

# Monthly GK Digest

June 2021



## Monthly Digest June-2021

**Dear readers,**

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

### Banking & Financial Awareness

1. According to the revenue-expenditure data of the **Union government for 2020-21** released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) **9.3 percent of GDP** was the Fiscal deficit of the union government for 2020-21.  
**Note:** Unveiling the revenue-expenditure data of the Union government for 2020-21, the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Monday said that the revenue deficit at the end of the fiscal was 7.42 per cent. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit works out to be Rs 18,21,461 crore. For this financial year, the government had initially pegged the fiscal deficit at Rs 7.96 lakh crore or 3.5 per cent of the GDP in the budget presented in February 2020.
2. **53** horticulture clusters have been identified by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**, of which 12 have been selected for the pilot launch of the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP).  
**Note:** In a pilot phase, the programme will be implemented in 12 horticulture clusters out of the total 53 clusters selected for the programme. A central sector programme implemented by the National Horticulture Board (NHB) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, CDP aims at growing and developing identified horticulture clusters to make them globally competitive.
3. **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd** has introduced the **world's first Nano Urea Liquid** for farmers.  
**Note:** Scientists have developed indigenous Nano Urea Liquid at Nano Biotechnology Research Centre, Kalol, Gujarat in line with 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Atmanirbhar Krishi'. Nano Urea Liquid will be efficient for plant nutrition which increases the production with improved nutritional quality. It will create a huge positive effect on the quality of underground water, very significant reduction in the global warming with an impact on climate change and sustainable development.
4. **Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad** has topped among the Indian Universities in the CWUR's (Centre for World University Ranking) **World University Rankings 2021-22**.
5. The **Reserve Bank of India** has cancelled the license of **Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank** in June 2021.  
**Note:** And also the bank does not comply with the certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. According to the data provided by the bank, Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) will provide a full deposit amount to more than 98 percent of the depositors. A liquidator will be appointed and the bank will be wound up by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Maharashtra.
6. Indian Banks' Association and **State Bank of India** **announced** that all **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** will provide unsecured personal loans between Rs 25,000 to Rs 5 lakh to salaried, non-salaried and pensioners for COVID-19 treatment cost.  
**Note:** The repayment tenure of those loans will be 5 years and SBI would charge interest of 8.5 percent per annum and other banks are made free to decide their interest rate. PSB will also provide loans for healthcare facilities, firms in Metro cities could avail upto Rs 100 crore to setup/expand healthcare infrastructure and to manufacturers vaccine and ventilators. Loans of up to Rs 20 crore could be availed by firms in Tier 1 and urban centres, and firms in Tier II to Tier IV could avail up to Rs 10 crore. For all categories, the loan tenure is about 10 years.
7. According to Moody's Investors Service, India's economy will rebound in the current financial year to mark a growth of **9.3 per cent**.  
**Note:** The economy rebounded quickly from a steep contraction in 2020, it said. But risks to India's credit profile including a persistent slowdown in growth, weak government finances and rising financial sector risks have been exacerbated by the shock of coronavirus second wave.
8. According to the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** **5.7%** will be the global unemployment rate in 2022.

- Note:** Further, compared to 2019, an additional 108 million workers worldwide are now categorized as poor or extremely poor which means that the five years of progress towards the eradication of working poverty have been undone rendering the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goal of eradicating poverty by 2030 even more elusive. The report projects the global crisis-induced 'jobs gap' to reach 75 million in 2021 before falling to 23 million in 2022.
9. **ICICI Lombard General Insurance** has partnered with **Microsoft to strengthen** and automate the quality control processes.  
**Note:** India's largest private sector general insurer ICICI Lombard has partnered with Microsoft to strengthen and automate the quality control processes. Everyday service calls made by customer support reps will be screened by ICICI Lombard with the help of Microsoft's Azure Speech Providers and Pure Language Processing (NLP).
  10. **ICICI Bank** becomes the first bank in Asia-Pacific and the second globally to offer the facility called 'SWIFT gpi Instant', for cross border inward payments.  
**Note:** The beneficiary gets the credit to the bank account instantly. This makes ICICI Bank the first bank in Asia-Pacific and the second globally to offer the facility, called 'SWIFT gpi Instant', for cross border inward payments.
  11. Private sector life insurer Bharti AXA Life Insurance has entered into a bancassurance partnership with **Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SFB)** for the distribution of its life insurance products through the bank's pan-India network of branches.  
**Note:** Private life insurer Bharti AXA Life Insurance has entered into a bancassurance partnership with Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SFB) for the distribution of its life insurance products through the bank's pan-India network of branches.
  12. **Paytm** provider is going to launch its Initial Public Offering (IPO) and raise about \$3 billion, which would be India's largest IPO debut ever.  
**Note:** Paytm backed by Softbank commonly called One97 Communications Private Limited has targeted around \$25 Billion to \$ 30 Billion from an IPO. Paytm IPO will break the record of Coal India Limited IPO offering which raised more than Rs 15000 crore that was launched in 2010.
  13. **NTPC Ltd** has become a signatory to the prestigious United Nations Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate.  
**Note:** The CEO Water Mandate is a UN Global Compact initiative to demonstrate commitment and efforts of companies to better their water and sanitation agenda as part of long term Sustainable Development Goals. It is designed to assist companies in the development, implementation, and disclosure of NTPC is India's largest power utility under Ministry of Power.
  14. **The Asian Development Bank and the Government of India** has signed a \$2.5 million project readiness financing loan to support preparation and design activities to upgrade major district roads in **Sikkim**.  
**Note:** The aim of the MoU is to help improve connectivity to important towns, rural areas, and pilgrimage and tourist destinations in the northeastern state and to upgrade to all-weather roads as frequent landslides and erosion damage the roads and disrupt intra-state connectivity. PRF will help to boost the state's economy and improve accessibility for people in remote villages.
  15. **HDFC Bank** has planned to become carbon neutral by 2031-32.  
**Note:** The bank is working on a framework of issuing green bonds. As part of this initiative, the bank is looking at reducing its emissions, energy, and water consumption. It will continue to incorporate and scale up the use of renewable energy in its operations.
  16. **Manipal Hospitals** to acquire 100 per cent stake in Bengaluru-based multi-specialty hospital Vikram Hospital for a consideration of ₹350 crore.  
**Note:** Set up in 2009, Vikram Hospital is a 200-bed tertiary care facility located in the central business district and is best known for its clinical expertise in the fields of cardiac and neuro sciences.
  17. **World Bank** has approved a USD 500 million program to **support India's nationwide initiative to revitalize** the MSME sector, which has been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.  
**Note:** The program targets improvements in the performance of 555,000 MSMEs and is expected to mobilise financing of USD 15.5 billion, as part of the government's USD 3.4 billion MSME Competitiveness - A Post-COVID Resilience and Recovery Programme (MCRRP). The USD 500 million Raising and Accelerating Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Performance (RAMP) Program is the World Bank's second intervention in this sector, the first being the USD 750 million MSME Emergency Response Program, approved in July 2020 to address the immediate liquidity and credit needs of millions of viable MSMEs severely impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
  18. **The Public sector banks** have sanctioned **95 percent** of the total loans under PM SVANidhi scheme to Street Vendors.  
**Note:** PSU Banks have sanctioned 23,16,207 loans under this scheme as on 31st May 2021. The Government of India launched the PM Street Vendors' Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme on June

- 1,2020. Under the scheme, collateral-free working capital loan of up to Rs 10,000 of one-year tenure is being provided. The scheme aims at financing approximately 50 lakh street vendors.
- 19.** The domestic credit rating agency CRISIL has revised the GDP growth estimate for India in FY 2021-22 to **9.5 percent**.  
**Note:** The rating agency joins other watchers who have cut their FY22 growth projections, with some pegging it as low as 7.9 per cent. The economy had contracted by 7.3 per cent in FY21.
- 20.** The Central government increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of kharif crops for the 2021-21 crop season (July-June) recently, maximum hike reserved for **pulses and oilseeds**.  
**Note:** The maximum hike reserved for pulses and oilseeds to encourage farmers to shift from paddy. The MSP of tur and urad has been increased by Rs 300 per quintal in absolute terms for 2021-22 to Rs 6300 per quintal while the MSP of groundnut seed has been increased by Rs 275 per quintal in 2021-21 to Rs 5550 per quintal. The MSP of sesame seed has been raised by Rs 452 per quintal to Rs 7307 per quintal.
- 21.** **HDFC Bank** has signed an MoU with **Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB)** to provide a wide range of financial products and services to its customers.  
**Note:** As part of the MoU, HDFC Bank will provide a wide range of financial products and services to its customers through an extensive network of branches across the country. As per the MoU, KIADB shall accord approvals related to handing over possession of land and project-related construction as per agreed terms between such allottees/customers and KIADB and take up expediting measures in case of delays.
- 22.** **Central Bank of India** announced co-lending partnerships with NBFC players Indiabulls Housing Finance and IIFL Home Finance.  
**Note:** Under this arrangement, non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) will originate and process retail home loans while Central Bank of India will take into its book 80 per cent of the housing loan under direct assignment transactions, the lender said in separate regulatory filings. The partnership will result in a greater disbursement of housing loans by Central Bank of India, Indiabulls HFL and IIFL HFL.
- 23.** According to a release by commerce ministry, during 2020-21, **India's export of agricultural** and allied products grew by **17.34 per cent**.  
**Note:** The largest markets for India's agricultural products are the US, China, Bangladesh, UAE, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Nepal, Iran and Malaysia. Further, as many as 18 states -- including Maharashtra, Kerala, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Punjab, and Karnataka -- have finalised their specific action plan to implement the Agri export policy.
- 24.** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** raised the interchange fee on each financial transaction at ATM from Rs 15 to **Rs 17**.  
**Note:** Banks will be able to raise ATM transaction charges from August 1, 2021. Customers are still eligible for five free transactions — inclusive of financial and non-financial transactions — every month from their own bank ATMs and three transactions from other bank ATM.
- 25.** According to a release by commerce ministry the Exports of India's organic farm products surged by **61 percent** in 2020-21.  
**Note:** Outbound shipments of organic products hit 1,040 million dollars last fiscal compare with 689 million dollars a year before. Farm exports rose over 17 percent last fiscal to 41.25 billion dollars. Even in volume term, exports of organic products grew at 39 per cent to 8 lakh 88 thousand 179 tonnes last fiscal.
- 26.** **Indian Bank** has partnered wealth-tech company **Fisdom** to offer a comprehensive suite of wealth management products and services to the bank's 10 crore customers.  
**Note:** The partnership will focus on enabling large-scale facilitation and distribution of wealth products and services through Indian Bank's network. In phase one of the partnership, Indian Bank's customers can access and invest in any mutual fund of choice and the National Pension System through the lender's IndoASIS mobile banking application and its internet banking portal. Indian Bank is the seventh largest public sector bank in India.
- 27.** **DBS Bank** has been named by Forbes in their list of World's Best Banks 2021 in India.  
**Note:** DBS was ranked #1 out of 30 domestic and international banks in India for the second consecutive year. This is the third edition of the 'World's Best Banks' list by Forbes, conducted in partnership with market research firm Statista. Recently, DBS Bank India was recognised as 'India's Best International Bank 2021' by Asiamoney.
- 28.** **State Bank of India** has introduced a collateral-free offering scheme called 'Kavach Personal Loan' to provide financial assistance to its customers to manage the COVID-19 treatment-related expenses.  
**Note:** Loan Amount: Rs 5 lakh loan at an interest rate of 8.5% per annum. Tenure: 5 years It is a collateral-free offering that will also provide reimbursement of expenses, which has already been incurred for Covid medical expenses It will be under Covid loan book that has been launched by RBI

29. India's position as Foreign Exchange Reserve holder is 4<sup>th</sup>.  
**Note:** As on June 4, 2021 the foreign exchange reserves stood at \$605 billion, almost tying with Russia as the fourth largest reserve holder in the world. While India's forex reserve was \$605.008 billion, Russia's was \$605.2 billion. It took just about a year for the reserves to rise by \$100 billion.
30. e-Commerce company **Flipkart** has partnered with the Telangana govt to lead the "Medicines from the Sky" project which is meant to deliver medical supplies to remote areas.  
**Note:** Walmart-owned Flipkart will deploy drones and enable deliveries of vaccines and medical supplies. These efforts will be complemented with technologies such as geo mapping, routing of shipments. A combination of these technologies will then be used to conduct 'Beyond Visual Line of Sight' (BVLOS) deliveries in remote areas of the state where the road infrastructure is not conducive for fast delivery of vaccines.
31. **IDFC FIRST Bank** has launched 'Ghar Ghar Ration' Program, an employee-funded program for its low-income customers whose livelihoods are affected by COVID-19.  
**Note:** The bank has also announced a comprehensive program for the families of employees who unfortunately lost their lives due to COVID-19, and a number of other social responsibility initiatives. "Ghar Ghar Ration" is a unique program where employees have contributed from their personal income to set up a Customer COVID Care Fund to provide relief to 50,000 COVID affected low-income IDFC FIRST Bank customers. Employees of the Bank contributed one day to one month's salary for the purpose.
32. **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)** will be expanded by 31st August 2021. BBPS functions under the aegis of the **NPCI**.  
**Note:** Also, 'mobile prepaid recharges' are added as a biller category. It will help millions of prepaid phone subscribers in the country. BBPS is an integrated bill payment system that offers interoperable bill payment service to customers online as well as through a network of agents on the ground.
33. **Canara Bank** will be the lead sponsor of National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) or bad bank with 12 per cent stake in the entity.  
**Note:** The board of Canara Bank has given in-principle approval for taking stake in NARCL. The IBA was appointed nodal agency to constitute the Asset Reconstruction and Asset Management Companies designated as NARCL and India Debt Management Company Ltd (IDMCL) respectively. Bad bank refers to a financial institution that takes over bad assets of lenders and undertakes resolution.
34. The **Reserve Bank of India** proposed to remove interest rate caps for **Microfinance Institutions**.  
**Note:** Microfinance institutions will get the freedom to set rates and end regulatory cap on interest rates. Microfinance is a form of financial service which provides small loans and other financial services to poor and low-income households.
35. According to global consultancy **BCG report**, the financial wealth in India grew by **11 percent**.  
**Note:** This growth was at par with the compounded annual growth rate for the five years to 2020. Financial wealth is defined as the total wealth excluding real assets and liabilities held by adult individuals. As per the report India is expected to lead the percentage growth of individuals with fortunes of over USD 100 million till 2025.
36. **78,000 tonnes** of rice has been allocated by the central government at a subsidized rate of Rs 20 per kg to distilleries for ethanol production for 2020-21.  
**Note:** As per Food Ministry figures, a quantity of 12,956 metric tonnes of rice has been lifted by six distilleries till April 30, 2021. The government has set a target of blending 20-percent ethanol with petrol by 2025-26. To achieve that target, over 1,000 crore liters of ethanol will be required to blend with the petrol.
37. **SJVN Limited** has signed a pact with **National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE)** to develop solar and wind energy projects.  
**Note:** SJVN has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Institute for 'technical consultancy services' for development of solar, wind, hybrid (wind and solar) and hybrid (wind, solar and battery storage) energy projects of SJVN, according to a statement. NIWE will support SJVN to assess the feasibility and techno-commercial aspects of the projects and preparation of detailed project reports, estimates and bid documents covering all relevant aspects from the concept to the commissioning of these projects.
38. **Ambuja Cement Foundation** has joined hands with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for the implementation of its 'Employability through Skill Initiative Project (ESIP) Phase II'.  
**Note:** The foundation received grant assistance from NABARD under the Gramya Vikas Nidhi, a fund created for the development of off-farm sector activities. The project will provide skill training across 19 locations for two years in 12 trades. It has already reached over 4,000 youth despite the pandemic, the foundation said in a statement. Besides skill training, the course also

