

Monthly GK Digest

October 2021



Monthly Digest October -2021

Dear readers,

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

Banking & Financial Awareness

- 1. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has approved a credit plan for yak husbandry in **Arunachal Pradesh** state that will help herders secure loans for the purpose and strengthen their livelihoods.
Note: The scheme was developed by the **National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY)** at Dirang in West Kameng district. The credit plan vetted by NABARD for yak husbandry was found to be feasible for extending advances by commercial banks and has been included in the **potential linked credit plans (PLCP)** of Tawang. The NRCY comes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
- 2. AU Small Finance Bank** signed a pact with the **National Bank for Rural and Development (NABARD)** to boost ongoing rural development initiatives in Rajasthan.
Note: The memorandum envisages a joint initiative to benefit farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), rural artisans, agri-entrepreneurs, and agri-startups in the State. "This MoU between NABARD and AU Bank will provide institutional credit support to the ongoing development schemes in the State, which will lead to further prosperity in the rural areas.
- 3. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has removed **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** from the Prompt Corrective Action Framework.
Note: IOB was placed under the PCA framework in **2015**. The Board for Financial Supervision, after review of IOB's performance, on the basis of the **published financial results for 2020-21** found that the bank was not in breach of the PCA parameter.
- 4. Piramal Enterprises** has acquired Dewan Housing Finance Limited (DHFL) by paying an amount of **Rs 34,250 crore**.
Note: This is the first successful resolution of a financial services company under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). DHFL is the first financial services firm to go for bankruptcy proceedings. It is a non-deposit-taking housing finance company.
- 5. World Bank** will give \$150 million loan to support the **Tamil Nadu's Chennai City Partnership: Sustainable Urban Services Program**.
Note: The program seeks to help strengthen institutions, improve the financial health of service agencies, and drive significant improvements in the quality of urban services — water supply and sewerage, mobility, health, and solid waste management. This program will support the TN in its efforts to transform the city and its services.
- 6. State Bank of India** and Indian Navy have launched the lender's NAV-eCash card onboard the country's largest Naval Aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.
Note: The unique infrastructure at naval ships inhibits traditional payment solutions particularly when the ship is in high seas where there is no connectivity. With dual-chip technology, the country's largest lender said that the card will facilitate both online as well as offline transactions.
- 7. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted the **National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)** the licence to register as an asset reconstruction company (ARC), which is seeking to turn around bad loans worth **Rs 2 trillion**.
Note: The licence to NARCL, dubbed as bad bank, was granted by the central bank on Monday, said an official. The approval to the entity has been accorded under Section 3 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002. Section 3 of SARFAESI Act states that an entity cannot start the business of securitisation or asset reconstruction without obtaining a certificate of registration, and should have funds of at least Rs 2 crore or an amount not exceeding 15 per cent of the total financial assets acquired or to be acquired by the ARC.
- 8. Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited** has recently reverse merged with debt-ridden company **Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited**.
Note: PCHFL has merged into DHFL with effect from 30th September 2021 pursuant to the reverse merger as contemplated under scheme of arrangement provided under the resolution plan, Piramal

- Enterprises said in a regulatory filing. Upon allotment of equity shares to PEL, DHFL will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of PEL.
9. Under **SARFAESI Act 2002**, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted the **National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)**, which is seeking to turn around bad loans worth Rs 2 trillion, the licence to register as an **asset reconstruction company (ARC)**.
Note: The approval to the entity has been accorded under Section 3 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002. Section 3 of SARFAESI Act states that an entity cannot start the business of securitisation or asset reconstruction without obtaining a certificate of registration, and should have funds of at least Rs 2 crore or an amount not exceeding 15 per cent of the total financial assets acquired or to be acquired by the ARC.
10. **Tata AIA Life Insurance** has tied up with integrated healthcare company Practo for online medical consultation for its customers.
Note: As part of the alliance, Tata AIA consumers can avail themselves of online medical consultations from verified doctors anywhere, anytime. This includes assistance for common ailments like cold, fever and injury, thereby enabling them to seek immediate medical guidance from the safe and comfortable environment of their home.
11. **Britannia** has collaborated with the global IT and professional services company Accenture to accelerate its digital transformation across multiple retail channels.
Note: Accenture, through a digital transformation program, has helped Britannia Industries to accelerate innovation, capture value and improve the customer and supplier experience. For Britannia's large network of suppliers, this project will help streamline procurement and supply chain management, using SAP Ariba solutions to expedite digital onboarding, contract management and procurement processes.
12. IT company **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has been selected by **NORD/LB**, a leading German commercial bank, as its strategic partner for its IT transformation.
Note: **NORD/LB** has embarked on a transformation journey that targets a new business model by 2024, and a leaner, more agile operating model. It has partnered with TCS in this journey. As part of the five-year partnership, TCS will work with the bank to simplify and transform its application estate across businesses—financial markets, wholesale and retail banking, through application consolidation and automation.
13. **Indian Bank** becomes the official partner bank for the collection of offline and online treasury for the Integrated Financial and Human Resources Management System.
Note: The Integrated Financial and Human Resources Management System is a portal developed by the government of Tamil Nadu to integrate human resources and finance related services providing a comprehensive management system. The public, through the portal statement. All government services related to Tamil Nadu treasuries and accounts, chief auditor of statutory boards departments, small savings, pension, co-operative audit and government data centre, among many others, at a click of a button.
14. **Suryoday Small Finance Bank** has shut-down its automated teller machines (ATMs) from 1st October, 2021.
Note: The bank will give users the option to use their debit card at ATMs of other banks. The lender will shut down its ATMs from October 1.
15. **Stellapps**, a dairy-tech start-up, has joined hands with **Airtel Payments Bank** to enable cashless payment transfers to small dairy farmers.
Note: Airtel Payments Bank will onboard Stellapps' new partner milk collection centers as banking points. These banking points will enable farmers to open a bank account, withdraw and deposit cash, earn interest on savings, access Aadhaar enabled payments, get government pension schemes, and make bill payments.
16. **Indel Money** has tied up with **IndusInd Bank** for a gold loan co-lending partnership to offer gold loans at competitive rates.
Note: Under the co-lending partnership agreement, Indel Money will originate and process gold loans based on mutually formulated credit parameters and eligibility criteria. The company will service customers through the entire lifecycle of the loans, including sourcing, documentation, collection and loan servicing. IndusInd Bank will take into its book 80 per cent of the gold loans generated by the co-lending arrangement, while the remaining 20 per cent will be funded by Indel Money.
17. **IDBI Bank** and the **U GRO Capital** has signed a co-lending agreement.
Note: The co-lending arrangement will work towards providing formal credit to underserved MSMEs, at affordable rates. For the same, it will leverage U GRO Capital's digital technology platform driven by a Data Tripod, which comprises of GST, Banking & Bureau, in addition to the company's deep sectoral understanding, and multi-channel distribution reach.
18. The **NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL)** has signed the first green term loan agreement of Rs 500 crore with **Bank of India**.
Note: NTPC REL has signed its first Green Term Loan agreement of Rs 500 crores at a very competitive rate with a tenor of 15 years with Bank of India for its 470

- MW solar project in Rajasthan and 200 MW solar project in Gujarat.
19. Digital payments major **Paytm** has acquired a 100% stake in Urja Money Pvt. Ltd., which provides a loan management system through its proprietary solution, CreditMate.
Note: The Paytm Group will now become 100% beneficial owners of the business. Back in 2017, Paytm had acquired an undisclosed stake in CreditMate parent, Urja Money Pvt. Ltd, to create a loan management system in collaboration with lending partners.
20. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has increased the daily limit of Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) transactions to what amount from earlier ₹2 lakh to **₹5 lakh**.
Note: "Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) offers instant domestic funds transfer facility 24x7 through various channels. With RTGS now operational round the clock, there has been a corresponding increase in settlement cycles of IMPS, thereby reducing the credit and settlement risks.
21. **BharatPe** has announced its foray into the 'Buy Now Pay Later' (BNPL) segment, with the launch of 'postpe'.
Note: Using Postpe platform, customers can avail interest-free credit limit of up to Rs 10 lakh. It is not only limited to big-ticket purchases but can also be used for micro-purchases. With this, BharatPe aims to facilitate a loan book of \$300 million in the first 12 months for its lending partners.
22. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has become the first scheduled private sector bank to received approval from the government for collection of direct and indirect taxes, such as income tax, Goods and Services Tax (GST) etc, through its banking network.
Note: With this, the bank becomes the first scheduled private sector bank to receive approval after the announcement by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allowing all banks to participate in government-related business. Ministry of Finance had announced to allow all private sector banks to participate in govt-related business-like collection of taxes, pension payments and small savings schemes in February 2021.
23. In association with **NITI Aayog** the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** and GIFT City launched I-Sprint'21, the global FinTech Hackathon Series "Sprint01: BankTech", focussed on fintech for the banking sector.
Note: First Sprint of the series is 'Sprint01: BankTech', which focuses on FinTechs for the Banking sector. It has been launches in collaboration with GIFT city and NITI Aayog. Partners for the Hackathon: ICICI Bank, HSBC Bank, iCreate, Zone Startups and Invest-India.
24. The theme of the Fourth Cohort under Regulatory Sandbox as announced by the Reserve Bank of India -- '**Prevention and Mitigation of Financial Frauds**'.
Note: Before this, RBI has already launched three cohorts under Regulatory Sandbox. Focus of 4th cohort will be to use technology to reduce the lag between occurrence and detection of frauds, strengthening the fraud governance structure, and minimising response time to frauds. RBI has also decided to facilitate on-tap applications for themes of all cohorts
25. According to the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Report released in October 2021, India's GDP growth rate for 2022-23 (FY23) -- **7.8%**.
Note: RBI releases Monetary Policy Report on a half-yearly basis. RBI has projected India's GDP growth at 9.5% for 2021-22 in the MPC meet of October 2021
26. **Adani Group** has taken over the responsibilities of Jaipur International Airport from Airports Authority of India (AAI).
Note: Gautam Adani-led Adani Group took over the responsibilities of Jaipur International Airport from Airports Authority of India (AAI) for a period of 50 years. Adani Airports will work on the operations, management and development of the Jaipur airport through PPP mode.
27. Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) was incorporated in **1986** year that was accorded 'Maharatna' status.
Note: It will enable PFC to offer competitive financing for the power sector, which will go a long way in making available affordable & reliable 'Power For All 24x7'. PFC was incorporated in 1986 and is the largest Infrastructure Finance Company exclusively dedicated to Power Sector under the administrative control of Ministry of Power.
28. **Saraswat Cooperative Bank Ltd.** has partnered with which Axis Securities to offer its customers investing services through a 3-in-1 account.
Note: The facility will integrate savings bank account maintained by the co-operative bank with the demat and trading account offered by Axis Securities, which is a subsidiary of Axis Bank. This facility will make it easier for customers to transfer funds quickly, reduce paperwork and most importantly, provide a comprehensive platform to invest in various investment instruments like equities, derivatives, currency, commodities, MF, IPO, etc.
29. **Unity Small Finance Bank** becomes the 12th Small Finance Bank (SFB) of India.
Note: RBI has issued a new bank license after a gap of nearly 6 years. The new SFB, has been incorporated as 'Unity Small Finance Bank'. It is the first time ever that two partners are uniting equally to build a Bank. Centrum's MSME and Micro Finance businesses shall be merged into Unity Small Finance Bank.

- 30. Shivalik Small Finance Bank Limited** has partnered with Go Digit General Insurance to offer instant, easy-to-understand insurance products through the bank's network of branches across India digitally.
Note: The insurance products include health insurance plans, motor insurance, home and shop insurance. The Shivalik bank's current customers are generally classified into different segments such as retail, manufacturing and services, housing and real estate, and microfinance. Go Digit General Insurance will support the bank in making the process of buying cover, submitting and receiving claims easier for its customers.
- 31. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has sanctioned an assistance of Rs 303 crore to **Odisha** government for the construction of 24 bridges in the state.
Note: The rural infrastructure projects will improve connectivity for 24.13 lakh people in 823 villages across 13 districts.
- 32. Federal Bank** has tied up with CredAvenue for portfolio management of its securitisation book and implemented CredPool, an institutional debt platform of CredAvenue.
Note: This arrangement, will help the bank digitally monitor its asset-backed securities (ABS) and mortgage-backed securities (MBS) pool assets more efficiently through the technology platform. The partnership entails CredAvenue providing post-transaction fulfilment services and portfolio management for their direct assignment portfolio.
- 33. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)** has bagged two national awards ('APY Big Believers' and 'Leadership capital') for significant enrolment under the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
Note: So far, the bank has enrolled (cumulative) 2,30,432 accounts under APY. During 2020-2021, the bank has enrolled 68,961 accounts against the target of 38,160. The bank with jurisdiction over nine district has a business turnover of ₹28,410 crore with a clientele base of nearly 90 lakh.
- 34. Punjab National Bank** has launched a "6S Campaign" encapsulating different schemes such as - Swabhiman, Samruddhi, Sampark and Shikhar, Sankalp and Swagat.
Note: This was launched in line with GoI's "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" for various outreach activities on financial services. Aim: to drive special awareness campaign for development of financial services and to accelerate credit growth, improve penetration of social security schemes and drive digital banking push.
- 35. IT major Wipro** has announced the launch of 'Begin Again' program for the women professionals under which women can relaunch their career post a break – be it for a sabbatical, motherhood, elderly care, travel, passion, or any other personal reasons.
Note: The program is for those who had a break in their career for a duration of six months to one year or more for jobs based in India. The initiative enables talented women to explore career opportunities that will harness their potential and allow them to get back on track with the present demands of the industry.
- 36. India First Life** has introduced the "Saral Bachat Bima Plan", a savings and protection cover for the entire family.
Note: It is a savings and protection cover for the entire family. This non-linked, non-participating, individual, limited premium policy provides a shorter pay commitment of five or 7 years while keeping the entire family protected for 12-15 yrs. IndiaFirst Life is promoted by Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India.
- 37. Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** premium to be paid by farmers of sum insured for cash crops -- **5%**.
Note: The union govt has constituted a working group to roll out an overhauled Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from kharif 2022. The group will have members from Centre, key crop-producing states and top executives of public sector insurance companies.
- 38. In collaboration with blockchain development company Chainflux** the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has launched a blockchain platform for gold bullion named 'NSE-Shine'.
Note: The platform will provide a data framework for bullion bar integrity for settlement of Gold derivatives contracts. The India Gold Policy Centre (IGPC) at the Indian Institute of Management - Ahmedabad (IIM-A) and the Indian Bullion and Jewellers' Association (IBJA) have worked closely with the NSE and Chainflux to develop this blockchain-based platform.
- 39. Tata AIG General Insurance Co. Ltd.** has launched a 'Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS)' Insurance for drone owners & operators.
Note: It also announced TropoGo, a deep tech startup on the drone ecosystem, as its distribution partner for the RPAS insurance scheme. Tata AIG has launched the RPAS Insurance after satisfying the recommendations made by IRDAI's Working Group on RPAS Insurance, and other valuable inputs from the Drone Federation of India (DFI). RPAS Insurance Products cover both Hull and Third-Party Liability risks on Drones, optional coverage for Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) operations, night flying, data loss liability, etc.
- 40. Telecom operator, Vodafone Idea (VIL)** has joined hands with Indian Multinational conglomerate company **L & T Group** for a pilot project to test 5G-based smart city solutions.
Note: The two companies would make partnership to address the challenges of urbanisation, safety & security and offering smart solutions to the citizens,

leveraging the smart city platform by L&T. The pilot project will be commenced in Pune, Maharashtra.

