

### Current Affairs - March 2021 to August 2021



Month August 2021

Type All

• <u>1426 Current Affairs were found in Last Six Months for Type - All</u>

(Showing **1285** Important Ones)

### **Appointments**

- 1. Govt appointed **B.V.R. Subrahmanyam** as new Commerce Secretary, who is also Chief Secretary of J&K.
- 2. Anatole Collinet Makosso is named as Prime Minister of Republic of Congo (Central Africa).

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- 3. Henri Marie Dondra has been named prime minister of Central African Republic.
- 4. Anup Chandra Pandey has been named as new Election Commissioner (EC) of India.
  - Election Commission of India consists of a Chief Election Commissioner (Sushil Chandra Currently) and 2 Election Commissioners (Rajiv Kumar and now Anup Chandra Pandey).
- 5. Arun Kumar Singh has been Appointed as New Chief Secretary of Bihar.
- 6. Chintan Vaishnav has been appointed as new Mission Director for Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), a flagship initiative of Government, under NITI Aayog. He replaced Ramanathan Ramanan, who led AIM as its first Mission Director since June 2017.
- 7. Deepak Das has been appointed as new Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
- 8. **Ebrahim Raisi** has been elected as **Iran**'s new president.
- 9. **Eduard Heger** has been appointed as New prime minister of **Slovakia** (Central Europe).

- 10. Guillermo Lasso has been elected as new President of Ecuador (South American Nation).
- 11. Issac Herzog has been named as new (11th) President of Israel, succeding Reuven Rivlin.
- 12. Jeff Bezos stepped down as Amazon's CEO, exactly 27 years after he founded e-commerce Giant Amazon in a garage in West Bellevue, Wash. Andy Jassy has succeeded him as new Amazon CEO.
- 13. Kalyan Narayan Bhattacharjee has been appointed as new Lokayukta of Tripura.
- 14. La. Ganesan is named as new Governor of Manipur.
  - 🥄 Earlier, Sikkim Governor Ganga Prasad was given additional charge as Governor of Manipur, who held it for approx 15 days.
- 15. M. A. Ganapathy has been appointed as Director General of National Security Guard (NSG).
- 16. Munishwar Nath Bhandari is named as Acting Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court.
  - Ne replaces Sanjay Yadav, who retired after short tenure of 13 days.
- 17. Naftali Bennett has been named new (13th) Prime Minister of Israel, replacing Benjamin Netanyahu.
- 18. Pradeep Chandran Nair has been named as new (21st) Director General of Assam Rifles (known as Sentinels of North-East).
  - Assam Rifles is oldest paramilitary force of India, dating back to 1835 under British Raj, raised under name Cachar Levy. Ppresent name *Assam Rifles* has been used since 1917.
- 19. ▶ Robinah Nabbanja has been named as Uganda's first female Prime Minister.
- 20. Samia Suluhu Hassan is named as East Africa nation Tanzania's first female president, after recent demise of incumbent John Magufuli.
- 21. Satish Namdeo Ghormade has been appointed as New Vice Chief of Indian Navy.
- 22. Saurabh Garg has been appointed as chief executive officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
- 23. Sher Bahadur Deuba has been appointed as Nepal's Prime Minister for his 5th term.
- 24. T. Rabi Sankar has been named new RBI Deputy Governor. He replaces B.P. Kanungo, who retired recently.
  - 🔪 Other3 RBI DG are M. Rajeshwar Rao, M. D. Patra, M. K. Jain
- 25. Vkhnaa Khurelsukh (Former Mongolian Prime Minister), has been elected as country's new democratically elected president.
- 26. Vivek Ram Chaudhari is named as New Vice Chief of Indian Air Force. Also, Ballabha Radha Krishna will head Western Command and RJ Duckworth will head Central Air Command.
- 27. Ajai Singh has been named as new Commander-in-Chief of Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN), the only tri-service theatre command of Armed Forces.
- 28. Albert Pahimi Padacké has been appointed as new Prime Minister of African Nation Chad.

- Also, Mahamat Déby has been named interim President of Chad, after earlier president Idriss Déby was killed during clashes with rebels.
- 29. Assimi Goïta named as Prsident of Mali, after taking power from Bah Ndaw after 2021 Malian coup d'état.
  - 🔪 Also, Choguel Kokalla Maïga is named as Mali's New Prime Minister.
- 30. Atish Chandra has been appointed as CMD of PSU Food Corporation of India.
- 31. Australia's Geoff Allardice has been named Interim CEO of International Cricket Council (ICC), after India's Manu Sawhney resigned from post.
- 32. BJP's Basavaraj Bommai has been named New (23rd) Chief Minister of Karnataka, after B. S. Yediyurappa had resigned from post.
- 33. Bharatiya Janata Party's **Pushkar Singh Dhami** has been appointed as new (11th) **Chief Minister of Uttarakhand**, replacing Tirath Singh Rawat.
- 34. Bharatiya Janata Party's **Tirath Singh Rawat** has been appointed as new (9th) Chief Minister (CM) of Uttarakhand.

  Note that the Party's Tirath Singh Rawat has been appointed as new (9th) Chief Minister (CM) of Uttarakhand.
- 35. Bihar government named **Tripurari Sharan** as state chief secretary, after incumbent Arun Kumar Singh succumbed to Covid-19.
- 36. ▶ Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced appointment of **Ramesh Powar** as Head Coach of Indian Women's Cricket Team.
- 37. CBDT Member **Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra** has been given additional charge as chairman of Central Board of direct taxes (CBDT), for three months, upon completion of Pramod Chandra Mody's tenure.
- 38. Cabinet approved appointment of **Tarun Bajaj** as new revenue secretary, under Ministry of Finance. Also, **Ajay Seth** has been appointed as New Economic Affairs Secretary.
- 39. Choguel Kokalla Maïga has been named Transitional Prime Minister of Mali.
  - 🥄 He was named Prime Minister of Transition by coup leader & newly appointed President of Transition Assimi Goïta.
- 40. Cleopas Dlamini has been named as new Prime Minister of Southern African Nation **Eswatini** (formerly *Swaziland*).
- 41. Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) **Girish Chandra Murmu** has been re-appointed as Chairman of the Panel of External Auditors of UN for year 2021.
- 42. Foreign Minister of Maldives, **Abdulla Shahid** has been elected as President of **76th** session of UN General Assembly (UNGA).

  Note that the will succeed Turkey's Volkan Bozkir, who was President of 75th session of UNGA.
- 43. ▶ Former Bombay HC judge V M Kanade has been named as Maharashtra's New Lokayukta.
- 44. Former SC judge Arun Kumar Mishra has been named as Chairman of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).
- 45. Former US Senator Bill Nelson has been appointed as new (14th) NASA administrator.

- 46. Government nominated **Ajay Seth** (Economic Affairs Secretary) as a Director on Central Board of RBI, replacing Tarun Bajaj (who was recently appointed as Revenue Secretary). About RBI Board -
  - Noticial Directors (Full-time) Governor and not more than four Deputy Governors
  - Non-Official Directors -
    - 🔪 10 Directors Nominated by Government and 2 government Officials.
    - ↑ 4 Directors one each from four local RBI boards.
- 47. Govt Appointed **Arun Kumar Singh** as CMD of oil marketing firm Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL).
- 48. ▶ Govt appointed **Aashish Chandorkar** as Counsellor in India's Permanent Mission in World Trade Organisation. He is director of Bengaluru-based policy think tank Smahi Foundation of Policy and Research.
- 49. Govt appointed **G P Samanta** has been appointed as new (4th) Chief Statistician of India (CSI), for 2 years term.
- 50. ▶ Govt appointed **S Ramann** as CMD of **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**.
- 51. Govt appointed T V Somanathan as new Finance Secretary of India, replacing Ajay Bhushan Pandey.
- 52. ▶ Govt appointed **Tarun Bajaj** as new **Revenue Secretary** under Ministry of Finance.
  - 🥄 Also, **Ajay Seth** has been named as new Economic Affairs Secretary, replacing Tarun Bajaj.
- 53. ▶ Govt re-appointed **Mahesh Kumar Jain** as RBI Deputy Governor, for 2 years.
  - 🥄 Other Current RBI Governors are T. Rabi Sankar, M. Rajeshwar Rao and M. D. Patra.
- 54. Guillermo Lasso has been named new President of Ecuador (South America).
- 55. H K Dwivedi has been named new chief secretary of West Bengal.
- 56. IT Giant Microsoft named Its Indian-Origin CEO Satya Nadella as its new Chairman, to replace John Thompson.
- 57. India's **Narinder Batra** has been re-elected as President of International Hockey Federation (FIH) for 2nd consecutive term. FIH has now reduced President's term from 4 to 3 years.
- 58. India's Deputy Ambassador to United Nations, **Nagaraj Naidu** has been appointed **Chef de Cabinet** of President-elect of 76th session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Maldives Foreign Minister **Abdulla Shahid**.
  - 🔪 For the first time, an Indian diplomat has been made the Chef de Cabinet of UNGA.
- 59. Indian-American Neera Tanden has been named senior adviser to US President Joe Biden.
- 60. Indian-origin Columbia University (US) immunologist **Sankar Ghosh** has been elected to *National Academy of Sciences* (US) for his *distinguished achievements in original research*. He was among 120 newly elected members announced by Academy recently.
- 61. Indian-origin Person **Naureen Hassan** has been appointed as first Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Federal Reserve, the Central Bank of USA.

- 62. ▶ India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) **G C Murmu** has been appointed as External Auditor of Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (**OPCW**), based at The Hague (Netherlands).
- 63. ▶ Industry body IAMAI appointed Google India MD Sanjay Gupta as its chairman for 2021-23.
- 64. ▶ Ismail Sabri Yaakob has been named new Prime Minister of **Malaysia**, by King Al-Sultan Abdullah.
- 65. Jagjit Pavadia, former Narcotics Commissioner of India has been elected president of International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), as first Indian to be heading this Vienna-based organization.
- 66. ► Kim Boo-kyum has been named as New Prime Minister of **South Korea**.
- 67. Kuwait's Husain Al-Musallam has been elected President of International Swimming Federation (FINA). Also, Virendra Nanavati became First Indian to be elected as a member of FINA Bureau.
- 68. Mini Ipe has been named a Managing Director (MD) of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
  - 🥄 LIC has 4 MDs Mukesh Kumar Gupta, Raj Kumar, Siddhartha Mohanty and Mini Ipe.
  - Current LIC Chairman is M R Kumar.
- 69. ► Misc. Appointments (April 2021)-
  - CMD of Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) Limited, Mallika Srinivasan has been named as chairperson of Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).
  - Nubhash Kumar has been named CMD of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).
  - 🦠 Shabir Hussein Shekhadam Khandwawala has been named new BCCI Anti-Corruption Unit chief.
  - Notrajan as MD & CEO.
  - Nanita Gupta has been appointed as Associate Attorney General of US, as first Indian-American to serve in this role.
  - Naishali S Hiwase has been named as woman officer to be appointed as Officer Commanding in Border Roads Organisation (BRO), to be responsible for providing connectivity through an Indo-China border road.
  - 🥄 Bajaj Auto named Neeraj Bajaj as its new Chairman.
  - 🥄 Arun Raste has been named as MD and CEO of National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX).
  - Namit Banerjee has been named as CMD of PSU Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML).
  - Namitabh Chaudhry has been re-appointed as MD & CEO of Axis Bank.
- 70. Misc. Appointments (August 2021) -
  - 🥄 Pham Minh Chinh has been re-elected as Vietnamese Prime Minister.
  - 🦠 Nikol Pashinyan has been re-appointed as prime minister of Armenia.