- includes soft skills and leadership skills as part of the training module.
- 39. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** has collaborated with **MoEngage to drive digital banking experiences** in the unserved and underserved areas of the country.  
**Note:** MoEngage is a leading customer engagement platform. This will foster a holistic customer experience across all organic channels, like the website, app, email, text message, social media, and branches to drive business growth. Utilizing MoEngage's expertise, the SFB will target SMS campaigns to encourage digital repayments.
- 40. Asian Development Bank the Government of India** has signed a \$484 million loan to improve transport connectivity and facilitate industrial development in the Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu.  
**Note:** CKIC is part of India's East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC). ADB is the lead partner of the Government of India in developing ECEC. The project will upgrade about 590 km of state highways in the CKIC influence areas that cover 23 of the 32 districts between Chennai and Kanyakumari.
- 41. Google Pay** has tied up with a clutch of leading Indian banks to offer tokenized card services to customers on its UPI app.  
**Note:** It has now added debit cards by SBI, IndusInd Bank and Federal Bank and Credit cards by IndusInd Bank and HSBC India to its tokenized offerings. It is a feature that enables users to make debit or credit card payments through a secure digital token attached to their phone. The network partner for these transactions is Visa.
- 42. According to 'UNESCO Science Report 2021: The race against time for smarter development',** India's Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research & Development (GERD) remained at **0.7%**.  
**Note:** India's Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research & Development (GERD) remained at 0.7% of the GDP for several years. India has one of the lowest GERD/GDP ratios among the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) nations.
- 43. RBI ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>** in terms of reserves transferred to the government as a percentage of **gross domestic product (GDP)** for the fiscal year 2020-21.  
**Note:** In FY20, the RBI stood fourth when ranked by the ratio of surplus as a percentage of GDP. The RBI transferred a Rs 99,122-crore surplus to the government — 73% higher than the Rs 57,128 crore paid out in 2019-20. The surplus transferred by RBI constitutes 0.44% of GDP, while that of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey constitutes 0.5% of GDP.
- 44. In the last one year, the country's foreign exchange reserve rose by US\$ 103 Billion.**  
**Note:** According to the RBI, Foreign exchange reserves of the country reached an all-time high of US\$ 605.0 billion on June 4, 2021. RBI estimated that, In terms of projected imports for 2021-22, the current level of reserves provides cover for less than 15 months. In the foreign exchange market the Indian rupee appreciated against the US dollar in May 2021 and gained further in June.
- 45. For Bangladesh** the Asian Development Bank has approved USD 250 million loans for improving the inclusiveness and responsiveness of the country's social development and resilience program.  
**Note:** The Strengthening Social Resilience Program will include institutional and policy reforms to address cross-sector issues of social development in Bangladesh.
- 46. Centrum Financial Services Ltd** financial institutions got RBI's "in-principle" approval to set up a small finance bank to take over Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC Bank).  
**Note:** Then, the SFB will take over the beleaguered Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC Bank). Centrum Capital, the holding entity for CFSL, and its partner BharatPe, a payments system company, will infuse Rs 1,800 crore into the small finance bank.
- 47. Adani Power Limited** will acquire the **1,200 MW Essar Power's Mahan Project** located at Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh.  
**Note:** Resolution Professional of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) issued a Letter of Intent to Adani Power. Essar Power's Mahan power plant supplies power through the Mahan-Sipat transmission line and is also connected with a railway siding 18 km away from the plant for the supply of coal and other raw materials. Adani Power will shell out close to Rs 3,000 crore for the Mahan Project.
- 48. Financial Technology company PayPoint India** has signed 'lead generation agreements' with 12 financial institutions.  
**Note:** The aim of the deal is to assist with loans to the underserved using technology, and to generate leads for housing, personal and business loans through the partnership with banks and NBFCs. Under the agreement, PayPoint India will help the financial institutions to get access to the remote locations where they are unable to reach on their own, and provide capital.
- 49. Muthoot Fincorp** has acquired 54% stake in fintech startup Paymatrix by buying out existing investors.

- Note:** The takeover is as part of its added focus on digital payments segment. Paymatrix was set up in 2016 with a vision to streamline property rent payments and rent collections for tenants and landlords.
- 50.** According to World Investment Report 2021, released by the N Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) India is 5<sup>th</sup> largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).  
**Note:** As per the report, India becomes the fifth largest recipient of FDI inflows in 2020. It received a total of \$ 64 billion as FDI an increase of 27% from USD 51 billion in 2019. The US with 156 Billion was the top destination for FDI in 2020 followed by China (USD 149 billion) & Hong Kong, China (USD 119 billion).
- 51. Union Bank of India** has entered into an MoU with National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) under the 'NSIC Bank Credit Facilitation Scheme' to support MSMEs with credit requirements.  
**Note:** Under the MoU, the NSIC branch offices which are also functioning as Finance Facilitation Centers (FFCs) will assist MSMEs in getting their loan requirements from Union Bank of India. The agreement was signed by PK Das, FGM-Delhi on behalf of Union Bank of India and PR Kumar, CGM, NSIC.
- 52.** All housing finance companies with asset size of **Rs 100 crore** has now allowed by the Finance Ministry to use SARFAESI law to recover dues.  
**Note:** SARFAESI law, enacted in 2002, empowers lenders to attach the pledged assets of the borrowers in the event of non-payment of dues. Till now, HFCs with assets over ₹500 crore and notified by the Finance Ministry, were allowed to use SARFAESI law to recover dues. Currently, there are nearly 100 HFCs that are registered with NHB.
- 53.** SBI General Insurance has signed a corporate agency agreement with **IDFC FIRST Bank** for distribution of non-life insurance solutions.  
**Note:** Under this strategic agreement, SBI General Insurance will offer insurance products such as health, personal accident, home, motor and travel to the bank's customers. It will also offer the commercial line of insurance products such as property, marine and engineering insurance.
- 54. ICICI Bank** has introduced the instant 'Cardless EMI' facility to online purchases made on e-commerce platforms.  
**Note:** It will allow the bank customer to buy products or services online through EMIs in only a few clicks using their mobile phone and PAN. The Bank has tied up with digital lending platforms namely FlexMoney and ShopSe to offer this facility across 2,500 brands.
- 55.** Bharti Airtel has partnered with **Tata Group** for 'Made in India' 5G network solutions.  
**Note:** The partnership with Tata Group allows telecom operator Airtel to take head-on, rival Jio's pitch on homegrown 5G solutions. Tata Group has developed O-RAN (Open Radio Access Network) based Radio and core elements and integrated a totally indigenous telecom stack.
- 56.** According to the Moody's Investors Service's revised estimate **9.6%** will be the growth rate of Indian GDP in FY 2021-22.  
**Note:** This prospect was published in the 'Macroeconomics India: Economic shocks from second COVID wave will not be as severe as last year's' report. Indian economy contracted by 7.3 per cent in fiscal 2020-21 as against a 4% growth in 2019-20.
- 57.** Lending marketplace Paisabazaar.com and **SBM Bank India** announced the launch of Step Up Credit Card – a credit builder product designed for consumers with limited access to formal credit, due to ineligible credit score.  
**Note:** It is a credit builder product designed for consumers with limited access to formal credit, due to ineligible credit score. The Step Up Credit Card, built in partnership with SBM Bank India, is the first product to be launched under Paisabazaar's neo-lending strategy.
- 58.** Digital payment company **PhonePe** has launched India's first Wallet Auto Top-up feature using UPI e-mandates for its customers.  
**Note:** The amount for Auto top-up ranges from Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000. Under this feature, when a customer will set up a UPI e-mandate the PhonePe will automatically top up the wallet balance when it drops below a minimum level.
- 59.** As per the new definition of small and medium sized companies (SMCs) by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) **Rs 250 Crore** should be the sale limit of the company.  
**Note:** The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has expanded the definition of small and medium sized companies (SMCs) by raising their turnover and borrowing limits. The move is to simplify accounting processes and lessen compliance burden for small firms.
- 60.** S&P Global Ratings cut India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to **9.5 per cent** from 11 per cent earlier.  
**Note:** The agency lowered the growth outlook saying that a severe second COVID-19 outbreak in April and May led to lockdowns imposed by states and sharp contraction in economic activity. It projected India's growth at 7.8 per cent in the next fiscal ending March 31, 2023.

- 61.** World Bank has signed a \$32 million loan agreement with the Government of India (GoI) and **Mizoram** for healthcare projects in the state.  
**Note:** The project will strengthen the governance and the management structure of the Department of Health and Family Welfare (DoHFW) and its subsidiaries, improve the quality and coverage of services delivered by the state government health systems, and invest in a comprehensive Quality Assurance program which would enable quality certification of health facilities.
- 62. State Bank of India** has launched Aarogya Healthcare Business Loan under that the entire healthcare ecosystem such as hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic centres etc can avail loans of up to ₹100 crore repayable in 10 years.  
**Note:** Under this facility the entire healthcare ecosystem such as hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic centres etc can avail loans of up to ₹100 crore repayable in 10 years. The loan can be availed either as term loan to support expansion/modernisation or as working capital facilities such as cash credit, bank guarantee/letter of credit.
- 63. SBI Card** in partnership with Fabindia has launched a co-branded contactless credit card to offer a rewarding shopping experience to its premium customers.  
**Note:** The contactless credit card provides reward points for the premium cardholders on their retail
- spending with the value back on varied spending categories. The cards offer 10 percent value back to customers for buying in-stores at Fabindia along with complimentary domestic airport lounge access.
- 64.** The Afthonia Lab private Limited has announced a strategic partnership with **Yes Bank** to support the fintech companies in India.  
**Note:** The partnership will also support the efforts to innovate and inject new ideas to transform the financial sector of India. Under this partnership, the Afthonia Lab's portfolio startups will develop APIs in a sandbox environment, enabling the startups to experiment with innovative ideas and test their solutions in real time.
- 65. 6, 28, 993 crores** of stimulus package has been announced by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to boost economy during the fight against COVID-19 pandemic in June 2021.  
**Note:** Finance Minister announced 1.1 lakh crore rupee Loan Guarantee Scheme for COVID affected sectors. Also announced 1.5 lakh crore rupees for Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme. Credit Guarantee Scheme which is a new scheme to facilitate loans to 25 lakh people through Micro Finance Institutions, MFI.

## Obituaries

- Renowned personality Poul Schlueter passed away recently he was former Prime minister of **Denmark**.  
**Note:** Former Denmark's prime minister Poul Schlueter, who negotiated exemptions for his country to a key European Union (EU) treaty has passed away. He was born on 3 April 1929 in Tonder, Denmark. Schlueter served as the prime minister of the country from 1982-1993.
- Renowned Indian-American Tejinder Singh passed away recently, he was a veteran **Journalist**.  
**Note:** Singh founded India America Today, an independent media organisation and news provider based in Washington, DC. He launched IAT in 2012, and we will continue to carry on the work that he started. RIP Editor," the publication said on Twitter on May 29. He was the Vice-President (Print) for the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA-DC) 2011-12.
- The last surviving former member of the Indian Constituent Assembly **T.M. Kalliannan Gounder** passed away recently.  
**Note:** He served as a Member of the Legislative Council in Tamil Nadu and also as an MLA thrice, between 1952 and 1967. He was reportedly the youngest member in the Constituent Assembly then and also a member of India's first provisional parliament.
- Renowned personality Anerood Jugnauth passed away recently, he was former prime minister of **Mauritius**.  
**Note:** He is the country's longest-serving prime minister with more than 18 years of tenure. He was considered the **father of the Mauritian economic miracle** of the 1980s. Jugnauth held the post of Prime Minister between 1982 and 1995, then again between 2000 and 2003, and later between 2014 and 2017, before passing the torch to his son, Pravind Jugnauth, who is the current Prime Minister of Mauritius.
- Padma Shri Dr Lakshmi Nandan Bora passed away recently, he was a veteran **Litterateur**.  
**Note:** Dr Lakshmi Nandan Bora was the first person to receive a doctoral degree in meteorology from Andhra University. He has served as the Chairman of the Assam Pollution Control Board from 1997 to 2003.
- Renowned personality Buddhadeb Dasgupta passes away recently he was a veteran **Filmmaker**.  
**Note:** He was also a celebrated poet, had won several National Awards for his contribution to Bengali cinema. Buddhadeb Dasgupta was known for directing

- critically-acclaimed films like Uttara, Bagh Bahadur, Tahader Katha and Charachar. Of all the films he wrote and directed, five movies - Bagh Bahadur, Charachar, Lal Darja, Mondo Meyer Upakhyan and Kaalpurush.
7. Asian Games gold medalist Dingko Singh passed away recently, he was associated with **Boxing**.  
**Note:** The Manipur-based former boxer endured a long battle with cancer and even fought COVID-19 last year. Dingko won the Asian Games gold in 1998 and was bestowed the Arjuna award the same year. In 2013, he was honoured with the Padma Shri for his contribution to the sport. Dingko, who was employed with Navy, had taken to coaching after hanging up his gloves.
  8. Renowned sportsperson Nirmal Kaur passed away recently she was associated with **Volleyball**.  
**Note:** She was wife of legendary Olympian Milkha Singh. Milkha Singh himself is being treated for Covid-related complications at the PGI Chandigarh. Milkha Singh has been under the observation of a medical team comprising senior doctors of the institute.
  9. Renowned personality Ashok Panagariya passed away due to COVID-19 complications, he was a veteran **neurologist**.  
**Note:** He was known for his research on nerve cells and neuromyotonia. He was Vice Chancellor of Rajasthan University of Health Sciences, Jaipur and a member of Planning Board of the Government of Rajasthan. Awards: Dr. B. C. Roy Award, the highest Indian award in the medical category and Padma Shri in 2014.
  10. Renowned personality Prof. Radhamohan passed away recently, he was a veteran **environmentalist**.  
**Note:** Padma Shir Radhamohan was one of the great proponents of organic farming. He was the first Information Commissioner of odisha. He was a professor of Economics, later, he practised sustainable agriculture.
  11. Renowned personality Sanchari Vijay passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.  
**Note:** Vijay meet with a road accident and was in critical condition. Doctors performed an emergency brain surgery but could not save him. Vijay, who made his debut with Rangappa Hogbitna in 2011, appeared in many Kannada films such as Dasavala, Harivu, Oggarane, Killing Veerappan, Varthamana, and Sipaayi.
  12. Renowned personality Surat Singh Mathur passed away recently, he was a veteran **Sportsman**.  
**Note:** He was marathon runner, complete the Olympic marathon race, at the 1952 Helsinki Games. Running with the legendary Emil Zatopek in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, Mathur completed the marathon in the 52nd place in 2:58.92s. He was a bronze medallist at the first Asian Games in 1951.
  13. Renowned personality Raghbir Singh has passed away recently, he was a veteran **Army man**.  
**Note:** Brigadier Raghbir Singh was honoured with Maha Vir Chakra, the second highest gallantry award in India by the then President of India, Dr S Radhakrishnan. He is fondly called as "Dadosa". He served as the Provost Marshal in the Military police, during the 1971 Indo-Pak war. During the 1965 Indo Pak war, he was commanding his battalion, 18 Rajputana Rifles (later 11 Mechanised Infantry).
  14. Renowned personality Milkha Singh passed away recently, he was a veteran **Sportsman**.  
**Note:** He is the only athlete to win gold in 400 metres race at the Asian Games as well the Commonwealth Games. He also won gold medals in the 1958 and 1962 Asian Games. He represented India in the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome and the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.
  15. Renowned personality Kenneth Kaunda passed away recently, he was president of **Zambia**.  
**Note:** Mr Kaunda served as the first President of independent Zambia from 1964 to 1991. In 1991, he was forced to hold the first multi-party elections for 23 years, which he lost to long-time foe, trade unionist Frederick Chiluba. Zambia gained independence from Britain in October 1964.
  16. Renowned personality Guruprasad Mohapatra passed away recently, he was former **DPIIT Secretary**.  
**Note:** Before serving as DPIIT secretary, he served as **Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI)**. He was a **Gujarat cadre 1986 batch IAS officer**, who had earlier served as joint secretary in the Department of Commerce. He was also a **member of Gujarat Electricity Board** between 2002 and 2004.
  17. Renowned personality Benigno Aquino passed away recently, he was former president of **Philippine**.  
**Note:** Known popularly as Noynoy, he rode a wave of public emotion all the way to the presidency after his mother, Corazon Aquino, died in 2009. He was a three-term member of the House of Representatives between 1998 and 2007, representing the sugar-growing Tarlac province north of Manila.
  18. Renowned personality John McAfee passed away recently, he was a pioneer of **Antivirus software**.  
**Note:** A court in Spain had approved the extradition of McAfee to the U.S., where he was set to stand trial on federal tax-evasion charges. Authorities are investigating the cause of death. He was known widely for his eponymous antivirus software.