41. Agri-fintech firm Dvara E-Dairy Solutions Private Limited has entered into a collaboration with **Jana Small Finance Bank** to service small dairy farmers by empowering small and medium dairy farmers with financial and cattle management solutions using digital technologies.
Note: Through Jana SFB's extensive branch network in rural and agricultural regions across India, Dvara E-Dairy intends to expand the credit and underwriting process for cattle loans. The Dvara E-Dairy's digital identity (ID) tag Surabhi e-Tag will provide accurate cattle identification based on the muzzle identity. Click here to know more
42. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a penalty of ₹ one crore on **Paytm Payments Bank**.
Note: The central bank noted that Paytm payments bank's application seeking issue of final certificate of authorization, did not reflect its factual position. This is related to an offence committed of the nature referred to in Section 26 (2) of Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act).
43. SME lender and fintech Rupifi has partnered with **Muthoot Finance** to power 15 million small and medium-sized enterprises with access to instant credit.
Note: The companies started this partnership earlier this year and are now looking to scale this across different industry verticals in the country. Launched in January 2020, Rupifi allows SMEs to flexibly repay their dues as and when required with a per-day interest pricing but without any monthly EMIs. Through this tie-up, the startup is looking to build its SME portfolio over the coming years.
44. **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd (KMBL)** has launched Micro ATMs across the country for key banking services such as cash withdrawals and checking account balances.
Note: Customers of all banks who possess a debit card can use a Kotak Micro ATM for key banking services such as cash withdrawals and checking account balances. A mini version of an ATM, micro ATMs are small handheld devices.
45. Digital payment platform **PhonePe** in association with **NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL)**, launched ClickPay for its customers.
Note: ClickPay is a unique payment link that enables customers to make recurring online bill payments (electricity, water, gas, loan, etc) and removes the need to remember tedious account details associated with each biller or service. This link sent by the biller will lead the customer directly to the payment page, fetching the bill amount instantly.
46. Petroleum company **BPCL** has launched an automated fuelling technology -UFill- to ensure better customer experience at outlets.
Note: The new U-Fill outlets have been launched in 65 cities and are likely to be launched soon across the country. The customers need not download any app to use the U-Fill technology.
47. According to World's Best Employers rankings 2021 published by Forbes **Reliance Industries Ltd.** becomes the best employer in the country.
Note: Mukesh Ambani-owned RIL was placed at the 52nd position in the overall ranking of 750 global corporates. Other Indian companies that made it to the top 100 rankings include ICICI Bank at 65, HDFC Bank at 77 and HCL Technologies at 90. The top place in the Forbes rankings was occupied by Samsung Electronics followed by IBM, Microsoft and Amazon.
48. With **HDFC Bank** the Mastercard, US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), and US Agency for International Development (USAID) launched a \$100 million credit facility to promote and encourage small businesses in the country.
Note: This is aimed to promote and encourage small businesses in the country to digitise, while also helping Indian businesses, particularly those that are women-owned, to recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic. HDFC Bank will reach beyond its current customer base to make at least 50 per cent of this credit facility available to new small business borrowers, with a goal of at least 50 per cent of the facility being used for lending to women entrepreneurs.
49. Technology company **Intel** has announced the launch of the 'Unnati Program' to help equip engineering students in India with industry-relevant data-centric skills.
Note: The chipmaker plans to setup 100 Intel Unnati Data Centric Labs over the course of next year. The idea is to bring academia and industry together to address skills gap in the new age technologies. Focused on technology inclusion, the Intel Unnati Program strives to broaden access to technology infrastructure for educational institutions across all tiers.
50. The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** sanctioned Rs 608 crore to the Government of India (GoI) for different infrastructure projects in rural areas of **Assam**.
Note: The infrastructure projects include 52 rural roads, 21 rural bridges, 19 flood protection projects and 32 soil conservation projects across the state under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) – XXVII. On completion of the projects, it is estimated that 17 lakh rural population in 900 villages will be directly benefitted.
51. Fintech firm **Rupifi** has partnered with Flipkart Wholesale, the e-commerce firm of the Flipkart Group to provide Embedded 'Buy Now, Pay Later' (BNPL)

offering to the Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Note: The partnership will ensure the availability of instant and digital credit with flexible repayment terms and transparent pricing to around 1.5 lakh Kiranas and MSMEs members on Flipkart Wholesale. Rupifi will ease the process of digitization to boost the B2B (Business to Business) retail ecosystem. Rupifi is empowering MSMEs with a purchase credit line with flexible repayment options usage-based interest and zero fees.

52. Bank of India and Future Generali India Insurance (FGII) Company Limited has entered into a bancassurance partnership to increase the reach of its insurance products.

Note: Through this alliance, FGII will offer its wide array of best-in-class and innovative insurance solutions to 5,084 BoI branches spread across 28 States and 8 Union Territories. Bancassurance is an arrangement between a bank and an insurance company that allows the insurance company to sell its products through the bank's infrastructure to the customers of the bank. This partnership arrangement can be profitable for both companies.

53. RPSG Group has emerged as the winner for the Lucknow Scorchers, the new Indian Premier League (IPL) team.

Note: For the Kolkata-based RPSG group, this is the second innings in IPL. It had earlier owned the Rising Pune Supergiant which came in as a replacement for Chennai Super Kings. While Sanjiv gets an opportunity to get back into league, his brother Harsh Goenka, Chairman of Mumbai-based RPG Group, had a different take.

54. Business firm CVC Capital Partners has emerged as the winner for the Ahmedabad Renegades, the new Indian Premier League (IPL) team.

Note: CVC Capital Partners is a private equity and investment advisory firm based in Luxembourg that have invested in other sports across the globe. IPL's first season was played in 2008 and there have been fourteen seasons of the IPL tournament. The 15th season will see 10 teams competing for the IPL title.

55. Budget carrier IndiGo airlines has entered into a strategic partnership with **Kotak Mahindra Bank** for a co-branded credit card, Ka-ching, under the 6E Rewards programme.

Note: Managed and operated by IndiGo, the Rewards Programme is linked to a co-branded card wherein members can earn rewards by using such card on IndiGo and other merchants and redeem them for availing the benefits. 6E is the airline code for IndiGo. The co-branded card will be available in two variants-- 6E Rewards and 6E Rewards XL -- offering exclusive travel benefits to the cardholders keen on domestic or international travel.

56. ICICI Lombard General Insurance has launched a solution named 'BeFit' to provide benefits of OPD services to its customers in a cashless manner.

Note: BeFit was serviced by ICICI Lombard's ILTakeCare app. Under the BeFit solution, medicine will be delivered to home within 60 minutes and lab tests both at home and centre visit. It also offers 24x7 consultations (tele and virtual) by a panel of doctors. Its offering covers pharmacy and diagnostics services related expenses for minor procedures that do not need hospitalization.

57. Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd has entered into a strategic alliance with **India Post Payments Bank** to offer home loans.

Note: Leveraging its countrywide network of 650 branches and over 136,000 banking access points (post offices), IPPB aims to make HDFC's home loan products and its expertise available to its customers across India. IPPB will offer housing loans through nearly 190,000 banking service providers (postmen and gramin dak sevaks).

58. World Bank has released report titled "**The Changing Wealth of Nations 2021**", according to which South Asia suffers the most in terms of loss of human capital loss because of air pollution.

Note: According to the report, Global wealth is growing, particularly due to middle-income countries catching up with the most advanced economies. But many low-income nations remain stuck, collectively holding less than 1% of the pie despite accounting for 8% of the planet's population.

59. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a **US\$100 million loan** to promote an agribusiness network to boost farm incomes and reduce food losses in **Maharashtra**.

Note: It will help small and marginal farmers, improving their post-harvest and marketing capacity, reduce food losses, and increase incomes through access to finance, capacity building, and horticulture value chain infrastructure development. It will upgrade 16 existing post-harvest facilities and construct 3 new ones to provide individual farmers and FPOs.

60. Asian Development Bank and Central Govt has signed a **\$251-million loan** for climate-resilient, integrated urban flood protection and management in the Chennai-Kosasthalaiyar basin to strengthen the resilience of Chennai city to floods.

Note: Govt of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed \$251-million loan for climate-resilient, integrated urban flood protection and management in Chennai-Kosasthalaiyar basin to strengthen the resilience of Chennai city to floods. It will help residents of Chennai-Kosasthalaiyar basin to cope with intensifying rainfall, a higher sea level rise, and a storm surge caused by cyclones, and protect lives, economy, and environment.

- 61. SBI General Insurance** has partnered with Google Pay to enable the users to buy insurer's health insurance on the Google Pay app.
Note: This collaboration marks Google Pay's 1st partnership with an insurer in India to offer health insurance. The users were enabled to buy both individual and family plans under SBI General's Arogya Sanjeevani policy through Google Pay Spot.
- 62.** The new name the social media platform Facebook -- **Meta**.
Note: The name change, the plan for which was first reported by the Verge, is a significant rebrand for Facebook, but not it's first. In 2019 it launched a new logo to create a distinction between the company and its social app.

Obituaries

1. Renowned personality **Shakti Sinha** passed away recently he was a veteran **Bureaucrat**.
Note: Mr. Sinha, a 1979-batch IAS officer, was also former Director of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML). Mr. Sinha worked closely with Vajpayee between 1996 and 1999, and had written a memoir titled Vajpayee: The Years That Changed India.
2. Renowned personality **Arvind Trivedi** passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.
Note: He is famously known for his iconic role of demon-king Raavan in Ramanand Sagar's TV serial Ramayan as passed away suffering from age-related issues. He was 82. He has also served as the MP from Sabarkatha constituency in Gujarat from 1991 to 1996.
3. Noted **personality Professor** Bala V Balachandran passed away recently he was a veteran **Management Guru**.
Note: Balachandran had played an instrumental role in establishing many management institutes in the country. He was honoured with the 'Padma Shri' award by the Centre for his contribution to education. In 2004, he set up the Great Lakes Institute of Management at Manamai, about 45 km from here, which is one of the popular business schools in the country now.
4. Renowned personality **Ghanshyam Nayak** passed away.
Note: He played role of Nattu Kaka in Sony SAB's 'Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah'. Apart from TMKOC, Ghanshyam had worked in several Gujarati films, Hindi movies and TV shows.
5. Renowned personality Vallilath Madhathil Madhavan Nair passed away.
Note: Mr. Nair joined the Indian Civil Service or the ICS in 1942 and was allotted to the Bihar Cadre. He was permanently seconded to the Indian Foreign Service on November 1, 1944. His early recruitment into the IFS during World War II meant he was present into the foreign affairs team of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru from the very beginning of the new India in 1947.
6. **Research Scholar** Martin J Sherwin passed away.
Note: In his book titled 'A World Destroyed', challenged support for the U.S. bombing of Japan. He won Pulitzer Prize for his book 'American Prometheus'.
7. Noted personality **Sathyajith** passed away recently.
Note: A few years ago, one of Sathyajith's legs was amputated due to gangrene, and he was relegated to a wheelchair. Born as Syed Nizamuddin, Sathyajith carved a name for himself in the Kannada film industry by playing negative roles.
8. Noted personality Nedumudi Venu passed away recently.
Note: Nedumudi Venu began his career as a theatre artist with the plays of Kavalam Narayana Panicker. He made his debut in films with Thambu, directed by G Aravindan in 1978.
9. Renowned personality Srikant passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.
Note: In his 40-year career, Srikanth had acted as hero and villain, besides featuring in many character roles as well. 'Vennira Adai' (The white cloth) was directed by late veteran C V Sridhar. The actor is known for his many supporting roles in films starring top stars of Tamil cinema, including the late Sivaji Ganesan, Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan.
10. Renowned personality Colin Powell passed away recently.
Note: Over four decades of life in US government, Powell would be remembered most distinctly for his speech, as secretary of state, at the UN Security Council that paved the way for the US invasion of Iraq in March 2003, wrongly alleging that Saddam Hussein, then Iraqi leader, had built a stockpile of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).
11. Sri Lanka's first-ever Test captain **Bandula Warnapura** passed away recently.
Note: A right-handed batsman, he led his country when it faced **England** in its first-ever Test match in 1982 and played three more Tests, scoring 96 runs overall at an average of 12. He also played 12 ODI matches, scoring 180 runs at an average of 15.
12. Renowned personality Balvinder Singh Nakai passed away recently he was chairman of **IFFCO**.
Note: Nakai was an eminent farmer - cooperator, and was deeply involved in providing strength to Indian cooperative movement for the last three decades.
13. Renowned Doctor M. Krishnan Nair passed away recently, he was specialist in **Oncology**.

Note: Nair was known for his various path-breaking initiatives in the field of cancer treatment especially in the areas of community and paediatric oncology and palliative care and his efforts to make the expensive treatment affordable to poor people. He played a key role in the opening of the paediatric wing at RCC in 1980s, also led the setting up of a Community and Preventive Oncology Department there aiming to create awareness about the disease.

14. Renowned sportsman Saranjeet Singh has passed away recently.

Note: The former State Bank of India hockey player, who played for Coronation Club in the local league, represented Hyderabad juniors and seniors for many years in the late 70s and 80s and also played for India, which toured Germany in 1983.

15. Renowned personality Puneeth Rajkumar passed away.
Note: He was known to fans as “Appu” – after the 2002 film. He was also a singer and was admired for his dance skills. Puneeth was the presenter of Kannadada Kotyadhipathi, the Kannada version of the game show Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?

Important Days

1. The theme of the International Day of Older Persons 2021 -- **Digital Equity for All Ages.**

Note: International Day of Older Persons is observed every year on 1st October to raise awareness about issues affecting the elderly, such as senescence and elder abuse, and appreciate the contributions that older people make to society. The day was adopted by UN General Assembly on December 14, 1990 and was first introduced in 1991.

2. World Vegetarian Day is observed every year on **1st October.**

Note: The day was initiated by North American Vegetarian Society in Scotland in 1977 during World Vegetarian Congress. International Vegetarian Week (IVW) is observed from 1st October to 7th October.

3. The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on **2nd October.**

Note: The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in a resolution adopted on June 15, 2007, established the commemoration as an occasion to spread the message of non-violence through education and public awareness. It was in January 2004 that Iranian Noble Laureate Shirin Ebadi proposed the idea for the day.

4. World Animal Day is observed every year on **4th October.**

Note: The main goal of World Animal Day is to "raise the status of animals in order to improve welfare standards around the globe." World Animal Day originated in the year 1925, when cynologist Heinrich Zimmermann organised the first event on 24 March at the Sport Palace in Berlin.

5. The theme of the World Teachers' Day 2021 - **Teachers at the heart of education recovery.**

Note: World Teachers' Day (International Teachers Day) is being observed every year on October 5 to focus on appreciating, assessing, and improving the educators of the world and to provide an opportunity to consider issues related to teachers and teaching. This day was established in 1994, to commemorate the signing of 1966 UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.

6. Ganga River Dolphin Day is observed every year on **5th October.**

Note: The day was chosen as on this day in 2009, Ganga Dolphin was declared as national aquatic animals. Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Uttar Pradesh govt jointly began the dolphin conservation campaign in 2012. Gangetic Dolphins are blind, catch their prey with the help of ultrasonic sound waves and can only live in freshwater.

7. The World Cotton Day is observed every year on **7th October.**

Note: It was first introduced in 2019 by World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva, following an initiative of the Cotton-4 countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali to reflect the importance of cotton as a global commodity. Cotton is a global commodity grown in over 75 countries across five continents and traded worldwide.

8. **Indian Airforce Day** is celebrated every year on 8th October in India.

Note: The Indian Air Force is the fourth largest air force in the world. Its Hindon Air Force Station located in UP's Ghaziabad is the largest in Asia. The motto of the IAF is 'Nabha Sparsham Deeptham', which means 'touch the sky with glory'.

9. World Egg Day 2021 was celebrated on **8th October 2021 (2nd Friday of October)**

Note: This year's World Egg Day will take place on Friday 8 October and will mark the 25th anniversary of the event. The 2021 celebration will centre around the brilliant versatility of the egg and its multitude of benefits to people at every stage of life. The theme for 2021 World Egg Day is “Eggs for all: Nature’s perfect package”.

10. World Post Day is celebrated in October every year on **9th October.**

Note: This day is celebrated to mark the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) which was started in 1874 in Switzerland. The theme of World Post Day 2021 is “Innovate to recover.”