- Sikkim Governor Ganga Prasad has been given additional charge as Governor of Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh Governor BD Mishra has been given additional charge as Governor of Mizoram.
- National Commission for Women Chairperson Rekha Sharma's term has been extended for 3 years.
- 🔪 Govt appointed Dhriti Banerjee as director of Zoological Survey of India, as first women head of this organization.
- 🔪 Govt extended term of Rajiv Gauba as Cabinet Secretary of India, by 1 year.
- Uttarakhand Govt named India's Female hockey player Vandana Katariya as brand ambassador of state's Department of Women Empowerment and Child Development.
- Namlesh Kumar Pant is named as new chairman of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).
- RBI named Olympic Gold Medalist Javelin Thrower Neeraj Chopra as Ambassador for a new public awareness campaign to warn people against digital banking frauds.
- 🥄 Iran's new President Ebrahim Raisi named Mohammad Mokhber as His First Vice President.
  - Nan has Multiple vice presidents, with first vice president being most prominent.
- 🔪 15th Finance Commission Chairman N K Singh has been elected as President of Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) Society.
- 🥄 Kerala Govt named Olympian Hockey Goalkeeper P R Sreejesh as brand ambassador of adventure tourism in Kerala.
- Central Vigilance Commission re-appointment T M Bhasin as chairman of Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF), which was constituted to examine bank frauds of over Rs 50 crore and recommend actions.
- 🔪 Television monitoring agency Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) named Nakul Chopra as its CEO.
- Nabhay Kumar Singh has been appointed as joint secretary in newly formed Ministry of Cooperation.
- NBI approved re-appointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as MD & CEO of ICICI Bank.
- NBI approved appointment of Hitendra Dave as CEO of HSBC Bank's India operations.
- Delhi Govt named actor Sonu Sood as brand ambassador of *Desh Ke Mentors* programme, which includes adopting one to ten government school students who can be mentored by citizens who are successful in their respective fields.
- Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya took over charge as Chairperson of *Stop TB Partnership Board*, to lead international efforts towards ending TB by 2030.
- Namit Banerjee has been named as CMD of PSU BEML (Bharat Earth Movers Limited).
- 71. Misc. Appointments (July 2021) -
  - 🔪 Govt extended tenure of Amitabh Kant as Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog, by 1 year.
  - Natish Agnihotri has been appointed as MD of PSU National High-Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRCL).
  - Numesh Sinha has been Re-Appointed as Deputy Election Commissioner of India.

- 🥄 Govt Extended Attorney General KK Venugopal's Term by 1 Year.
- N Venudhar Reddy has been appointed as Director General of All India Radio.
- Newedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven has been reinstated, shortly after he was ousted in a no-confidence vote.
- NBI Approved re-appointment of Shyam Srinivasan as MD and CEO of Federal Bank.
- New Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed secured his 2nd term, after winning general elections.
- Lulu Group chairman and Indian Origin Businessman MA Yusuff Ali has been appointed as Vice-Chairman of Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ADCCI).
- Transport Ministry Secretary Aramane Giridhar has been given additional charge of Chairman of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- 🥄 Rakesh Asthana has been appointed as Commissioner of Delhi Police.

# 72. Misc. Appointments (June 2021) -

- Ninesh K Tripathi has been named as Indian Navy's Chief of Personnel.
- Napil Mohan Dhir has been named as Joint Secretary (Navy & Defence Staff) in Department of Military Affairs. He is first Armed Forces officer to be given this role.
- International Dairy Federation (IDF) elected R S Sodhi (MD of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (AMUL)), to its board.
- 🔪 Vinay K Nandicoori has been appointed as Director at Hyderabad based CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB).
- Indian Broadcasting Foundation appointed former SC judge Vikramjit Sen as Chairman of its newly formed self-regulatory body Digital Media Content Regulatory Council (DMCRC).
- Nongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) named Hitendra Dave as CEO of Its India Operations (HSBC India).
  - Notably, HSBC recently announced exiting loss-making US retail banking business.
- RBI approved re-appointment of Vishwavir Ahuja as MD and CEO of RBL Bank.
- US President Joe Biden nominated Indian-American Arun Venkataraman for Director-General of US and Foreign Commercial Service.
- Nagraj Adiga has been elected as Asia-Oceania Representative of International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU).
- 🥄 RBI approved re-appointment of Chandra Shekhar Ghosh as MD and CEO of Bandhan Bank.
- Facebook named Spoorthi Priya as its grievance officer for India, while Twitter named Jeremy Kessel as Its new Grievance Officer for India.

- Nowever, Twitter's appointment of Kessel is not in line with new IT rules guidelines, which mandate that grievance redressal officer should be a resident of India.
- Now textended tenure of MR Kumar as Chairman of LIC by 1 year.
- 🦠 RBI Approved re-appointment of Girish Chandra Chaturvedi as part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank.
- New England's Football Association named Debbie Hewitt as its first woman chair.
- 🥄 Internet and Mobile Association of India Named former SC Judge Arjan Kumar Sikri to chair Grievance Redressal Board (GRB).
- 🔪 Bharti Airtel COO Ajai Puri has been re-elected as Chairman of Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) for 2021-22.
- Apollo Hospitals Director Upasana Kamineni has been named as Ambassador of Forest Frontline Heroes by World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF India).
- Delhi government appointed former Olympic medalist weightlifter Karnam Malleswari as first Vice Chancellor of Delhi Sports University.
- 🦠 British lawyer Karim Khan has been appointed as chief prosecutor for The Hague (Netherlands) based International Criminal Court.
- Nanjeev Kumar Sharma has been named as Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy).
- 🔪 Govt Named Praveen Sinha as Special Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), replacing Rakesh Asthana.

### 73. Misc. Appointments (March 2021) -

- 🔪 Jaideep Bhatnagar has been appointed as Principal Director General in Press Information Bureau.
- Nanpreet Vohra has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to Australia.
- 🦠 Kuldiep Singh has been assigned additional charge as CRPF director general, after incumbent A P Maheshwari retired.
- National Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach has been re-elected for an additional four-year term.
- \ Union Minister Anurag Thakur (*Minister of State for Finance*, *Corporate Affairs*) became first serving MP to be appointed as Captain in Territorial Army.
- Nealth Minister Harsh Vardhan has been appointed as chairman of Globla TB Awareness Body *Stop TB Partnership Board*, to recognise his contribution towards movement of eradicating Tuberculosis (TB) from India by 2025.
- Narindam Bagchi has been named as new spokesperson of external affairs ministry.
- 🔪 US Senate confirmed Katherine Tai as first woman of Color (*non-white*) to serve as US Trade Representative.
- Indian-American physician Vivek Murthy has been confirmed by US Senate as US surgeon general. He will occupy the position of America's Surgeon General for 2nd time, after his election in 2011 by President Barack Obama.
- 🦠 Govt extended term of Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) K. VijayRaghavan by a year.
- Note: Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of Republic of Congo has been Re-elected for his 5th term.

- Nahish Shah has been appointed as CEO & MD of Mahindra and Mahindra Group.
- 74. Misc. Appointments (May 2021) -
  - 🔪 Life Insurer Kotak Mahindra Life named Mahesh Balasubramanian as MD.
  - Note: PSU THDC India Appointed Vijay Goel as CMD.
  - 🦠 Stefan Dinchev Yanev has been named caretaker Prime Minister of Bulgaria, after Boyko Borisov resigned.
  - Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) secretary Manisha Kapoor has been appointed to executive committee of International Council for Advertising Self-Regulation (ICAS).
  - Nartha Karambu Koome is named as Kenya's first woman chief justice. She is first woman to head any of three branches of government.
  - Laurence des Cars became first female president of *Musée du Louvre*, world's largest museum in Paris (France), in its 228 years History.
  - Neresident of Syria Bashar al-Assad has been re-elected for his 4th term.
  - Note: The Christine Wormuth has been named by US Senate as first female secretary of US Army.
- 75. Montek Singh Ahluwalia (*Former Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission*) has been named member of a high-level Advisory Group formed by World Bank and IMF, amid dual crisis posed by Covid-19 pandemic and climate change.
  - The group will also include India-Born Gita Gopinath (Chief Economist of International Monetary Fund).
- 76. Myanmar military leader Min Aung Hlaing declared himself as Prime Minister of Myanmar. He also announced to hold elections in 2023.
- 77. NABARD chairman **G R Chintala** has been appointed as chairman of **APRACA (Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association).** 
  - Established in 1977, APRACA is association of institutions involved in agricultural and microfinance development, representing 21 countries in Asia-Pacific region.
- 78. ▶ Najib Mikati has been named as **Lebanon**'s new Prime Minister, to succeed Hassan Diab.
- 79. Naomi Mata'afa is named as New and first female Prime Minister of Samoa (Oceanic Nation).
- 80. National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) appointed Rekha M Menon (Accenture) as its Chairperson for 2021-22. She is first woman to take this role at NASSCOM.
- 81. National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) appointed **Poonam Gupta** as its new director general, as first woman to hold the post.
- 82. Netherlands PM Mark Rutte won 2021 parliamentary elections, winning his fourth straight term as PM.
  - Nature 2021, in response to a scandal relating to child welfare fraud.

- 83. New Chief Justices of Various State High Courts -
  - 🔪 M. S. Ramachandra Rao Telangana
  - Natish Chandra Sharma Karnataka
  - 🔪 Meenakshi Madan Rai Sikkim
  - 🥄 Rashmin Manharbhai Chhaya Gujarat
  - These Appointments have been made on *Acting* basis. As earlier Chief Justices of These High courts along with 5 Other State HC Judges, have been named as Judges in Supreme Court of India, taking number of Judges in SC to 33 (Sansctioned Strength 34). New SC Judges -
    - Narasimha (From Bar)
    - 🥄 Abhay Shreeniwas Oka (Earlier CJ of Karnataka HC)
    - 🥄 Vikram Nath (Earlier CJ of Gujarat HC)
    - National Na
    - Numari Hima Kohli (Earlier CJ of Telangana HC)
    - N C T Ravi Kumar
    - N M Sundersh
    - 🔪 Bela Madhurya Trivedi
    - Nagarathn
- 84. New Leaders Elected In **Vietnam** (South East Asia) -
  - Nguyn Xuân Phúc President
  - 🔪 Võ Th Ánh Xuân Vice President
  - 🔪 Pham Minh Chính Prime Minister
- 85. Noted British Broadcaster David Attenborough has been named as People's Advocate of COP26 for UK's Presidency of UN Climate Change summit to be held in Glasgow (Scotland) in November 2021.
  - Note that India-Born British politician Alok Sharma is named as President for COP26.
- 86. Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou has been named as new prime minister of Niger (West Africa).
- 87. Padmakumar M Nair has been appointed as CEO of the proposed National Asset Reconstruction Company, also called *bad bank*, for taking over stressed assets of Banks.
- 88. Patrick Achi has been named Prime Minister of **Ivory Coast** (West Africa), after earlier PM Hamed Bakayoko had passed away.