19. Renowned personality Sivan passed away recently, he was a veteran **cinematographer**.  
**Note:** The ace cinematographer rose to fame in the Malayalam film industry with the photographs, he took

for a film titled Chemeen. He has won a National Award three times in his career. His popular films include Abhayam, Yagam, Keshu, Kochu Kochu Mohangal, Oru Yathra, etc.

### Important Days

- The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations celebrates World Milk Day every year on **1st June**.  
**Note:** It aims to encourage people to talk about the advantages of dairy with regards to health including nutrition, accessibility and affordability. This year, our theme will focus on Sustainability in the dairy sector with messages around the environment, nutrition and socio-economics. In doing so we will re-introduce dairy farming to the world.
- UN Global Day of Parents celebrated every year on **1st June**.  
**Note:** The Global Day of Parents recognizes the primary responsibility of the family in nurturing and protecting their children. Hence, the day acknowledges the selfless commitment of all parents for their children including their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship.
- UN World Bicycle Day is celebrated every year on **3rd June**.  
**Note:** The day aims to strengthen education for children and young people, preventing disease, promoting health, promoting tolerance, mutual understanding and respect and facilitating social inclusion and a culture of peace.
- International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is observed globally every year on **4th June**.  
**Note:** This day affirms the UN's commitment to guard the rights of children. This day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the planet who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. The main aim of celebrating today is to spread the notice about the pain and sufferings faced by the victims as children.
- '**Reimagine. Recreate. Restore**' is the theme of the 'World Environment Day' 2021.  
**Note:** **World Environment Day** is observed globally on **5th June** every year. This day is observed to raise awareness about protecting the environment and to remind people not to take nature for granted. The day provides an opportunity to broaden the "basis for an enlightened opinion and responsible conduct by individuals, enterprises, and communities in preserving and enhancing the environment."
- Every year, World Pest Day is celebrated every year on **06th June**.  
**Note:** The main purpose of the day is to increase public, government, and media awareness of the important role pest management organization plays in protecting public health, project the professional image of the pest management industry, promote the use of professional pest management in a scientific and socially responsible way and call attention to the big threats caused by small pests.
- The World Food Safety Day is observed every year on **7th June**.  
**Note:** The aim of the day is to raise awareness about different foodborne risks and the measures of how to prevent it. The campaigns will also spread awareness that how food safety is very much important and related to different other important factors of life such as human health, economic growth, and many others.
- '**The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods**' is the theme of the World Ocean Day 2021.  
**Note:** World Ocean Day is observed globally on 8th June every year. This day is observed to raise global awareness about the importance of the ocean in our lives and the ways through which we can protect it. The World Oceans Day has been celebrated by many countries since 1992.
- The United Nations has launched 2021-30 as the decades for **United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**.  
**Note:** The UN Decade aims to inspire and support governments, UN agencies, civil society, private sector companies, youth, women's groups, indigenous peoples, farmers, local communities and individuals globally, to collaborate, develop and catalyse restoration initiatives across the world. The Decade aims to mobilize hundreds of millions of people to restore nature and foster a global restoration culture in which restoration initiatives are scaled up across the planet.
- World Brain Tumour Day is celebrated every year on **8th June**.  
**Note:** The day aims to raise awareness and educate people about the brain tumour. Brain Tumour Day is observed to pay tribute to brain tumour patients and their families, caregivers, scientists and health professionals. A brain tumour occurs when cells grow

at an abnormal rate to form a mass of abnormal cells within the brain. There are two main types of tumours: cancerous (malignant) tumours and benign (non-cancerous) tumours.

11. The World Accreditation Day (WAD) is celebrated every year on **9th June**.  
**Note:** The theme for WAD 2021 is “Accreditation: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”. It provides the opportunity for ILAC and IAF members to share examples with stakeholders, regulators and consumers of how accreditation may be applied to meet objectives such as increasing trade, addressing environment and health and safety concerns, and improving the general overall quality of output in an economy.
12. World Day Against Child Labour is celebrated every year on **12th June**.  
**Note:** It was officially recognized by ILO in 2002. This is a day to call all the governments to come together in order to get rid of this menace. This year, the theme is 'Act Now: End Child Labour.'
13. The International Albinism Awareness Day (IAAD) is celebrated annually on **June 13**.  
**Note:** Each year events are held to educate people and celebrate people with albinism who continue to suffer all types of human rights violations. “Strength Beyond All Odds” is the theme for this year’s International Albinism Awareness Day.
14. '**Give blood and keep the world beating**' is the theme of the World Blood Donor Day 2021.  
**Note:** Every year, the World Blood Donor is celebrated on June 14, all around the world. This day was first observed in 2005 and serves to elevate the recognition of the need for safe blood and blood products. World Blood Donor Day is also celebrated to appreciate the blood donors for their voluntary, life-saving gifts of blood.
15. World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed every year on **17th June**.  
**Note:** The day’s focus is to turn the degraded land that has lost its natural productivity due to human activity into healthy land. The UN-designated day is all about a green planet, sustainable development, and health and welfare of people. This year’s theme is “Restoration.Land.Recovery. We build back better with healthy land”.
16. The Autistic Pride Day is observed every year on **18th June**.  
**Note:** The day is represented by a rainbow infinity symbol which denotes the infinite possibilities that autistic people have. Autistic Pride Day was first celebrated in Brazil in 2005, at the initiative of an organisation named Aspies for Freedom.

17. Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed every year globally on **18th June**.  
**Note:** The day was designated by UN General Assembly on 21 December 2016. Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed on 18 June globally to focus the attention of the world on the role that sustainable gastronomy plays in our lives. The day was designated by UN General Assembly on 21 December 2016.
18. World Sickle Cell Day, observed every year on **19 June**.  
**Note:** The day is observed to raise awareness of sickle cell disorders. Sickle cell Anaemia is a genetic red blood cell disorder. People with sickle cell disorders don't have enough healthy red blood cells to carry oxygen throughout the body The day came into existence in 2008 after the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) acknowledged sickle cell disease as a public health problem
19. International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is observed globally every year on **19th June**.  
**Note:** The day aims to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence, honour the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world. In 2015 the United Nations adopted 19 June as the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict.
20. World Refugee Day is celebrated every year on **20th June**.  
**Note:** Theme 2021: Together we heal, learn and shine. United Nations General Assembly recognised this day on 4 December 2000 to mark the 50th anniversary of 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. It was observed for the first time on 20th June, 2001.
21. **Yoga for Wellness** is the theme of the 7th International Yoga Day 2021.  
**Note:** International Yoga Day is observed annually on June 21. The idea of an International Yoga Day was proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014 in the UNGA. On the PM Modi launched “mYoga app” in collaboration with WHO and it will be available worldwide.
22. World Music Day' is celebrated every year on **21st June**.  
**Note:** It is also known as 'Fete de la Musique' in French and Make Music Day as well. World Music Day celebrations began in the year 1982 in France. The day is dedicated to all the musicians and music lovers around the world. World Music Day, also known as 'Fatede la Musica', means a music festival.
23. International Widows Day is celebrated every year on **23rd June**.

- Note:** The day is observed since 2011 to draw attention to the voices of widows, highlight the problems they face and galvanize the support that they need. The day was established by The Loomba Foundation to raise awareness about the issue of widowhood. The first International Widows Day took place in 2005.
24. International Olympics Day is observed every year on **23rd June**.  
**Note:** The occasion marks the day when International Olympic Committee was founded in 1894. The day aims at promoting sports and spreads the message of making sports an integral part of life. The first Olympic Day was celebrated in the year 1948. The theme for this year is Stay healthy, stay strong, stay active.
25. United Nations Public Service Day is observed globally every year on **23rd June**.  
**Note:** This day is to highlight the contribution of public service in the development process and to value public service to the community. This day is widely known by various public service organisations and departments around the world by organising several events to recognise the role of public servants in making developments and improvements in the community.
26. World Vitiligo Day is observed every year on **25th June**.  
**Note:** Vitiligo is a skin disorder leading to **loss of colour in the skin** creating a variety of patterns on the skin from loss of pigment. Vitiligo is often called a disease instead of a disorder and that can have a significant negative social or psychological impact on patients. The first World Vitiligo Day was observed on **June 25, 2011**.
27. The International Day of the Seafarers is celebrated every year on **25th June**.  
**Note:** On this day, their efforts are appreciated in boosting global economics and commerce. The seafarers play an important role in the same. A lot of industries rely on sea routes and ships for the transportation of their good to get the business. Therefore, they are extremely imperative in making it all happen.
28. International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed globally every year on **26th June**.  
**Note:** The day is observed by the United Nations as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse. The theme of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2021 is "Share Facts On Drugs, Save Lives".
29. International Day in Support of Victims of Torture is observed every year on **26th June**.  
**Note:** This day is observed by the **United Nations** to raise awareness among the people about human torture that it is not only unacceptable but it is also a crime.
30. The United Nations Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day is observed every year on **27th June**.  
**Note:** The day also recognises the contribution of these industries in the implementation of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. In 2021, the theme is "MSME 2021: key to an inclusive and sustainable recovery."
31. National Statistics Day is celebrated every year on **29th June**.  
**Note:** The first National Statistics Day was observed on June 29, 2006. The key contribution of PC Mahalanobis is known as "Mahalanobis distance". Theme: End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture.
32. International Day of the Tropics is observed every year on **29th June**.  
**Note:** The day intends to acknowledge and celebrate the importance of the Tropics. The Tropics are a region of the Earth that fall between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn.
33. International Asteroid Day (IAD) is observed every year on **30th June**.  
**Note:** UN General Assembly declared June 30 as IAD in 2016 to mark the anniversary of the Tunguska (Earth's largest asteroid) impact over Siberia, Russian Federation on 30 June 1908. Asteroids (minor planets) are rocky, airless remnants left over from the early formation of our solar system.
34. International Day of Parliamentarism is observed every year on **30th June**.  
**Note:** It was first observed in 2018 as adopted by UN General Assembly. June 30 is the day on which Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) which is a global organization of parliaments was established in 1889.

### New Appointments

1. **Vikramjit Sen** has been appointed as the **Chairman of newly formed self-regulatory body Digital Media Content Regulatory Council (DMCRC)** by the Indian Broadcasting Foundation.

**Note:** Besides, six other eminent industry members which include filmmaker Nikkhil Advani, writer and director Tigmanshu Dhulia, filmmaker and writer Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari, content producer and distributor

- Banjay Group CEO and founder Deepak Dhar would also be part of the self-regulatory body. This Council also includes - Sony Pictures General Counsel Ashok Nambisan and Star and Disney India Chief Regional Counsel Mihir Rale. IBF, the apex body of broadcasters, had last week announced to expand to cover digital streaming platforms and is soon going to be renamed as Indian Broadcasting & Digital Foundation (IBDF).
2. **T V Narendran** has been elected as the president industry body the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** for 2021-22.  
**Note:** He takes over from Uday Kotak, Managing Director, and Chief Executive Officer, Kotak Mahindra Bank. He was the Chairman of CII Eastern Region during 2016-17 and has led CII national panels on leadership and HR besides being Chairman of CII Jharkhand.
  3. **Nagaraj Adiga** has been elected as the **Asia and Oceania Representative in International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU)** Executive Council for 2021-2025.  
**Note:** He was elected during the 2021 International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU) Congress that held virtually from May 22 & 23, 2021. Adiga was nominated to the IAU Council by Athletics Federation of India (AFI). He was elected as the Asia and Oceania Representative after defeating the Gilsoo Park of South Korea.
  4. **Pradeep Chandran Nair** has been appointed as the **Director General of Assam Rifles**.  
**Note:** Nair is the 21st Director General of the Assam Rifles (popularly known as Sentinels of the North-East). The General Officer was commissioned into the Sikh Regiment in 1985. He is an alumnus of Sainik School Satara, National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College, College of Defence Management and the prestigious Indian Institute of Public Administration.
  5. **Arun Kumar Mishra** took charges as the chairman of the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**.  
**Note:** Justice Arun Mishra enrolled as a lawyer in 1978. He was elected the youngest chairperson of Bar Council of India in 1998-99. He was appointed judge of Madhya Pradesh High Court in October 1999. He later served as chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court and Calcutta High Court before being elevated to the Supreme Court on July 7, 2014.
  6. **R S Sodhi** has been elected to the Board of International Dairy Federation (IDF).  
**Note:** A Bachelor of Engineering Degree from CTAE, Udaipur, India. Dr. Sodhi had completed his Post-Graduation in Rural Management from Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) in its first batch and joined GCMMF (Amul) in the year 1982 and took over as Managing Director of GCMMF (Amul) in the year 2010. He headed GCMMF's widely acclaimed marketing campaigns such as (1) Promoting milk as 'world's original energy drink' & (2) 'Eat Milk' campaign motivating Indian youth to include dairy products in every meal and (3) Amul Doodh Peeta Hai India.
  7. **Isaac Herzog** has been elected as the **President of Israel**.  
**Note:** The 60-year-old former Labor leader will be the first Israeli President who is the son of a former president. His father Chaim Herzog served as Israel's Head of State between 1983 and 1993. Herzog won the support of an overwhelming 87 lawmakers in the 120-member house defeating his rival Miriam Peretz with a comfortable margin.
  8. **Dr Patrick Amoth** has been appointed as the Chairman of the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** Executive Board belongs to **Kenya**.  
**Note:** The announcement was made during the 149th session of the WHO Executive Board, on June 02, 2021, by the outgoing Chair Dr Harsh Vardhan. Mr Amoth replaces Union Health Minister, Government of India, Dr Harsh Vardhan, who completed his tenure as Chairman of WHO Executive Board on June 02, 2021.
  9. **Jagjit Pavadia** has been elected as the **President of Vienna based International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**.  
**Note:** The former Narcotics Commissioner of India and a retired officer of the Indian Revenue Service (Customs), Jagjit Pavadia has been elected as the President of Vienna based International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in its 131st session for a period of five years. She is the first Indian to be appointed as the Chief of the INCB and the second woman to hold this office.
  10. **Ranjitsingh Disale** has been appointed as the **World Bank Education Advisor** for the period June 2021 to June 2024.  
**Note:** Mr Disale, 32, was named the winner of the Global Teacher Prize 2020 in recognition of his efforts to promote girls' education and trigger a quick-response(QR) coded textbook revolution in India. The World Bank has launched a new Coach initiative that aims to accelerate student learning by improving in-service teacher professional development (TPD).
  11. **Adar Poonawalla** has been appointed as the chairman of the non-banking finance company Magma Fincorp Limited.  
**Note:** Adar Poonawalla is currently the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Serum Institute of India, the maker of Oxford University-AstraZeneca Covishield vaccine in