11. The World Day Against the Death Penalty is observed every year on **10th October**.
Note: It is a day to advocate for the abolition of the death penalty and to raise awareness of the conditions and the circumstances which affect prisoners with death sentences. The theme for 2021 is “**Women Sentenced to Death: An Invisible Reality.**”
12. World Mental Health Day is observed every year on **10th October**.
Note: The overall objective of World Mental Health Day is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health. The theme for World Mental Health Day 2021 is ‘**Mental health in an unequal world**’.
13. In India, the National Postal Day is celebrated annually on **10th October**.
Note: The Day aims to commemorate the role played by the Indian postal department for the past **150 years**, which was founded in **1854** by **Lord Dalhousie**. Indian postal service is an integral part of India.
14. The International Day of the Girl Child is observed annually on **11th October**.
Note: The date was set by the **United Nations** to urge the global community to embolden gender equality impacts. This year, the theme has been set as “**Digital generation. Our generation,**”.
15. The World Arthritis Day (WAD) is celebrated every year on **12th October** to spread awareness about the existence and impact of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases.
Note: Arthritis is not a single disease but a broad term for more than a hundred diseases related to joints. World Arthritis Day was first observed in 1996 and this year the theme of the day is Don't Delay, Connect Today: Time2Work.
16. The United Nations International Day for Disaster Reduction is held annually on **13th October**.
Note: The day is celebrated to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction and also celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face.
17. **International E-Waste Day (IEWD)** is observed every year on **14th October** to promote the correct disposal of e-waste throughout the world, increasing re-use, recovery and recycling rates.
Note: Theme for 2021 IEWD: Consumer is the key to Circular Economy! 2021 is the 4th edition of the International E-Waste Day.
18. The theme of the World Standards Day 2021 -- **Standards for sustainable development goals – shared vision for a better world.**
- Note:** WSD 2021 theme: Standards for sustainable development goals – shared vision for a better world. It is also known as International Standards Day. The day was established on October 14, 1946.
19. The World Student's Day is celebrated every year on **15th October**.
Note: The day is celebrated in honour of the birth anniversary of former president of India, Late Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. Born on October 15, 1931 in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. He worked as a scientist and administrator at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
20. International Day for Rural Women is celebrated every year on **15th October**.
Note: The day recognises the critical role and contribution of rural women in agricultural and rural development. This year, the theme of the day is ‘Rural women cultivating good food for all. The theme aims to eradicate discrimination faced by women in rural areas.’
21. The Global Handwashing Day (GHD) is observed on **15th October** every year.
Note: It is an international handwashing promotion campaign to motivate and mobilize people around the world to improve their handwashing habits. The day was established by the Global Handwashing Partnership (GHP) (formerly called “Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing” (PPPHW)) in 2008. The theme of GHD 2021 is 'Our Future Is at Hand – Let's Move Forward Together'.
22. **World Food Day** is celebrated all over the world on **16th October**.
Note: It is an initiative by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations. This global event marks a day calling for worldwide awareness and collective action to combat the issue of hunger and ensure healthy diets for all. The theme this year is “Our actions are our future. Better production, better nutrition, better environment and a better life”.
23. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is celebrated every year on **17th October**.
Note: This day is a means to recognize and acknowledge the efforts and struggles that people, who are pushed to live in poverty, face. This year's theme is “Building forward together: Ending Persistent Poverty, Respecting all People and our Planet.”
24. World Statistics Day is celebrated around the globe every year on **20th October** to highlight the achievements of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.
Note: The celebration of World Statistics Day 2021 is a global collaborative endeavour, organized under the guidance of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

The United Nations Statistical Commission proposed celebrating 20 October 2010 as World Statistics Day.

25. World Osteoporosis Day (WOD) is observed every year on **20th October** to raise global awareness of the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease.

Note: The day is organized by International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF). Global WOD Campaign theme for 2021: Serve Up Bone Strength. Osteoporosis means 'porous bone' and is a disease that weakens bones, and if you have it, you are at a greater risk for sudden and unexpected bone fractures.

26. The theme of the International Chefs Day 2021 -- **Healthy Food for the Future.**

Note: Theme of International Chefs Day 2021 campaign: Healthy Food for the Future. It is also the day for experienced chefs to pass on their knowledge and culinary skills to the next generation with a sense of pride and commitment. It was created by Dr. Bill Gallagher, a renowned chef and the former president of the World Association of Chefs Societies (World Chefs), in 2004.

27. Police Commemoration Day is celebrated every year on **21st October** to pay tributes to all police personnel who died in the line of duty.

Note: Since 2012, the Police Commemoration Day Parade is being held at the National Level at the Police Memorial in Chanakyapuri, Delhi. In 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first national police museum in Delhi on October 15.

28. International Stuttering Awareness Day is observed every year on **22nd October.**

Note: This year (2021) the theme of the day is "Speak the change you wish to see". This year, pianist Shivank Menon is bringing together personalities from the Indian film industry to break the stigma associated with stammering.

29. International Snow Leopard Day is celebrated every year on **23rd October.**

Note: The day commemorates the anniversary of the **Bishkek Declaration** and to celebrate this endangered cat and raise awareness for its conservation and protection. It was on October 23, 2013, when political leaders from 12 countries came together to endorse the 'Bishkek Declaration on the conservation of snow leopards.

30. World Polio Day is celebrated annually on **24th October.**

Note: The Day was established by Rotary International to commemorate the birth of **Jonas Salk**, who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis. 2021 theme for World Polio Day is "**Delivering on a Promise.**"

31. United Nations Day is celebrated every year on **24th October.**

Note: It was on this day in **1945** that the Charter of the United Nations came into force. With the ratification of the UN Charter by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being.

32. The theme of the Vigilance Awareness Week 2021 -- **Independent India @75: Self Reliance with Integrity.**

Note: It is organized by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). It is celebrated during the week in which the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel falls, which is held on October 31. Theme for Vigilance Awareness Week 2021: 'Independent India @75: Self Reliance with Integrity'.

33. The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is observed every year on **27th October.**

Note: The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is a key initiative for both UNESCO and the Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations (CCAAA) to honour audiovisual preservation professionals and institutions that safeguard our heritage for future generations. The theme of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2021: "Your Window to the World".

34. International Animation Day (IAD) is observed every year on **28th October** to celebrate the art of animation and also recognize the artists, scientists and technicians behind animation.

Note: IAD was created in 2002 by Association Internationale du Film D' Animation (ASIFA), a member of UNESCO. 2021 marks the 20th International Animation Day

35. International Internet Day is celebrated every year on **29th October.**

Note: The day marks the sending of the first electronic message which was transferred from one computer to another in 1969. At that time the Internet was known as ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network).

36. The theme of the World Psoriasis Day 2021 that was observed on 29th October 2021 -- **Uniting for action.**

Note: The theme for 2021 World Psoriasis Day is "Uniting for action". Psoriasis is a kind of skin disorder that reasons skin cells to multiply up to ten times faster. Psoriasis causes the skin to build up into bumpy red patches embraced with white scales.

37. World Thrift Day is celebrated every year on **31st October.**

Note: This day is celebrated to promote the importance of savings and how saving money is important in today's world. It is an important day to be remembered for individuals as well as the country's economy. Savings, as we all know, is a necessity for every depositor who contributes to economic development.

38. In India, the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day is observed every year on **31st October**.
Note: The Day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. This year marks the 146th anniversary of the great leader who played an instrumental role in India's struggle for independence, and later during the integration of the country.

39. World Cities Day is observed every year on **31st October**.
Note: The Day is celebrated to promote the international community's interest in global urbanization, push forward cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanization, and contribute to sustainable urban development around the world. Theme: "Adapting cities for climate resilience".

New Appointments

- 1. Padmaja Chundur** has been appointed as the has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of National Securities Depositories (NSDL).
Note: She succeeded GV Nageswara Rao. Prior to this, she served as MD & CEO of Indian Bank between September 2018 and August 2021. NSDL is an Indian central securities depository under SEBI.
- Under chairmanship the **International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) C.K. Mishra** has constituted an Expert Committee to recommend approach towards development of Sustainable Finance Hub at IFSC.
Note: It consists of total 10 members including chairperson and member secretary.
- Najla Bouden Romdhane** has become the first female prime minister of **Tunisia**.
Note: She has been named as Prime Minister, two months after President Kais Saied assumed his charge, dismissed the former prime minister and suspended parliament. Romdhane was assigned to form a new government in the midst of growing domestic and international discontent regarding president's power seizure.
- Fumio Kishida** has been elected as the new Prime Minister of Japan by the Japanese Parliament Diet _____.
Note: He will be tasked with quickly tackling the pandemic and security challenges before an imminent national election. Mr. Kishida replaces Yoshihide Suga, who resigned with his Cabinet.
- Kangana Ranaut** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Uttar Pradesh govt's ambitious 'one district-one product' programme.
Note: The U.P. government has launched the ODOP programme with the aim to create product-specific traditional industrial hubs across 75 districts of the State. CM Yogi also presented Kangana with a silver coin which was used for 'Ram Janm Bhumi Pujan'.
- Amitabh Bachchan** has been appointed as first ever brand ambassador of CoinDCX, India's largest and safest cryptocurrency exchange.
Note: Through this collaboration, CoinDCX will look to increase awareness around crypto and popularize

- it as an emerging asset class. Bachchan will be the face of a new campaign, which will focus on popularizing crypto as an asset class. CoinDCX is India's largest and safest cryptocurrency exchange
- 7. Amish Mehta** has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of credit rating agency CRISIL.
Note: He succeeded Ashu Suyash. He joined CRISIL in October 2014 as President and Chief Financial Officer and became Chief Operating Officer (COO) in July 2017. CRISIL is an Indian analytical company and is a subsidiary of American company S&P Global.
 - 8. Abiy Ahmed** has been sworn in as the Prime Minister of **Ethiopia** for a second five-year term.
Note: His oath of office has been administered by Supreme Court Chief Justice Meaza Ashenafi. His party won 410 seats out of 436 contested in the elections. Mr Abiy is the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize winner and is serving as prime minister of Ethiopia since 2018.
 - 9. B C Patnaik** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of insurance giant Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).
Note: He succeeded Mukesh Kumar Gupta, who completed his tenure on 30th September 2021. Prior to this, he served as secretary General at Council for Insurance Ombudsmen(CIO), Mumbai. LIC comprises of chairman and 4 MD. Other MDs: Raj Kumar, Siddhartha Mohanty and Ipe Mini.
 - 10. Ranveer Singh** has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of National Basketball Association (NBA).
Note: Singh will work with the NBA to help grow the league's profile in India throughout its 75th anniversary season in 2021-22.
 - 11. M. Ravichandran** has been appointed as the Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences.
Note: He is currently Director, National Centre for Ocean and Polar Research, Goa and has been in charge of coordinating several of India's scientific missions to Antarctica and the Arctic. A key thrust of the government is its 'Deep Ocean Mission.'
 - 12. Rajnish Kumar** has joined has joined the board of Fintech firm BharatPe as its Chairman.

- Note:** Kumar will mentor the BharatPe team during transition into small finance bank. Kumar was previously appointed as a non-executive director for banking giant HSBC's Hong Kong-headquartered Asia unit.
- 13. Alexander Schallenberg** has been appointed as new Chancellor of **Austria**.
Note: Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen swore in Alexander Schallenberg. Earlier he was the foreign minister of Austria. Career diplomat Michael Linhart became the country's new foreign minister.
- 14. Arun Kumar Mishra** has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL).
Note: He is a veteran in the energy sector, with more than three decades of experience in NTPC and Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. EESL is a joint venture between NTPC Ltd, Power Finance Corporation, REC and PowerGrid, was set up under the power ministry to facilitate the implementation of energy efficiency projects.
- 15. Amit Khare** has been appointed as the Advisor to **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** for two years on contractual basis.
Note: He is a 1985-batch IAS officer from Bihar-Jharkhand cadre. He is known for his instrumental role in shaping the National Education Policy 2020 and bringing key changes in the I&B ministry, particularly in digital media regulations.
- 16. Sajjan Jindal** has been elected as the chairman of the World Steel Association (WSA) for 2021-22.
Note: With this, Jindal becomes the first representative from India to serve as Chairman of the WSA. WSA acts as the focal point for the steel industry, providing global leadership on all major strategic issues impacting the industry, particularly focusing on economic, environmental, and social sustainability.
- 17. Ritesh Chauhan** has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
Note: Ritesh Chauhan will be the CEO of PMFBY and JS of Agriculture under the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for a combined tenure of seven years up to September 22, 2023. In 2021, the flagship crop insurance scheme of the Government of India – the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) – has completed five years of its launch.
- 18. Pradeep Kumar Panja** has been appointed as the chairman of the Karnataka Bank.
Note: His appointment has been approved by Reserve Bank of India (RBI). He will begin his role as the part-time non-executive Chairman. He will succeed P Jayarama Bhat, who will retire on November 13, 2021.
- 19. Amitabh Chaudhry** has been re-appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Axis Bank**.
Note: His appointment was approved by Reserve Bank of India (RBI). His second three-year term will begin from January 1, 2022. Prior to joining Axis Bank, he was the MD and CEO of HDFC Standard Life Insurance
- 20. Sahdev Yadav** has been unanimously elected as the President of the Indian **Weightlifting Federation** (IWLF).
Note: Anand Gowde was elected as secretary general of the federation and Naresh Sharma the treasurer during the electoral congress Annual General Council Meeting at a city Hotel. A total of 10 vice presidents, four joint secretaries and seven executive committee members were also elected. The elections were conducted by Returning Officer Narinder Paul Kaushik, Judicial Officer (Retd.), Delhi District Courts.
- 21. Amit Rastogi** has been appointed as the new Chairman & Managing Director of National Research Development Corporation (NRDC).
Note: Prior to this, he was the Director of Electrical Engineering at Integrated Headquarters, Ministry of Defence for five years and Additional General Manager Tech Services at Naval Dockyard for two years. NRDC was established in India in 1953 to help develop and promote technologies developed at various national R&D institutions.
- 22. A K Goel** is Managing Director and CEO of **Union Bank of India** has been elected as new chairman of Indian Bank's Association for 2021-22.
Note: He succeeds Rajkiran Rai G, MD & CEO, Union Bank of India. In September 2021, Banks Board Bureau (BBB) had recommended the name of Goel for the forthcoming position of managing director and chief executive at Punjab National Bank (PNB). Goel has been heading UCO Bank, Kolkata-based public sector lender, since Nov 2018.
- 23. A. Balasubramanian** has been appointed as the Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India.
Note: He has earlier served as the AMFI Chairman for the period 2017 – 2019 and now would continue to hold the office till the conclusion of the next AGM. A. Balasubramanian is also appointed as the ex-officio Chairman of AMFI Financial Literacy Committee, being the Chairman of AMFI. Radhika Gupta, Chief Executive Officer, Edelweiss AMC, has been elected as the Vice-Chairperson of AMFI.
- 24. Imtiaz Ali** has been appointed as the ambassador of the **Russian Film Festival in India**.
Note: As part of the festival, ten notable Russian films of various genres will be premiered for Indian audiences on Disney+ Hotstar. The first-ever online Russian Film Festival in India is organized by ROSKINO with the support of the Ministry of Culture

of the Russian Federation, the Cinema Fund, the Moscow City Tourism Committee, Discover Moscow, Rossotrudnichestvo, and with the assistance of Kartina Entertainment. The festival was launched in 2020 and has already been successfully held in 14 countries, with more than 200 thousand viewers.

25. **Ramnath Krishnan** has been appointed as the **Managing Director** (MD) and Group **Chief Executive Officer** (CEO) of credit rating agency ICRA.

Note: Prior to this, he was serving as the President for ratings and as chief ratings officer at ICRA. He joined ICRA in July 2020. He replaced N Sivaraman, who resigned with immediate effect due to personal reasons. Gurgaon based ICRA is a unit owned by global rating agency Moody's Corporation.