- 89. Patrick Amoth (Kenya) has been appointed as Chairman of World Health Organisation (WHO) Executive Board, for 1 year. He will replace Harsh Vardhan (India's Health Minister).
- 90. Pedro Castillo has been appointed new president of Peru, while Guido Bellido is named as new Prime Minister of Peru (South America).
- 91. Penpa Tsering (Former speaker of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile), has been elected as President of Central Tibetan Administration.
  - Central Tibetan Administration is Tibet's elected parliamentary government based in Dharamshala (Himachal Pradesh), also referred to as Tibetan Government in Exile.
  - Nince its formation in 1959, CAT has not been officially recognised by China.
- 92. President Appointed New Governors in Several States -
  - N.S. Sreedharan Pillai Goa (Transferred from Mizoram)
  - 🥄 Satyadev Narayan Arya **Tripura** (transferred from Haryana)
  - 🥄 Ramesh Bais **Jharkhand** (Transferred from Tripura)
  - 🥄 Thaawarchand Gehlot Karnataka
  - Nandaru Dattatraya Haryana (Transferred from Himachal Pradesh)
  - 🥄 Hari Babu Kambhampati Mizoram
  - Nangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel Madhya Pradesh
  - 🥄 Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar Himachal Pradesh
- 93. President Ram Nath Kovind nominated Advocate Mahesh Jethmalani and re-nominated former journalist Swapan Dasgupta to Rajya Sabha.
  - Najya Sabha may have up to 250 members 238 members representing States / UTs and 12 nominated by President.
- 94. President appointed Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana as New (48th) Chief Justice of India. He replaced Sharad Arvind Bobde.
  - No. CJI of India is appointed by Preasident of India, in exercise of powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of Constitution of India.
- 95. President appointed **Prashant Kumar Mishra** as Chief Justice of **Chhattisgarh** High Court.
- 96. President appointed Rajesh Bindal as Acting Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court, after retirement of T. B. Radhakrishnan.
- 97. President appointed Ravi Vijaykumar Malimath as Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court.
- 98. President appointed **Sushil Chandra** as **Chief Election Commissioner** of India, replacing Sunil Arora.
  - National Election Commission of India comprises of a Chief Election Commissioner and 2 Election Commissioners.
  - Sushil Chandra is New and current (24th) Chief Election Commissioner and one Election Commissioner is Rajiv Kumar. Other post falls vacant after elevation of Sushil Chandra as CEC.

- 99. RBI approved appointment of former Economic Affairs Secretary Atanu Chakraborty as part-time chairman and additional director of HDFC Bank.
- 100. Ram Subhag Singh has been Appointed as Chief Secretary of Himachal Pradesh.
- 101. Ranjitsinh Disale has been appointed as World Bank Education advisor, upto June 2024.
  - Disale, who was first Indian to have been awarded Global Teacher Award in 2020, will now work on Coach Project, launched by World Bank in March 2021.
  - $ilde{lack}$  It aims to help countries accelerate learning by improving teacher professional development.
- 102. Ravneet Singh has been named as **Deputy Chief of Naval Staff**.
  - Note that this Position is different from *Vice Chief of the Naval Staff,* which is currently held by G. Ashok Kumar.
- 103. Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) appointed Rajesh Bansal as its CEO.
  - 🥄 Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) aims to promote innovation across financial sector by leveraging technology.
- 104. SAIL Chairperson **Soma Mondal** has been elected the new chairperson of Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE).
- 105. Sanjeev Kumar has been appointed as Chairman of Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- 106. ▶ Shambhu Nath Srivastava (former judge of Allahabad High Court) has been named as chairman of Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA).
  - \ IFUNA is leading independent policy authority on the United Nations in India and an India-wide grassroots membership organisation.
- 107. Shanti Lal Jain has been appointed as MD & CEO of Indian Bank, for 3 years.
- 108. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu has been Appointed as new Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand.
- 109. Suresh N Patel has been appointed as acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) of India in Central Vigilance Commission.
- 110. UN General Assembly named Costa Rica economist **Rebecca Grynspan** as head of United Nations Conference on Trade and development (UNCTAD). She will be the first woman and Central American to lead UNCTAD.
- 111. UN Secretary General **Antonio Guterres** (Portugal) won his 2nd 5 year term.
- 112. Ujjwala Singhania has been appointed as National President of FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO), the oldest women-led & women-centric business chamber of Southeast Asia.
- 113. Under a major Cabinet Re-shuffle, Govt appointed several new Ministers. Updated List of Ministers with Portfolios -

|                   | S. No. | Name           | Portfolio |  |
|-------------------|--------|----------------|-----------|--|
| Cabinet Ministers |        |                | ĺ         |  |
|                   | 1.     | Raj Nath Singh | Defence   |  |

| 2.  | Amit Shah                   | Home Affairs;<br>Cooperation  |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|
| 3.  | Nitin Jairam Gadkari        | Road Transport and Highways   |
| 4.  | Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman     | Finance;<br>Corporate Affairs   |
| 5.  | Narendra Singh Tomar        | Agriculture and Farmers Welfare   |
| 6.  | Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar | External Affairs  |
| 7.  | Arjun Munda                 | Tribal Affairs  |
| 8.  | Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani     | Women and Child Development   |
| 9.  | Piyush Goyal                | Commerce and Industry; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Textiles |
| 10. | Dharmendra Pradhan          | Education;<br>Skill Development and Entrepreneurship                            |
| 11. | Pralhad Joshi               | Parliamentary Affairs; Coal; Mines  |
| 12. | Narayan Tatu Rane           | Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises   |
| 13. | Sarbananda Sonowal          | Ports, Shipping and Waterways;<br>AYUSH   |
| 14. | Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi         | Minority Affairs  |
| 15. | Dr. Virendra Kumar          | Social Justice and Empowerment  |
| 16. | Giriraj Singh               | Rural Development;  |

| <u> </u> |                          | Panchayati Raj                              |
|----------|--------------------------|---|
| 17.      | Jyotiraditya M. Scindia  | Civil Aviation                              |
| 18.      | Ramchandra Prasad Singh  | Steel                                       |
|          |                          | Railways;                                   |
| 19.      | Ashwini Vaishnaw         | Communications;                             |
|          |                          | Electronics and Information Technology      |
| 20.      | Pashu Pati Kumar Paras   | Food Processing Industries                  |
| 21.      | Gajendra Singh Shekhawat | Jal Shakti                                  |
| 22.      | Kiren Rijiju             | Law and Justice                             |
| 23.      | Raj Kumar Singh          | Power; and                                  |
| 23.      |                          | New and Renewable Energy                    |
| 0.4      | Hardeep Singh Puri       | Petroleum and Natural Gas; and              |
| 24.      |                          | Housing and Urban Affairs                   |
| 25.      | Mansukh Mandaviya        | Health and Family Welfare; and              |
| 25.      |                          | Chemicals and Fertilizers                   |
| 26.      | Bhupender Yadav          | Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and |
| 20.      |                          | Labour and Employment                       |
| 27.      | Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey | Heavy Industries                            |
| 28.      | Parshottam Rupala        | Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying    |
|          | G. Kishan Reddy          | Culture;                                    |
| 29.      |                          | Tourism; and                                |
|          |                          | Development of North Eastern Region         |
| 30.      | Anurag Singh Thakur      | Information and Broadcasting; and           |

|   |                             | Youth Affairs and Sports                            |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| MINISTERS OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) |                             |   |
|   |                             | Statistics and Programme Implementation;            |
| 1.                                      | Rao Inderjit Singh          | Planning;   |
|   |                             | Corporate Affairs                                   |
|   |                             | Science and Technology;                             |
|   |                             | Earth Sciences;                                     |
|   | Dr. Jitandra Singh          | Prime Minister's Office;                            |
| 2.                                      | Dr. Jitendra Singh          | Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions;          |
|   |                             | State in the Department of Atomic Energy;           |
|   |                             | State in the Department of Space                    |
| MINI                                    | STERS OF STATE              |   |
|   | Shripad Yesso Naik          | Ports, Shipping and Waterways;                      |
| 1.                                      |                             | Tourism   |
|   | Faggansingh Kulaste         | Steel;  |
| 2.                                      |                             | Rural Development                                   |
|   | Prahalad Singh Patel        | Jal Shakti; and                                     |
| 3.                                      |                             | Food Processing Industries                          |
|   |                             | Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and |
| 4.                                      | Ashwini Kumar Choubey       | Environment, Forest and Climate Change              |
|   | Asiron Done Machanal        | Parliamentary Affairs; and                          |
| 5.                                      | Arjun Ram Meghwal           | Culture   |
| 6                                       | Canaral (Datd ) W. Cinch    | Road Transport and Highways; and                    |
| 6.                                      | General (Retd.) V. K. Singh | Civil Aviation                                      |
| 7•                                      | Krishan Pal                 | Power; and  |

|     |                              | Heavy Industries                                    |
|-----|------------------------------|---|
|     |                              | Railways;   |
| 8.  | Danve Raosaheb Dadarao       | Coal; and   |
|     |                              | Mines   |
| 9.  | Ramdas Athawale              | Social Justice and Empowerment                      |
| 10. | O. H: Mineral and Lead       | Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and |
| 10. | Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti        | Rural Development                                   |
| 11. | Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan     | Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying            |
| 12. | Nityanand Rai                | Home Affairs  |
| 13. | Pankaj Chaowdhary            | Finance   |
| 14. | Smt. Anupriya Singh Patel    | Commerce and Industry                               |
| 15. | Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel     | Law and Justice                                     |
|     | Rajeev Chandrasekhar         | Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; and         |
| 16. |                              | Electronics and Information Technology              |
| 17. | Su Shobha Karandlaje         | Agriculture and Farmers Welfare                     |
| 18. | Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma     | Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises                 |
|     | Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh | Textiles; and                                       |
| 19. |                              | Railways  |
| 20. | V. Muraleedharan             | External Affairs; and                               |
| 20. |                              | Parliamentary Affairs                               |
| 21. | Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi        | External Affairs; and                               |
|     |                              | Culture   |
| 22. | Som Parkash                  | Commerce and Industry                               |