- India. Adar Poonawalla controlled Rising Sun Holdings (RSH) by acquiring the controlling stake through an equity infusion of Rs.3,456 crore.
- 12.** Indian Economist at IMF **Kalpana Kochhar** decided to join the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation after retiring in July 2021.  
**Note:** Ms. Kochhar, who served in various senior positions during her three decades at the IMF, will retire on July 30, and will join as Director of Development Policy and Finance, at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- 13.** Abdulla Shahid was elected as the new President of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), he is the Foreign Minister of **Maldives**.  
**Note:** Shahid garnered 143 votes while Rassoul received 48 votes out of the 191 votes polled. The election to the UNGA presidential post is held on an annual basis, rotated amongst various regional groupings. The 76th UNGA session (2021-22) was the turn of the Asia-Pacific group. This is the first time the Maldives will be occupying the office of the President of the UNGA.
- 14.** Vishwavir Ahuja has been reappointed as the MD and CEO of **RBL Bank**.  
**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Vishwavir Ahuja as the Managing Director and CEO of RBL Bank for a one-year period with effect from June 30, 2021. He has been the Managing Director & CEO of RBL Bank since June 30, 2010. Before RBL Bank, Ahuja was the Managing Director & CEO of Bank of America, India.
- 15.** **Hitendra Dave** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of HSBC India.  
**Note:** The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd. (HSBC) announced the appointment of Hitendra Dave as Chief Executive Officer of HSBC India subject to receipt of regulatory approval. He has been appointed as interim Chief Executive Officer effective June 7, 2021. Dave succeeds Surendra Rosha who will be moving to Hong Kong as the co-chief executive of HSBC Asia-Pacific.
- 16.** **Sanjeev Nandan Sahai** has been appointed as the Chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).  
**Note:** A search committee headed by V K Saraswat, Member (S&T), NITI Aayog, cleared the name of Sahai. Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board is a statutory body in India. Sanjiv Nandan Sahai is a 1986 batch IAS officer of the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre. He took over as Secretary in the Ministry of Power in 2019. He has also held several positions in the bureaucracy throughout his career, including five years as the Prime Minister.
- 17.** Husain Al-Musallam held from **Kuwait** has been elected as the President of the International Swimming Federation (FINA).  
**Note:** Kuwait's Husain Al-Musallam has been elected as the President of the International Swimming Federation (FINA) at the FINA General Congress held in Doha, Qatar. He was previously serving as the first Vice President (VP) of FINA. (FINA has 2 VPs namely First VP and Second VP).
- 18.** **Anup Chandra Pandey** has been appointed as the Election Commissioner.  
**Note:** He is a retired IAS officer of the 1984 batch, Uttar Pradesh cadre. Pandey has been appointed to the position left vacant by former Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora's retirement on April 12. This restores the three-member commission to its full strength, which will now oversee the next set of crucial assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa, Manipur and Uttarakhand next year.
- 19.** **Chandra Shekhar Ghosh** has been appointed as the MD & CEO of Bandhan Bank.  
**Note:** His term will be of 3 years, with effect from 10 July 2021. His re-appointment is subject to the approval of shareholders at the ensuing annual general meeting of the bank. Bandhan Bank operates as a commercial bank since 2001.
- 20.** The tenure of **MR Kumar** has been extended by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) as the Chairman of the of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).  
**Note:** His currently notified term was to end on June 30 this year. Kumar was appointed as LIC Chairman on March 13, 2019. Kumar had joined LIC in 1983 as a direct recruit officer. Recently, in the disinvestment plan the Centre which owns 100% of LIC, is looking for dismantle for up to 10% stake via IPO.
- 21.** **MK Jain** has been reappointed as the Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a period of two years with effect from 22.06.2021.  
**Note:** Jain was appointed as deputy governor for three years in June 2018. Before joining the Reserve Bank of India, he was managing director of IDBI Bank. The other three serving deputy governors are Michael Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao and T Rabi Sankar.
- 22.** **Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri** has been appointed as the chairman of the Grievance Redressal Board of the recently formed Digital Publisher Content Grievances Council (DPCGC).  
**Note:** The Grievance Redressal Board (GRB) will address content grievances pertaining to the Council members' video online streaming services. It will function as an independent body and act as the second-

- tier within the three-tier grievance redressal mechanism. The DPCGC currently has 14 publishers of online curated content as members.
- 23. K Nagaraj Naidu** has been appointed as Chef de Cabinet of President-elect of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly, Abdulla Shahid.  
**Note:** Naidu is India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador. Comprising 193 member the General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. Shahid was overwhelmingly elected as president of the next session of the UN General Assembly.
- 24. Ukhnaa Khurelsukh** has been elected as the president of **Mongolia**.  
**Note:** Khurelsukh defeated Sodnomzundui Erdene of the opposition Democratic Party and Dangaasuren Enkhbat of the Right Person Electorate Coalition in a national vote. With 99.7% of votes counted overnight, Khurelsukh's tally had reached 821,136, or 68% of the total, the largest share of the vote since the democratic era began in 1990.
- 25. Naftali Bennett** has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Israel.  
**Note:** Netanyahu is the Israel's longest-serving leader. Bennett is former defence minister and associated with right-wing Yamina party. Mr Bennett will be prime minister until September 2023 as part of a power-sharing deal. He will then hand power over to Yair Lapid for a further two years.
- 26. Sanjay Yadav** has been appointed as the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court.  
**Note:** His oath was administered by Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel. He was serving as the acting Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court. He has also served as the acting Chief Justice and Judge of Madhya Pradesh High Court. Allahabad High Court was established in 1866 and is one of the oldest high courts with 160 serving judges.
- 27. Rebecca Grynspan** has been appointed as first women secretary general of UNCTAD.  
**Note:** She is the first woman and central American to head the global body that deals with trade, investment and development issues. Since 2014, Ms. Grynspan has been secretary-general of the Ibero-American General Secretariat. From 2010 to 2014, she was the deputy administrator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).
- 28. Mukesh Sharma** is faculty of **IIT Kanpur** who has been appointed as an honorary member of World Health Organisation's (WHO) Global Air Pollution and Health - Technical Advisory Group (GAPH-TAG).  
**Note:** Mukesh Sharma has been associated with WHO, Geneva, International Council for Clean Transport, Clean Air Asia United National Environmental Program, Bangkok, and the World Bank. He will now be part of the WHO advisory group on interventions and policies for air pollution control in 194 member states.
- 29. Satya Nadella** has been appointed as the as the Chairman of the Microsoft Corp.  
**Note:** He will succeed John Thompson, who will now serve as lead independent director. Nadella took over as CEO in 2014 from Steve Ballmer. He has been instrumental in scaling up its business including billion-dollar acquisitions like LinkedIn, Nuance Communications and ZeniMax. Nadella has transformed the software titan into America's second-largest firm by value after tech giant Apple.
- 30. Montek Singh Ahluwalia** has been named as the named as a member of a High-Level Advisory Group formed by the World Bank and IMF.  
**Note:** He was former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and distinguished fellow at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP). The group will be jointly led by Mari Pangestu, Managing Director for Development Policy and Partnerships, World Bank; Ceyla Pazarbasioglu, Director, Strategy, Policy and Review Department, International Monetary Fund; and Lord Nicholas Stern of the London School of Economics.
- 31. Aashish Chandorkar** has been appointed as Director at India's WTO mission.  
**Note:** For the first time, a private person has been appointed at the Mission. Chandorkar is director of Bengaluru-based policy think tank Smahi Foundation of Policy and Research. The WTO is a 164-member multi-lateral body, which deals with global trade.
- 32. International lawyer Karim Khan** belongs to **England** who has sworn in as the new chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Court.  
**Note:** He has years of experience in international lawyer as a prosecutor, investigator and defense attorney. He takes over from Fatou Bensouda of Gambia. Most recently, Khan led a United Nations team investigating atrocities in Iraq.
- 33. Yuvraj Singh** has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of PUMA motorsports in India.  
**Note:** Singh will showcase his passion for fast cars and sports-inspired fashion. With this, he also joins the brand's global league of legends like Thierry Henry, Boris Becker and Usain Bolt. An ardent fan of Formula 1 driver Max Verstappen, Singh keenly follows Scuderia Ferrari Formula1 team. Globally, PUMA is associated with Scuderia Ferrari, Mercedes-AMG

- Petronas Formula One Team, Aston Martin Red Bull Racing, BMW M Motorsport and Porche Motorsport.
- 34. HPCL** petroleum company has decided to set up a grain-based ethanol plant in the Una, Himachal Pradesh.  
**Note:** The state government would provide about 70 acres of land and a rail-fed POL terminal of higher capacity. This plant would have a capacity to generate 125 KL ethanol per day. These projects would be set up at a cost of 400 crore rupees and would provide direct and indirect employment to about 300 persons.
- 35. Ebrahim Raisi** has won the 2021 Iranian presidential election.  
**Note:** He will succeed **Hassan Rouhani**. He will take charge of the office of President in August 2021 for four year term. He is presently serving as the **Chief Justice of Iran since March 2019**.
- 36. Antonio Guterres**, was re-elected as the Secretary General of United Nations (UN) for a 2nd 5-year term, he held from **Portugal**.  
**Note:** His appointment was made by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on the recommendation of the 15-nation UN Security Council (UNSC) and announced by the President of the 75th session of the UNGA, Volkan Bozkir. It should be noted that as per UN Charter, the Secretary-General is appointed by the UNGA on the recommendation of the UNSC. He is an ex-Prime Minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002, he has been serving as the Secretary General since 2017.
- 37. Mawya Sudan** has become the first woman from Jammu and Kashmir to become a fighter pilot.  
**Note:** She was inducted as a fighter pilot during the combined graduation parade ceremony in Hyderabad. She is the 12th woman fighter pilot in the IAF. 24 yrs old Mawya originally belongs to Lamberi village on the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district.
- 38. Upasana Kamineni** has been inducted as 'Ambassador of Forest Frontline Heroes' at WWF India.
- Note:** The move will appreciate the efforts of frontline workers in hospitals and in the wildlife protection space. The focus of this will be on several States across the country covering most eco-regions.
- 39. Meenesh Shah** has been appointed as the chairman of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).  
**Note:** Shah had taken over the post for a period of six months with effect from June 1.
- 40. K K Venugopal** tenure has been extended as the Attorney General of India by the central government.  
**Note:** Last year, his tenure was extended by one year. Venugopal was appointed as AG on July 1, 2017. He took over as the 15th Attorney General of India after former AG Mukul Rohatgi resigned.
- 41. Suresh N Patel** has been appointed as the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) of India.  
**Note:** He has been appointed in place of **Sanjay Kothari**. He is currently serving as the **incumbent Vigilance Commissioner** and is the only VC in the commission.
- 42. Amitabh Kant** term has been extended by one year by the central government as the CEO of the NITI Aayog, the policy think tank of the government of India.  
**Note:** He played an instrumental role in initiatives such as Make in India, Start-up India, Incredible India and "God's Own Country" initiatives. He has also been piloting the Union government's ease of doing business initiative. He was appointed as the CEO of the public policy think tank in 2016.
- 43. Atul Keshap** has been appointed as the US's interim envoy to India.  
**Note:** Ambassador Keshap's appointment will reinforce the close US partnership with the Government and people of India. He most recently served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs and as the US Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives.

### Important News - India

- NBT** will be the implementing agency of the Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors (YUVA) scheme launched to train young and budding authors below aged 30 years.  
**Note:** Termed YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors), the Prime Minister's scheme seeks to mentor authors under the age of 30 and train them to promote reading, writing and book culture in the country, and project India and Indian writings globally. A consolidated scholarship of Rs50,000 per month for a period of six months per author will be paid under the YUVA Scheme.
- NCPCR is work under administrative control of **Ministry of Women and Child Development** that has launched "Bal Swaraj", an online tracking portal for real-time tracking & monitoring of Children who lost both or either of their parents in COVID-19.  
**Note:** "COVID-Care", a link under the Bal Swaraj portal, will enable officers in concerned departments to upload data about such children who are in need of care. "COVID-Care", a link under the Bal Swaraj portal,

will enable officers in concerned departments to upload data about such children who are in need of care. This digital monitoring procedure, will regulate the Financial spending of CWCs in various states/UTs.

3. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched **Seed Minikit programme** by distributing high yielding varieties of seeds of pulses and oilseeds to farmers.  
**Note:** The mini-kits are being provided by the central agencies National Seeds Corporation (NCS), NAFED and Gujarat State Seeds Corporation and wholly-funded by the Centre through the National Food Security Mission. The Centre, in collaboration with states, has been implementing various activities to enhance production and productivity of pulses and oilseeds under the National Food Security Mission. The seed minikit programme is a major tool for introducing new varieties of seeds in fields and instrumental for increasing the seed replacement rate.
4. The central government has brought forward the target year for achieving 20 percent ethanol-blending with petrol by 2 years to **2023**.  
**Note:** It was reported by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG). Currently, the govt directs the oil companies in all states and UTs (union territories) to sell ethanol blended petrol with a percentage of ethanol up to 20 percent as per the Bureau of Indian Standards specifications. In April 2021, Ethanol-blending in Petrol in India reached more than 7.2 percent for the First Time.
5. According to third edition of NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index 2020-21 rankings **Kerala** got the top spot in the ranking.  
**Note:** At the other end of the scale, Bihar, Jharkhand and Assam were the worst performing States. However, all States showed some improvement from last year's scores, with Mizoram and Haryana seeing the biggest gains. Developed by a global consultative process on holistic development, the 17 SDGs have a 2030 deadline.
6. **Chandigarh** adjudged as the top performer in the NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index 2020-21 rankings.  
**Note:** Delhi and Puducherry got second and third spot respectively. Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu has been adjudged as the worst performer. The index was designed and developed by NITI Aayog in consultations with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the UN agencies led by United Nations in India, the States and Union Territories, and the key Union Ministries.
7. SAGE project has been launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for **Elderly People**.

**Note:** The initiative was launched by Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot in the presence of MoS, MSJE, Shri Rattan Lal Kataria in New Delhi. Start-ups can apply for being a part of SAGE through a dedicated portal. The start-ups will be selected on the basis of innovative products and services, which they should be able to provide across sectors such as health, housing, care centres, apart from technological access linked to finances, food and wealth management, and legal guidance.

8. Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Shri Narendra Singh Tomar virtually inaugurated the Indus Best Mega Food Park in **Chhattisgarh**.  
**Note:** The Mega Food Park will ensure value addition, longer shelf life for farm produce, better price realization for farmers, excellent storage facility and will provide an alternate market for farmers in the region. The Park will also provide direct and indirect employment to about 5,000 persons and benefit about 25,000 farmers in the CPC and PPC catchment areas.
9. The central government has decided to extend the validity period of the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) qualifying certificate from 7 years to **lifetime**.  
**Note:** In 2020, the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) in its 50th meeting of the general body had approved the extension of the TET certificate validity from 7 years to a lifetime. The respective state governments/UTs will take necessary action to revalidate/issue fresh TET certificates to those candidates whose period of 7 years has already elapsed.
10. Under the chairmanship of **Ajit Mishra** the Labour and Employment Ministry has constituted an expert group to provide technical inputs and recommendations on fixation of minimum wages and national floor for minimum wages.  
**Note:** The expert group announced has been constituted for a period of three years and is chaired by Ajit Mishra, Director, Institute of Economic Growth. It includes Tarika Chakraborty, IIM Calcutta; Anushree Sinha, Senior Fellow, NCAER; Vibha Bhalla, Joint Secretary; H Srinivas, Director General, VVGNI as the members and DPS Negi, Senior Labour and Employment Advisor as the Member Secretary. This is the second expert committee on minimum wages formed by the government within the last two years.
11. India ranked **117<sup>th</sup>** in the State of India's Environment Report 2021 on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).  
**Note:** The State of India's Environment Report 2021 revealed that India's rank was 115 last year and dropped by two places primarily because major challenges like ending hunger and achieving food

security (SDG 2). India ranks below four South Asian countries — Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, it said. The overall SDG score of India is 61.9 out of 100. According to the report Jharkhand and Bihar are the least prepared to meet the SDGs by 2030, which is the target year. While Jharkhand lags in five of the SDGs, Bihar lags in seven.

- 12.** In June 2021, India has been elected as a member of **Economic and Social Council** for three-year terms of 2022-24.  
**Note:** India was elected to the 54-member ECOSOC, by the UNGA on June 7, 2021, in the Asia-Pacific States category, along with Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Oman. ECOSOC serves as the central platform for discussing international economic, social and environmental issues and formulating policy recommendations addressed to member states and the United Nations system.
- 13.** The NITI Aayog and **Piramal Foundation** have launched 'Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan' to provide home-care support to asymptomatic covid-19 patients or patients with mild symptoms.  
**Note:** The Foundation which has been working in 25 districts helping in COVID care to senior citizens since last year has now expanded its scope of work to 112 backward districts called "Aspirational Districts'. Both entities unveiled 'Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan' which will be rolled out in these 112 districts to assist the district administrations in providing home-care support to patients who are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms.
- 14. Indian Institute of Science** ranked as Best Indian University in Times University Rankings 2021.  
**Note:** India is third overall in terms of representation, behind Japan (116 universities) and Mainland China (91). While Indian Institute of Science (37th) remains the country's highest ranked university for the seventh year in a row, Indian Institute of Technology Ropar (55th) and Indian Institute of Technology Indore (78th) have also made it to the top 100 this year. Of the 49 Indian universities appearing in the rankings for at least a second consecutive year, 51% have maintained or improved on their 2020 rankings.
- 15.** According to the coveted QS World University Rankings 2022, **Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore** is the world's top research university as per the citations per faculty indicator.  
**Note:** Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi remained the three universities from India to rank in the top-200 positions in the latest Rankings. As per the rankings, IIT Bombay for securing 177th position, IIT Delhi for securing 185th rank and IISc Bengaluru for securing 186th position in overall

university rankings globally. The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, is the world's top research university as per the citations per faculty indicator, while the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, is ranked 41st in the category.

- 16. IIT Bombay** is India's top ranked institution for the fourth consecutive year at the QS World University Rankings 2022.  
**Note:** Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi remained the three universities from India to rank in the top-200 positions in the latest Rankings. As per the rankings, IIT Bombay for securing 177th position, IIT Delhi for securing 185th rank and IISc Bengaluru for securing 186th position in overall university rankings globally. According to the 18th edition of the rankings, the India Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, is India's top ranked institution for the fourth consecutive year at the QS World University Rankings 2022.
- 17.** According to the all-India survey on higher education (AISHE) 2019-20 released by the union education ministry the number of institutions of national importance have increased to **135**.  
**Note:** Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' released the report of All India Survey on Higher Education 2019-20.  
**Key Highlights:**
- There has been a growth of 11.4% in the student enrolment in five years.
  - The rise in female enrolment in higher education during the period is 18.2%.
  - Number of institutions of national importance have increased to 135 in 2020 from 75 in 2015.
  - AISHE report is published by Ministry of Education since 2010-11.
- 18. Kiran Rijju** has launched Central Athlete Injury Management System (CAIMS) for streamlining the sports medicine and rehabilitation support offered to the athletes for Olympics 2024 and beyond.  
**Note:** It will start with support for athletes who are a part of Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) development group. It will have 4 structures: Athlete Wellness Cell, On-Field Sports Medicine Experts, National Resource Referral Teams, Central Core Team
- 19. Ministry of AYUSH** has launched 'Namaste Yoga' for the 7th International Day of Yoga (IDY) in a curtain raiser event.  
**Note:** The event was organised by the Ministry of Ayush in association with the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga. The app has been designed as an information platform for the public. Its aim is to raise awareness about yoga and make it accessible for the

- larger community. IDY is observed on 21st June every year.
- 20.** India has signed an agreement with **Kuwait** to streamline the recruitment of Indian domestic workers.  
**Note:** The MoU brings Indian workers in Kuwait within the ambit of a legal framework that streamlines their recruitment and provides them protection of law. It also introduces an employment contract to ensure the rights and obligations of employers and workers, and a mechanism for 24-hour assistance to workers. A joint committee will be created to carry out periodic reviews and follow up the implementation of the MoU.
- 21.** India ranked **67<sup>th</sup>** in the Coursera's Global Skills Report 2021.  
**Note:** It exhibited a lag in digital skills development with 38 per cent proficiency in each global skill domain. Globally, India has ranked 55 in business, and 66 in both technology and data science. On the Asian map, India is at rank 16, ahead of the Philippines and Thailand, but behind Singapore and Japan.
- 22.** **Narendra Modi** addressed the UN 'High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation & Drought'.  
**Note:** He said that three million hectares of forest cover has been added in India over the last ten years. He listed steps taken by India to deal with the land degradation issue. He conveyed that India is on track to achieve its national commitment of Land degradation neutrality. He said India is also working towards restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.
- 23.** According to the World Giving Index 2021 report India's position as the most charitable country is **14<sup>th</sup>**.  
**Note:** This year's survey highlights the impact of lockdowns on charitable giving. Indonesia remains in the first place, followed by Kenya. Four African nations now sit in the top 10 -- three of them (Nigeria, Ghana and Uganda) for the first time. Most of the western countries which are usually in the Top 10 have fallen far down the rankings.
- 24.** **Malaria No More** NGO has in collaboration with the India Meteorological Department & the ICMR is creating an India Interagency Expert Committee on Malaria and Climate (IEC) to explore and advance climate-based solutions for accelerating malaria elimination in India.  
**Note:** Aim of the collaboration is to explore and advance climate-based solutions for accelerating malaria elimination in India. India has set a target to eliminate malaria by 2030.
- 25.** The central government has modified the 'Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in India Phase II' (FAME India Phase II) scheme. The FAME scheme is being administered by **Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises**.  
**Note:** The FAME scheme was administered by the department of heavy industries (DHI). MoHI&PE has decided for the aggregation of electric three-wheelers and electric buses component of the scheme via state run Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), to bring down the cost of electric 3 Wheelers to that of ICE-3 Wheelers.
- 26.** In a major boost to exports of GI certified agricultural produce, a consignment of fibre and mineral rich Jalgaon banana has been exported to **UAE**.  
**Note:** In 2016, Jalgaon Banana got GI certification which was registered with Nisargraja Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in Jalgaon. Country's banana export has been rising sharply because of adoption of farm practices as per the global standards. During 2020-21, India has exported banana worth of 1.91 lakh tonnes valued at 619 crore rupees.
- 27.** **Brunei** hosted the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus in that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh participated virtually.  
**Note:** He hailed the Indian values of 'Vasudhaive Kutumbakam' and 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah'. Minister called for a united fight against the pandemic. The ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) is a forum comprising 10 ASEAN member countries and 8 partner nations including India, China, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the United States.
- 28.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 5th edition of VivaTech, the largest digital and start-up events in Europe. The event is being held in **Paris** every year.  
**Note:** The Prime Minister has been invited as a Guest of Honour. He said that India is adaptable and agile even in the middle of the pandemic. VivaTech is being held in Paris every year since 2016. It is jointly organized by Publicis Groupe, a prominent advertising and marketing conglomerate and Les Echos – a leading French media group.
- 29.** India ranked **43<sup>rd</sup>** in the annual World Competitiveness Index 2021.  
**Note:** The report was compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD). Top three nation in the 64-nation list are: 1. Switzerland; 2. Sweden; 3. Denmark. BRICS Nations rank order is China, India, Russia, Brazil and South Africa. India has maintained its position for the past three years.

- 30.** India ranked 135<sup>th</sup> in the latest 15th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021, released by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Sydney.  
**Note:** Indian ranked 135<sup>th</sup> most peaceful country in the world. Iceland remains the most peaceful country while Afghanistan is the least peaceful country in the world for the fourth consecutive year. Bhutan ranked as the most peaceful nation in South Asia. New Zealand, Denmark, Portugal ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> resp.
- 31.** India signed an MoU with **Bhutan** for developing cooperation between two countries in the area of the environment.  
**Note:** The MoU was signed virtually by the Minister of Environment. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar from the Indian side and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairperson of the National Environment Commission Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji from the Bhutanese side. The MoU will open new vistas of bilateral cooperation in the area of climate change, waste management etc.
- 32.** Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) joins hand with **NCERT** for conducting programs across 350 functional EMRS schools across the country.  
**Note:** Under this collaboration, 120 EMRS teachers and principals from 3 states completed **NISHTHA-National initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement Program** to build competencies among teachers and school principals and Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training.
- 33.** Under the chairmanship of **Rajeev Jain** the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has constituted a committee to probe complaints of post-poll violence in West Bengal.  
**Note:** The committee will be headed by NHRC member Rajeev Jain. Atif Rasheed, Rajulben L Desai, Pradip Panja, and Raju Mukherjee are other members. The committee has been entrusted with examining complaints received by NHRC or those that it may receive.
- 34.** **N Venkatram** is the newly inducted member in the reconstituted Takeover Panel by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).  
**Note:** The panel looks into the applications seeking exemption from the mandatory open offer that an acquirer needs to make to minority shareholders. N Venkatram MD and CEO, Deloitte India as the new member of the Takeover Panel. The panel is chaired by N K Sodhi, the former chief justice of the high courts of Karnataka and Kerala.
- 35.** **N K Sodhi** is the chairman of the reconstituted Takeover Panel by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).  
**Note:** The panel looks into the applications seeking exemption from the mandatory open offer that an acquirer needs to make to minority shareholders. N Venkatram MD and CEO, Deloitte India as the new member of the Takeover Panel. The panel is chaired by N K Sodhi, the former chief justice of the high courts of Karnataka and Kerala.
- 36.** According to Ease of Living Index 2020 released by the Centre for Science and Environment, **Hyderabad** is the most livable city of India.  
**Note:** According to the index, Bengaluru is the most livable city of India followed by Chennai, Shimla, Bhubaneswar and Mumbai. Delhi, however, ranked as the worst capital in the perception of citizens contacted for the survey. Four parameters viz. quality of life, economic ability, sustainability, and citizens' perceptions are used to determine the ease of living Index.
- 37.** India has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Fiji** for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and allied sectors.  
**Note:** Under the MoU, a Joint Working Group will be established to set down procedures and plan and recommend programs of cooperation towards achieving its aims. The Working Group will hold its meetings alternatively in India and Fiji once every two years. The MoU will remain valid for a period of five years from the date of its signing and any variation to its duration will be approved in writing by both Parties.
- 38.** National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) has teamed up with **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)** to develop an exclusive green rating system for high-speed rail (HSR) stations in the country.  
**Note:** This world's first green rating system will be formulated for facilitating environmental sustainability at the stations. The rating system will allow new HSR stations to deploy energy-efficient notions during design and construction.
- 39.** The union cabinet has approved allocation of additional foodgrain to National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (Phase IV) till **November 30, 2021**.  
**Note:** Under the scheme, the government will provide 5 kg foodgrains per person per month free of cost ration. It will cover 81.35 crore beneficiaries covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Priority Households including those covered under Direct Benefit Transfer

- (DBT). PMGKAY was launched to help poor fight against Covid-19.
- 40. NTPC** has hosted the BRICS Green Hydrogen Summit. **Note:** Green Hydrogen is one of the most popular and demanding fields in the current times and considered to be the next carrier of energy. Experts from BRICS countries participated to share their insights. Professional views on ways to develop Green Hydrogen energy sources.
- 41.** India ranked **31<sup>st</sup>** out of 46 countries in the Reuters Institute Digital News Report, 2021 on levels of overall trust in news. **Note:** Only 38% of the respondents from India said they trust news overall. Finland had the highest levels of overall trust in news (65%) while the U.S. had the lowest levels of trust (29%). The 10th edition of the report is based on an online survey of 46 media markets to understand how news is consumed in different countries.
- 42.** Under the chairmanship **Vandana Aggarwal** the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has constituted a committee to examine global best practices in ship financing and leasing. **Note:** This Committee will also identify opportunities and devise a roadmap to enable such activities. The committee will be chaired by former Senior Economic Advisor, Vandana Aggarwal. India is strategically located on the world's shipping routes and has a large coastline of over seven thousand 500 kilometres.
- 43. Odisha** state govt has partnered with UN World Food Programme (WFP) to improve household food and nutritional security by strengthening livelihood initiatives reaching thousands of state-supported Women's Self-Help Groups (WSHGs). **Note:** This was done reaching thousands of state-supported Women's Self-Help Groups (WSHGs). The partnership for achieving nutritional security in Odisha focused on empowerment, livelihood and incomes of women.
- 44.** The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) announced a partnership with **WhatsApp** to launch the 'Digital Skill Champions Program' to train youth on digital skills, and make them employment ready. **Note:** NSDC is an apex body to manage Central backed Skill India or the National Skills Development Mission of India campaign. Through this partnership, WhatsApp aims to enhance the digital skills of aspiring entrepreneurs and empower the youth of India to create a safe digital environment for all. As part of WhatsApp Digital Skills Academy, youth from Tier-III & Tier-IV cities will be trained on critical aspects of digital safety and online privacy.
- 45.** The Government of Indian has extended the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME Phase II) till **2024**. **Note:** It is an ambitious scheme to expedite the adoption of electric vehicles launched in April 1, 2019 for 3 yrs. The extension will help push EV sales especially in the two and three-wheeler segment in the coming years.
- 46. Ravishankar Prasad** has launched the e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), 'itat e-dwar'. **Note:** The newly developed e-filing portal would enable the parties to file their appeals, miscellaneous applications, documents, paper books, etc., electronically. It will enhance the accessibility, accountability and transparency in the day to day working of the ITAT.
- 47.** The government has decided to extend the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana from 30th of June, 2021 to **31st of March, 2022**. **Note:** The scheme was earlier open till 30 June 2021. The announcement was made by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during a press conference. This was one of the 8 relief measures announced by the FM.
- 48.** As per the announcement made by the Finance Ministry, how many people will be facilitated with loan amount up to Rs 1.25 lakh under new credit guarantee scheme through micro finance institutions (MFIs) **25 lakh**. **Note:** The announcement was made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as part of economic relief package provided to spur investment climate in the country affected by the Covid pandemic. As per the new scheme, guarantee will be provided to Scheduled Commercial Banks for loans to new or existing NBFC-MFIs or MFIs for on lending up to Rs 1.25 lakh to approximately 25 lakh small borrowers.
- 49. IIM Kozhikode** has partnered with education platform Coursera to offer management courses to global learners \_\_\_\_\_. **Note:** It has announced the launch of four certificate programmes in the fields of business, strategy, marketing, and product management. Each programme was designed as a six-to-eight-month-long graduate-level offering. Coursera is one of the largest online learning platforms in the world.
- 50.** India ranked **10<sup>th</sup>** in the Global Cybersecurity Index 2020 (GCI) released by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). **Note:** It is a United Nations (UN) agency for information and communication technologies (ICT). India jumps 37 places from 47th in the previous ranking. The GCI is a composite index produced,

analysed and published by the International

Telecommunication Union (ITU).

