by a mere 1 centimetre. Shaili's personal best effort of 6.59 metre was not enough for Gold as Sweden's reigning European junior champion Maja Askag managed 6.60 metre for the top spot on the final day of the championships. Shaili Singh is trained by veteran long jumper Anju Bobby George and her husband Robert Bobby George.
- 29.** Youth World Archery Championship was held in **Wroclaw (Poland)** where India has won highest ever 15 medals.
Note: 15 medals (8 Gold, 2 Silver and 5 Bronze medals) which is India's best ever performance in the Youth World Archery Championship till date. Five Youth archers who won medals, have also been selected as members of the senior team that is going to participate in the USA-World Championships-September, 2021. Komalika Bari became the second Indian after Deepika Kumari to win both the Cadet and Junior Recurve Women World Champions' titles.
- 30.** Indian table tennis player **G Sathiyan** has won Czech International Table Tennis Federation tournament at Olomouc in Czech Republic, after beating Yevhen Ryshchepa of Ukraine.
Note: This is only his third ITTF Challenger title following triumphs in Belgium Open 2016 and Spanish Open 2017. Prior to this, he paired up with Manika Batra to win mixed doubles title at WTT Contender in Budapest.
- 31. Army Sports Institute Stadium, Pune** has been named after Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Neeraj Chopra.
Note: At the inaugural event, Army Chief General MM Naravane and Neeraj Chopra were also present. ASI, Pune has produced 34 Olympians, 22 Commonwealth Games medalists, 21 Asian Games medalists, six Youth Games medalists and 13 Arjuna Awardees so far.
- 32. Avani Lekhara** has won the gold medal in Women's 10 metre Air Rifle Shooting at Tokyo Paralympics.
Note: She has won the first Gold for the country at the Tokyo Paralympic Games. Yogesh Kathuniya won Silver medal in Discus Throw. This is the fifth medal for the country at the Tokyo Paralympics.
- 33.** Yogesh Kathuniya is associated with **Discus Throw** who won a silver medal at Tokyo Paralympics.
Note: Yogesh threw 44.38 in his sixth and final attempt to take up the top spot before Claudiney Batista of Brazil fired 44.57 in his first attempt to dethrone the Indian athlete. Yogesh got off to a poor start as his first throw was deemed as foul but the Indian para-athlete soon made up for it as he registered a massive 42.84 in his second attempt.
- 34.** Indian table tennis player **Bhavinaben Patel** has won historic silver medal at 2020 Paralympic Games at Tokyo in the women's singles table tennis summit clash.
Note: She lost to Chinese paddler Ying Zhou by 0-3, in her maiden Paralympic Games. This is the first medal for India at the ongoing Tokyo Paralympic Games. She is the only second Indian woman to win a medal at the Paralympics, after Deepa Malik, who claimed silver in shotput at 2016 Rio Olympics.
- 35.** Nishad Kumar is associated with **High Jump**, won a silver medal at Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
Note: This is the second medal for India at Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. He made a jump of 2.06m, and in doing so created an Asian record. He also equaled his jump with USA's Dallas Wise, who also took home silver.
- 36.** Indian para-athlete **Sumit Antil** won a gold medal for a record three time in javelin throws after winning the third one in final of the Tokyo Paralympics.

- Note:** With this, World No. 1 in the F64 category, Sumit Antil won India's second gold in the Tokyo Paralympics and the first in athletics. The 23-year-old from Sonapat in Haryana, who lost his left leg below the knee after he was involved in a motorbike accident in 2015, sent the spear to 68.55m in his fifth attempt, which was the best of the day by quite a distance and a new world record.
37. Indian para-athlete **Devendra Jhajharia** won a silver medal in the men's javelin throw F46 final at Tokyo Paralympics 2020.
Note: Earlier he won gold medal twice. The 40-year-old Jhajharia, already India's greatest Paralympian after winning gold medals in the 2004 and 2016 Games, pulled off a new personal best throw of 64.35m for the silver.
38. Indian grandmaster **P Iniyam** won the Noisiel International Open tournament in Noisiel, Paris.
Note: The event, held from August 23 to 28, saw Iniyam score 8 points out of 9 rounds. GM Solodovnichenko Yuri of Ukraine finished second with 7.5 points while French IM Kambrath Yannick was third. The tournament was a 9 round Swiss system with Classical time control. A total of 54 players from 9 countries participated in the event.
39. **Max Verstappen** has won the Belgian Grand Prix 2021.
Note: Pole-sitter Verstappen was awarded half points, which moved him to within three points of Lewis Hamilton in the drivers' championship. Williams' George Russell took second with Hamilton's Mercedes in third in the shortest race in Formula One history - all 14 kilometres of it.