26. **Rajiv Nigam** has been selected for 2022 Joseph A. Cushman Award for Excellence in Foraminiferal Research.

Note: He is the first Indian Citizen to be selected for the prestigious award. He has been chosen for his outstanding lifetime contributions to the field of foraminifera (microfossil) research. He will receive the award at Cushman Reception during 2022 Geological Society of America meeting in Denver, Colorado, USA

27. **Sunil Paliwal** assumed charge as the Chairperson of Chennai Port Trust.

Note: He is currently holding the post of Chairman and Managing Director, Kamarajar Port Ltd. He had also worked as the managing director of Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board.

28. **Manoj Bajpayee** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of FloBiz, a neobank for Indian Small to Medium sized Businesses (SMBs) for its flagship product myBillBook.

Note: He will promote the "Business Ko Le Seriously" campaign to mark the importance of digital solutions. FloBiz will release advertisement films featuring Manoj Bajpayee as a businessman. The campaign is credited by Tilt Brand Solutions. Bill Book is a software for GST registered businesses where invoicing is one of the core business activities.

29. **Bibek Debroy** will be the chairman of the reconstituted seven-member Economic Advisory Council to the PM.

Note: Govt reconstitutes EAC-PM for two-year period under B Debroy as head. Govt has reconstituted economic advisory council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) for 2 years with Bibek

Debroy as head. EAC-PM is an independent body, was set up in September 2017 with a term of two years.

30. Under chairmanship of **R.V. Raveendran**, the Supreme Court has constituted a 3-member independent expert to probe the alleged use of Israeli spyware Pegasus for targeted surveillance in India.

Note: A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana asserted that in a democratic country governed by the rule of law, indiscriminate spying on individuals cannot be allowed except with sufficient statutory safeguards by following the procedure established by law under the Constitution. Former apex court judge R V Raveendran, 75, will monitor the probe by the technical panel whose members are experts in cyber security and digital forensics.

31. **Baldev Prakash** has been appointed as the **Managing Director** and CEO of J&K Bank.

Note: The Reserve Bank of India has vide letter dated October 26, 2021 accorded approval to the candidature of Prakash as MD & CEO of the Bank for a period of three years from the date of taking charge or April 10, 2022, whichever is earlier. The state-owned lender will separately inform about the appointment of Baldev Prakash as MD & CEO by its board and the actual date of assuming charge by him. Prakash has over 30 years of experience in banking in various roles at small and large size branches at SBI.

32. **KV Kamath** has been appointed as the chairperson of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID).

Note: In March this year, the Parliament passed the NaBFID bill paving the way for the creation of a DFI which will help fund long term infrastructure projects in the country. The DFI will be initially wholly owned by the government, but its stake will be reduced to 26% later. The Union budget has allocated ₹20,000 crore to capitalize the DFI, which is expected to create a lending portfolio of at least ₹5 trillion in about three years.

33. Shavkat Mirziyoyev has been re-elected as President of **Uzbekistan** for a second five-year term.

Note: He won 80.1% of the total vote. He took the office of President in 2016 following the death of longtime President Islam Karimov. Prior to being appointed as President, he served as the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan from 2003 to 2016.

Important News – India

1. **National Research Centre** on Yak (NRCY) is located in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Note: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has approved a credit plan for yak husbandry in Arunachal Pradesh, which will

- help herders secure loans for the purpose and strengthen their livelihoods. The scheme was developed by the National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY) at Dirang in West Kameng district.
- FSSAI has signed a **memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** to support micro food entrepreneurs, farmer producer organisations (FPOs), self help groups (SHGs) and producers cooperatives to improve the standard of food businesses.
Note: As part of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan, the step will help micro enterprises improve the quality of their food products and become competitive. There will be two areas of collaboration between FSSAI and MoFPI.
 - M Venkaiah Naidu** has launched “SACRED portal” for senior citizens in India to provide a platform for senior citizens seeking employment opportunities.
Note: Portal has been developed by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in order to provide a platform for senior citizens seeking employment opportunities. Full form of SACRED is “Senior Able Citizens for Re-Employment in Dignity. Citizens aged 60 and more can register on this portal and find jobs & work opportunities.
 - Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** has signed an MoU with Kerala Rail aimed at enhancing rail safety, especially in vulnerable terrains.
Note: The L2M Rail team and IISc have pioneered Fibre Bragg Grating sensing technology, to develop a Structural Health Monitoring System (SHMS) which will monitor civil engineering structures of Kerala Rail's Silverline project. The team uses FBG-sensor technology to ensure the stability and integrity of structures even in vulnerable areas, which comprise a large part of the terrain covered by the ambitious Silverline project.
 - World's largest national flag, made up of Khadi cloth, has been installed in **Leh, Ladakh**.
Note: Ladakh Lt Governor RK Mathur inaugurated the flag. This Indian tricolor is 225-feet long and 150-feet wide with weight of around 1,000 kg. The flag is made by Khadi Dyers and Printers based in Mumbai, affiliated to KVIC by 57 Engineer Regiment of the Indian Army.
 - Ministry of Defense** has launched a website for Republic Day Celebrations – 2022.
Note: New website is www.indianrdc.mod.gov.in. It will be a single-point official source for all the content related to Republic Day Celebrations. It includes features like special RDC Radio, Gallery, Interactive Filters, E-book, Blogs on Indian Freedom Movement, Wars and War Memorials.
 - According to “**State of the Education Report (SOER)-2021** for India: No Teachers, No Class” released by UNESCO, what is gross enrolment ratio (GER) for elementary schools in India in 2019-2020 -- **102.1**.
Note: As per report, there are around 1.2 lakh single-teacher schools in India. It accounts for 7.15 percent of 11.51 lakh schools. Out of this, 89 per cent are in rural areas. 51 percent of total schools are employing 95 lakh teachers.
 - The Ministry of road, transport & highways launched a scheme for “Good Samaritans”.
Note: **Rs 5,000** amount will be provided per accident, to those saving the life of a road accident victim by rushing the person to hospital within the ‘golden hour’ of the accident. Scheme will be effective from October 15, 2021 and will run till March 31, 2026. Under the scheme, a cash award of Rs 5,000 will be provided per accident, to those saving the life of a road accident victim by rushing the person to hospital within the ‘golden hour’ of the accident. Cash award will be provided to motivate the general public in order to help the road accident victims in emergency situation.
 - The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has released the Multilingual Dementia Research and Assessment (MUDRA) Toolbox in **five** Indian languages.
Note: MUDRA Toolbox: Comprehensive tool specifically to diagnose dementia in Indian population. It includes various cognitive tests to assess different domains of cognition. It is an initiative undertaken by ICMR Neuro-Cognitive Toolbox (ICMR -NCTB) consortium.
 - Vice-President, M. Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated Mahabahu Brahmaputra River Heritage Centre in **Guwahati, Assam**.
Note: This new heritage site has been made by renovating and converting British-era bungalow atop the Barphukanar Tila (Barphukan's Hillock) in Panbazar, which served as the residence of Deputy Commissioner till 2011. Heritage centre will depict the life along the Brahmaputra River and has on display the heritage of boats, an Amphitheatre, an exhibition space, a cafeteria, so on and so forth.
 - The Union Cabinet has approved for setting up for 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Parks (PM MITRA) with a total outlay of **₹4,445 crore**.
Note: This was first announced in the Budget this year. Union Minister Piyush Goyal said that ten States — Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Assam, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana — have already expressed interest.
 - The Ministry of Textiles has approved the continuation of the Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) till **2026**.
Note: Total outlay of CHCDS will be Rs 160 crores. Aim: Upliftment and development of handicrafts

artisans. Under the scheme, Infrastructural support, market access, design and technology up-gradation support will be provided to handicrafts artisans.

13. The iconic Indian superhero - Chacha Chaudhary has been declared as the mascot of the **Namami Gange Programme**.

Note: The decision was taken during the 37th Executive Committee meeting of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, NMCG. As a step towards this NMCG has tied-up with Diamond Toons to develop and distribute comics, e-comics and animated videos

14. The Industrial Security Agreement summit between India and the US was held in **New Delhi**.

Note: This group will meet periodically to align the policies and procedures expeditiously that will allow the defence industries to collaborate on cutting edge defence technologies. The Industrial Security Agreement summit between India and the US was held New Delhi.

15. The goal of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 that was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently -- '**Garbage Free**' cities.

Note: The two missions have been designed to realize the aspiration to make all cities Garbage Free and Water Secure. It will also help in achieving the targets set under the Sustainable Development Goals-2030. SBM-U 2.0 envisions to make all cities 'Garbage Free' and ensure grey and black water management in all cities.

16. The goal of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0. that was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi -- '**Water Secure**' cities.

Note: The two missions have been designed to realize the aspiration to make all cities Garbage Free and Water Secure. It will also help in achieving the targets set under the Sustainable Development Goals-2030.

17. According to a global study by the British Virgin Islands-based cybersecurity company Surfshark, India's rank in the Digital Quality of Life Index -- **59th**.
Note: While India has witnessed a drop compared to last year — falling from 57th spot to 59th — it now ranks 17th in Asia and first in the South Asia region. Its e-security has also improved and it now ranks 36th (was 57th in 2020), higher than China which ranks 72nd. According to the index, India ranks 67th on internet quality indicator. Denmark topped the index for the second year in a row, followed by South Korea and Finland, while the bottom five countries include Ethiopia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Guatemala, and Angola.

18. 'SVAMITVA' scheme is a central sector scheme that is implemented by **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**.

Note: It aims to provide property rights to residents in rural areas. The scheme will pave the way for using property as a financial asset by villagers for taking

loans and other financial benefits, like in urban areas. It aims to demarcate inhabited lands in rural areas through the latest surveying drone-technology.

19. The "National Mission on Edible Oil- Oil Palm Business Summit" was held in **Guwahati**.

Note: Keeping in view the vision of the Prime minister for holistic and balanced progress of North East. The conference began under the chairmanship of the Union Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar. The National Mission on Edible Oil – Oil Palm is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme worth Rs.11000 crores which aims to add 6.5 lakh hectares for palm oil by 2025-26.

20. **Narendra Modi** has launched the **Indian Space Association (ISpA)**, a private industry body to help boost space technology in India.

Note: ISpA is a private industry body to help boost space technology in India. ISpA's founding members include OneWeb, Bharti Airtel, Mapmyindia, Walchandnagar Industries, and Ananth Technology Limited among others. ISpA will participate and work with ISRO and others on the issue of policy around space technology and domain.

21. Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala, launched the River Ranching Programme from **Uttar Pradesh**.

Note: At the same time, other 4 states namely, Uttarakhand, Orissa, Tripura and Chhattisgarh also participated nationwide River Ranching program launching. River ranching programme" is introduced as special activity under PMMSY scheme for augmenting and enhancing the fish production and productivity through expansion, intensification, diversification and productive utilization of land and water.

22. Telecom secretary and Chairman of Digital Communications Commission inaugurated its Quantum Communication Lab and unveiled the indigenously developed Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) solution at **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT)**.

Note: QKD is essential to address the threat that rapid advancement in Quantum Computing poses to the security of the data being transported by various critical sectors through the current communication networks. The government has allocated USD 1 billion for the National Mission on Quantum Technologies and Applications spanning over a period of 8 years.

23. **South Central Railway** has launched two long haul freight trains "Trishul" and "Garuda" -- which are twice or multiple times longer than the normal composition of freight trains.

Note: The SCR launched Trishul from Kondapalli station of Vijayawada division to Khurda division of East Coast Railway. SCR followed it up with running of yet another similar train 'Garuda' from Raichur of

- Guntakal division to Manuguru of Secunderabad division.
24. National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has declared combined areas of Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary as 4th Tiger Reserve of **Chhattisgarh**.
Note: This is the 4th Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh, after Udanti-Sitanadi, Achanakmar, and Indravati Reserves. Proposal to declare these two as Tiger Reserve was approved by NTCA's 11th Technical Committee under Section 38V (1) of The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
25. For boosting exports of citrus and its value-added products, **APEDA** institution has signed an MoU with ICAR-Central Citrus Research Institute, Nagpur.
Note: The MoU envisages promoting export by focussing on creation of product specific clusters along with development of technologies by APEDA and ICAR-CCRI with a focus on efficient and precision farming. The collaboration with two institutes of repute would focus on diversifying the export basket, destinations and boosting high value agricultural products exports through establishing Brand India globally.
26. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0) has been approved till **2025-26**.
Note: Union Cabinet has approved Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0) till 2025-26 to provide reliable and affordable water supply and sanitation services to urban households is a national priority. Total indicative outlay for AMRUT 2.0: ₹ 2,77,000 crore
27. Vision Plan 2021-31 for Indian Zoo is related to **Central Zoo Authority**.
Note: Union Environment Minister has released Vision Plan (2021-2031) for Indian zoos by Central Zoo Authority (CZA) to upgrade them to global standards, strengthening Central Zoo Authority. It is committed to making CZA and Indian zoos a greater force for conservation by providing unparalleled animal care, cutting edge research, and immersive visitor experiences that strike meaningful chords with people of all ages.
28. NITI Aayog – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Handbook on Sustainable Urban Plastic Waste Management is especially launched for **Urban local bodies**.
Note: NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, Rajiv Kumar has launched 'NITI Aayog – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Handbook on Sustainable Urban Plastic Waste Management' in New Delhi for urban local bodies. It provides a comprehensive overview of managing plastic waste by representing and discussing components of the entire plastic waste value chain.
29. India's first indigenous pilot plant to convert high ash Indian coal to methanol has been inducted in **Hyderabad**.
Note: India has developed indigenous technology to convert high ash Indian coal to methanol and established its first pilot plant in Hyderabad. This technology will help the country move towards the adoption of clean technology and promote the use of methanol as a transportation fuel (blending with petrol), thus reducing crude oil imports.
30. **Digitization** is not a pillar of the PM Gati Shakti-National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity that was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in October 2021.
Note: PM Modi has inaugurated Rs 100 lakh crore PM Gati Shakti-National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity from Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. Under this, centralized portal will be set up to bring together infrastructure schemes of around 16 Ministries & State Governments on a common platform. It is based on six pillars:
1. Comprehensiveness
 2. Prioritization
 3. Optimization
 4. Synchronization
 5. Analytical
 6. Dynamic
31. India's rank in the 58th edition of EY's 'Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index' (RECAI), 2021 - **third**.
Note: 2021 RECAI 2021 ranked top 40 global markets (nations) of the world on the attractiveness of their renewable energy investment and deployment opportunities. Top performer: United States, followed by China
32. **Delhi** transport department planning to equipped driving licences and vehicle registration certificates with QR codes.
Note: New driving license will have an advanced microchip with features like Quick Response (QR) code and Near Field Communication (NFC). It will have the owner's name printed on the front while the microchip and QR code will be embedded at the back of the card. It will also enable unification in linking and validating one's information to smart cards with Sarathi and Vahan, the two web-based databases of all driving licenses and vehicle registrations.
33. India's rank in the Henley Passport Index 2021 - **90th**.
Note: The index ranks the passports of countries according to the number of destinations their holders can visit without a prior visa. The rankings are based on the analysis of data provided by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). India, which held the 84th rank last year, fell down to the 90th position, with its passport holders allowed to travel visa-free to