### Important News – State

1. **Punjab** state government has launched the women-empowerment oriented “UDAAN Scheme” to distribute sanitary pads to women every month.  
**Note:** Under this scheme sanitary pads would be distributed free of cost to needy women and girls of the state every month. A fund of Rs 40.55 crore per annum has been allocated for this scheme.
2. **Karnataka** state government has launched Doctors ride towards village side programme.  
**Note:** Under this scheme, the Government provides necessary logistic support for the teams led by medical students to visit villages and provide better healthcare during the pandemic. MBBS final year students, BSc Nursing, BDS, MDS, Ayush graduating doctors are deputed to rural areas to carry out Covid tests. A team of medical students, nurses, ASHA and Anganwadi workers visit door to door to identify vulnerable members of the family and carry out tests.
3. **Telangana** state government will launch a pilot of digital survey of agricultural lands in the State from June 11.  
**Note:** It will be conducted in three villages of Gajwel Assembly constituency represented by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and twenty four other villages in as many districts. This was decided at an official meeting presided by Mr. Rao to discuss digitising agricultural lands and fixing coordinates with the aim to ensure permanent security of holdings for land owners.
4. **Bihar** state government has proposed to reserve 33 per cent seats to girls in medical and engineering colleges.  
**Note:** The government has been planning to bring two new Bills — the Bihar Engineering Universities Bill and Bihar Medical Education Bill — in the next Assembly session to give formal shape to the proposal. The state has 2,035 engineering seats and 1,330 medical and BDS seats in the 11 medical and 38 engineering colleges it runs.
5. **Maharashtra** state government has launched the state annual priority sector credit plan worth Rs 4,60,881 crore and an overall annual credit plan of Rs 18,10,779 crore at the quarterly State Level Bankers Committee (SBLC).  
**Note:** The state government has set the annual credit lending target by banks of Rs 1.19 lakh crore for the agriculture sector in the current financial year. Of this, Rs 60,860 crore is set for the crop loans during the kharif and rabi seasons. Government asked banks in state to continue more finance under crop loan disbursement for kharif 2021 season and to achieve season targets by end of June 2021.
6. Raimona becomes the sixth National Park of **Assam**.  
**Note:** A notification declaring Raimona as a national park has been brought out by Assam govt. The five national parks that existed prior to the 422 sq. km Raimona are Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa. The Raimona National Park is within the Bodoland Territorial Region.
7. **Ladakh** has launched the YounTab scheme for students under which about 12,300 tablets were distributed among student.  
**Note:** A total of 12 thousand 300 students of 6th to 12th class from government schools will benefit from the scheme. YounTab scheme formulated to encourage digital learning, bridge the digital divide between connected and unconnected and mitigate the Covid pandemic disruptions.
8. **Haryana** state government has Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme (PVDPS).  
**Note:** This Life Air God Pension scheme aims to ensure adequate supply of natural oxygen in the state. This Prana Vayu Devta Pension Yojna is a major step towards ensuring clean air to breathe amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. Several states including Haryana witnessed a crisis of medical oxygen recently that was needed for severely ill COVID-19 patients.
9. **Assam** state government has instituted a series of annual awards similar to the Bharat Ratna and Padma awards.  
**Note:** The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting headed by Chief Minister Himanta Biswas Sarma. While the Asom Ratna would be presented to one person who has made a significant contribution to society, the Asom Bibhushan would be presented to three, the Asom Bhushan to two and the Asom Shree to 10 persons every year.
10. **Andhra Pradesh** state government has launched scheme to help small & petty vendors and artisans and Rs 370 crore credited to 3.7 lakh small traders as interest free loan.  
**Note:** Under the scheme the state govt credited Rs 370 crore to 3.7 lakh small traders as interest free loan. Although 9.05 lakh beneficiaries were identified from

the scheme, in the phase-1, only Rs 535 crore was disbursed by the banks to 5.35 lakh beneficiaries.

11. **Ladakh** has reserved all jobs for the residents of the region.  
**Note:** The new recruitment rules are mentioned in the Clause 11 of the Union Territory of Ladakh Employment (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules, 2021. The move has met a long-pending demand of the people of Ladakh, after it was carved out as a Union Territory (UT) on August 5, 2019. The order by the L-G was issued by exercising the powers conferred by S.O 282(E) dated 21.01.2020.
12. Dihing Patkai becomes 7th National Park of **Assam**.  
**Note:** Assam now has the third most National Parks after the 12 in Madhya Pradesh and nine in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The five older National Parks in the State are Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa. Kaziranga and Manas are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. They are also tiger reserves along with Nameri and Orang.
13. **Rajasthan** state government has approved the draft of the Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Urja Yojana under that agriculture power consumers will get Rs 1,000 every month.  
**Note:** Under the scheme agriculture power consumers will get Rs 1,000 every month and a maximum of Rs 12,000 per year. Central and state government employees and other income tax payers will not be eligible for the subsidy.
14. **Madhya Pradesh** state government has launched 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan' to make people aware about the COVID pandemic with the help of youth power.  
**Note:** The campaign will be launched with the help of youth power. In the Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan, college teachers and around 16 lakh students will be made aware of corona infection by learning Covid appropriate behavior and vaccination. This campaign will be run by the Higher Education and Technical Education Department in collaboration with the Public Health and Family Welfare Department.
15. Export quality Jardalu mangoes are geographical indications (GI) certified mangoes from **Bihar**.  
**Note:** GI relates to a specific geographical origin of a product and certifies that it possesses qualities or a reputation due to that. The mangoes were packed in Lucknow before the Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority exported them in collaboration with the Bihar government.
16. **Rajasthan** state government has decided to set up a Vedic Education and Sanskar Board to revive the knowledge of ancient Sanskrit scriptures and connect the learnings of the Vedas with science and yoga.

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

17. **Telangana** state government has launched a program 'Revv Up' for Artificial intelligence (AI) startups.  
**Note:** The vision of T-AIM is to develop Telangana as a global hub for AI startups. Revv Up, which will begin its first cohort in July this year, is another step towards making Telangana and Hyderabad a global destination for AI and other emerging technologies. The accelerator programme would be a torchbearer for future AI accelerators in the country. NASSCOM will execute the envisioned strategy of T-AIM to identify and promote innovative and impactful AI solutions to solve real-world problems.
18. Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel has organised Flag Satyagraha programme in **Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh**.  
**Note:** The programme was organised by **Union Culture Ministry** and **IGNCA** as part of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** to commemorate 75 years of Country's independence. It reminisces the historic moments of **Jhanda Satyagraha held in Jabalpur in 1923** when the immortal martyrs first unfurled the flag at the Town Hall with great courage.
19. Which state government has launched a scheme named 'Ashirbad' to provide monthly financial support to all orphan children who have lost one or both their parents during COVID-19 from April 2020 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Odisha**.  
**Note:** Children who lost their parents or main earning person of the family on April 1, 2020 or thereafter to Covid-19 will be eligible to be covered under the scheme. Such children under distress have been divided into three categories. Those who have lost both their parents, those who have lost either father or mother and those whose main earning member of family, either father or mother have died.
20. **Assam** state government has signed an MoU with the Survey of India for implementing the Svamitva scheme in the state, which aims to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural areas.  
**Note:** The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj, and Assam Government's Department of Revenue and Disaster Management will implement the scheme with the support of the Panchayat and Rural Development. Survey of India, as the technology partner, will take steps for survey of inhabited rural land by drone as well as establishment of ground based control stations

to enable a detailed spatial database of properties in rural areas.

21. World's first genetically modified (GM) rubber sapling was planted in **Assam**.  
**Note:** It was developed by Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII), Kottayam, Kerala. This GM rubber sapling is expected to grow well under the climatic conditions of the north east. This is the first time any GM crop is developed exclusively for this region.
22. **Andhra Pradesh** state ranked first in new job creation under India Business Process Outsourcing Promotion Scheme (IBPS) launched by the union government.  
**Note:** Tamil Nadu ranked 2nd with 9,401 new jobs. This was announced by the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous body under MeitY.
23. **Gujarat** state government has launched e-launched Agricultural Diversification Scheme-2021 that will benefit vanbandhu- farmers in tribal areas.  
**Note:** It will benefit vanbandhu- farmers in tribal areas. The scheme will benefit more than 1.26 lakh farmers from 14 tribal districts of the state. Under this scheme tribal farmers will get fertilizer-seed assistance of Rs 31 crores in which 45 kg of urea, 50 kg of NPK and 50 kg of ammonium sulphate will be provided.
24. **Delhi** state government has launched Mukhya Mantri Covid-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana.  
**Note:** This will offer a monthly financial assistance of ₹2,500 and one-time compensation of ₹50,000 to the families of those who have lost their earning member due to Covid-19. These benefits will be in addition to the ongoing social welfare scheme of the Delhi govt such as old-age pension and widow pension. Govt will

also look after health and education needs of dependent children.

25. **Goa** becomes the first rabies-free state in the country.  
**Note:** As there not a single case of rabies has been registered the last three years. The task of rabies control has been carried out by Mission Rabies project, which is being run through a central government grant.
26. **Telangana** state government has announced Rs 10 lakh financial assistance to eligible Dalit beneficiaries under the Chief Minister Dalit Empowerment Programme.  
**Note:** The amount will be transferred directly to the bank accounts of the selected Dalit beneficiaries as was done in the case of Rythu Bandhu Scheme. In the first phase, the assistance would be given to 100 families selected from each of the 119 Assembly Constituencies.
27. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar has inaugurated Asia's longest high-speed track — NATRAX in **Madhya Pradesh**.  
**Note:** NATRAX, one of the state-of-the-art automotive testing and certification centre under NATRiP. It is a flagship project of the Ministry of Heavy Industries, planned under the Automotive Mission Plan launched by the Centre.
28. **Odisha** state government has decided to set up district-level industry and investment promotion agencies to create more economic opportunities in the State.  
**Note:** These agencies should be dedicated towards facilitation and handholding of the micro, small and medium enterprises. These agencies would operate as single-point contact for entrepreneurs and investors.

### Important News – World

1. **South Korea** hosted the Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030 Summit.  
**Note:** During the summit UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed for a global partnership to tackle climate change and strive toward inclusive green growth. He also said that, tackling climate change head-on will help protect the most vulnerable people from the next crisis while sustaining a job-rich recovery from COVID-19.
2. The Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) opens its first European innovation centre in **Netherlands**.  
**Note:** Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will bring universities, businesses, startups and government together at its latest innovation hub in Amsterdam to help use digital technology to solve sustainability challenges. It will focus on sustainability challenges
3. **Microsoft** has launched first ever “Asia Pacific Public Sector Cyber Security Executive Council”.  
**Note:** It was launched with the aim of building strong communications channel to address cyber threats and to share best practices among participating countries. Cybersecurity Council comprises of policy makers and influencers from countries like Indonesia, Korea, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, and Thailand. It is supported by cybersecurity professionals. Council was set up with the aim of accelerating public-private partnerships in cybersecurity, and share threat intelligence.
4. **India** has launched the Mission Innovation CleanTech Exchange, a global initiative, that will create a network

faced by organisations and becomes the first in a network of hubs, known as TCS Pace Ports, in Europe.

of incubators across member countries to accelerate clean energy innovation.

**Note:** The network, launched virtually at the Innovating to Net Zero Summit hosted by Chile. It will provide access to the expertise and market insights needed to support new technologies to access new markets globally. India among 23 governments collectively launched bold new plans to catalyze action and spearheaded a decade of innovation to drive global investment in clean energy research, development and demonstrations.

5. Fire stricken MV X-Press Pearl cargo ship sinks near Colombo Harbour belongs to **Singapore**.  
**Note:** The towing the ship to the deeper seas was abandoned as the stern of the ship sank to the seabed when it was being towed 500 to 600 meters westward, reported Colombo Page. X-Press Feeders, operators of the container ship 'X-Press Pearl' reported that despite salvors successfully boarding the vessel and attaching a tow wire, efforts to move the ship to deeper waters have failed. X-Press Pearl with a container leaking nitric acid reported smoke from the cargo hold on the 20th May while anchorage at 9.5 nautical miles northwest of the Port of Colombo. The vessel reported fire on deck on May 21.
6. Kharg is the largest warship of **Iran** that caught fire and sank in the Gulf of Oman.  
**Note:** State media reported 400 troops on board fled the vessel, with some 20 suffering injuries. The vessel sank near the Iranian port of Jask, some 1,270 kilometers (790 miles) southeast of Tehran on the Gulf of Oman near the Strait of Hormuz — the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf.
7. **Manama** city topped the AIRINC Global 150 Cities Index for Financial Attractiveness ranking.  
**Note:** Indicators used for calculating Financial Attractiveness – Salary levels, Cost of Living, and Taxes in a particular market. Seven cities from the MENA (Middle East North Africa) region were among the Top 16. 1st Country in the MENA region to develop an economic diversification strategy away from hydrocarbons. Currently, over 80% of the country's GDP depends on the Non-Oil sector.
8. **Denmark** parliament has to build the world's first artificial island with the aim to provide clean energy in North Sea.  
**Note:** The size of the island will be 1 sq mile (2.6 sq km), the project is to begin later this year. The giant island, named Lynetteholm, would be connected to the mainland via a ring road, tunnels and a metro line. Plans for Lynetteholm include a dam system around its perimeter, with the aim of protecting the harbour from rising sea levels and storm surges.

9. **International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol)** has launched a new global database named "I-Familia" to identify missing persons through family DNA and help the police solve cold cases in member countries.  
**Note:** I-Familia has three components: a dedicated global database to host the DNA profiles provided by relatives, held separately from any criminal data; DNA matching software called Bonaparte, developed by Dutch company Smart Research; and interpretation guidelines developed by Interpol.
10. **Germany** hosted the 8th triennial conference of the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI).  
**Note:** Germany's Federal Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt-UBA) hosted the conference for the 1st time since its inception. The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety is supported the UBA. UN Environment Programme, UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and UN Economic Commission on Europe, also addressed the conference. The conference was attended by over 800 scientists and other stakeholders from over 60 countries.
11. **USA** to hand over three MH-60 Romeo multirole helicopters to Indian Navy.  
**Note:** The first batch of Indian pilots has also reached the US for training on the helicopters which would be arriving in India next year in July. India and the US had signed over- ₹16,000 crore deal to buy 24 MH-60 Romeo helicopters from Lockheed Martin in 2020 under fast track procedures on a government-to-government deal to hasten the process.
12. **Russia** formally exits from Open Skies Treaty, after United States withdrew from pact in 2020.  
**Note:** Signed on March 24 1992, the pact allows for unarmed surveillance over the territories of its 34 member states. Russia has become the second country to exit the pact following a Donald Trump-led US' exit from the treaty last year. Open Skies Treaty is an international treaty that allow nations to collect information on one another's military forces to increase transparency
13. **El Salvador** has become world's first country to grant legal tender status to bitcoin.  
**Note:** Bitcoin use as legal tender will become law in 90 days. Its economy heavily relies on remittances and so those who are working abroad can send money back home in bitcoins too. It will bring financial inclusion, investment, tourism, innovation and economic development in the country.
14. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index 2021 **Auckland** becomes the most livable city in the world.