Books and Authors

- Kunal Basu** is the author of the book titled 'In An Ideal World'.
Note: The novel will be published by Penguin Random House India. The novel is a powerful, gritty and fast-paced literary novel with a variety of themes like college, politics, family, crime investigation and fanaticism. Kunal Basu is best-known for The Japanese Wife, The Opium Clerk, The Miniaturist, Racists, The Yellow Emperor's Cure and Sarojini's Mother.
- Manan Bhatt** has authored the book titled "Balakot Air Strike: How India Avenged Pulwama".
Note: According to the publisher, the book, "a racy thriller" with "adrenalin-pushing action", would make readers' patriotism brim over, while filling them with a sense of gratitude and pride towards the armed forces. The book, in its detailed account of the "two epochal events", claims to capture everything "from moments before the ill-fated CRPF bus was hit, to the cockpits from where precision bombs were triggered and what transpired in those 12 momentous, expectation-filled days.
- Harshaa Bharatula** has authored the book titled "The Khan of Khel Khudaai".
Note: The book gives readers an insight into the culture and the complex manoeuvres of multiple entities - Afghan and non-Afghan. The story captures readers' attention, especially now when political conditions in Afghanistan have made headlines worldwide.
- Sanjay Gubbi** has authored the book titled "Leopard Diaries: The Rosette in India".
Note: The book titled "Leopard Diaries: The Rosette in India" book written by Wildlife Biologist Sanjay Gubbi has been released recently. In this book, he says about the food habits, ecological context, and conservation of Leopard along with the suggestions to overcome leopard-human conflict.
- Ramesh Babu** has authored the book titled "My Own Mazagon".
Note: The book published by Indus Source Books features the history and story of Mazagon, the island which was merged into a single entity as Bombay. The Book rediscovers the forgotten history of Mazagon and resurrects the identity of Maza Gaon, or 'My own Village'. Captain Ramesh Babu retired from Mumbai after serving the Indian Navy at Mazagon Dock.
- The book titled 'A Begum and A Rani' book has been authored by **Rudrangshu Mukherjee**.
Note: This book was published by Penguin House. This book tells the story of two women in a rebellion. The afterlives of the begum and the rani took on very different hues.
- Sudha Murty** has authored the book titled 'How the Earth Got Its Beauty'.
Note: Book has been published by Penguin Random House imprint Puffin, and features illustrations by Priyanka Pachpande. Book introduces the works of some of the finest storytellers of India to young, emerging readers in beautiful pictorial editions. Sudha Murthy is the chairperson of Infosys Foundation
- Rijula Das** has authored the book titled 'A Death in Shonagachhi'.
Note: The book is published by Picador India, an imprint at Pan Macmillan India. The World English rights outside India are sold to Amazon Crossing, for publication in June 2022 with the title "Small Deaths". Rijula Das is a short story author from West Bengal