- 58 countries. India shares the rank with Tajikistan and Burkina Faso.
- 34.** Government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras to ten thousand by **March 2024**.
Note: Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry said, the number of Janaushadhi stores has increased to eight thousand 366 and all the 736 districts have been covered. Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana, PMBJP was launched in November, 2008, with an objective of making quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all.
- 35.** Under chairmanship of **Vijay C Daga** the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted a four-member high powered advisory committee on settlement orders and compounding of offences.
Note: The committee will be chaired by Vijay C Daga, retired judge of High Court of Bombay. The panel will work as per the Settlement Proceedings Regulations, 2018 specified by the regulator. Under the settlement mechanism, an alleged wrongdoer can settle a pending case with the regulator without admission or denial of guilt by paying a settlement fee.
- 36.** Civil Aviation Minister, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia has virtually flagged off **Six** routes expanding the aerial connectivity of North-East India.
Note: Flight connectivity on these routes has been a long-pending demand of the natives of the regions. It will open a seamless gateway and smooth aerial access option for nature lovers, travellers, tourists etc. With these new flights, travellers from Guwahati, Aizawl and Shillong will get multiple options for onward connectivity to the rest of the country.
- 37.** India's rank in the Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021 -- **71st**.
Note: GFS Index is published by London-based Economist Impact and is sponsored by Corteva Agriscience. Top performers: Ireland, Australia, the UK, Finland, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Canada, Japan, France and US.
- 38.** CII has organized an International Conference and Exhibition on Digital technologies, 'Future Tech 2021- a Journey of digital transformation to technology adoption and acceleration'.
Note: It is being held from October 19 to 27, 2021.
Theme of Future Tech 2021: Driving technologies for building the future, we all can trust. Theme will have 5 pillars: **Strategy, Growth, Resilience, Inclusiveness, Trust**.
- 39.** India's rank in the 2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey, that ranked 43 pension systems across the world -- **40th**.
Note: Top Performer: Iceland with an index value of 84.2. Thailand had the lowest overall index value at 40.6. India was ranked at 34th spot out of 39 pension systems in 2020.
- 40. Kushinagar International Airport** is the 9th airport in **Uttar Pradesh** to scheduled passenger flights.
Note: PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kushinagar International Airport. A charter from Colombo was the first flight to land in Kushinagar with over 100 Buddhist monks and dignitaries. Kushinagar International Airport will facilitate pilgrimage to Lord Buddha's mahaparinirvana sthal of Lord Buddha, thereby boosting the economy of the region.
- 41.** Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) insurance scheme for healthcare workers fighting covid-19 that has been extended for another six months -- **Rs 50 Lakh**.
Note: The current period of the policy is ending on 20 October 2021. So far, 1351 claims have been paid under the scheme.
- 42. Sri Lanka** has received the first consignment of 3.1 million litres high quality non-harmful Nano Nitrogen liquid fertiliser from India.
Note: It will help the island nation's Eastern province in the cultivation of maize and paddy. Nano Nitrogen Liquid Fertilizer was developed by IFFCO, with the objective of addressing imbalanced and excessive use of conventional Urea. It has been developed indigenously, for the first time in the world.
- 43.** Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Prerana Sthal' was inaugurated at Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL) in **Visakhapatnam**.
Note: The NSTL is the premier naval research laboratory of Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO). Dr Kalam's Prerana Sthal will motivate the people particularly young minds from Dr Kalam's life and his impeccable achievements.
- 44.** India's rank in the Global Hunger Index 2021 -- **101st**.
Note: 18 countries, including China, Brazil and Kuwait, shared the top rank with GHI score of less than five. India is behind its neighbours Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. GHI was prepared jointly by Irish aid agency Concern Worldwide and German organisation Welt Hunger Hilfe.
- 45.** India's rank in the Rule of Law Index 2021 of the World Justice Project (WJP), an independent advocacy group founded in the United States -- **79th**.
Note: The WJP Rule of Law Index 2021 ranks the countries based on scores ranging from 0 to 1, with 1 indicating the strongest adherence to the rule of law. Like the previous year, the top three global places for overall rule of law went to Denmark (score 0.90), Norway (0.90) and Finland (0.88) and Venezuela (score 0.27), Cambodia (0.32) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (0.35) this year too remained at the bottom of the WJP index.
- 46.** A total **152** Centres for Financial Literacy and Service Delivery (SAKSHAM Centres) have been launched

under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission in a week as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Note: A total of 152 Centres (across 77 districts of 13 states) for Financial Literacy and Service Delivery (SAKSHAM Centres) have been launched under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission in a week as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The objective of the centre is to provide financial literacy and facilitate the delivery of financial services to Self-Help Group members and the rural poor.

47. "Banni" breed of buffaloes found in **Gujarat** state of India that's first IVF calf was born recently.

Note: The process was carried out to enhance the number of genetically superior buffaloes to increase milk production. Producing calves by deploying ART will pave the way for rapid multiplication of superior animals at a much faster pace. India has more than 109 million buffaloes that are 56 per cent of the world's buffalo population.

48. **National Inter-religious Conference** was organised in **Nagpur** by the **Lokmat media group**.

Note: Theme of the conference was '**Global Challenges to Communal Harmony and Role of India**'. It is a forum for bringing together the views of different religions and sects. Founder of Art of the Living, Guru Sri Sri Ravishankar, Swami Ramdev of Patanjali Yogpeeth, Acharya Lokesh Muni, Archbishop of Mumbai Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Haji Syed Salman Chishti, Bhikkhu Sanghasena and many other prominent religious leaders participated in this Conference.

49. M/s Andrew Yule & Co Ltd Central Public Sector Enterprise in Tea Sector has launched **Azadi Amrut Chai** in Orthodox, Elaichi, Adrakh and Masala flavors to commemorate the 75th year of India's Independence and to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, it works under ambit of **Ministry of Heavy Industries**.

Note: Azadi Amrut Chai was launched by the Union Heavy Industries Minister, Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey. It will be available for retail sale soon at an introductory price of Rs 75 per 100 gms pack, at Tea Board counter of Parliament, Trifed outlets, Udyog Bhawan and other Central Government offices. M/s Andrew Yule & Co Ltd, a 158 years old company, has 15 Tea Gardens spread over Assam and West Bengal having close to 14000 employees.

50. **Dharmendra Pradhan** will chair the newly-formed National Steering Committee formed by government of India to implement NIPUN Bharat scheme.

Note: The newly-formed National Steering Committee to implement NIPUN Bharat will be chaired by the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Minister of State for Education Annapurna Devi will

be the vice-chairperson. The objective of the committee will be to oversee the progress of the National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy and provide guidance on policy issues and achieve the desired target in 2026-27. The committee will also review programmatic and financial norms periodically to ensure they are synchronised with targets to be achieved.

51. The National Tribal Dance Festival was organized in **Raipur** that promote and celebrate the uniqueness of tribal culture.

Note: The three-day festival, organised under the tourism development plan of the Chhattisgarh government, hosted artists belonging to diverse tribal communities from countries, including Uzbekistan, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Syria, Mali, Palestine, and Kingdom of Eswatini. The artists from tribal areas of Bastar, Dantewada, Koriya, Korba, Bilaspur, Gariabandh, Mainpur, Dhura, Dhamtari, Surguja and Jashpur in Chhattisgarh presented their own distinctive history, culture and traditions.

52. The total outlay of the PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission recently launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Varanasi -- **Rs 64000 crore**.

Note: It is one of the largest pan-India schemes for strengthening health care infrastructure across the country. The PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission will be one of the largest pan-India schemes for strengthening health care infrastructure across the country. It will be in addition to the National Health Mission.

53. **National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC)** will be the nodal agency for India's 1st Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM) recently launched by the Union Minister of Power & New and Renewable Energy, R K Singh for the renewable energy to enable the electricity generation and distribution companies to trade in the day-ahead market.

Note: The launch will also provide competitive price signals, besides offering an opportunity to the market participants to trade in green energy, in the most transparent, flexible, competitive, and efficient manner. India is the only large electricity market in the world to implement a GDAM exclusively for RE.

54. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) comes under ambit of **Ministry of Finance** has launched the first-of-its-kind and the largest 'Impact Bond' for skilling in India in collaboration with global partners.

Note: Along with the NSDC, the global coalition comprises of HRH Prince Charles's British Asian Trust, the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF), The Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), HSBC India, JSW Foundation and Dubai Cares, with FCDO (UK Government) & USAID as technical

partners."The Skill Impact Bond (SIB) is also the first impact bond involving public, private partners and a public private partnership organization. CIFF, HSBC India, JSW Foundation and Dubai Cares support the outcome fund.

55. Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises has launched 'SAMBHAV' a national level awareness programme for promoting entrepreneurship leading to the economic development of the country.

Note: The mass outreach program will be a one-month long initiative under the Ministry of MSME in which students from different colleges/ITIs from all parts of the country will be encouraged by 130 field offices of the Ministry to take up entrepreneurship. During the campaign, the college students will be made aware of the various schemes being implemented by the Ministry of MSME through audio/video film presentations.

56. Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched 'Garuda App'.

Note: Aim of the app is to ensure faster, smarter, transparent, and timely completion of election work and also to reduce the paperwork. The longitude and latitude of the polling stations along with photos and location information will be uploaded in the app by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) (using their registered mobile numbers).

57. The theme of the 'CII Asia Health 2021 summit' -- Transforming Healthcare for a better tomorrow.

Note: It is a 2-day summit and has been organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Aim: to provide a centralized forum to deliberate on most critical challenges that India and the world face in delivering healthcare, with focus on the digital transformations that result in improved patient outcomes and experience.

58. The first ever 'Apple Festival' was held in Srinagar.

Note: It will provide a better platform to apple growers and other stakeholders. With annual production of more than 2.2 million metric tonnes, apple from J&K contributes to 87% of the national production and is linked to the livelihood of about 30% of the population of Jammu and Kashmir.

59. India's rank, in the report published by London & Partners and Dealroom.co for climate tech investment -- 9th.

Note: Global climate tech venture capital investment surged from US\$ 6.6 billion in 2016 to US\$ 32.3 billion in 2021, a rise in funding by almost five times, the research disclosed. The top 10 countries for climate tech VC investment between 2016 and 2021 are – US (US\$ 48 billion), China (US\$ 18.6 billion), Sweden (US\$ 5.8 billion), UK (US\$ 4.3 billion), France (US\$ 3.7 billion), Germany (US\$ 2.7 billion), Canada (US\$ 1.4 billion), Netherlands (US\$ 1.3 billion), India (US\$ 1 billion) and Singapore (US\$ 700 million).

Important News – State

1. Festival of Dance and Music "Nata Sankirtana" celebrated in **Manipur**.

Note: Nata Sankirtana, which has been recognised as one of the intangible cultural heritages by the UNESCO, is among the dying art forms of the state. This art form, which is a combination of dance, music and Pung (drum), gets its place in the list of UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage.

2. Biennial Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi Award for National Integration and National Contribution being conferred by **Assam**.

Note: The awards were conferred to the Assam Branch of Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, Assamese litterateur Dr. Nirod Kumar Baruah and Shillong Chamber Choir at Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra. The award carries five lakh rupees, a citation and an Angabastam. This award is one of the biggest civilian awards in Assam.

3. Rajasthan government has launched 'Mukhyamantri Paryatan Udyog Sambal Yojana-2021' to provide relief to the entrepreneurs of the tourism and hospitality sector affected by COVID-19 pandemic.

Note: Along with that the Chief Minister also launched a mobile app 'Rajasthan Tourism Official' designed to help tourists visiting Rajasthan in making their tour programmes. Beside this, the CM released a collection of various policies, schemes and guidelines issued by the tourism department for tourism development in the state.

4. Andhra Pradesh government has launched a face recognition software to aid police personnel during their investigations.

Note: The software would help compare photos of suspects with a data resource of over 5.30 lakh photos uploaded in the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS). The software is expected to track down accused persons, suspects, missing persons and unidentified corpses with data from the CCTNS.

5. Kuttiattoor Mango and Edayur Chilli belongs to **Kerala** state that have received Geographical Indication tag (GI Tag) recently.

Note: Edayur chilli is a local cultivar of Edayur, Athavanad, Marakkara, Irimbiliyam, Kalpakanchery and Valanchery panchayats in Valanchery block and Moorkanad and Kuruva panchayats in

- Angadippuram block of Malappuram district. Kuttiaattoor mango is a popular and tasty traditional mango cultivar of Kuttiaattoor and the nearby gram panchayats of Kannur district.
6. Famous **Alibaug white onion** belongs to Maharashtra state that has been accorded Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently.
Note: Now, Alibaug will get worldwide recognition for its unique sweet taste, no-tears factor, as well as medicinal properties white onions. Soil of Alibaug taluka has low sulphur content and so the onion has low pungency, low pyruvic acid, high protein, fat and fibre content, besides high antioxidant
 7. According to a global study by the British Virgin Islands-based cybersecurity company Surfshark, **Denmark** country topped in the Digital Quality of Life Index.
Note: Denmark topped the index for the second year in a row, followed by South Korea and Finland, while the bottom five countries include Ethiopia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Guatemala, and Angola. The countries where the internet is least affordable are Nigeria, Côte D'Ivoire and Mali, where people are required to do approximately a week's worth of work to afford the internet.
 8. **Sikkim** state has decided to ban packaged mineral water from January 1, 2022.
Note: Travellers must take note, and not enter the state with any packaged mineral water bottles. The Sikkim government has been working towards helping the environment heal, and save its natural resources.
 9. **Assam** state has launched 'Mission Basundhara' at a programme organised by the Revenue and Disaster Management department.
Note: The mission is a decisive step towards streamlining land revenue services and facilitating easy access to the public for their land-related work. A total of Rs 225 crore will be spent on the implementation of the programme and the mission will enable the rebuilding of all lost land records of the state.
 10. **Delhi** has approved its ambitious Health Information Management System (HIMS) project under which each citizen will have a health card, which will be a repository of their medical information.
Note: The government said doctors will be able to see a patient's medical history using the card and the patients will be able to make appointments from home. The health card will act as a unique health identifier for each individual through which everything from their medical history to appointment dates can be accessed. All citizens between 1 and 18 years would be issued a health card linked to their parent's health card.
 11. Wada Kolam Rice (Zini Rice) belongs to **Maharashtra** state that has been accorded 'Geographical Indication' (GI) tag recently.
Note: Wada Kolam rice is also known as Zini or Jhini rice. Grain is off white in colour, with small granules and a peculiar aroma after cooking. It can completely absorb dal and is in demand for these qualities. Its price is between Rs 60-70 per kg in domestic markets. They are short, soft and easily digestible.
 12. Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia has virtually inaugurated Greenfield Sindhudurg airport under RCS-UDAN (Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) scheme in **Maharashtra**.
Note: First flight from Sindhudurg airport takes off to Mumbai. With Sindhudurg Airport (Chipi Airport), 381 routes and 61 airports including 5 heliports and 2 Water Aerodromes have become operationalized under the UDAN scheme.
 13. Karuppur kalamkari paintings and Kallakurichi Wood carvings belongs to **Tamil Nadu**, awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
Note: Karuppur Kalamkari painting is done on pure cotton cloth. The 'Kallakurichi Wood Carving' is a unique form of wood carving where the craftsmen are specialized in carving temple related products and furniture. Kanyakumari Cloves is known for its rich aromatic oil content, with volatile oil content of 21% (normal 18%) resulting in 86% of eugenol.
 14. **Delhi** government has launched mentorship programme 'Desh Ke Mentor' for children studying in Classes IX to XII of government schools.
Note: Delhi govt has launched mentorship programme 'Desh Ke Mentor' for children studying in Classes IX to XII of government schools. Under this, students will be mentored by professionals and academicians from across the country for 10-15 minutes daily on issues ranging from career choices to teenage-related concerns.
 15. **Delhi** state police has launched a patrolling operation called 'Operation Satark'.
Note: Delhi Police officials conducted foot patrolling in the Sarojini Market on October 12 under the operation. The patrolling is part of 'Operation Satark' which aims at facilitating a comprehensive check on routine nuisance mongers and instill confidence among the public.
 16. **Maharashtra** Government launched a special seven-day COVID-19 inoculation drive called Mission Kavach-Kundal with a target to vaccinate 15 lakh people every day.
Note: Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope said, 65 per cent of the State's eligible vaccine population received the first dose while 30 per cent