| 23. | Smt. Renuka Singh Saruta    | Tribal Affairs                           |  |
|-----|-----------------------------|--|--|
| 0.4 | Rameswar Teli               | Petroleum and Natural Gas; and           |  |
| 24. |                             | Labour and Employment                    |  |
| 25. | Kailash Choudhary           | Agriculture and Farmers Welfare          |  |
| 26. | Smt. Annpurna Devi          | Education                                |  |
| 27. | A. Narayanaswamy            | Social Justice and Empowerment           |  |
| 28. | Kaushal Kishore             | Housing and Urban Affairs                |  |
| 00  | Ajay Bhatt                  | Defence; and                             |  |
| 29. | Ајау Бпасс                  | Tourism                                  |  |
| 30. | B. L. Verma                 | Development of North Eastern Region; and |  |
| 30. |                             | Cooperation                              |  |
| 31. | Ajay Kumar                  | Home Affairs                             |  |
| 32. | Devusinh Chauhan            | Communications                           |  |
| 0.0 | Bhagwanth Khuba             | New and Renewable Energy; and            |  |
| 33. |                             | Chemicals and Fertilizers                |  |
| 34. | Kapil Moreshwar Patil       | Panchayati Raj                           |  |
| 35. | Su Pratima Bhoumik          | Social Justice and Empowerment           |  |
| 36. | Dr. Subhas Sarkar           | Education                                |  |
| 37. | Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad | Finance                                  |  |
| 0.0 | Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh   | External Affairs; and                    |  |
| 38. |                             | Education                                |  |
| 39. | Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar    | Health and Family Welfare                |  |
| 40. | Bishweswar Tudu             | Tribal Affairs; and                      |  |

|     | <u> </u>                   | Jal Shakti   |
|-----|----------------------------|--|
| 41. | Shantanu Thakur            | Ports, Shipping and Waterways  |
| 42. | Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai | Women and Child Development; and AYUSH                                     |
| 43. | John Barla                 | Minority Affairs   |
| 44. | Dr. L. Murugan             | Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; and Information and Broadcasting |
| 45. | Nisith Pramanik            | Home Affairs; and<br>Youth Affairs and Sports                              |

114. Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** has been appointed as Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, succeeding Thawar Chand Gahlot, who took charge as Governor of Karnataka.

🥄 Also, Minority affairs minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi is named as deputy leader of House in Rajya Sabha.

- 115. V Irai Anbu is named as new chief secretary of Tamil Nadu.
- 116. Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu has been elected as New President of **Kosovo** (partially recognised nation in Southeastern Europe).
  - Nalso, Albin Kurti was recently named as prime minister of Kosovo.
- 117. World Bank economist **Deepak Mishra** has been appointed as the next Director and Chief Executive of leading think-tank Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).

Top

#### **Awards**

- 1. 2 Indians, Sathish Sundaram (Tamil Nadu) and Mahindra Giri (Uttarakhand's Rajaji Tiger Reserve) are named among 10 winners of International Ranger Awards 2021, for their contribution towards wildlife conservation.
  - 10 professionals globally are honored annually by this award, by International Union for Conservation of Nature IUCN and World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).
- 2. 2021 Billboard Music Awards (US) -
  - Nop Artist The Weekend

- New Artist Pop Smoke
- Nop Male Artist The Weekend
- No Top Female Artist Taylor Swift
- Notable Awards -
  - New Pink received Billboard Icon Award, Trae tha Truth received Change Maker Award and Drake received Artist of the Decade Award.
- 3. 27th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards (US) Winners -

| Category   | Winner                                       |
|--|--|
| Male Actor in a Television Movie or Miniseries   | Mark Ruffalo (I Know This Much Is True)      |
| Female Actor in a Television Movie or Miniseries | Anya Taylor-Joy (The Queen's Gambit)         |
| Male Actor in a Drama Series                     | Jason Bateman (Ozark)                        |
| Female Actor in a Drama Series                   | Gillian Anderson (The Crown)                 |
| Male Actor in a Comedy Series                    | Jason Sudeikis (Ted Lasso)                   |
| Female Actor in a Comedy Series                  | Catherine O'Hara (Schitt's Creek)            |
| Male Actor in a Leading Role                     | Chadwick Boseman (Ma Rainey's Black Bottom)  |
| Female Actor in a Leading Role                   | Viola Davis (Ma Rainey's Black Bottom)       |
| Male Actor in a Supporting Role                  | Daniel Kaluuya (Judas and the Black Messiah) |
| Female Actor in a Supporting Role                | Youn Yuh-jung (Minari)                       |

- 4. 63rd Annual Grammy Awards ceremony -
  - Grammy Awards (originally called Gramophone Award) are presented by US Based *The Recording Academy* to recognize achievements in music industry. Notable Winners in 2021 Edition -

| Category           | Winner                                |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Album of the Year  | Folklore – Taylor Swift               |
| Record of the Year | "Everything I Wanted" — Billie Eilish |
| Song of The Year   | I Can't Breathe                       |
| Best New Artist    | Megan Thee Stallion                   |
| Albums             |                                       |
| R&B                | Bigger Love – John Legend             |
| Rap                | King's Disease – Nas                  |
| Country            | Wildcard – Miranda Lambert            |
| Rock               | The New Abnormal – The Strokes        |
|                    |                                       |

| Dance/Electronic | Bubba – Kaytranada   |  |
|------------------|--|--|
| Pop              | Future Nostalgia – Dua Lipa  |  |
| Children's       | All the Ladies – Joanie Leeds  |  |
| Historical       | It's Such a Good Feeling: The Best of Mister Rogers                          |  |
| Others           |  |  |
| Best Music Video | "Brown Skin Girl" – Beyoncé, Saint Jhn & Wizkid featuring Blue Ivy<br>Carter |  |
| Best Music Film  | Linda Ronstadt: The Sound of My Voice – Linda Ronstadt                       |  |

- 5. 66th Filmfare Awards 2021 Winners -
  - Nest Film: Thappad
  - 🦠 Best Director: Om Raut (Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior)
  - Nest Actor (MALE): Irrfan Khan (Angrezi Medium)
  - Nest Actress : Taapsee Pannu (Thappad)
  - 🥄 Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male): Saif Ali Khan (Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior)
  - Nest Actor in a Supporting Role (Female): Farrokh Jaffar (Gulabo Sitabo)
  - Nest Music Album: Pritam (Ludo)
  - Nest Lyrics: Gulzar (Chhappak)
  - Nest Playback Singer (male): Raghav Chaitanya Ek Tukda Dhoop (Thappad)
  - Nest Playback Singer (Female): Asees Kaur (Malang)
  - 🔪 Lifetime Achievement : Irrfan Khan.
- 6. 74th British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA) Winners -
  - Nomadland Nomadland
  - Nest Director Chloé Zhao (Nomadland)
  - Nest Actor Anthony Hopkins (The Father)
  - Nest Actress Frances McDormand (Nomadland)
  - 🥄 Best Actor in a Supporting Role Daniel Kaluuya (Judas and the Black Messiah)
  - Nest Actress in a Supporting Role Youn Yuh-jung (Minari)
  - 🔪 Outstanding British Film Promising Young Woman
  - Nest Short Film The Present
  - 🔪 Best Original Music Soul

- 🔪 Best Film (Other than English) Another Round Nest Documentary - My Octopus Teacher 🔪 Best Animated Film - Soul 🔪 Rising Star - Bukky Bakray Nacts -Nomadland won most awards (4), including Best Film, Director, Actress and Cinematography. 7. ▶ 78th Golden Globe Awards -Nest Motion Picture -🔪 Drama - Nomadland Nusical / Comedy - Borat Subsequent Moviefilm 🦠 Best Performance in a Motion Picture (Drama) -Nator - Chadwick Boseman (Ma Rainey's Black Bottom) Nactress - Andra Day (The United States vs. Billie Holiday) Nest Performance in a Motion Picture (Musical or Comedy) -Nactor - Sacha Baron Cohen (Borat Subsequent Moviefilm) Nactress - Rosamund Pike (I Care a Lot) Nest Supporting Performance in a Motion Picture -Nupporting Actor - Daniel Kaluuya (Judas and the Black Messiah) Nupporting Actress - Jodie Foster (The Mauritanian) 🥄 Best Director - Chloé Zhao (Nomadland) 🔪 Best Foreign Language Film - Minari 🔪 Best Animated Feature Film - Soul Nest Television Series -Netflix)
- 8. > 93rd Academy Awards (Oscars 2021) -

Nusical or Comedy - Schitt's Creek (Pop TV)

🔪 Awardees -

| Category     | Winner    |
|--------------|-----------|
| Best Picture | Nomadland |
|              |           |

| Best Actress in a Leading Role                         | Frances McDormand (Nomadland)  |
|--|--|
| Best Actor in a Leading Role                           | Anthony Hopkins ( The Father)  |
| Best Direction   | Chloé Zhao (Nomadland). This made Chinese-born filmmaker Chloe Zhao first Asian woman and only second woman ever to win Best Director at Oscars. |
| Best Supporting Actor                                  | Daniel Kaluuya (Judas and the Black Messiah)   |
| Best Supporting Actress                                | Youn Yuh-jung (Minari)   |
| Best Original Score                                    | Jon Batiste, Trent Reznor, and Atticus Ross for Soul   |
| Best Original Song                                     | Fight for You from Judas and the Black Messiah   |
| Best Animated Feature Film                             | Soul   |
| Best Intrnational Feature Film / Foreign Language Film | Another Round (Denmark)  |
| Best Animated Short Film                               | If Anything Happens I Love You   |
| Best Documentary Feature                               | My Octopus Teacher   |
| Best Documentary Short                                 | Colette  |
| Best Cinematography                                    | Erik Messerschmidt, for Mank   |
| Best Film editing                                      | Mikkel E.G. Nielsen for Sound of Metal   |

# Nacts -

- 🔪 Oscars are most prestigious honour in Film Industry globally.
- Nosted in Los Angles (California), US.
- Nost awards this year Nomadland (3)
- Nost nominations Mank (10)
- 9. In The Dream House: A Memoir by Carmen Maria Machado won Rathbones Folio Prize 2021. It carries grant of 30000 Euros, being given since 2014.
- 10. Gandhi Peace Prize for 2019 and 2020 -
  - 🔪 2019 (Late) Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman.
  - 🔪 2020 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
  - Nout -
    - It is an annual award instituted by Government of India since 1995, on 125th Birth Anniversary commemoration year of M K Gandhi.
    - \ Jury is chaired by PM Narendra Modi. Two eminent members are also part of Jury Om Birla (Speaker of Lok Sabha), and Bindeshwar Pathak (Founder of Sulabh International).
    - 🔪 Award carries amount of Rs. 1 crore, a citation, a plaque and an exquisite traditional handicraft/ handloom item.

- 11. Gita Mittal (Former CJ of J&K HC) has been declared as one of two recipients of Arline Pacht Global Vision Award for 2021, along with Margarita Luna Ramos from Mexico.
  - International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) instituted this award in 2016. Gita Mittal is first Indian judge to receive this award.
  - At present, Gita Mittal is Chairperson of Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC).