- based in Wellington, New Zealand. She has taught writing at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.
9. **Brisha Jain** has authored the book titled “The Year That Wasn’t – The Diary of a 14-Year-Old”.
Note: Veteran actor Shabana Azmi has launched the book titled “The Year That Wasn’t – The Diary of a 14-Year-Old”, which is penned by Kolkata girl Brisha Jain. The book was written by a 14-year-old girl, which chronicles the lockdown days seen through her eyes as the Covid-19 pandemic spreading last year.
 10. **Manreet Sodhi Someshwar** is the author of the book ‘Lahore: Book 1 of the Partition Trilogy’.
Note: The book published by HarperCollins Publisher India traces back the turbulent years of India’s Independence. The Lahore: Book 1 of the Partition Trilogy, the first book of the Trilogy is set in Lahore discussing the effects of the partition on ordinary people and women.
 11. **Jaideep Hardikar** has authored the book titled ‘Ramrao: The Story of India’s Farm Crisis’.
Note: This book was published by HarperCollins India, the book released on ‘SoftCover’, ThePrint’s e-venue to launch select non-fiction books. This book aims to contextualise India’s ongoing farmers’ agitation and farm suicides by centring it around the experience of an individual.
 12. The book titled “The Dream of Revolution: A Biography of Jayaprakash Narayan” has been authored by **Bimal Prasad and Sujata Prasad**.
Note: The book marks the biography of revolutionary leader and independence activist Jayaprakash Narayan, popularly referred to as JP or Lok Nayak. The book will be published by the Penguin Random House India.
 13. **Subhadra Sen Gupta** has authored the book titled “Let’s Go Time Travelling Again: Indians Through the Ages’.
Note: The book was released by Puffin Books, the children’s imprint of Penguin Books. Sen was the winner of Sahitya Akademi’s Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2015 award. Famous Books-Mystery of the House of Pigeons ,Twelve O’Clock Ghost Stories, ‘Jodh Bai’ and ‘A Clown for Tenali Rama.
 14. **Boria Majumdar & Kushan Sarkar** has authored the book titled “Mission Domination: An Unfinished Quest”.
Note: The Book Published by Simon & Schuster Publisher India Private Limited. The Book talks about the short story of several Indian cricketers life events such as Rishabh Pant, Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, R. Ashwin, Cheteshwar Pujara.
 15. The book titled ‘Battlefield’ has been authored by **Vishram Bedekar**.
Note: A book titled ‘Battlefield’ has been authored by Vishram Bedekar, translated from the Marathi original Ranaangan by Jerry Pinto. The book is the story of a shipboard romance between an Indian man and a German-Jewish woman, both fleeing Europe before the Second World War.
 16. **Ritu Menon** has authored the book titled ‘Address Book: A Publishing Memoir in the time of COVID’.
Note: Menon, who co-founded Kali for Women, India’s first feminist press in 1983, is founder-director of Women Unlimited, an associate of KfW. Weeks after the March 2020 lockdown began, Menon started to write a diary.

Science and Defence

1. **IIT Madras** has launched the country’s first Consortium for Virtual Reality called ‘Consortium for VR/AR/MR Engineering Mission in India’ (CAVE).
Note: The main objective of this consortium is to enable members to create new advanced technologies and applications in Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Mixed Reality (XR) and haptics together. Their research collaboration would be undertaken with industrial sponsors and participants from industry, academia, and Government. The consortium will promote best practices, dialogue with all stakeholders, government policymakers, and research institutions. It aims to become a resource for industry, academia, consumers, and policymakers interested in virtual, augmented, and mixed reality.
2. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Record of Discussions (RoD) with the Government of India for “the project for future researchers at **IIT Hyderabad**.
Note: The aim of the project, according to a press release, is to establish a sustainable platform for academic and industrial cooperation between India and Japan at the Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad IIT-H. JICA experts will be sent to the institute, and various initiatives will be implemented for this.
3. The joint training exercise between Indian and Russian militaries — **INDRA 2021** — was held in **Volgograd, Russia**.
Note: The exercise will enhance interoperability between the Indian and Russian armies. The aim of the exercise is to facilitate joint training between Indian and