- have taken both doses. The state has sufficient stock to vaccinate 15 lakh persons every day in this drive.
- 17. The World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved a USD 40 million project that is aimed at improving the quality of health services in Meghalaya.**
Note: The MoU is to strengthen the state's capacity to handle future health emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic. The loan to be sanctioned by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a maturity of 14.5 years, including a grace period of 5 years.
- 18. Bangalore-based solar module manufacturer Emmvee has signed an MoU with Karnataka to to set up an Rs 825 crore solar modules and cells manufacturing plant.**
Note: Coming up at Dobaspet, Karnataka, the plant is an addition to the manufacturer's existing solar modules manufacturing plant of 0.5 GW capacity in Bengaluru district of the state. The plant is expected to provide jobs to 736 local youths.
- 19. Karnataka State Higher Education Council has entered into an MoU with the National Association of Software and Service Companies, NASSCOM to provide industry-suited skill training to the youth.**
Note: The MoU will benefit over five lakh students studying in the institutions of higher learning in Karnataka every year. The skill training courses are designed as per the national occupational standards of the National Skills Qualification Framework. Both faculty and students can have free access to the course materials in the online mode.
- 20. Delhi state police has launched a patrolling operation called 'Operation Satark'.**
Note: Delhi Police officials conducted foot patrolling in the Sarojini Market on October 12 under the operation. The patrolling is part of 'Operation Satark' which aims at facilitating a comprehensive check on routine nuisance mongers and instill confidence among the public.
- 21. Punjab state government has launched 'Mera Ghar Mere Naam' scheme to confer proprietary rights on the people living in the houses within the 'Lal Lakir' of villages and the cities.**
Note: The scheme would give much needed succour to people, especially the needy and underprivileged. Earlier this scheme was launched only for the residents of villages, but now it is being extended to the eligible residents of the cities within the 'Lal Lakir'.
- 22. 'Mount Harriet' that has been renamed as 'Mount Manipur' is located in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**
Note: This was done in honour of Manipur's Maharaja Kulchandra Dhvaj Singh and 22 other freedom fighters were imprisoned here. 'Mount Harriet National Park' renamed as 'Mount Manipur National Park'.
- 23. Manipur state govt has launched the "Chief Minister's Health for All" scheme.**
Note: Door-to-door health screening will be conducted across the State and Jan Aushadhi medicines will be provided to patients free of cost for primary health care under the scheme.
- 24. Uttar Pradesh has financed the highest number of units in the country under the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).**
Note: The Uttar Pradesh government has financed the highest number of units in the country under the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). The UP government has facilitated a total of over Rs 123 crore as margin money through various banks to about 3,588 units under PMEGP with a total cost of the projects worth over Rs 450 crore in the current financial year.
- 25. Maharashtra government will soon launch 'Mukta' scheme to release women prisoners who have been in jail for years.**
Note: The 'Mukta' scheme would bring relief to the women prisoners who have been languishing in jails for minor crimes, and would also reduce the burden on prisons. The 'Mukta' scheme will be implemented in various jails of the state to find out women who have been unnecessarily harassed and those who can be released by fulfilling the legal requirements.
- 26. Madhya Pradesh government has announced the implementation of the scheme "Mukhyamantri Ration Apke Dwar Yojana".**
Note: Under this scheme, the ration will be provided at the doorstep of the villagers where there are no Fair Price Shops (FPS). The objective of Mukhyamantri Ration Aapke Dwar Yojana is to provide ration material to Divyanga and senior citizens near their homes so that they do not need to go to the ration shop of other villages to get their monthly food.
- 27. VEM Technologies signed an MoU with Telangana government for setting up an integrated defence system facility.**
Note: The set up is about 511 acres and investing 1000 crores in five years with 2000 employees. The integrated defence system is going to be built with full fledged facility for missiles, naval systems, unmanned aircraft system, radars, aero engines etc. The set up becomes a base for foreign Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) for domestic and global system production.
- 28. India's first state government-owned Wildlife DNA analysis laboratory was opened in Maharashtra.**
Note: Currently, there are two central government-owned Wildlife DNA laboratory, located at Dehradun and Hyderabad. This new facility will enable the

authorities in Maharashtra to promptly get DNA reports of animals hit by man-wildlife conflict or menaces such as poaching, which until now, were sent to laboratories in Hyderabad or Dehradun for testing and authorities had to wait for months to get the report.

29. **Gujarat** government has launched 'Go-Green' scheme & its Portal to provide electric two-wheelers at subsidized rates to construction and industrial workers of the state.

Note: The Scheme aimed at reducing fuel bills and also curbs vehicular pollution. The electric 2 wheeler buyers of Construction and Industrial sectors can avail one-time subsidy on RTO registration and road tax. The organised sector workers, such as an industrial labourer, would get a subsidy of 30 per cent on the vehicle's price or Rs.30,000, whichever is less, on the purchase of battery-powered two-wheelers.

30. **Kerala** state has topped in the **Public Affairs Index** (PAI 2021), a governance performance index released by Public Affairs Centre (PAC), a Bengaluru-based nonprofit think tank.

Note: In the overall rankings, Kerala continues to be at the top and Tamil Nadu has retained its second place. Telangana has replaced Andhra Pradesh at the third spot compared to last year's ranking. Gujarat ranks fifth, Karnataka seventh and Maharashtra 12th in the ranking.

31. **Maharashtra** became the first state to release its own **Wildlife Action plan** (2021-30).

Note: The plan will be a guiding document for an action plan for wildlife conservation for the next decade. The plan has suggested integrating climate change adaptation in wildlife conservation and the plan focuses on 12 areas.

32. The **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** has signed a **memorandum of understanding** (MoU) with which state government to spread awareness about the benefits of listing SMEs in **Chhattisgarh**.

Note: This is expected to help in the healthy growth of SMEs. BSE will provide intellectual and manpower support to create awareness about the benefits of listing among SMEs. Besides, BSE will also provide training and capacity building support to District Industries Centre officials of the Government of Chhattisgarh.

Important News – World

1. **Qatar** country named the cyclone 'Shaheen' that battered Oman lashing the sultanate with high winds and rain and caused 5 people to die.

Note: Cyclone Shaheen made landfall just off from Muscat, Oman's capital, with winds reaching up to 150 kph (93 mph). The name 'Shaheen' is given by Qatar which is a part of the member countries for the naming of a tropical cyclone in the Indian Ocean.

2. The 7th G-20 Parliamentary Speakers Summit is scheduled to be held in **Rome, Italy**.

Note: An 8-member parliamentary delegation from India including Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh and Secretary Generals of both Houses of Parliament are set to participate in the summit. Duarte Pacheco President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) will address the Summit in the opening session and Prime Minister of Italy, Mario Draghi will be the keynote speaker.

3. **Russia** has successfully test-fired Hypersonic missile from a nuclear submarine for the first time.

Note: It previously has been repeatedly test-fired from a navy frigate, most recently in July. Zircon is intended to arm Russian cruisers, frigates and submarines. It is one of several hypersonic missiles under development in Russia. Missile would be commissioned in to Russian Navy in 2022.

4. The theme of the Dubai's Expo 2020 -- **Connecting Minds, Creating the Future**.

Note: Main theme of Dubai Expo 2020: Connecting Minds, Creating the Future. Expo 2020 is the first to be held in Middle East and North Africa & South Asia region.

5. Bangladesh govt & **Asian Development Bank** have signed a USD 400 million agreement for constructing **Dhaka-Sylhet highway** to improve mobility, road safety and regional trade in northeast economic corridor in Bangladesh.

Note: It is the first tranche of \$1.78 billion financing facility approved by ADB for South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Dhaka-Sylhet Road investment project. It will be utilized for widening of about 210 kms of Dhaka-Sylhet road from 2-lane to 4 lane highway among other activities.

6. Mansukh Mandaviya has released UNICEF's global flagship publication 'The State of the World's Children 2021; On My Mind: promoting, protecting and caring for children's mental health'

Note: It says only 41% of young people in India were willing to seek support for mental health problems, compared to an average of 83% among 21 countries surveyed. The report has found that around 14% of 15 to 24-year-olds in India, or 1 in 7, reported often feeling depressed or having little interest in doing things.

7. First consignment of Geographical Indication (GI) tagged sweet dish Mihidana from Bardhaman, West Bengal has been exported to **Kingdom of Bahrain**.

- Note:** It is part of the effort to promote indigenous and GI tagged products of India globally. It was exported by APEDA registered M/S DM Enterprises, Kolkata. Mihidana sweet dish got GI tag in 2017.
8. India has been chosen as the Partner Administration for **Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)** programme. The TIWB is a joint initiative of **UNDP and OECD**.
Note: TIWB has launched its programme in Seychelles on 4th October 2021. India will be providing its Tax Expert in support of the initiative. TIWB: Joint initiative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), since its launch in 2015.
9. **United Arab Amirate** planned to send a probe to land on an asteroid between Mars and Jupiter to collect data on the origins of the universe.
Note: It is the latest project in the oil-rich federation's ambitious space programme. The project targets a 2028 launch with a landing in 2033, a five-year journey in which the spacecraft will travel some 3.6 billion kilometres (2.2 billion miles). The project comes after the Emirates successfully put its Amal, or "Hope", probe in orbit around Mars in February. The Emirates plans to send an unmanned spacecraft to the moon in 2024.
10. **Denmark** and India signed MoUs on research in climate change, and setting up a "green hydrogen" electrolyser plant.
Note: The MoUs were between Reliance Industries and Danish company Stiesdal Fuel Technologies during PM level summit between two countries. This was the first summit-level visit to India since the COVID pandemic, and the first State visit by a Danish leader since a bilateral freeze on ties a decade ago.
11. **India** became the first BRICS country to officially join the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People.
Note: HAC for Nature and People is co-chaired by Costa Rica, France and by United Kingdom as Ocean co-chair. HAC: It was launched in 2019 as intergovernmental group of more than 70 countries encouraging goal to protect at least 30% of the world's land and ocean by 2030 (30×30 target).
12. **Germany** has unveiled the world's first automated, driverless train, billed as more punctual and energy efficient than traditional trains.
Note: It is billed as more punctual and energy efficient than traditional trains. The train is controlled by digital technology and is fully automated. The driver remains on the train to supervise the journey with passengers on board.
13. In association with the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI) **UNDP** has released the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021.
- Note:** The Index considers data from 109 countries and 5.9 billion people. These include 26 low-income countries, 80 middle-income countries and 3 high-income countries. The index measures each person's deprivations across 10 indicators divided into three equally weighted dimensions.
14. **UN Human Rights Council** has recognized access to a clean and healthy environment as a fundamental right.
Note: The vote passed with overwhelming support, despite criticism in the lead-up from some countries, notably the United States and Britain. The resolution, first discussed in the 1990s, is not legally binding but has the potential to shape global standards. Lawyers involved in climate litigation say it could help them build arguments in cases involving the environment and human rights.
15. **Italy** has convened G20 Extraordinary Summit on Afghanistan.
Note: G20 Extraordinary Summit on Afghanistan was convened by Italy, which currently holds G20 Presidency, and chaired by Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi. Focus: issues related to humanitarian situation, concerns relating to terrorism, and human rights issue in Afghanistan following the Taliban's return to power.
16. **United Nations Biodiversity Summit** is being held in **China**.
Note: In the summit the countries met to protect ecosystems and prevent mass extinction weeks before the COP26 climate conference. The online summit — setting the stage for a face-to-face meeting in April — will see parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) discuss new targets for protecting ecosystems by 2030. During the summit, countries discussed for "30 by 30" plan in order to give 30% of lands and oceans protected status.
17. In **2021 Henley Passport Index**, **Japan** and **Singapore** stood at the top position this year.
Note: The index ranks the passports of countries according to the number of destinations their holders can visit without a prior visa. The rankings are based on the analysis of data provided by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
18. India has signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with **Russia** for collaboration in the mining and steel sectors, with special focus on coking coal.
Note: The move is part of India's National Steel Policy 2017 under which the country is aiming to reach 300 million tonne steel production by 2030. The MoU has come at a time when India's non-power industries (aluminium, cement and secondary producers of steel) are facing severe thermal coal shortage issues. Coking coal and

thermal coal, however, have different applications and do not overlap.

19. The challenge has become the **first movie** that was shoot in International Space Station (ISS).

Note: Russian cosmonaut Oleg Novitskiy of Roscosmos along with actress Yulia Peresild and producer-director Klim Shipenko departed the ISS in their Soyuz MS-18 spacecraft. The filmmakers had blasted off from the Russia-leased Baikonur Cosmodrome in ex-Soviet Kazakhstan earlier this month, travelling to the ISS with veteran cosmonaut Anton Shkaplerov to film scenes for "The Challenge".

20. Sri Lanka has sought **USD 500 million credit line** from India to pay for its crude oil purchases amid a severe foreign exchange crisis.

Note: It is a part of the India-Sri Lanka economic partnership arrangement. The facility would be used for purchasing petrol and diesel requirements. State-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) owes USD 3.3 billion to the two main government banks Bank of Ceylon and People's Bank.

21. Ireland ranked top in the Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021.

Note: India is ranked at 71st position in the Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021 of 113 countries. China has been ranked 34th, Pakistan ranked 75th, Sri Lanka (77th Position), Nepal (79th position) and Bangladesh (84th position). The GFS Index was designed and constructed by London-based Economist Impact and is sponsored by Corteva Agriscience.

22. Iceland ranked first in the 2021 Mercer CFS Global Pension Index survey, that ranked 43 pension systems across the world.

Note: India had stood at 34th position out of 39 pension systems rated in 2020. Globally, Iceland was ranked highest with an overall index value of 84.2 while Thailand had the lowest overall index value at 40.6.

23. India, Israel, United States and United Arab Amirate have decided to launch new quadrilateral economic forum.

Note: Quadrilateral builds on ongoing cooperation between U.S., Israel and UAE after the Abraham Accords last year. This QUAD grouping had decided to establish an international forum for economic cooperation, and discussed possibilities for joint infrastructure projects expanding economic and political cooperation in the Middle East and Asia.

24. Former president of United States Donald Trump has announced to launch his own social networking platform called "TRUTH Social".

Note: The long-awaited platform will be owned by Trump Media & Technology Group (TMTG), which also intends to launch a subscription video on-

demand service that will feature "non-woke" entertainment programming.

25. Barbados has elected its first-ever president to replace **Britain's Queen Elizabeth** as head of state in a decisive step toward shedding the Caribbean island's colonial past.

Note: Sandra Mason was elected by a two-thirds vote of a joint session of the country's House of Assembly and Senate. A former British colony that gained independence in 1966, the nation of just under 300,000 had long maintained ties with the British monarchy. But calls for full sovereignty and homegrown leadership have risen in recent years. Mason, 72, will be sworn in on Nov. 30, the country's 55th anniversary of independence from Britain.

26. South Korea has launched its first space rocket to be completely developed and built in the country called 'Nuri'.

Note: The 47-meter rocket lifted off with bright yellow fire shooting from its engines. The rocket is called Nuri. It launched from the country's Naro Space Center, which is on a small island off South Korea's southern coast.

27. Klim Shipenko has become the first film director to shoot a film in space named as "The Challenge".

Note: It took around 30 hours to record the material while in space. This is the first time a mission has been embarked to ISS to shoot a movie in space. The film "The Challenge" is based on the life of a woman doctor who goes to space to save a cosmonaut's life.

28. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has released the 'Production Gap Report'.

Note: The Production Gap Report, first launched in 2019, tracks the discrepancy between governments' planned fossil fuel production and global production levels consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C or 2°C. UNEP's Major Reports: Emission Gap Report, Adaptation Gap Report, Global Environment Outlook, Making Peace with Nature.

29. Saudi Arabia will use one of the world's biggest natural-gas projects to make blue hydrogen.

Note: The kingdom is steps up its efforts to export a fuel seen as crucial to the green-energy transition. A large portion of gas from the \$110 billion Jafurah development will be used for blue hydrogen. It is made by converting natural gas and capturing the carbon dioxide emissions.

30. Saudi Arabia has launched a "National Infrastructure Fund" to that will invest in areas such as water, transportation, energy, and health, contributing to country's plans to transform the economy and make it less reliant on oil revenue.