## 12. Laureus Sports Awards 2021 -

- Nortsman of the Year Award: Rafael Nadal (Spain Tennis).
  - 🔪 Its Nadal's 2nd title, after First in 2011.
- Naomi Osaka (Japan Tennis).
  - Name of the Year awards. In 2019, she won Breakthrough of the Year award.
- Name of the Year Award: Bayern Munich (German Football Club)
- Neakthrough of the Year Award: Patrick Mahomes (American football Player)
- 🦠 comeback of the Year Award: Max Parrot (Canadian snowboarder)
- 🥄 Sport for Good Award: KICKFORMORE by KICKFAIR
- 🔪 Lifetime Achievement Award: Billie Jean King (US Tennis)
- Athlete Advocate of the Year Award: Lewis Hamilton (British F1 Racer)
- Nonting Inspiration Award: Mohamed Salah (Egyptian footballer)
- Norting Moment of the Year Award: Chris Nikic (American triathlete)
- 13. AIFF Player of the Year Awards 2020 -
  - Nen's Player of the Year Sandesh Jhingan
  - Nomen's Player of the Year Bala Devi
  - Nemerging Player of the Year Suresh Singh Wangjam (Men) AND Manisha Kalyan (Women)
- 14. Andrea Meza from Mexico won Miss Universe Title for 2020.
  - Niss India Adline Castelino had made it to top 4.
- 15. As per 2021 Skytrax World Airport Awards -
  - Numbai (65), Bengaluru (71)
  - Nop 5 Globally -
    - 🥄 Hamad International Airport in Doha, Qatar

- 🔪 Haneda Airport in Tokyo
- 🔪 Changi Airport in Singapore
- 🥄 Incheon International Airport in Incheon, South Korea
- 🥄 Narita International Airport (NRT) in Tokyo
- 16. Assam Government will institute its own series of annual awards similar to Padma awards at central level.
  - 🔪 Asom Ratna Award, which was earlier conferred only once every three years, will now be awarded every year to one person.
  - Three new sets of awards on the lines of Padma Awards namely- Asom Bibhushan, Asom Bhushan, and Asom Shree will be conferred.
    - Nasom Bibhushan will be presented to 3, Asom Bhushan to 2 and Asom Shree will be presented to 10 individuals every year.
    - ↑ 5 lakh award money will be given to Asom Ratna awardee, 3 lakh to Asom Bibhushan, 2 lakh to Asom Bhushan and 1 lakh to Asom Shree awardees.
    - Navardees will also be given benefits such as Freemedical treatment and Travel.
    - Nother Announcements -
      - 🔪 Assam will also confer a Literary pension in the name of litterateur Homen Borgohain on his birthday (December 7).
      - No Sports pension will be conferred in name of Arjun awardee Bogeswar Barua on his birthday (September 3).
      - Nill also confer the Artiste Award on January 17.
- 17. Awardees at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards 2021 (Held Virtually)
  - Nest Feature Film: Soorarai Pottru
  - 🦠 Best Performance Male (Feature): Suriya Sivakumar (Soorarai Pottru)
  - Nest Performance Female (Feature): Vidya Balan (Sherni) & Honourable mention to Nimisha Sajayan (The Great Indian Kitchen)
  - Nest Director: Anurag Basu (Ludo) & Honorary Mention Prithvi Konanur (Pinki Elli?)
  - 🔪 Best Series: Mirzapur Season 2
  - Nest Indie Film: Fire in the Mountains
  - 🥄 Best Documentary Film: Shut Up Sona
- 18. Bangladeshi Nobel Peace Prize winner **Muhammad Yunus** will receive **Olympic Laurel** at Tokyo Olympic Games 2020, the second time the trophy will be awarded. Yunus founded the *Grameen Bank* in 1983 and was awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.
  - Nolympic Laurel is a distinction awarded by International Olympic Committee, to honour those who have *made significant* achievements in education, culture, development and peace through sport. It was introduced in 2016.

- 19. Bengaluru teacher Shyamala Ganesh, the former director of the Japanese Language School, will be conferred *Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays*, by Japanese Govt.
- 20. Bhutan's India-assisted Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project has been conferred with **Brunel Medal** awarded by London-based Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), for being a hallmark of excellence in civil engineering.
- 21. Bollywood Actor **Anupam Kher** won Best Actor award at New York City International Film Festival (US), for short film *Happy Birthday*.
  - Note: The film also won Best Short Film award.
- 22. Cambridge University (UK) professors **Shankar Balasubramanian** (Indian-Origin) and **David Klenerman** won 1 million euro (\$1.22 million) **Millennium Technology Prize 2020**, for developing a super-fast DNA sequencing technique that paved way for revolutionary healthcare advances.
- 23. Cannes Film Festival 2021 Awards -
  - 🥄 Palme d'Or: **Titane** by Julia Ducournau
  - Grand Prix:
    - 🔪 A Hero by Asghar Farhadi
    - Compartment No. 6 by Juho Kuosmanen
  - 🔪 Jury Prize:
    - Naday Lapid Ahed's Knee by Naday Lapid
    - 🥄 Memoria by Apichatpong Weerasethakul
  - Nest Director: Leos Carax for Annette
  - Nest Actress: Renate Reinsve for The Worst Person in the World
  - 🥄 Best Actor: Caleb Landry Jones for Nitram
  - Nonorary Palme d'Or: Jodie Foster and Marco Bellocchio
  - 🔪 L'Œil d'or (Golden Eye Best Documentary): A Night of Knowing Nothing by **Payal Kapadia** (Indian filmmaker)
- 24. Chief Hydrographer of India **Vinay Badhwar** has been conferred **Alexander Dalrymple award** by British Government, for his work in areas of hydrography and nautical cartography.
  - Sadhwar was conferred with the award in 2019, however, the award ceremony was delayed because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
  - 🥄 The Alexander Dalrymple Award has been named after first hydrographer of Admiralty, instituted in 2006.

- 25. Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan honoured Indian-origin businessman **Yusuffali MA** and 11 other individuals with Abu Dhabi's top civilian award for their contributions to community. Yusuffali is CMD of Abu Dhabi-based retail chain LuLu Group.
- 26. Engineers India Limited (EIL) CMD RK Sabharwal has been honoured with highest civilian award of **Mongolia**, *The Order of Polar Star*, for outstanding contribution towards establishment of first-ever oil refinery in Mongolia.
  - Earlier, PM Narendra Modi announced line of credit worth USD 1 billion to Mongolia, during his visit. It was later decided to use this Line of Credit for establishment of first Oil Refinery in Mongolia.
  - National EIL later secured contract for providing Project Management Consultancy (PMC) services for 1.5 MMTPA Grassroot refinery project.
- 27. European Patent Office (EPO) honoured Indian-American chemist **Sumita Mitra** with European Inventor Award 2021, in *Non-EPO countries* category.
  - Nitra was first to successfully integrate nanotechnology into dental materials to produce stronger and more aesthetically pleasing fillings, now used globally.
- 28. FIH Honorary Awards -
  - Nockey India won **Etienne Glichitch Award**, for its contribution to the growth and development of the sport in India.
  - 🥄 Pablo Negre Award Uzbekistan Hockey Federation.
  - 🔪 Theo Ikema Award Polish Hockey Association.
  - 🥄 HRH Sultan Azlan Shah Award Sharon Williamson (New Zealand).
  - Suust Lathouwers Memorial Trophy Ivona Makar.
- 29. Former Indian Footballer **Shibaji Banerjee** has been posthumously conferred with *Mohun Bagan Ratna* Title. Notably, He kept Brazil's legendary footballer Pele from scoring a goal in an exhibition match in 1977. Background -
  - Nohun Bagan were declared champions in IFA Shield campaign in 1911. This marked first time a native club defeated British and British-Indian teams in a football tournament.
  - Since 2001, July 29 is celebrated as Mohun Bagan Day, in honour of club's victory over East Yorkshire Regiment in 1911 IFA Shield Final.
- 30. Former Kerala Health Minister **KK Shailaja** has been honored with *Central European University (CEU) Open Society Prize* 2021, given to organizations /individuals whose achievements have contributed to the creation of an open society.
- 31. French architects **Anne Lacaton** and **Jean-Philippe Vassal**, founders of French studio Lacaton & Vassal, have been named 2021 winners of **Pritzker Architecture Prize**.

- New Pritzker Architecture Prize is awarded annually to exceptional architect(s), Founded in 1979 by Jay A. Pritzker and sponsored by Hyatt Foundation. It is often referred to as Nobel Prize of architecture.
- 🔪 It carries monetary grant of US\$100000.
- 32. French novelist **David Diop** won **International Booker Prize 2021** for English Translation of his book *Frere d'ame*, translated into english as *At Night All Blood is Black*, by *Anna Moschovakis*.
  - Ne is first French winner of Booker prize, which is awarded for a book translated into English and published in UK or Ireland.
  - International Booker Prize (formerly *Man Booker International Prize*) is an international literary award hosted in UK, given Since 2016 to a single book translated into English and published in UK / Ireland, with £50,000 prize shared equally between author and translator.
  - \ It is sepeate from Booker Prize, Earlier Booker–McConnell Prize (1969–2001) and Man Booker Prize (2002–2019). It is a literary prize awarded each year for best novel written in English and published in UK / Ireland.
- 33. Government announced 67th National Film Awards, honoring best work In Indian Cinema in 2019.
  - Note that National Film awards were not announced in 2020, due to COVID-19 Pandemic.
  - 🔪 Jury Heads -
    - N Chandra Feature Film Category (Central panel)
    - N. Karun Best Film Friendly State
    - 🔪 Arun Chaddha (Non-Feature Film Category)
    - 🔪 Utpal Borpujari (Best Writing on Cinema).
  - 🔪 Dadasaheb Phalke Award (INR 10 Lakh) -
    - 🥄 Rajinikanth.
  - 🔪 Best Film Friendly State Sikkim.
  - 🔪 Feature Films -
    - 🔪 Golden Lotus -
      - 🥄 Best Feature Film Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea (Malayalam)
      - 🔪 Best Direction Sanjay Puran Singh Chauhan for Bahattar Hoorain (Hindi)
      - 🦠 Best Debut Film of a Director Helen Malayalam Mathukutty Xavier for Helen (Malayalam)
      - 🥄 Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment Maharshi (Telugu)
      - Nest Children's Film Kastoori (Hindi)
    - 🔪 Silver Lotus -