- Note:** The annual list did not go ahead in 2020, but Austria's Vienna, number one in both 2018 and 2019, has completely dropped out of the top 10 after being heavily effected by Covid, and now sits in 12th place. New Zealand's capital Wellington was fourth on this year's list, tying with Japan's Tokyo, and four cities of Australia, where tough border controls have been in place throughout the crisis, occupy the top 10.
- 15.** First edition of the two-day Arab-India Energy Forum (AIEF) was held under the co-chairship of India and **Morocco**.  
**Note:** The event was held under the co-chairship of India and the Kingdom of Morocco. The forum witnessed exchange of knowledge, expertise and best practices in the fields of energy efficiency programmes for different economic sectors, accelerated development of new & renewable energy, fostering regional power sharing arrangements, enhanced oil recovery, tight gas extraction, and safe nuclear power generation etc. It was agreed to hold the 2nd edition of AIEF in India during 2023.
- 16.** During the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Meeting (HLM) on HIV/AIDS, the assembly approved a declaration to end AIDS by **2030**.  
**Note:** The Assembly stated that COVID-19 has increased inequalities and pushed access to AIDS medicines, treatments and diagnosis off track. The declaration also committed assembly's 193 member countries to implement Reduce annual new HIV infections to under 3, 70, 000 and annual AIDS-related deaths to under 2, 50, 000 by 2025.
- 17. Indonesia** is at top position in the World Giving Index 2021 report.  
**Note:** Four African nations now sit in the top 10 -- three of them (Nigeria, Ghana and Uganda) for the first time. Most of the western countries which are usually in the Top 10 have fallen far down the rankings. 61 per cent of Indians helped strangers; 34 per cent volunteered; and 36 per cent donated money.
- 18.** The European Space Agency (ESA) will launch world's first satellite, WISA Woodsat from **New Zealand**.  
**Note:** The objective of the satellite is to test the applicability of wooden materials like plywood in spacecraft structures and expose it to extreme space conditions, such as heat, cold, vacuum and radiation. It will be launched by Rocket Lab Electron rocket from the Mahia Peninsula launch complex in New Zealand. Designed and built in Finland will orbit at around 500-600 km altitude in polar Sun-synchronous orbit.
- 19.** Recently, United Kingdom has agreed on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with **Australia**.  
**Note:** It will make it cheaper for the UK to sell its cars and Scotch whisky Down Under and remove barriers for business. An FTA with Australia is also dubbed as a gateway into the fast-growing Indo-Pacific region, which covers India. The UK-Australia trade relationship was worth 13.9 billion pounds last year and is set to grow under the deal.
- 20.** India has signed an agreement with **Sri Lanka** for extending a US\$ 100 million Line of Credit (LOC) for projects in the Solar Energy Sector.  
**Note:** The agreement was signed between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Export-Import Bank of India. This US\$ 100 million LOC will help finance various projects in the solar energy sector in Sri Lanka, such as rooftop solar photo-voltaic systems for households and government buildings. Some of the projects were announced during the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) held in March 2018 in Delhi.
- 21. Switzerland** ranked 1st in the World Competitiveness Index 2021.  
**Note:** The report was compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD). Top three nation in the 64-nation list are: 1. Switzerland; 2. Sweden; 3. Denmark. BRICS Nations rank order is China, India, Russia, Brazil and South Africa. India has maintained its position for the past three years.
- 22. Afghanistan** declared the least peaceful country in the world in 15th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021 released by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Sydney.  
**Note:** Indian ranked 135th most peaceful country in the world. Iceland remains the most peaceful country while Afghanistan is the least peaceful country in the world for the fourth consecutive year. Bhutan ranked as the most peaceful nation in South Asia. New Zealand, Denmark, Portugal ranked 3rd, 4th, and 5th resp.
- 23.** According to the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021, **Iceland** is the most peaceful country in the world.  
**Note:** The 15th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021 was released by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Sydney. Indian ranked 135th most peaceful country in the world. Bhutan ranked as the most peaceful nation in South Asia. New Zealand, Denmark, Portugal ranked 3rd, 4th, and 5th resp.
- 24. Japan** has decided to make a vaccine passport available from next month for Japanese travellers in a bid to relaunch tourism and business trips abroad.  
**Note:** The certificate will be paper-based rather than digital and will be issued by local governments from sometime next month. The European Union is working on a digital vaccine passport for this summer so it can welcome back badly needed tourists, and some EU countries plan to introduce certificates at the national

- level. The EU version will feature information on whether a person has been vaccinated, or had the virus, tested negative, and recovered.
- 25. World's third-largest diamond unearthed in Botswana.**  
**Note:** This newly discovered diamond is believed to be the third-largest gem-quality stone ever to be mined in the world. It has been presented by Debswana Diamond Company to President of Botswana, Mokgweetsi Masisi. **Cullinan stone in South Africa** and **Lesedi La Rona of Botswana** are the other largest diamond.
- 26. Israel** has successfully tested an airborne high-power laser that can shoot down drones mid-air.  
**Note:** It will deploy this technology on a larger scale in the coming years. The trial, which is planned for later this year, will test the system's ability to shoot down incoming rockets and mortar fire at close range. The ground-based laser system is being developed by the Rafael weapons manufacturer. This will supplement the Iron Dome or Israel's other air defense systems.
- 27. Nikol Pashinyan** is acting PM of **Armenia** whose party has won a parliamentary election with 53.92 per cent votes in the country.  
**Note:** The local news agency reported today, citing the electoral commission. Pashinyan had earlier claimed victory in Sunday's election based on preliminary results, with his party taking an early lead over its closest challenger, the Armenia Alliance, led by former President Robert Kocharyan.
- 28.** According to the International Energy Forum (IEF) announcement **India** will host the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9) next year.  
**Note:** The summit will take forward the understandings reached in the previous meeting in Abu Dhabi during 2018, which was co-hosted by India. The International Energy Forum (IEF) is the world's largest energy organisation with 71 member countries, accounting for 90 per cent of the global energy market.
- 29.** Rosatom is a company of **Russia** country that has started the construction work for unit 5 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP).  
**Note:** The commenced with the first concrete pouring into the foundation plate of the reactor building. The General Framework Agreement (GFA) between India and Russia was signed on April 10 2014, on construction of Units 3 and 4.
- 30.** USA ranked first in the Global Cybersecurity Index 2020 (GCI) released by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).  
**Note:** India is ranked 10th in the Global Cybersecurity Index 2020 (GCI) released by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). It is a United Nations (UN) agency for information and communication technologies (ICT). India jumps 37 places from 47th in the previous ranking.

### Honor & Awards

- 1. Nitin Rakesh & Jerry Wind** has been awarded the International Business Book of the Year Award 2021.  
**Note:** This book provides the knowledge to thrive business even in a crisis for entrepreneurs and business owners. Nitin Rakesh is the Chief Executive Director (CEO) and Executive Director of IT major Mphasis. He has won 'Gold Stevie Award' for Tech Innovator of the Year in 2019. Jerry Wind is an internationally renowned academician and is currently Lauder Professor Emeritus and Professor of Marketing at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2. Thomas Vijayan** has won the 2021 Nature TTL Photography Awards for his photo of an Orangutan clinging to a tree.  
**Note:** The photograph is titled 'The World is Going Upside Down'. Vijayan was adjudged as the overall winner of the competition from over 8,000 entries for Nature TTL Photographer of the Year 2021, which carries a grand prize of 1,500 pounds (Rs.1.5 lakh). Nature TTL is the world's leading online nature photography resource.
- 3. David Diop** has won the International Booker prize 2021.  
**Note:** David Diop has become the first French novelist to win the International Booker prize for translated fiction with *At Night All Blood Is Black*, his first novel translated into English. Diop, the author of two novels, and his translator Anna Moschovakis split the £50,000 annual prize, which goes to the best author and translator of a work translated into English.
- 4. Water Burial** has bagged the best film National Award on environment conservation at 67th National Films Awards 2021.  
**Note:** Inspired by the popular Assamese novel *Saba Kota Manuh*, which is written by Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi, *Water Burial* is in Monpa dialect and has an intriguing storyline around a dark ritual of a local tribe in Arunachal Pradesh. The film, which is directed by independent filmmaker Shantanu Sen in Monpa dialect, has garnered positive reviews for its uniqueness in portraying the rituals of the tribals of the Northeast and bringing the attention of the mainstream media towards it.

5. **Rhea Chakraborty** has bagged the number 1 spot on Times 50 Most Desirable Women 2020 list.  
**Note:** This year Rhea Chakraborty has topped the list. She was in the news for most of last year due to the sudden demise of Sushant Singh Rajput and the controversy around his death. Adline Castelino (Miss Universe 2020 - 3rd Runner-up) at number 2, Disha Patani at number 3, Kiara Advani at number 4 and Deepika Padukone at number 5.
6. **Sumita Mitra** has been honoured with the European Inventor Award 2021 in the 'Non-European Patent Office countries' category.  
**Note:** She successfully integrated nanotechnology into dental materials to produce stronger and more aesthetically pleasing fillings. The award, one of Europe's most prestigious innovation prizes, is presented annually by the European Patent Office (EPO) to recognise outstanding inventors from Europe and beyond.
7. Environmental organization 'Family Forestry' of Rajasthan has won the 2021 Land for Life Award by United Nations.  
**Note:** The **2021 Land for Life Award** has been won by **Familial Forestry** of Rajasthan, a unique concept that relates a tree with a family, making it a green "family member." The UN **Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** organises the **Land for Life Award** every two years to recognize excellence and innovation in efforts towards land in balance. The theme for the 2021 Award is "**Healthy Land, Healthy Lives**".
8. **K K Shailaja** has been awarded with the Central European University's (CEU) highest award - 'Open Society Prize 2021'.  
**Note:** She has been selected for the award in recognition of her commitment to public health services. Open Society Prize, the highest civilian recognition by the university, is annually awarded to persons of exceptional distinction who serve the ideals of an open society.
9. Indian PSU **NTPC** has been recognized as a 'Great Place to Work' for the 15th year in a row by the Great Place to Work (GPTW) Institute.  
**Note:** Under the category of 'India's Great Place to Work' it ranked at 38th position from its 47th position of 2020, it also won its first-ever recognition of - 'India's Best Employers among Nation-Builders 2021' from GPTW. Great Place to Work Certification: It is the most definitive 'Employer-of-Choice' recognition that organizations aspire to achieve, it is considered the 'Gold Standard' in identifying and recognizing Great Workplaces with High Trust and High-Performance Cultures.
10. **Cochin International Airport, Cochin** has won the Airport Council International (ACI) Director General's Roll of Excellence award in Airport Service Quality.  
**Note:** This was established by Director General of Airport Council International (ACI). It is a global body of airport operators. The award will be presented during the ACI Customer Experience Global Summit to be held in Sep in Montreal, Canada.
11. **Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata** has emerged as the biggest philanthropist in the world over the last 100 years, as per a report prepared by Hurun Research and EdelGive Foundation.  
**Note:** The report pegs the current valuation of India's pioneer industrialist Jamsetji Tata's donations at \$102.4 billion over the past century. He is followed by Bill and Melinda Gates (\$74.6 billion), Warren Buffett (\$37.4 billion), George Soros (\$34.8 billion) and J D Rockefeller (\$26.8 billion). He was regarded a 'Father of Indian Industry'.
12. **Surat and Indore** two cities of India has jointly won the Smart Cities Award 2020.  
**Note:** India Smart Cities Awards Contest (ISAC) 2020 has been released to rank cities on different themes ranging from Social Aspects, Governance, Culture, Urban Environment, Sanitation, Economy, etc. Award was organized under Smart Cities Mission project, by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
13. Indian journalist **P. Sainath** has been selected as one of the three recipients of the Fukuoka Prize for 2021.  
**Note:** Mr. Sainath will receive the 'Grand Prize' of the Fukuoka Prize while the Academic Prize and the Prize for Arts and Culture will go to Prof. Kishimoto Mio of Japan and filmmaker Prabda Yoon of Thailand respectively. The Fukuoka Prize is given annually to distinguished people to foster and increase awareness of Asian cultures, and to create a broad framework of exchange and mutual learning among the Asian people.

### Sports News

1. Indian men boxer **Sanjeet** who has won the gold medal in 91 Kg category in the Asian Boxing Championships 2021.  
**Note:** Sanjeet triumphed 4-1 over Levit, who was chasing his fourth gold of the tournament and is an

Olympic silver-medallist. With 15 medals in this edition, India surpassed its previous best-ever show at this Championship, achieved in 2019, when the country secured 13 medals in all, including two gold medals.

2. **Jordan Clarkson** has won the the 2020-21 Kia NBA Sixth Man Award.  
**Note:** This is the first Sixth Man honour for Clarkson, who becomes the first player to win the annual award with the Jazz. Clarkson becomes the first player in Jazz franchise history to win the award and was presented the trophy by his teammate and fellow Sixth Man of the Year Finalist Joe Ingles. Clarkson received 65 first-place votes and earned 407 total points from a global panel of 100 sportswriters and broadcasters.
3. Tsang Yin-Hung is from **Hong Kong** became the fastest female climber to reach the peak of Mount Everest.  
**Note:** She beat the record set by Nepali woman Phunjo Jhangmu Lama in 2017, who climbed Everest in 39 hours and 6 minutes. In 2017, Tsang became the 1st Hong Kong woman to reach the peak. Arthur Muir, 75, became the oldest American to climb the Mount Everest – at 8,848.86-metres (29,031 feet).
4. In tennis, **Novak Djokovic** has won the first edition of 2021 Belgrade Open Singles.  
**Note:** The Belgrade Open part of the Association of Tennis Professionals(ATP) Tour 250 Tennis Tournament. 2021 Belgrade open is an outdoor clay courts tournament. Belgrade Open 2021 is the first edition of the event created due to the one-week delay of the 2021 French Open.
5. Sifan Hassan belong to **Netherlands** sets women's 10,000m world record of 29 min 6.82 sec.  
**Note:** Ethiopia's Almaz Ayana held the previous record of 29:17.45, set at the 2016 Rio Olympics, but Hassan shaved more than 10 seconds off that mark. Hassan is the reigning world champion having won gold in Doha in 2019 and the 28-year-old set down a marker before next month's Tokyo Games, blowing away the competition and sprinting solo across the line with her arms outstretched in celebration.
6. **Sergio Perez** has won the Formula One Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2021 in Baku.  
**Note:** Driver Championship leader and Perez's Red Bull teammate Max Verstappen crashed with just 4 laps to go. Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton, meanwhile, went off course while trying to win the race on the standing restart in the two-lap shootout. Four-time champion Sebastian Vettel took second for Aston Martin after an impressive drive after qualifying 11th.
7. **Oman** country will host the inaugural International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey5s World Cup.  
**Note:** Matches will take place in Oman's capital city Muscat. The Hockey5s' flagship event is a brand-new FIH competition. Sixteen teams per gender (3 per continent Oman as hosts) will take part in this first edition. Continental Hockey5s qualifiers for the World Cup will be organized in 2022.
8. Indian footballer **Sunil Chhetri** has surpassed Argentina's global superstar Lionel Messi to become the second-highest active international goal-scorer with 74 strikes.  
**Note:** The 36-year-old Chhetri achieved the staggering feat with his brace against against Bangladesh in the joint preliminary qualifying round match for 2022 FIFA World Cup and 2023 AFC Asian Cup. The seasoned striker, who helped India register their first win in six years in World Cup qualifiers, now stands only behind Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (103) in the active international goal-scorer list.
9. **Novak Djokovic** has won the French open Men's Singles title 2021.  
**Note:** He is now one short of the men's 20 Grand Slam titles record of Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. The Serbian world number one increased his Grand Slam tally to 19 titles, and is now one adrift of the men's record held by Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. Djokovic has also become the first man in the Open era, and third overall, to win all four Majors at least twice.
10. **Barbora Krejckikova** has won the French Open Women's singles title 2021.  
**Note:** The 25-year-old Krejckikova, who was unseeded and ranked 33rd, hadn't made it past the fourth round in at any major before this trip to Paris. But after a magical run, beating the likes of Elina Svitolina, Sloane Stephens, Coco Gauff, and Maria Sakkari, she lifted the prestigious Roland Garros trophy after a two-hour-long final. Pavlyuchenkova, who played her first major final in her 52nd appearance, bounced back in the second set but failed to keep her momentum going till the very end.
11. India's Mirabai Chanu is associated with **Weightlifting** qualified for Tokyo Olympics.  
**Note:** The International Weightlifting Federation announced that Mirabai has qualified on the basis of her world ranking points. The 26-year-old from Manipur lifter is ranked second in the women's 49-kg category. As per rules of the IWF, top eight lifters in each of the 14 weight categories, including seven in the women's group, are eligible to compete in Tokyo Games.
12. Indian Wrestler **Vinesh Phogat** has won the women's 53kg freestyle gold with an 8-0 win over Khrystyna Bereza of Ukraine at the Poland Ranking Series in Warsaw.  
**Note:** The gold-winning effort of Vinesh is likely to improve her seeding in the 53kg freestyle event at the Olympics, to be held from July 23 to August 8. In the final match, Vinesh went up 2-0 in the opening 70 seconds of the bout. With less than two minutes on board, she led 4-0. Khrystyna struggled to keep pace

with Vinesh in the initial stages of the bout. As the match progressed, the Ukrainian made some good moves but Vinesh was quick to wriggle out of the tricky situations.