Note: It has been advised by the world's largest fund manager BlackRock. The National Infrastructure Fund will invest in areas such as water, transportation, energy, and health, contributing to

Saudi Arabia's plans to transform the economy and make it less reliant on oil revenue.

31. The 16th East Asia Summit was hosted by **Brunei** in that Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated virtually.

Note: It was hosted by Brunei and saw the participation of leaders from the ASEAN countries and Australia, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, US and India. This was 7th East Asia Summit attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Members of EAS includes 10 ASEAN member states, and India, China, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, US and Russia.

32. Indo-Canadian lady **Anita Anand** has been appointed as Canada's minister of national defence.

Note: Ms. Anand (54) will replace long-time Defence Minister Indian-origin Harjit Sajjan, whose handling of the military sexual misconduct crisis has been under criticism. Mr. Sajjan has been appointed as Minister of International Development Agency.

33. **France** has successfully launched military communication satellite, titled as 'Syracuse 4A', into orbit.

Note: The satellite was launched on Ariane 5 rocket. It will allow the armed forces of France across the globe to communicate swiftly and securely. It is first in the series of three Syracuse IV communication satellite being developed to improve French military satellite communications.

Honor & Awards

1. According to the **IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2021**, Mukesh Ambani continues to be the richest man of India for consecutive **5th year**.

Note: Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani is at second spot with net worth of Rs. 5,05,900 crores, followed by Shiv Nadar & family of HCL technologies with net worth of Rs 2,36,600 crore. Hurun India Rich List 2021, features as many as 1,007 individuals across 119 cities with net worth of Rs 1,000 crore

2. **Shiv Nadar and Mallika Srinivasan** have been chosen for the 2021 Global Leadership Award by US India Business Council (USIBC).

Note: Global Leadership Awards was given annually since 2007 to honor top corporate executives from US and India who have demonstrated exemplary leadership. **Shiv Nadar:** Founder and chairman emeritus of HCL Technologies Limited. **Mallika Srinivasan:** Chair and managing director, Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE).

3. **David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian** won the Nobel Prize 2021 in Medicine or Physiology.

Note: According to Nobel Assembly at Sweden's Karolinska Institute, their findings "have allowed us to understand how heat, cold and mechanical force can initiate the nerve impulses that allow us to perceive and adapt to the world around us. The more than century-old prize is worth 10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.15 million). The Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine, shared in equal parts this year by the two laureates.

4. Raksha Mantri **Shri Rajnath Singh** felicitated the winners of 'Dare to Dream 2.0', young scientist award 2021. The Contest was organized by **DRDO**.

Note: The Raksha Mantri gave away awards to 40 winners - 22 in Individual category and 18 in Startup category. He also launched 'Dare to Dream 3.0' to promote innovators & startups and provide a platform for the young ignited minds in the country. Dare to Dream is DRDO's pan-India contest to

promote Indian academicians, individuals and startups to develop emerging defence and aerospace technologies/systems. DRDO provides technical and financial support to the winners for realisation of their ideas under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme.

5. Scientist Giorgio Parisi has won half share of the 2021 Nobel Physics Prize.

Note: Manabe and Hasselmann were cited for their work in "the physical modeling of Earth's climate, quantifying variability and reliably predicting global warming". The second half of the prize was awarded to Parisi for "the discovery of the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems from atomic to planetary scales." The prestigious prize is worth 10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.15 million) and is given by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

6. **Benjamin List and David MacMillan** won the 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their development of asymmetric organocatalysis, a "new and ingenious tool for molecule building.

Note: "Organic catalysts can be used to drive multitudes of chemical reactions," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in a statement. "Using these reactions, researchers can now more efficiently construct anything from new pharmaceuticals to molecules that can capture light in solar cells." The more than century-old prize is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and is worth 10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.14 million).

7. **Abdulrazak Gurnah** has been awarded 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Note: He writes in English. Nobel Prize in literature is awarded by Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden. Prize money for Nobel Prize in Literature is worth 10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.14 million).

8. **Gautam Adani** occupied second position in the Forbes India Rich list for 2021, that was topped

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani.

Note: Gautam Adani, with a wealth of \$74.8 billion, is second richest in India with only \$17.9 billion shy of Ambani. Shiv Nadar was number three in the list with a wealth of \$31 billion. Radhakrishnan Damani, founder of Avenues Supermarts, and Cyrus Poonawalla, chairman of Serum Institute, were placed fourth and fifth with a wealth of \$29.4 billion and \$19 billion respectively.

9. **G Satheesh Reddy** has been conferred with the prestigious Aryabhata Award 2021.

Note: The award has been given by Astronautical Society of India (ASI) for his outstanding life-time contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India. Dr G Satheesh Reddy is a pioneer in the area of R&D of advanced avionics, navigation and missile technologies. He has contributed immensely to strategic and tactical missile systems and helped the country become self-reliant in critical defence technologies.

10. **David Card, Joshua D Angrist and Guido W Imbens** have won the 2021 Nobel prize for Economics.

Note: Canadian-born David Card of the University of California was awarded half of the prize for his research on how minimum wage, immigration and education affect the labor market. The other half was shared by Joshua Angrist from MIT and Dutch-born Guido Imbens from Stanford University for their framework for studying issues that can't rely on traditional scientific methods.

11. **B Gopal** has been chosen for the fourth Satyajit Ray Award for his overall contribution to the Indian cinema.

Note: Instituted by the Satyajit Ray Film Society Kerala, a state-based organisation, the award comprises Rs 10,000 cash prize, a memento and plaque. Gopal has directed 30 films Telugu films and two Hindi moves in his decades-long tinsel town career. The award would be presented to him in a function to be held in Hyderabad.

12. **Randeep Guleria** has been conferred with Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence.

Note: Randeep Guleria (Director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences) has been conferred with Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence. Award was instituted by Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management (LBSIM), Delhi, promoted by Lal Bahadur Shastri Educational Society.

13. **Satya Nadella** received the prestigious **C K Prahlad award for Global Business Sustainability Leadership** for the year 2021.

Note: The award recognises exceptional, globally significant private-sector action, innovation and long-term business success in a globalizing world. Four Microsoft leaders received the award. They are

president and vice chair Brad Smith, chief financial officer Amy Hood, chief environment officer Lucas Joppa along with Nadella- for their collaborative leadership aimed at transforming Microsoft into a carbon negative company by 2030 and to remove all its historical emissions by 2050.

14. Renowned writer Benyamin is a writer of **Malayalam** language bagged the 45th Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Literary Award for his book 'Manthilirile 20 Communist Varshangal'.

Note: The award, instituted by the Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Trust, comprises a cash prize of **Rs 1 lakh**, a sculpture designed by sculptor **Kanayi Kunhiraman** and a **citation**. A political satire, the novel revolves around a nondescript village called **Manthalir** and the influence of religion and politics in its culture in two decades.

15. Film Director Chaitanya Tamhane has won the best screenplay award for **'The Disciple' movie**.

Note: The winners in 18 categories were announced at a ceremony hosted by the Asian Film Awards Academy (AFAA) in conjunction with Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) and Asian Contents & Film Market (ACFM) at the Paradise Hotel Busan. 'The Disciple' follows Sharad Nerulkar (Aditya Modak), an Indian classical vocalist.

16. Indian American scientist **Dr. Vivek Lall** has won the Lifetime Achievement Award at Ritossa Family Summits in Dubai.

Note: General Atomic's CE Dr Vivek Lall received a Lifetime Achievement Award in Dubai for his "outstanding vision, dedication and success. A Jakarta-born Indian origin scientist, Dr Lall is known for this extraordinary role in strengthening India-US Defence trade and brokered some "top deals" between the two countries.

17. **United Kingdom** Army has organized '2021 Cambrian Patrol Exercise' in that **Indian Army's Team** of 4/5 Gorkha Rifles has won a gold medal.

Note: Exercise Cambrian Patrol is an annual international military exercise conducted to test the ultimate human endurance, thus it is sometimes referred to as the 'Olympics of Military Patrolling'. The Gold Medal was presented to the Indian team by General Sir Mark Carleton-Smith, the Chief of General Staff of the British Army.

18. Indian company **Takachar** has won the prize in the "Clean Our Air" category in first-ever Earthshot Prize, also called "Eco Oscar", instituted by Prince William for its technology to create fuel, fertiliser and other speciality chemicals from agricultural waste.

Note: The Indian company won the prize in the "Clean Our Air" category for its technology to create fuel, fertiliser and other speciality chemicals from agricultural waste. Takachar's innovation aims to put an end to stubble burning, an annual scourge in north

India that causes severe air pollution, including in the National Capital Region.

19. **Kung Fu Nuns** has won the prestigious Martial Arts Education Prize 2021 from the UNESCO International Centre for Martial Arts for their brave acts of service. **Note:** The prize recognises the Kung Fu Nuns' heroic acts of service and championing of gender equality across the Himalayas. Through martial arts, the Drukpa nuns empower young girls to defend themselves, build confidence, and take on leadership roles in their communities.
20. Renowned Alexei Navalny is a political leader of **Russia** who has been awarded the **2021 Sakharov Prize**, the European Union's top human rights prize. **Note:** It European Union's top human rights prize. In awarding the Sakharov Prize to Mr. Navalny, the European Parliament praised his "immense personal bravery." The 45-year-old activist was poisoned with a nerve agent last year and promptly arrested upon his return to Moscow from treatment in Germany and later imprisoned.
21. **Aadhyaa Aravind Shankar** has scripted history by becoming the first-ever Indian to win the Children's Peace Image of the Year-Global Peace Photo Award. **Note:** Global Peace Photo Award is awarded annually by Lammerhuber Editions in partnership with UNESCO and the Austrian Parliament. The award honours photographers from around the world whose pictures reflect human efforts towards a peaceful world.
22. According to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting **Istevan Szabo and Martin Scorsese** will be conferred the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award at 52nd International Film Festival of India in Goa. **Note:** Istvan Szabo is one of the most critically acclaimed Hungarian film directors of the past few decades known for masterpieces like Mephisto

(1981) *Father* (1966). Martin Scorsese is one of the major figures of the New Hollywood era, regarded as one of the greatest and most influential directors in film history.

23. *Koozhangal* (internationally translated as *Pebbles*) is drama film of **Tamil** language has been selected as India's official entry for 94th Academy Awards (Oscars 2022). **Note:** *Koozhangal* has been directed by filmmaker Vinodhraj PS and produced by Vignesh Shivan and Nayanthara. It is related to alcoholic abusive husband who, after his long-suffering wife runs off, sets out with his young son. 94th Academy Awards are scheduled to take place in Los Angeles, on March 27, 2022.
24. Renowned author and a filmmaker Tsitsi Dangarembga become the first black woman to win 2021 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for "new Enlightenment", a work on violence in her country and all over the world. **Note:** The Award has been awarded by the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels, an association of German book publishers and book sellers. Dangarembga is the first black woman to win the German Peace Prize. Tsitsi Dangarembga is novelist, playwright and filmmaker, born on February 4, 1959, in Mutoko, Zimbabwe.
25. **Rajnikanth** has been conferred with the 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2019 edition) for his stupendous contribution to Indian cinema at 67th National Film Awards ceremony. **Note:** Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2019 was to be announced last year but was postponed due to Covid-19 pandemic, as were the National Film Awards for 2019. It is awarded for excellence in cinematic achievement and is the highest honour in film, awarded by the government. The recipient of the 2018 award was Amitabh Bachchan.

Sports News

1. **Indian** men's table tennis team created history by winning a medal at the **Asian Table Tennis Championship 2021**. **Note:** The team consisting of Sathiyam Gnanasekaran, Sharath Kamal, Harmeet Desai, Sanil Shetty, and Manav Thakkar won the bronze medal after losing to South Korea 0-3 in the semi-finals. This is India's second medal at Asian Championships since 1976. The Indian team was assured of a medal after beating Iran 3-1 in the quarterfinals.
2. **Smriti Mandhana** became first Indian woman to score a Test hundred on Australian soil. **Note:** She completed her century to shape up India's first innings on the second day of the first pink-ball day and night One-off Test match being played

between India and Australia women at the Carrara Oval in Queensland, Australia. She scored 127 runs with 22 fours and a six. Put into bat, India women were off to a solid start with both openers Mandhana and Shafali Verma scored together a 93-run partnership.

3. **FC Goa** has won the 2021 Durand Cup football title held in Kolkata. **Note:** Captain Eduardo Bedia scored the all important goal in the 105th minute after the final match went into the extra time. The Durand Cup crown also marks FC Goa coach Juan Ferrando Fenoll's first-ever trophy on Indian soil. FC Goa got 40 lakh rupees for winning the title, while Mohammedan Sporting received 20 lakh rupees.

4. **Magnus Carlsen** has won inaugural Meltwater Champions Chess Tour (MCCT) to claim the non-fungible token (NFT) trophy, and \$1,00,000 in the finals.
Note: It is a 10-month long online chess tournaments, which was held on chess24.com from November 22, 2020 till October 4, 2021. Tournaments are not rated by FIDE. MCCT tour comprised of 10 total tournaments. It was the most viewed online chess event in history of the game.
5. **Manu Bhaker** has won a gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol event at the ISSF junior world championship.
Note: Esha Singh, 16, grabbed the silver medal in a one-two finish for India while Rhythm ended in fourth place in the finals after missing out on a podium by just .2 points. India's Rudranksh Patil claimed the silver medal in the men's 10m air rifle competition. Ramita won bronze in the women's 10m air rifle junior event with a total score of 229.1, even as the well-known Mehuli Ghosh finished fifth in the final and Nisha Kanwar eighth.
6. Indian women wrestler **Anshu Malik** has won a silver medal in the **World Wrestling Championships** in Oslo, Norway.
Note: 19-year old Anshu becomes India's first-ever woman finalist at the World Championship. **Sushil Kumar** (2010) remains India's lone world champion wrestler till date.
7. Sarita Mor is associated with **Wrestling** sports has won a bronze medal in a World championship recently.
Note: Sarita Mor is an Indian Wrestler who won bronze medal in women's 59kg. Sarita ended defeated Sweden's Sara Johanna Lindborg 8-2 in bronze medal play-off
8. **Valtteri Bottas** has won Formula 1 Turkish Grand Prix 2021, held at Istanbul Park in Tuzla, Istanbul.
Note: This is V. Bottas first victory of F1 season. Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) came second, followed by Sergio Perez (Mexico- Red Bull). Lewis Hamilton finished fifth in the race.
9. **India** has the highest medal tally at 2021 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship.
Note: Indian shooters claimed a historic victory with 43 medals included 17 Gold, 16 Silver and 10 Bronze medal to stand atop in the medal table at 2021 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship. USA finished second on the medal table.
10. **India** pulled out of the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games' hockey competition stating the risk of contracting COVID-19 and the discriminatory quarantine rules by the United Kingdom (UK) for travellers.
Note: The UK has refused to consider India's COVID-19 vaccination certificates and imposed a 10-day quarantine on travellers coming from India even if fully vaccinated. India has also imposed reciprocal rules on all UK nationals arriving in the country following UK's discriminatory quarantine rules.
11. The official mascot of the U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 -- **Ibha**.
Note: Ibha aims to inspire women and girls across India and around the world to realise their potential. The tournament will be held in India from October 11-30 next year.
12. **Indonesia** has won the 2021 Thomas Cup trophy in Aarhus, Denmark.
Note: Indonesia is the most successful nation in the history of the team championship of men's badminton with 14 titles. China settled for silver while Japan and hosts Denmark shared the bronze.
13. **China** has won the Uber Cup title by defeating Japan in the final in Aarhus, Denmark.
Note: This is China's 15th Uber Cup title win in 19 finals. Japan began the final in a stunning fashion when world number five Akane Yamaguchi beat reigning Olympic Champion in women's singles Chen Yu Fei 21-18, 21-10 to give Japan 1-0 lead. Yamaguchi had also beaten Chen Yu Fei at the recent Sudirman Cup.
14. South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship was held in **Maldives**.
Note: India clinched the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship for eighth time defeating Nepal 3-0 in Male. Sunil Chhetri scored in the 49th minute of the match, which put him level with Lionel Messi on 80 international goals. This is the Indian football team's first title triumph under head coach Igor Stimac.
15. Chennai Super Kings (CSK) has defeated **Kolkata Knight Riders** in the final to win the 2021 Indian Premier League (IPL) title.
Note: This was the 14th edition of IPL which is an India-based Cricket league in 20-20 format. This was the 4th victory of Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in IPL, having previously won the tournament in 2010, 2011, and 2018. Captain of CSK: **M.S. Dhoni**
16. **Divya Deshmukh** became India's 21st Woman Grand Master after achieving her 2nd International Master in Budapest, Hungary.
Note: She scored 5 points in the 9 rounds and ended up with a performance rating of 2452 to secure her final WGM norm. She also secured her 2nd IM-norm and is now a norm away from becoming an International Master. The Nagpur teenager had earned the first two WGM norms at the Velammal International women's round-robin tournament and the Aeroflot Open 2019.