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Nest Feature Film on National Integration - Taj Mahal (Marathi)
           Nest Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation - Water (Burial Monpa)
           Nest Actor - Manoj Bajpayee for Bhonsle (Hindi) and Dhanush for Asuran (Tamil)
           Nest Actress - Kangana Ranaut for Manikarnika and Panga
           Nest Supporting Actor - Vijay Sethupathi for Super Deluxe (Tamil)
           Nest Supporting Actress - Pallavi Joshi for (The Tashkent Files)
           Nest Child Artist - Naga Vishal for KD (Tamil)
           Nest Male Playback Singer - B Praak for Teri Mitti (Kesari)
           Nest Female Playback Singer - Savani Ravindra for Marathi Song Raan Petala (Bardo)
           🦠 Best Cinematography - Girish Gangadharan for Jallikattu (Malayalam)
           Music Direction -
                Songs - D. Imman for Tamil (Viswasam)
                🦠 Background Score - Prabuddha Banerjee for Jyeshthoputro (Bengali)
           Negional Movies -
                Never Surrender - Assamese - Ronuwa - Who Never Surrender
                🔪 Bengali - Gumnaami
                Nindi - Chhichhore
                🔪 Kannada - Akshi
                🔪 Konkani - Kaajro
                🔪 Malayalam - Kalla Nottam
                🔪 Manipuri - Eigi Kona
                🔪 Odia - Sala Budhar Badla and Kalira Atita
                Narathi - Bardo
                🔪 Punjabi - Rabb Da Radio 2
                Namil - Asuran
                № Telugu - Jersey
          Negative Special Jury Award - R. Parthiban for Oththa Seruppu Size 7 (Tamil)
Non-Feature Films -
     🔪 Golden Lotus -
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- 🥄 Best Non-Feature Film An Engineered Dream (Hindi)
- Nest Director in Non-Feature Film Sudhanshu Saria for Knock Knock Knock (English & Bengali)
- 🔪 Best Writing on Cinema -
  - Note: Note:
    - Nest Book on Cinema Sanjay Suri for A Gandhian Affair: India's Curios Portrayal of Love in Cinema (Malayalam)
    - 🔪 Best Film Critic Sohini Chattopadhyay
- 34. Govt renamed **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** as **Major Dhyan Chand** Khel Ratna Award, changing nomenclature of Highest Sporting Honour in India.
- 35. Hyderabad based hunger activist *Syed Osman Azhar Maqsusi*, who has been feeding thousands of people every day as part of his food drive 'Hunger Has No Religion', has been awarded UK's *Commonwealth Points of Light award*.
- 36. IIT Khagragpur Professor **Suman Chakraborty** has been selected for 30th GD Birla Award for Scientific Research, for his outstanding contribution to engineering science and its applications in developing technologies for affordable healthcare.
  - Nout the award -
    - Instituted in 1991 by K K Birla Foundation, this award recognises eminent Indian scientists below age of 50 years, for their outstanding contributions to science / technology. It carries cash prize of 5 lakh.
    - Navards Institited by K K Birla Foundation in 1991 -
      - 🥄 Saraswati Samman For literary work in any Indian language
      - 🔪 Vyas Samman For prose/poetry work in Hindi
      - 🦠 Bihari Puraskar For prose/poetry work in Hindi/Rajasthani, only authors from Rajasthan are eligible
      - 🦠 Shankar Puraskar For a work in Hindi concerning Indian philosophy, culture and/or art.
      - 🥄 Vachaspati Puraskar For any work in Sanskrit.
      - S.D. Birla Award for Scientific Research
- 37. India's Rumana Sinha Sehgal won Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021 by Diplomatic Mission Global Peace, for her contribution to field of developing innovative and functional green products by recycling varied materials and non-biodegradable materials.
- 38. India-Born **Tahera Qutbuddin** became first Indian to win **Sheikh Zayed Book Award 2021** in category *Arabic Culture in Other Languages*, for her book *Arabic Oration: Art and Function'*.
- 39. Indian Econometric Society (TIES) Trust named 2 noted economic scholars for **Prof. C.R. Rao Centenary Gold Medal award Jagdish Bhagwati** (Columbia University) and **C Rangarajan** (Former chairman of Economic Advisory Council of PM and former RBI

- governor).
  - The medal was instituted by TIES Trust to mark 100th birthday celebration of renowned mathematician statistician CR Rao (on September 10, 2020).
- 40. Indian Graphic artist **Anand Radhakrishnan** won **Will Eisner Comic Industry Award**, considered the Oscars equivalent of the comics world.
  - \ He won in *Best Painter/Multimedia Artist (interior art)* category, sharing the award with UK-based colourist John Pearson. They won for their work on UK-based author Ram V's 145-page graphic novel Blue In Green, published in October 2020 by Image Comics.
- 41. Indian actress Tillotama Shome won Best Actor award at 2021 UK Asian Film Festival (UKAFF), for her role in *Raahgir*. Filmmaker Goutam Ghose also won Best Director award at UKAFF.
- 42. Indian-origin entrepreneur **Ajay Dilwari** has been honoured with Canada's **Order of British Columbia** award, the province's highest form of recognition. Dilwari, owner of Canada's largest automotive group, *Dilawri Group*, is among 16 *exceptional people* to be appointed to *Order of British Columbia*.
- 43. Indian-origin nutritionist **Shakuntala Hark Singh Thilstad** received **World Food Prize 2021**, for developing a holistic and nutritionally sensitive approach to seafood and food systems.
  - 🥄 The award is also known as Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture, with \$ 250000 prize money.
- 44. Industrial / Misc. Awards (April 2021) -
  - 🔪 Vinod Sam Peter directed Marathi film Puglya won best foreign language film award at Moscow International Film Festival 2021.
- 45. Industrial / Misc. Awards (July 2021) -
  - 🥄 In 8th edition of National Community Radio Awards instituted by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting -
    - Radio Vishwas 90.8, a Community Radio Station (CRS) in Nashik (Maharashtra) won first prize in *Sustainability Model* category and 2nd prize in *Thematic* category, for its radio program 'Education for All' in times of COVID-19.
    - Notice Shikshan Sarvansathi (Education for all) initiative won 1st Prize under Thematic Category, which was started in June 2020 to provide free education for students from 3rd to 10th grade, during times of COVID-19.
  - National Section 1985 India has been awarded world's most innovative Investment Promotion Agency Award 2021 by OCO Global.
  - Treelance filmmaker Deepti Pillay Sivan's documentary *Decoding Shankar*, about life of Noted musician Shankar Mahadevan, won *Best Film Award* (Documentary (Best Biographical)) at Toronto International Women Film Festival 2021.
  - Nelhi Metro won *Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award 2020* from *Japan Society of Civil Engineers*, for its high-quality infrastructure development projects under phases I-III.
  - ightharpoonup Korean Air has been named winner of Air Transport World's (ATW) 2021 Airline of the Year Title.

- 14 year old girl *Zaila Avant-garde* became first African American to win 50000 USD Scripps National Spelling Bee (US), after winning 2021 edition.
- Qovt launched *National Logistics Excellence Awards*, with 2 categories 1st includes logistics infrastructure/service providers and 2nd for various user industries. Winners for 1st edition of awards will be announced on Oct 31, 2021.
- Nushti Nirbhor backyard garden project in Cachar District of Assam won National Silver SKOCH Award, for enabling a village on Bangladesh border to consume nutritious plants and vegetables and earn by selling surplus produce.

### 46. Industrial / Misc. Awards (March 2021) -

- **The Hindu Group** won two golds and two silvers at South Asian Digital Media Awards given by WAN IFRA (World Association of News Publishers), named 'Champion Publisher of the Year'.
- 🥄 Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan has been conferred with Top-20 Global Women of Excellence-2021 award by US.
- \ Indian female forest officer from Odisha, Sasmita Lanka has been felicitated with United Nation's Asia Environmental Enforcement Award.
- Actress Deepika Padukone has been named in list of Young Global Leaders (YGLs) compiled by the World Economic Forum, a part of 2021 class of YGLs.
- Team from IIT Kharagpur won CoreNet Global Academic Challenge 6.0, sponsored by Cushman and Wakefield, KI and IA. This is first time that a squad from India has emerged as winners in CoreNet Global Academic Challenge, since its inception in 2015.
  - 🥄 CoreNet Global is a non-profit association, headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia (US).
- Antara Banerjee, scientist at National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health, received SERB Women Excellence Award 2021 for her contribution in understanding endocrinology in female reproduction that could help in assisted reproductive technologies females.
- Narico Chairman Harsh Mariwala has been named EY Entrepreneur for 2020.
- NHDFC Bank has been named *India's Best Bank for SMEs* at Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 2021.

## 47. Industrial / Misc. Awards (May 2021) -

- Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) conferred Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) with *Green Urja Award*, for being leading public institution in financing renewable energy.
- Naturational Invincible Gold Medal 2021 has been conferred on Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, by Maharshi Organisation.
- Emmy Award-nominated Indian choreographer Suresh Mukund won 10th Annual 'World Choreography Award 2020', becoming first Indian to do so. He won in *TV Reality Show / Competition* category, for his work on American TV reality show 'World of Dance'.

- Notisha CM Naveen Patnaik private secretary Karthikeyan Pandian has been conferred with President's award by International Hockey Federation, through 47th FIH Congress, for his contribution in promotion of hockey in Odisha.
- Nost SpiceHealth, a healthcare company founded by promoters of SpiceJet, won Gold Award at 2021 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards for 'Most Valuable Medical Innovation' under coronavirus disease (Covid-19) response category.
- 48. Italian Actor-Director Roberto Benigni will receive Golden Lion Award for Lifetime Achievement at 78th Venice International Film Festival, to be held in September 2021.
- 49. Journalist Omchery N N Pillai has been selected for Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS)'s Literary Award for 2021.
- 50. K.K. Birla Foundation's 30th **Bihari Puraskar** for 2020 will be given to **Mohankrishna Bohara** for his Hindi book of Criticism, titled **Taslima: Sangharsh aur Sahitya**.
  - 🥄 The award is one of the three literary awards instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation in 1991. Named after famous Hindi poet Bihari.
  - Navards Institited by K K Birla Foundation in 1991 -
    - 🦠 Saraswati Samman For literary work in any Indian language
    - 🔪 Vyas Samman For prose/poetry work in Hindi
    - 🦠 Bihari Puraskar For prose/poetry work in Hindi/Rajasthani, only authors from Rajasthan are eligible
    - 🦠 Shankar Puraskar For a work in Hindi concerning Indian philosophy, culture and/or art.
    - 🥄 Vachaspati Puraskar For any work in Sanskrit.
    - S.D. Birla Award for Scientific Research
- 51. Karnataka Govt named Sri Basavalinga Pattaddevaru (senior seer of Bhalki Hiremath) for Sri Basava International Award.
- 52. Krithi K Karanth, Scientist at Bengaluru-based Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), has been named as first Indian and Asian woman for 2021 'WILD Innovator Award, given by WILD ELEMENTS Foundation.
- 53. Lawrence Gussman Professor Emeritus of Computer Science, **Alfred V. Aho** won 2020 Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) A.M. Turing Award, known informally as the "Nobel Prize of computing."
  - Ne shares the award with his long-time collaborator Jeffrey David Ullman.
  - Aho and Ullman began working together at Bell Labs in 1967 and their early efforts included developing efficient algorithms for analyzing and translating programming languages.
  - Turing Award carries a \$1 million prize, with financial support provided by Google. It is named for Alan M. Turing, the British mathematician who articulated the mathematical foundation and limits of computing.
- 54. Legendary playback singer **Asha Bhosle** has been named for Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2021, sponsored by Maharashtra Govt.
  - Naharashtra Bhushan is highest civilian award presented by government of Maharashtra state, awarded since 1996.