- Russian forces to jointly plan and conduct counter-terror operations under the United Nations mandate. The conduct of the exercise will also entail academic discussions between the expert groups of both the contingents.
4. India's first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier **INS Vikrant** began sea trials off the coast of Kochi.
Note: The landmark achievement puts India in an exclusive list of a handful of nations that have the capability to manufacture these most powerful of naval vessels. The Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) will carry the name INS Vikrant — the same as the Indian Navy's first aircraft carrier that was decommissioned in 1997 after more than 35 years of service — once it is commissioned next year.
 5. **INS Khanjar** has become first Indian Navy ship to call at the heritage coastal port of Gopalpur in Odisha.
Note: INS Khanjar visited Gopalpur port as part of two-days Aazadi ka Amrit Mahotsav as well as Swarnim Vijay Varsh celebrations organised to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Independence and 50th anniversary of the 1971 War. It will enhance ties and spreading awareness with the local population on aspects of coastal security and maritime operations.
 6. India's flagship military exhibition, DefExpo is scheduled to be held in which state from March 11-13 next year **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
Note: The DefExpo-2022 show, which is organised by the Ministry of Defence every 2 years, comes at a time when the government has sharpened its focus on promoting self-reliance in the defence manufacturing sector and positioning India as an exporter of military hardware
 7. Indian Navy has conducted bilateral naval exercise titled as 'Zayed Talwar 2021' with **UAE**.
Note: The naval exercise was conducted to enhance interoperability and synergy between the two navies. Indian Navy participated with INS Kochi, with two integral Sea King MK 42B helicopters, deployed in the Persian Gulf. UAES AL-Dhafra, Baynunah class guided missile corvette and one AS - 565B Panther helicopter took part in the exercise from UAE.
 8. India conducted first ever naval exercise 'Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021" with **Saudi Arabia**.
Note: India and Saudi Arabia conducted their first-ever naval exercise, in reflection of their growing defence and military cooperation. Indian Navy's guided-missile destroyer INS Kochi participated in the exercise. The warship went to Saudi Arabia after carrying out a naval exercise with the UAE Navy off the coast of Abu Dhabi.
 9. **Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** has inducted two women officers Prakriti and Diksha as combat officers for the first time.
Note: They have been posted as Assistant Commandants in ITBP battalions, after completing their training at the ITBP Academy in Mussoorie. Assistant Commandants is the entry-level officer rank in the paramilitary. Earlier, it only had combat women in the constabulary ranks.
 10. ISRO has launch Earth Observation Satellite EOS-03 from 2nd launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR in Sriharikota from **GSLV F10**.
Note: EOS-03: Earth Observation Satellite that will be placed in a Geosynchronous Orbit. It is a 4 metre diameter Ogive shaped payload fairing is being flown for the first time in this mission. The payload will provide real time data of natural disasters by constantly monitoring water bodies, crops, vegetation conditions and forest cover changes. The satellite will reach the final orbit using its onboard propulsion system.
 11. **Indian Army** is the organiser of 400 Km 'JAZBAA-E-TIRANGA' Relay Marathon in Jammu & Kashmir.
Note: More than 300 troops participated in this marathon, carrying Indian Tricolour all along the Line of Control (LoC).
 12. The Indian navy has signed a pact with **Australia** that provides for consolidating shared commitment to promote peace, security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.
Note: The defence ministry said the document, 'Joint Guidance for Australia — India Navy to Navy Relationship', is aimed at ensuring a shared approach to regional and global security challenges. In June last year, India and Australia elevated their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership and signed a landmark deal for reciprocal access to military bases for logistics support during an online summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison.
 13. Naval Exercise Konkan-2021 was jointly held between India and **United Kingdom**.
Note: The Indo-UK Naval exercise included the participation of integral helicopters of the two ships and the Falcon Electronic Warfare aircraft. A wide range of exercises including co-ordinated anti-submarine procedures, firing drills, combined maritime picture compilation, combat formation maneuvering and replenishment at sea were conducted.
 14. In August 2021, the Indian navy has carried out a bilateral maritime exercise with **Vietnam** in the South China Sea.
Note: Accordingly, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Ranvijay and INS Kora undertook bilateral maritime exercise with the