- 17. Nagaland** will host the 'South Asian Federation Cross Country Championship 2022 and 56th National Cross Country Championships.
Note: While the 56th National Cross Country Championships which is also being hosted by Nagaland will be clubbed with the South Asian Federation Cross Country Championships. Top athletes from the eight south Asian countries – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives will participate in the event.
- 18. Indian Grandmaster** who clinched the title in the La Nucia Open chess tournament -- **P Iniyam**.
Note: The 19-year-old Iniyam, with an Elo rating of 2529, finished equal on seven points with GMs Andrey Sumets (Ukraine) and Rodrigo Vasquez Schroeder (Chile) but the Indian won the event on the basis of a better tie-break score. Iniyam, who was seeded fifth, remained unbeaten in the nine-round tournament. He won six games and drew two, apart from getting a bye in the eighth round.
- 19. International Cricket Council (ICC)** has partnered with **UNICEF to raise awareness** about the mental health issues and wellbeing amongst children and adolescents.
Note: Under this partnership, ICC will promote the #OnYourMind campaign of UNICEF at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021, beginning on October 17, 2021. The ICC will use its global platforms, including its broadcast and digital channels to support UNICEF's work and urge for greater commitment, connection and conversation around mental health and physical wellbeing.
- 20. Indian cricketers Harbhajan Singh and Javagal Srinath** have been awarded the life membership of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
Note: Harbhajan is India's third-highest wicket-taker in Tests, with 417 wickets in 103 Tests, while Srinath is one of the country's greatest ODI players, having taken 315 wickets and ended his career as India's second-highest wicket-taker in 50-over internationals. Eight of the 12 Test-playing nations are represented in this year's list, which includes some of the most recognisable names in the modern game.
- 21. Indian fencer Bhavani Devi** has won 2022 Charlellville National Competition in France in the individual women's sabre event.
Note: She also made history at Tokyo Olympics by becoming the first Indian to compete in the sport at the Games by winning her round of 64 match 15-3 against Tunisia's Nadia Ben Azizi before going down to eventual bronze-medallist, Manon Brunet of France in the round of 32. She is currently ranked 50th in the world and is the top-ranked fencer from India.
- 22. Renowned Australian** cricketer James Pattinson announced his retirement from international cricket.
Note: The 31-year-old, who has played 21 Tests and 15 ODIs, though will continue to play domestic cricket. Pattinson claimed 81 Test wickets and 16 ODI scalps in his career after making his Test debut in December 2011 alongside Mitchell Starc and David Warner against New Zealand in Brisbane.
- 23. Viktor Axelsen** has won men's single title in the 2021 Denmark Open Badminton championship held at the Odense Sports Park in Odense, Denmark.
Note: He defeated world number 1 Momota Kento of Japan. Akane Yamaguchi of Japan won her second title in women's category defeating An Se-young (South Korea). Men's double – Takuro Hoki, and Yugo Kobayashi (Japan). Women's double – Huang Dongping and Zheng Yu (China). Mixed double – Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino (Japan).
- 24. Fabio Quartararo** has won the MotoGP world championship at the Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix.
Note: Pole Bagnaya led the Ducati home race when he crashed five laps to go, losing the race to Marc Marquez of Honda and the world title Quartararo. Quartararo's victory ended nearly a decade of Spanish domination after Marquez (six championships), Yamaha's Jorge Lorenzo (2012 and 2015) and Juan Mir of Suzuki (2020) won their last nine titles.
- 25. Max Verstappen** has won the U.S. Grand Prix 2021 title.
Note: This is his eighth title of the season. Verstappen and Red Bull won on a track where Hamilton and Mercedes have been dominant for years. The victory doubled Verstappen's lead over Hamilton to 12 points in the standings with five races remaining and could prove to be a pivotal win in this classic championship battle.
- 26. Former cricketer Mohd Azharuddin** unveiled World's biggest cricket bat in Hyderabad.
Note: President of Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) and former India captain Mohd Azharuddin has inaugurated World's biggest cricket bat in Hyderabad. This bat has been certified by the Guinness Book of World Records as the biggest cricket bat in the world. It has been designed by Pernod Ricard India (P) Ltd with poplar wood and has been fabricated by BSL Events.
- 27. Indian swimmer Ridhima Veerendra Kumar** won the gold medal in 50 meter backstroke at 74th senior National aquatic championships.
Note: The 14-year-old relegated Maana Patel to second spot for the second successive race (after 100m backstroke on day one) by clocking 29.94s over 50m.

Books and Authors

- Wole Soyinka** authored the book titled 'Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth'.
Note: It has been authored by Wole Soyinka (Africa's first Nobel laureate in Literature). The book has been published by Bloomsbury India. He wrote his last novel Season of Anomy in 1973. The book is related to political and social corruption.
- Jaithirth Rao** has authored the book titled 'Economist Gandhi'.
Note: Jaithirth Rao is popularly known as Jerry Rao and is the founder and former CEO of the software company Mphasis. Book examines Mahatma Gandhi's economic philosophy and his hidden facet personality- thoughts on economics and capitalism. It has been published by the Penguin Random House India.
- Sujeet Sarkar** has authored the book titled "Quest for a Stable Afghanistan".
Note: The book was published by Rupa Publications. It provides a detailed account of how the haggard and faulty policies of the West have put Afghanistan on the deeper and increasingly worrisome crisis. It provides a daring new outlook denouncing several myths that colour common global perception of this war-ravaged country.
- Rajnish Kumar** has authored the book titled "The Custodian of Trust – A Banker's Memoir".
Note: Book has been published by Peguin Random House India. It gave a rare insight of how the financial system in our country works. Custodian of Trust depicts Kumar's journey from a modest house in the old city of Meerut to being a probationary officer in SBI in 1980 and growing to the post of Chairman in 2017.
- Uday Mahurkar and Chirayu Pandit** has authored the book titled "Veer Savarkar: The Man Who Could Have Prevented Partition".
Note: The book was launched by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. The book reveals the work of great leader savarkar. The book uncovers Savarkar's best possible pathway towards one nation that rises above religion and caste discrimination and regional feelings.
- Shafey Kidwai** has authored the book titled "Sir Syed Ahmad Khan: Reason, Religion And Nation".
Note: The book is an objective analysis of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan the founder of Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College that grew into Aligarh Muslim University. The book is published by Routledge India.
- Gulzar** has authored the book titled "Actually... I Met Them: A Memoir".
Note: It is being published by Penguin Random House India publishing group. In this memoir book, Gulzar has shared many interesting unknown facts about legends like Kishore Kumar, Bimal Roy, Ritwik Ghatak, Hrishikesh Mukherjee and Mahasweta Devi, among others.
- Divya Dutta** is the author of the book titled, "The Stars in My Sky: Those Who Brightened My Film Journey".
Note: And now, news is that her second book titled 'Stars In My Sky' will be out this month. In 'Stars In My Sky', Divya will share her emotional journey of becoming an actor along with some of her defining moments as an artist.
- Chidanand Rajghatta** has authored the book titled "Kamala Harris: Phenomenal Woman", a biography of Kamala Harris.
Note: The book is published by HarperCollins Publishers India. The book features the life incidents of Kamala Harris, a woman of mixed race (India and Jamaica) who has become the first Indian descent, the first woman to become the vice president of the USA.
- Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has authored the book titled 'AIIMS Mein Ek Jang Ladte Hue'.
Note: He gifted one copy of the book to the PM Narendra Modi. The book was written by him during the COVID-19 pandemic. The book was published by Prabhat Prakashan Pvt. Ltd.
- Ruskin Bond** has authored the book titled 'Writing For My Life'.
Note: The anthology accounts for Bond's life with his father, adventure in Jersey and London etc. The current one, which is Ruskin Bond's 2nd anthology, has been released 25 years after his first anthology of "The Best of Ruskin Bond".

Science and Defence

- NASA is poised to send its first spacecraft to study the Trojan asteroids of **Jupiter** planet.
Note: The probe, called Lucy after an ancient fossil that provided insights into the evolution of human species, will launch on October 16 from Cape

Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. Its mission is to investigate the group of rocky bodies circling the Sun in two swarms, one preceding Jupiter in its orbital path and the other trailing behind it.

2. **IIT Hyderabad** has developed a hydrogel from discarded corneas that can be used as an alternative to Corneal transplantation.
Note: Research team was led by Dr Falguni Pati, an Associate Professor at Department of Bio-medical Engineering at IIT-H. Hydrogel was developed from discarded corneas of human and bovine sources using novel and simple method. The team discovered the most significant feature of this tissue-specific hydrogel in order to prevent cells from scar tissue formation.
3. India and **Sri Lanka** conducted the 8th edition of joint military exercise 'Mitra Shakti 21'.
Note: The 12 days exercise is being conducted at Combat Training School in Sri Lanka's Ampara from October 4-15. The aim of the exercise is to promote close relations between armies of both countries and enhance inter-operability and sharing best practices in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations. The joint exercise is designed for incorporating the current dynamics of United Nations' peacekeeping operations through tactical exercises and practical discussions.
4. **Japan** & India conducted the 5th edition of bilateral maritime exercise 'JIMEX-21' in Arabian Sea.
Note: JIMEX series of exercises were introduced in January 2012 with special focus on maritime security cooperation. It involves weapon firings, cross-deck helicopter operations and complex surface, anti-submarine and air warfare drills will consolidate coordination developed by the two navies.
5. The 6th edition of annual Joint Military Exercise 'AJEYA WARRIOR' was held between India and **United Kingdom**.
Note: It is a two-week long military exercise, that will culminate on October 20, 2021. AJEYA WARRIOR: It is a joint military exercise between India and United Kingdom since 2013. The exercise will further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation between the armies of the two countries and develop interoperability and sharing of expertise.
6. The Malabar Exercise is associated with Armed force of India involving US, Japan and Australia.
Note: The Malabar series of exercises began as an annual bilateral naval exercise between India and the US in 1992. In 2015, Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) joined Malabar as a permanent member. The 2020 edition witnessed the participation of the Royal Australian Navy. The second phase of the multilateral maritime exercise was took place in the Bay of Bengal in October 2021.
7. NASA's Perseverance rover sent pictures of 'Jezero crater' revealing it was a quiet lake, the crater is in **Mars**.
Note: Perseverance rover was launched on July 30 last year and arrived at the red planet. Perseverance explored the floor of Jezero Crater, which was once a lake and a dried-out river delta at the crater's edge. Based on the detailed images sent by the six-wheeler rover on Mars, the team has now published first scientific results about the Jezero Crater delta in the journal Science.
8. India is set to host **Exercise Milan** for which 46 countries have been invited and that would be its largest exercise.
Note: "Ex Milan is being planned for February 2022 and invites have been sent to 46 countries. Several of them have already confirmed their participation.
9. The 17th edition of the 'Ex Yudh Abhyas 21' was held between India and **USA**.
Note: The 14-day exercise includes activities on joint training in a counter-insurgency/counter-terrorism environment. The Ex YudhAbhyas is the largest running joint military training and defense cooperation endeavour b/w India and US.
10. **NITI Aayog** in collaboration with **Indian Space Research Organisation** (ISRO) has developed a comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS) Energy Map of India.
Note: It will identify and locate all primary and secondary sources of energy and their transportation/transmission networks to provide a comprehensive view of energy production and distribution in a country. The GIS map provides a holistic picture of all energy resources of the country which enables visualisation of energy installations such as conventional power plants, oil and gas wells, petroleum refineries, coal fields and coal blocks, district-wise data on renewable energy power plants and renewable energy resource potential through 27 thematic layers.
11. In collaboration with **Paras Aerospace** and software developer FIXAR announced its entry in the fast-emerging domestic unmanned aerial vehicle market in India.
Note: As a first step towards this partnership, the company will launch its flagship fixed wing drone FIXAR007 in the country. The initial agreement targets delivery of 150 drones to the operators in India in the next 6-8 months with the first expected to arrive next month.
12. Space agency **NASA** has launched Lucy spacecraft, the first space mission to study the Trojans Asteroids.
Note: Lucy will journey for 12 years, observing one main belt asteroid and seven Trojan asteroids. The swarms of Trojan asteroids associated with Jupiter are thought to be remnants of the primordial material that formed the outer planets. These

primitive bodies hold vital clues to deciphering the history of the solar system.

- 13. India's first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) INS Vikrant that has begun its 2nd phase of sea trials -- Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi.**
Note: India's first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) Vikrant to be inducted into the Indian Navy by August next year. The 40,000-tonne aircraft carrier, the largest and most complex warship to be built in India, successfully completed a five-day maiden sea voyage in August. The warship will operate MiG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31 helicopters, MH-60R multi-role helicopters.
- 14. So far, India has conducted bilateral tri service exercise only with three countries and the recent one is 'Konkan Shakti 2021' with UK, Russia and USA.**
Note: The UK's Carrier Strike Group (CSG) led by its largest warship HMS Queen Elizabeth and several other frontline ships of the two navies are participating in the week-long 'Konkan Shakti' exercise. The UK is only the third country after the US and Russia with which India is conducting a tri-services exercise. Indian Navy's MiG 29K jets, the Royal Navy's F-35B aircraft and Indian Air Force's SU-30 and Jaguar fighters were among the key assets deployed for the exercise.
- 15. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata** got new long-range marine communication technology called as Radio Over Internet Protocol (ROIP) system.
Note: SPM has become the first Major Indian Port to get a ROIP System. It is a long-range marine communication solution to aid specially during storms and inclement weather. It will cover the entire Hugli River Estuary from Kolkata to

Sandheads, and will have base stations at 4 Locations: Kolkata, Hugli point, Haldia and Sagar Pilot Station.

- 16. The strike range of the recently test-fired ballistic missile Agni-5 from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha -- 5000 km.**
Note: Agni-5: It is a nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), which uses a three-stage solid-fueled engine. It can strike targets at ranges up to 5,000 km with a very high degree of accuracy. It is 17-metre long, 2-metre wide and has launch weight of around 50 tonnes and can carry a nuclear warhead of more than one tonne.
- 17. The new indigenously built Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) named as 'Sarthak' has been dedicated to the nation, it will be based in Porbandar, Gujarat.**
Note: It will be based at Porbandar in Gujarat and was commissioned by the Director General of Indian Coast Guard, K Natarajan, at Goa. **ICGS Sarthak:** It is fourth in the series of five Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) being built by Goa Shipyard Limited for the ICG, to boost maritime safety and security of India.
- 18. The first of two additional Krivak or Talwar-class stealth frigates, Tushil, being built by Russia for the Indian Navy, that was formally launched into the waters.**
Note: It is part of four follow-on frigates contracted by India from Russia, of which two are being built by Russia and two are under construction in India through technology transfer. The launch of a ship from dry dock into the waters is significant, as it marks the completion of the basic construction. The advanced construction and equipping of the ship will be done when the ship is afloat.

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