- It was initially conferred in fields of Literature, Art, Sport, and Science. Later, Social Work, Journalism, Public Administration and Health Services were included.
- Navard carries cash prize of 10 lakh.
- 55. Literary honour **Devishankar Awasthi Award** has been awarded to Hindi journalist and critic **Ashutosh Bhardwaj**, for his work 'Pitra-Vadh'.
- 56. ▶ Maharashtra Government Named Singer **Asha Bhosle** as winner of Maharashtra Bhushan award 2020, the state government's highest honour.
  - 🥄 The award was instituted in 1996, to recognise distinguished work and eminent persons from state, with cash prize of 10 lakh.
- 57. ▶ Maharashtra Govt introduced Rajiv Gandhi Award for excellence in IT Sector, for firms excelling in Information Technology (IT) sector in state.
  - 🥄 It'll be conferred upon awardee firms on August 20 (birth anniversary of Former PM late Rajiv Gandhi).
- 58. Misc / Industrial Awards (August 2021) -
  - Nadhya Pradesh's Satpura Tiger Reserve has been awarded the NatWest Group Earth Heroes award in Earth Guardian category, for best management.
  - 🥄 Telangaga Government's use case *Crowd Monitoring using AI*, won AI Gamechanger Award by Nasscom.
    - State's Counter Intelligence Cell had used AI solution for managing crowds during India vs WI T20 match at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in 2019 and during Medaram Jathara festival in 2020.
  - Nagaland State won 7 national awards on first Van Dhan Annual Awards 2020-21, during celebration of 34th foundation day of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).
  - 🥄 Govt announced Winners for MeitY-NASSCOM Start-up Women Entrepreneur Awards 2020-21, in partnership with UN Women.
    - 12 women entrepreneurs have been named as winners, while 2 women entrepreneurs declared as Jury Choice Awardees and 1 woman entrepreneur felicitated as a special mention. Each winner and Jury Choice Awardees were rewarded Rs. 2 Lakh.
    - Also, MyGov and UN Women jointly launched *Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Innovation Challenge 2021*, to encourage technology solutions developed by Women Entrepreneurs that facilitate Women's Safety and Empowerment.
- 59. Misc. / Industrial Awards (June 2021) -
  - Nerala-origin Canadian Photographer Thomas Vijayan won 2021 Nature TTL Photography Award, for his photo of an Orangutan clinging to a tree, titled *The World is Going Upside Down*.
  - Cochin International Airport won Airport Council International (ACI) Director General's Roll of Excellence honour in Airport Service Quality.

- 60. Nagaland Conservationist **Y Nuklu Phom** has been named among winners of *Whitley Awards 2021* (also known as Green Oscar), donated by MAVA Foundation, for his efforts in establishing a biodiversity peace corridor in Nagaland. Other Winners of *Whitley Awards 2021* -
  - 🥄 Paula Kahumbu (Whitley Gold Award) (Kenya) Whitley Gold Award donated by the Friends of Whitley Fund for Nature
  - Nammy Safari (Kenya) Whitley Award donated by The Corcoran Foundation
  - Niroro Tanshi (Nigeria) Whitley Award donated by the Arcus Foundation
  - 🥄 Kini Roesler (Argentina) Whitley Award donated by The Frank Brake Charitable Trust
  - 🥄 Pedro Fruet (Brazil) Whitley Award donated by The William Brake Foundation
  - Nucy Kemp (South Africa) Whitley Award donated by Anne Reece
- 61. National Book Critics Circle Awards -
  - Naggie O'Farrell (for Hamnet)
  - Non-fiction Tom Zoellner (for Island on Fire: The Revolt That Ended Slavery in the British Empire)
  - Nutobiography Cathy Park Hong (for Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning)
  - Note: Biography Amy Stanley (for Stranger in the Shogun's City: A Japanese Woman and Her World)
  - Nicole Fleetwood (for Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration)
  - Noetry Francine J. Harris (for *Here Is The Sweet Hand*)
  - 🔪 About -
    - Annual American literary awards by National Book Critics Circle (NBCC) to promote *finest books and reviews published in English*, presented since 1976.
- 62. Naturalist **Jane Goodall** (UK) has been announced as 2021 winner of **Templeton prize** in recognition of her work on animal intelligence and humanity. She Considered to be the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees.
  - Templeton Prize is annually granted since 1972. Monetary value of the prize is adjusted so that it exceeds that of the Nobel Prizes. As of 2019, it is £1.1 million.
- 63. New Zealand Cricket Awards 2020-21 -
  - 🥄 Kane Williamson won New Zealand Cricket's Top Honor Sir Richard Hadlee Medal for fourth time consecutively.
  - Ninternational Test Player of the Year: Kane Williamson
  - Niternational Men's ODI Player of the Year Devon Conway
  - 🥄 International Men's T20 Player of the Year Devon Conway
  - Niternational Women's ODI Player of the Year Amy Satterthwaite

- 🥄 International Women's T20 Player of the Year Amelia Kerr
- Nedpath Cup for first-class batting Kane Williamson
- 64. Niger President Mahamadou Issoufou won 2020 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership, worth \$5 million.
  - **Mahamadou Issoufou** is 6th winner of the Ibrahim Prize, which began in 2007, by Sudanese billionaire Mo Ibrahim's foundation to promote good governance in Africa.
  - Nith US\$5 million payment, this prize is world's largest, exceeding \$1.3m Nobel Peace Prize.
- 65. ▶ Nobel Laureate Indian economist **Amartya Kumar Sen** has been awarded **Spain**'s top **Princess of Asturias Award** in *Social Sciences category*, by Spanish Prize Foundation. Other Winners of *2021 Princess of Asturias Awards* -
  - 🥄 Concord José Andrés and the World Central Kitchen
  - Nechnical and Scientific Research Katalin Karikó, Drew Weissman, Philip Felgner, Uğur Şahin, Özlem Türeci, Derrick Rossi and Sarah Gilbert
  - Norts Teresa Perales (Spain)
  - 🔪 Literature -Emmanuel Carrère (France)
  - 🥄 International Cooperation CAMFED, Campaign for Female Education
  - 🔪 Communication and Humanities Gloria Steinem (US)
  - 🥄 Arts Marina Abramović (Serbia)
- 66. Noted **Marathi** writer **Sharankumar Limbale** will receive Saraswati Samman 2020 for his book **Sanatan**. It carries monetary grant of 15 lakh rupees.
  - ightharpoonup The award is one of the three literary awards instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation in 1991.
  - Navards Institited by K K Birla Foundation in 1991 -
    - 🥄 Saraswati Samman For literary work in any Indian language
    - 🥄 Vyas Samman For prose/poetry work in Hindi
    - 🦠 Bihari Puraskar For prose/poetry work in Hindi/Rajasthani, only authors from Rajasthan are eligible
    - 🥄 Shankar Puraskar For a work in Hindi concerning Indian philosophy, culture and/or art.
    - 🥄 Vachaspati Puraskar For any work in Sanskrit.
    - S.D. Birla Award for Scientific Research
- 67. ▶ Noted Chemist and Bharat Ratna Awardee C.N.R. Rao received International Eni Award 2020, in *Energy Frontiers* Category, considered as Nobel Prize in Energy Research.

- Eni Awards are awarded by Italian oil and gas company Eni, to encourage better use of energy sources and increased environmental research. Award will be presented in October 2021, at Quirinal Palace in Rome (Italy).
- Nother Recepients of ENI Awards 2020 -
  - Note That the control of the control
  - Advanced Environmental Solutions prize awarded to Jürgen Caro and Jörg Kärger, from Universities of Hanover and Leipzig respectively (Germany), for development of micro-imaging techniques for observation of diffusive molecule flows in nanoporous materials.
  - ▼ Young Researcher of the Year prizes awarded to Matteo Morciano, who has developed innovative technologies for passive drinking water production using solar energy, and Francesca De Falco, for her research about microplastic pollution.
  - 🔪 Young Talents from Africa prizes awarded to Alaa Abbas and Mohamed Ahmed Ismail Tarek (Egypt).
- 68. Noted Female Athlete **Dutee Chand** will be honoured with Inaugural **Chhattisgarh Veerni Award**, on occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti (April 14th).
- 69. ▶ Noted Hindi writer **Sharad Pagare** has been selected for coveted literary award **Vyas Samman 2020** for his novel 'Patliputra ki Samragi'.
- 70. ▶ Noted Indian Actor **Amitabh Bachchan** has been with 2021 Film Archive Award by International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF), at a virtual ceremony.
- 71. Noted Indian Economist **Kaushik Basu** is named among awardees of **Humboldt Research Award** for *Economics*, given by Alexander von Humboldt Foundation of Germany, to renowned scientists outside Germany, in recognition of their lifetime's research achievements.
- 72. Noted Indian Journalist P. Sainath is named among 3 recipients of Japan's Fukuoka Grand Prize 2021, in Grand Category.
  - 🥄 Other 2 winners are Japan's Kishimoto Mio (Academic Category) and Thailand's Prabda Yoon (Arts & Culture Category).
  - Tukuoka Prize is established by Fukuoka City International Foundation (formerly Yokatopia Foundation), to honor outstanding work of individuals or organizations in preserving or creating Asian culture.
  - 🥄 There are three prize categories: Grand Prize, Academic Prize, and Arts and Culture Prize.
- 73. ▶ Noted Odia poet **Rajendra Kishore Panda** has been awarded *Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar 2020*.
  - 🔪 It was instituted by Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Trust in 2013, in memory of late poet laureate Kuvempu.
- 74. Noted filmmaker **Guneet Monga** has been conferred with honour of **Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres)**, the second-highest French civilian honour.