13. **D. Gukesh** has won the \$15,000 Gelfand Challenge chess title and with it, a 'wild card' for the elite Meltwaters Champions Chess Tour.  
**Note:** He won all four rounds, including the key battle against Praggnanandhaa, and emerged on top after a series of favourable results from the games involving other title-contenders.
14. **Max Verstappen** has won the 2021 French Grand Prix 2021.  
**Note:** This race is the seventh round of 2021 Formula-One World Championship. With this victory, Max Verstappen has 131 points and now leads Lewis Hamilton (119 points) in the Formula One drivers' title race, after seven matches. Britain's Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) stood second in the 2021 French Grand Prix, followed by Sergio Perez (Mexico- Red Bull).
15. Indian archer **Abhishek Verma** won a gold medal in the men's individual compound event in Archery World Cup Stage 3 in Paris.  
**Note:** He defeated American Kris Schaff via shoot-off in a nerve-wracking final. This was Verma's second World Cup individual gold medal. He won the first one in Wroclaw, Poland, in 2015.
16. Indian shooter **Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker** won the silver medal in the 10m air-pistol mixed team event at the ISSF Shooting World Cup.  
**Note:** The tournament is being held in Osijek, Croatia. The duo lost to Russia's Vitalina Batsarashkina and Artem Chernousov in the gold medal match. Russia currently leads the medal tally with three golds as many silver and one bronze.
17. **Max Verstappen** has won Formula One Styrian Grand Prix 2021.  
**Note:** Verstappen has won three of the last four races. With a clean start from pole Verstappen denied Lewis Hamilton an early attack and he remained ahead for the entire race.

18. **Shafali Verma** becomes the youngest Indian cricketer to make debut across formats after being picked for the first ODI against England Women.  
**Note:** On her ODI debut, Verma scored 15 runs off 14 balls before being dismissed by Katherine Brunt. The Haryana girl took 17 years and 150 days to make her debut across format
19. **Sajan Prakash** has become the first Indian swimmer to qualify for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics.  
**Note:** He achieved the feat as he clocked 1 minute 56.38 seconds in the men's 200m butterfly at the Sette Colli Trophy in Rome. Qualification cut-off was 1 minute 56.48 seconds. Tokyo **Olympics** will begin on July 23 and the Games will run up to August 8 2021.
20. Indian shooter **Rahi Sarnobat** won the gold medal in women's 25 metres pistol event at the ISSF Shooting World Cup in Osijek, Croatia.  
**Note:** Rahi shot 39 out of 50 in the 25m pistol final to win the first gold for India in the ongoing World Cup. The silver went to France's Mathilde Lamolle, who scored 31 in the final. In the in the women's 25m pistol event she along with Chinki Yadav and Manu Bhaker won the team gold medal.
21. Indian archer **Deepika Kumari** completed a hat-trick of gold medals at the Archery World Cup Stage 3 after winning the women's individual recurve event.  
**Note:** Deepika Kumari beat Elena Osipova of Russia 6-0 in the women's individual recurve final Deepika also won gold medals in the mixed team and women's recurve team events. Deepika's 2nd gold medal came with husband Atanu Das in the mixed team recurve event.
22. **UAE and Oman** will host the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 amidst second wave of Covid 19 outbreak in India.  
**Note:** It was announced by the International Cricket Council (ICC). The tournament is scheduled to be held from October 17 to November 14. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which holds the hosting rights of this year's event, will inform the International Cricket Council (ICC) in this regard.

### Books and Authors

1. **Salman Rushdie** has authored the book titled "Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020".  
**Note:** He suggests his work has been misunderstood and mistreated because the literary culture has turned from brio-filled imaginative writing toward the humbler delights of "autofiction," as exemplified by the work of Elena Ferrante and Karl Ove Knausgaard.
2. **Supriya Paul** has authored the book titled 'All You Need Is Josh: Stories of Courage and Conviction in 21st-century India'.  
**Note:** This book has been published by Bloomsbury. It contains stories of some unique individuals with an aim to reach those who are searching for hope and comfort during trying times.
3. **Amartya Sen** has authored the book titled 'Home in the World'.

- Note:** Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has penned his memoir 'Home in the World'. The book will be published in July by Penguin Random House. In 'Home in the World', Sen shares details from his life and explores the idea of 'home'. In this book, Sen shares how it was Rabindranath Tagore who gave him his name Amartya.
4. The book titled "Beyond Here and Other Poems", released by Naveen Patnaik has been authored by **Bishnupada Sethi**.  
**Note:** The book was published by Har Anand Publications. The poems featured in the book reflect the experiences of life, perception of death, and philosophical contemplation. The preface of the book was written by noted Odia poet Haraprasad Das.
  5. **Amitav Ghosh** has authored the book titled "The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis".  
**Note:** This Book is Published by John Murray and will be released on October 14, 2021. This book is about the history of the influence of colonialism on the world today, told through the story of the nutmeg. It discusses everything from the global history of the oil trade to the migrant crisis and the animist spirituality of indigenous communities around the world.
  6. **Tahira Kashyap Khurrana** has authored the book titled 'The 7 Sins of Being A Mother'.  
**Note:** This is her fifth book and the second she wrote amid the pandemic. Last year, the filmmaker had released 12 Commandments of Being A Woman, which she finished writing during the coronavirus-induced lockdown. The writer has also penned books like Cracking The Code: My Journey in Bollywood and Souled Out.
  7. The book titled 'Will' is a memoir of **Will Smith**.  
**Note:** His book will be published by Penguin Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House and co-authored by Mark Manson. Smith will also narrate the audiobook of Will from Penguin Random House Audio. Will looks to tell a story about Smith's life and career. The book will delve into him being raised in West Philadelphia to entering superstardom as an actor and rapper.
  8. The book titled 'Monk in a Merc' is memoir of Indian Neurologist **Ashok Pangariya** to be released Posthumously.  
**Note:** The book gets released after the demise of Dr. Ashok Pangariya who passed away in June 2021. The book talks of his life and experience in achieving eternal happiness and mental peace while pursuing all of life's luxuries and professional success. Ashok Pangariya was a Neurologist and previously served as the vice chancellor of Rajasthan University of Health Sciences.
  9. **Ruskin Bond** has authored the book titled "It's a Wonderful Life".  
**Note:** This book is written in a Perceptive, uplifting, deeply moving and in a non fictional way. It is about the joys and positive truths to be found in the smallest of incidents that occur in our lives. Ruskin Bond, Indian author of British descent, is one of India's most well-known children's writers.
  10. **R V Raveendran** has authored the book titled "Anomalies in Law and Justice".  
**Note:** The book has been authored by former Supreme Court Judge Justice (ret'd) R V Raveendran. He explains the various deficiencies in the law which needs to be overcome. The book is an attempt to explain to a common man that the law and the legal system is still evolving.
  11. **Sundeep Mishra** has authored the book titled 'Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story'.  
**Note:** The Book chronicles Chand's journey with a detailed narrative of the gender-identity controversy that made her an iconic figure in Indian sport. Dutee Chand, the first openly homosexual athlete from India, scripted history in 2019 when she became the first Indian to win a gold in a 100 metre event at the World Universiade in Naples.

### Science and Defence

1. **IIT Ropar** has developed 'AmbiTag', a device that records ambient temperature during the transportation of vaccines, body organs and blood.  
**Note:** 'AmbiTag' is a USB-shaped device that continuously records the temperature of its immediate surroundings from -40 to +80 degrees in any time zone for a full 90 days on a single charge. Besides perishable items including vegetables, meat and dairy products it can also monitor the temperature of animal semen during transit. "So far, such devices are being imported by India in a massive quantity from other countries such as Singapore, Hong Kong, Ireland, and China.
2. **IIT Guwahati** has developed a "Smart Window" material that can effectively control the amount of heat and light passing through it in response to an applied voltage.  
**Note:** This material can help in developing automatic climate control systems in buildings. Such materials can help develop efficient automatic climate control systems in buildings, the scientists claimed. This study

- was recently published in the journal- 'Solar Energy Materials & Solar Cells.
3. **SapceX** has launched thousands of tiny sea creatures to the International Space Station, along with a plaque-fighting toothpaste experiment and powerful solar panels.  
**Note:** SpaceX's Falcon rocket blasted into the hazy afternoon sky from Kennedy Space Center. The first-stage booster was new for a change, landing on an offshore platform several minutes after liftoff so it can be recycled for a NASA astronaut flight this fall. The Dragon cargo capsule — also brand new — is delivering the first of three sets of high-tech solar panels designed to bolster the space station's aging power grid.
  4. DAVINCI+ and VERITAS two new mission announced by NASA, relating to **Venus**.  
**Note:** It aims to explore and study the solar system. DAVINCI+ (Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry, and Imaging) mission. VERITAS (Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography, and Spectroscopy). The last US probe to visit the planet was the Magellan orbiter in 1990.
  5. India conducted the three days long 31st edition of the coordinated patrol (CORPAT) with **Thailand** in the Andaman Sea.  
**Note:** This is the 31st edition of the India-Thailand coordinated patrol (CORPAT). The Indian Navy's offshore patrol vessel INS Saryu and Thai ship Krabi along with Dornier maritime patrol aircraft from both navies are participating in the exercise. Both the navies have been bi-annually undertaking CORPAT along their international maritime boundary line (IMBL) since 2005.
  6. **European Space Agency (ESA)** is developing its own 'EnVision' to study Venus, for holistic view of planet from its inner core to upper atmosphere.  
**Note:** The mission dubbed as **EnVision**, will probably be launched to the planet in the early **2030**. **EnVision probe of ESA** will determine how and why Venus and Earth evolved so differently, even while being in the habitable zone to the Sun. ESA will undertake this mission with contributions from NASA.
  7. **IIT Ropar** has developed a device "Jivan Vayu" which can be used as a substitute for Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machine.  
**Note:** This is the nation's first such device which functions even without electricity and is adapted to both kinds of oxygen generation units like CO<sub>2</sub> cylinders and oxygen pipelines in hospitals. These provisions are not available in otherwise existing CPAP machines.
  8. China launched a spacecraft 'Shenzhou-12' carrying three astronauts to its own space station which is to be complete by the **2022**.  
**Note:** It was launched from Gobi Desert. This launch begins the first crewed space mission in five years for an increasingly ambitious space program. China becomes the third country to send astronauts into space. This is the third of the 11-mission needed to complete the China's space station by 2022.
  9. **IIT Bombay** hosted a three-day virtual Conference of BRICS Network Universities on the theme of electric mobility.  
**Note:** This conference is part of the engagements that India is hosting under the education stream during its Chairship of the 13th BRICS Summit this year. Over 100 students, researchers and faculty from the BRICS Network Universities of the five member countries are expected to participate in the conference. BRICS Network University is a union of higher education institutions of the five BRICS member countries, formed with the objective of enhancing educational cooperation in general, and especially in the realm of research and innovation.
  10. The maiden Indian Navy and European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) exercise was conducted in **Gulf of Aden**.  
**Note:** A total of five warships from four navies were participated in the two-day exercise. The exercise aims to enhance and hone their war-fighting skills to promote peace, security and stability in the maritime domain. INS Trikand, mission deployed for anti-piracy operations, is participating in the exercise. Other warships include Italy's ITS Carabinere, the Spanish Navy's ESPS Navarra, and FS Tonnerre and FS Surcouf of France.
  11. **China** plans to send its first crewed mission to Mars in 2033.  
**Note:** It aimed a long-term plan to build a permanently inhabited base on the Red Planet and extract its resources. It will intensify a race with the United States to plant humans on Mars. Crewed launches to Mars are planned for 2033, 2035, 2037, 2041 and beyond.
  12. **IIT Madras** has launched a 'Centre for Research on Start-Ups and Risk Financing' (CREST) to provide academic and thought leadership in innovation, entrepreneurship and risk capital.  
**Note:** It will also create a unique world-class data repository on start-ups and ventures. It will address hurdle for engaging in high-quality research. This would be made accessible for researchers and policymakers that can result in top-tier publications.

- 13.** The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy participated in a 2-days 'Passage Exercise' with the navy of **USA** in Indian Ocean in June 2021.  
**Note:** As part of the exercise, Sukhoi, Jaguars, IAF refuelling aircraft and warships and maritime patrol aircraft of the Navy participated in the exercise. INS Kochi and Teg, along with P8I and MiG-29K aircraft participated with US Navy CSG Ronald Reagan. Passex is part of regular exercises between India and US
- 14.** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated **63** infrastructure projects constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).  
**Note:** From Kunjan bridge on Leh-Loma Road, he inaugurated all bridges in Eight States across the country virtually. Amongst the bridges, 11 in Ladakh, Four in Jammu and Kashmir, Three in Himachal Pradesh, Six in Uttarakhand, Eight in Sikkim, 29 in Arunachal Pradesh and one each in Nagaland and Manipur.
- 15.** Indian Naval Ship **INS Tabar** has been deployed for naval exercises in Africa, Europe that will participate in exercises like Konkan, Varuna and Indra.  
**Note:** It will visit a number of ports in Africa and Europe till the end of September. It will also participate in a number of joint exercises with friendly navies. The

ship will transit across the Gulf of Aden, Red Sea, Suez Canal, Mediterranean Sea, North Sea and Baltic Sea while making port calls at Djibouti, Egypt, Italy, France, UK, Russia, Netherlands, Morocco, and Arctic Council countries like Sweden and Norway.

- 16. 1000 km - 2000 km** is the strike range of the new variant of nuclear-capable Agni P missile test fired by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully off Odisha coast.  
**Note:** The first test of the new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile Agni Prime was conducted from the launching complex IV of the Abdul Kalam Island at about 10.55 am. Indigenously developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the missile met all mission objectives.
- 17.** The United States has launched joint Sea Breeze naval exercises with **Ukraine**.  
**Note:** The drills come just days after the British Royal Navy's HMS Defender passed near Russian-annexed Crimea in the Black Sea. The Sea Breeze drills — which have taken place 21 times since 1997 — will involve some 5,000 military personnel from more than 30 countries. The exercises will last two weeks and involve around 30 ships, including the missile destroyer USS Ross.

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