- Vietnam People's Navy frigate VPNS Ly Thai To (HQ-012). This bilateral military exercise was conducted with the aim of consolidating a strong bond shared by both the navies. It is a step towards strengthening India-Vietnam defence relations.
15. **DRDO** has developed an Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) against hostile radar threats.
Note: Chaff is a critical defence technology used to protect fighter aircraft from hostile radar threats. The technology has been given to the industry for production in large quantities to meet the annual rolling requirement of the Indian Air Force. The IAF has started the process of induction of this technology after completion of successful user trials.
 16. Naval Exercise Konkan-2021 was jointly held between India and **United Kingdom**.
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 17. **IIT Madras** has developed India's first indigenous motorised wheelchair vehicle called 'NeoBolt' that can be used not only on roads but even on uneven terrains.
Note: Called 'NeoBolt', it has a maximum speed of 25 kmph and travels up to 25 km per charge. It empowers wheelchair users with a convenient, safe and low-cost mode of outdoor mobility when compared to cars, auto rickshaws or modified scooters. NeoBolt is powered by a Lithium-Ion Battery that will give 25 Kms for every charge.
 18. Bilateral India Navy -US Navy exercise MALABAR-21 is being conducted in **Guam Island**, Territory of the USA.
Note: MALABAR series of maritime exercises commenced in 1992 as a bilateral India Navy -US Navy exercise and has grown in stature over the years to include four prominent navies of Australia, India, Japan and USA in the Pacific and Indian Ocean Region. The exercise will provide an opportunity for common minded navies to enhance inter-operability, gain from best practices and develop a common understanding of procedures for Maritime Security Operations.
 19. The second edition of the joint naval exercise, 'Zair-Al-Bahr' was conducted between India and **UAE**.
Note: This edition of the exercise included a three-day harbour phase followed by a two-day sea phase. The sea phase is comprised of tactical maritime exercises involving surface action, anti-piracy exercises, air defence, maritime surveillance, boarding operations and SAR exercises.
 20. **Russia** will deliver India the Krivak class stealth frigates by 2023.
Note: India and Russia had signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) in October 2016 for four Krivak or Talwar class stealth frigates. Under this agreement, two frigates were to be procured directly from Russia while two to be built by the Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
 21. Fifth edition of Indo- Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise, KAZIND-21 will be conducted at **Aisha Bibi**.
Note: It is a joint training between both the Armies, which will boost the bilateral relations between India and Kazakhstan. It will provide an opportunity to the Armed Forces of India Kazakhstan to train for Counter Insurgency Counter-Terrorism operations in the mountainous, rural scenarios under UN mandate.
 22. First batch of Multi-Mode Hand Grenades (MMHG) has been handed over to Indian Army in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The MMHG is manufactured by **Economic Explosives Limited (EEL)**.
Note: MMHG is manufactured by Economic Explosives Limited (EEL), following Transfer of Technology from Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory of DRDO. Grenade is lethal, safer and has a distinctive design that gives flexibility of employment in both defensive (fragmentation) and offensive (stun) modes. It has a highly accurate delay time, very high reliability in usage and safe for carriage.
 23. In August 2021, Indian Navy has conducted a 'Maritime Partnership Exercise' with **Philippines** in South China Sea region.
Note: It aims to further strengthen bilateral collaboration in the maritime domain to ensure a stable, peaceful & prosperous Indo-Pacific region. The Indian Navy was represented by Indian Naval Ship (INS) Ranvijay and INS Kora, with the Philippine Navy's BRP Antonio Luna, Frigate FF151. It included several Operational manoeuvres with the consolidation of Interoperability between both the Navies.
 24. **Lockheed Martin** has received USD 328 Million worth Contract from the Indian Government to provide comprehensive support for the Indian Air Force (IAF) fleet of 12C-130J-30 Super Hercules Aircraft for a period of 5 years.
Note: Through this contract, Lockheed Martin will provide Logistics & Engineering support elements necessary to the IAF's Fleet. It is used to support various missions like humanitarian aid, Airlift, Natural disaster support and search & rescue operations. Lockheed Martin is the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) of these planes.
 25. The International Military Technical Forum 'ARMY 2021' was inaugurated in **Russia**.

Note: ARMY 2021 is being held from 22 August to 28 August 2021. It is being organised by Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation since 2015. It is the 7th edition of the annual Forum. It is the world's leading exhibition of armament and military equipment

26. Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) ICGS Vighraha was built by **L&T Limited** that was commissioned by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Note: The handing over of the vessel by L&T to the Indian defence ministry showcases its commitment to 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' by completing the delivery of all seven OPVs ahead of contractual schedule. OPVs are long-range surface ships, capable of operation in the maritime zones of India, including island territories with helicopter operation capabilities.

27. Navies of **India** and which **Germany** carried out a joint exercise in Gulf of Aden near Yemen.

Note: The Indian Navy's frigate "Triakand" exercised with German frigate "Bayern". The exercise included cross deck helo (helicopter) landings and visit board search and seizure operations. INS Triakand is deployed in the Gulf of Aden region for anti-piracy patrol.

28. **NSG** has conducted week-long counter-terrorism exercise titled 'Gandiv' from August 22 to August 28, 2021.

Note: It is the third edition of the annual drill, that was held at multiple cities in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and NCR by NSG to check its response time and reaction to hostage and hijack-like situations. Aim: Enhancing the counter-terror skills of the state administration, police, anti-terrorist squads and also create awareness among the public. NSG: counter-terrorism unit under Ministry of Home Affairs

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