- Nhe served as Executive Producer on *Period. End of Sentence*, which won 2019 Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Subject.
- 75. Odisha CM institited *Manoj Das International Literary Award*, in memory of eminent litterateur Manoj Das.
  - Award will be conferred on litterateurs from Odisha for their creative contribution to English literature every year. It will carry a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh.
  - New Awards -
    - Nanoj-Kishore Literary Talent Award To honor their works to develop interest among youths in both Odia and English literature. It will be announced both in English and Odia categories and carry cash reward of Rs 1 lakh.
    - 🔪 Manmath-Manoj Memorial Award.
- 76. Odisha-born Andhra Pradesh Governor **Biswabhusan Harichandan** received **Kalinga Ratna Samman** 2021, conferred by Sarla Sahitya Sansad.
- 77. PM Narendra Modi has been awarded CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award, at CERAWeek 2021, held virtually.
  - No. Instituted in 2016. It recognizes the commitment of leadership on the future of global energy & environment and for offering solutions and policies for energy access, affordability & environmental stewardship.
- 78. ▶ Padma Bhushan awardee noted gastroenterologist D Nageshwar Reddy (chairman of AIG Hospitals) became First Indian to win **Rudolf V Schindler** Award from American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE).
  - \ It is highest category in Crystal Awards named after Dr Schindler, who is considered as "the father of gastroscopy."
- 79. Pulitzer Prize 2021 -
  - Ninners -
    - 🔪 Letters, Drama, and Music -
      - 🦠 Fiction The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich
      - 🔪 Drama The Hot Wing King by Katori Hall
      - 🥄 History Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America by Marcia Chatelain
      - 🔪 Biography or Autobiography The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X by Les Payne and Tamara Payne
      - 🔪 Poetry Postcolonial Love Poem by Natalie Diaz
      - 🔪 Music Stride by Tania León
      - General Non-fiction Wilmington's Lie: The Murderous Coup of 1898 and the Rise of White Supremacy by David Zucchino
    - 🔪 Journalism -

- Nublic Service The New York Times
- 🥄 Breaking News Reporting Staff of The Star Tribun
- New Investigative Reporting Matt Rocheleau, Vernal Coleman, Laura Crimaldi, Evan Allen and Brendan McCarthy of The Boston Globe
- Nocal Reporting Kathleen McGrory and Neil Bedi of The Tampa Bay Times
- 🔪 National Reporting Staffs of The Marshall Project, AL.com, The Indianapolis Star, and the Invisible Institute
- 🦠 International Reporting Megha Rajagopalan, Alison Killing and Christo Buschek of BuzzFeed News
- Feature Writing Mitchell S. Jackson, freelance contributor for Runner's World AND Nadja Drost, freelance contributor for The California Sunday Magazine.
- 🔪 Commentary Michael Paul Williams of the Richmond Times-Dispatch
- Norris of The New York Times,
- Negation 
  Editorial Writing Robert Greene of the Los Angeles Times,
- Neature Photography Emilio Morenatti of Associated Press
- 🥄 Special Awards and Citations -
  - 🔪 A Special Citation was awarded to Darnella Frazier, For courageously recording the murder of George Floyd.
- National About Pulitzer Prizes -
  - 🔪 Given for achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature, and musical composition in USA.
  - Established in 1917 by provisions in will of American (Hungarian-born) Joseph Pulitzer who had made his fortune as a newspaper publisher and is administered by Columbia University in New York City.
- 80. ▶ Sahitya Akademi Awards 2020 announced for 20 languages. It contains prize money of 1 Lakh INR. Awardees -

| S.No | Language | Title (Genre)                               | Author                    |
|------|----------|---|---------------------------|
| 1    | Assamese | Bengsata (Short stories)                    | Apurba Kumar Saikia       |
| 2    | Bengali  | Eka Eka Ekashi (Memoirs)                    | Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay |
| 3    | Bodo     | Gwthenay Lamayao Gwdan Agan (Short stories) | Dharanidhar <i>Owari</i>  |
| 4    | Dogri    | Baba Jitmal (Play)                          | Gian Singh                |
| 5    | English  | When God Is a Traveller (Poetry)            | Arundhathi Subramaniam    |
| 6    | Gujarati | Banaras Diary (Poetry)                      | Harish Meenakshru         |
| 7    | Hindi    | Tokeri Mein Digant 'Their Gatha" (Poetry)   | Anamika                   |
| 8    | Kannada  | Sri Bahubali Ahimsadigvijayam (EPIC POETRY) | M. Veerappa Moily         |
| 9    | Kashmiri | Tilasm-e-Khanabadosh (Short stories)        | Hiday Koul Bharti         |
|      |          |   |                           |

| 10 | Konkani  | Yugaparivarathanancho Yatri (Poetry) | RS Bhaskar                   |
|----|----------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 11 | Maithili | Gachh Roosal Achhi (Short Stories)   | Kamalkant Jha                |
| 12 | Manipuri | Malangbana Kari Hai (Poetry)         | Irungbam Deven               |
| 13 | Marathi  | Udya (Novel)                         | Nanda Khare                  |
| 14 | Punjabi  | Aam Khass (Short stories)            | Gurdev Singh Rupana          |
| 15 | Sanskrit | Vaishali (Novel)                     | Mahesh Chandra Sharma Gautam |
| 16 | Santali  | Gur Dak Kasa Dak(Poetry)             | Rupchand Hansdah             |
| 17 | Sindhi   | Jehad (Plays)                        | Jetho Lalwani                |
| 18 | Tamil    | Sellaatha Panam (Novel)              | Imaiyam                      |
| 19 | Telugu   | Agniswaasa(2015-17) Poetry           | Nikhileswar                  |
| 20 | Urdu     | Amawas Mein Khwab (Novel)            | Hussain-ul-Haque             |

- 🥄 Awards for Malayalam, Nepali, Odia and Rajasthani Languages will be announced later.
- 81. Saudi activist Loujain al-Hathloul has been awarded **Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize** (named after former Czech dissident and later President), for her fight for women's rights in Saudi Arabia.
  - 🔪 It is awarded annually for civil society action in defence of human rights by Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).
- 82. VIN Development Programme named Indian Organizations **Snehakunja Trust** and **Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company** among 10 awardees of **Equator Prize 2021**, for their work in field of biodiversity and conservation.
  - Equator Prize is a biennial award by UNDP is given to recognize community efforts of reducing poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Winners receive prize money of US \$10000.
- 83. United Nations Global Compact recognised India's Sumant Sinha (ReNew Power Chairman & MD) as one of ten 2021 SDG Pioneers, for exceptional work in advancing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through implementation of UN Global Compact Ten Principles on human rights, environment, labor, and anti-corruption.
- 84. Vaccine maker Serum Institute of India (SII) Chairman Cyrus Poonawalla has been honoured with **Lokmanya Tilak National Award** for 2021, given by Lokmanya Tilak Smarak Trust, for his work during COVID-19 pandemic.
- 85. World number two tennis player Naomi Osaka of Japan has been named "Sportswoman of the Year" at the 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards. This is Osaka's second Laureus Sports Awards. In 2019, she won the "Breakthrough of the Year" award.
- 86. Zimbabwe Author **Tsitsi Dangarembga** won **PEN Pinter Prize 2021**, given annually to a British writer or a writer resident in Britain of outstanding literary merit.
  - 🔪 This award was launched in 2009 by English PEN in honour of late Nobel Literature Prize-winning playwright Harold Pinter.

## **Books**

- 1. Ist ever biography on Noted Bollywood actor *Sanjeev Kumar* has been announced, Written by Reeta Ramamurthy Gupta and Kumar's nephew Uday Jariwala.
- 2. Growing Up Biden, A Memoir by US President Joe Biden's Sister Valerie Biden Owen, has been released.
- 3. Life in the Clock Tower Valley, debut book of journalist Shakoor Rather has been released.
- 4. Riding Free: My Olympic Journey, memoir by Indian Olympian equestrian rider Imtiaz Anees has been released.
- 5. The Kapil Sharma Story, a Biography of Noted Stand-up Comedian Kapil Sharma, written by Ajitabha Bose has been released.
- 6. Wisdom For Start-ups From Grownups: Discovering Corporate Ayurveda, new Book By R Gopalakrishnan& R Narayanan has been released.
- 7. Ashok Chakravarti's New Book Titled The Struggle Within: A Memoir of the Emergency, has been released.
- 8. Meghan Markle's new book *The Bench* has been released. She is Duchess of Sussex, an American member of British royal family and former actress.
- 9. Actress **Kalki Koechlin**'s First Book *Elephant In The Womb*, will be released soon.
- 10. Actress Kareena Kapoor announced her new book *Pregnancy Bible*, to be released soon.
- 11. Actress Shabana Azmi launched book *The Year That Wasn't The Diary of a 14-Year-Old*, written by Kolkata girl Brisha Jain.
- 12. Amartya Sen's new book *Home in the World* will be released in July 2021.
- 13. Author Shrabani Basu's New Book *The Mystery of the Parsee Lawyer* has been Released.
- 14. Autobiography of **Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan**, popularly known as *Frontier Gandhi*, titled **The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle** has been released.
- 15. Biography of independence activist Jayaprakash Narayan has been released, titled *The Dream of Revolution*. It has been written by historian *Bimal Prasad* and *Sujata Prasad*.
- 16. Bollywood Actress Neena Gupta announcd her autobiography Sach Kahun Toh.
- 17. Bollywood actress and author Tisca Chopra's second book What's up with me, will be released soon.
- 18. Book 1971: The Beginning of India's Cricketing Greatness, written by Boria Majumdar and Gautam Bhattacharya has been released.
- 19. ▶ Book *A Kashmiri Century Portrait Of A Society In Flux* by Khem Lata Wakhlu, has been released.
- 20. Book Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government, edited by Rajya Sabha MP KJ Alphons has been released, by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.
- 21. Book Address Book: A Publishing Memoir in the time of COVID, by Ritu Menon, has been released.

- 22. Book *Agriculture in India: Contemporary Challenges in the Context of Doubling Farmers Income* authored by former Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary **Mohan Kanda** has been released by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.
- 23. Book *Akhtari: The Life and Music of Begum Akhtar*, edited by Yatindra Mishra has been released.
- 24. Book Baanjh: Incomplete Lives of Complete Women, written by Susmita Mukherjee has been released.
- 25. ▶ Book *Battlefield*, authored by *Vishram Bedekar*, has been released.
- 26. Book Buddha in Gandhara, by Sunita Dwivedi has been released.
- 27. Book Discordant Notes: The Voice of Dissent in the Last Court of Last Resort, by Rohinton Fali Nariman (Former Former Solicitor General of India and SC Judge) has been released.
- 28. Book *How the Earth Got Its Beauty*, authored by **Sudha Murty** has been released.
- 29. Book India Versus China: Why they are Not Friends, by Kanti Bajpai has been released.
- 30. Book India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present, by Shivshankar Menon has been released.
- 31. Book *India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present*, authored by **Shivshankar Menon** has been released.
- 32. Book *India's Power Elite: Class, Caste and Cultural Revolution*, by **Sanjay Baru** has been released.
- 33. Book *Indians: A Brief History of a Civilization* Authored by **Namit Arora** has been released.
- 34. Book Kamala Harris and the Rise of Indian Americans, edited by Tarun Basu has been released.
- 35. Book *Karunanidhi: A Life*, authored by AS Panneerselvan has been released. It is biography of M Karunanidhi, Former chief minister of Tamil Nadu for five terms.
- 36. Book Kashmiri Century: Portrait of a Society in Flux, authored by Khemlata Wakhlu has been released.
- 37. Book Lady Doctors: The Untold Stories of India's First Women in Medicine, authored by Kavitha Rao Has been released.
- 38. Book Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020 authored by noted author Salman Rushdie has been released.
- 39. Book Mission Domination: An Unfinished Quest, authored by Boria Majumdar & Kushan Sarkar has been released.
- 40. ▶ Book *My Experiments with Silence* authored by actor **Samir Soni** has been released.
- 41. ▶ Book *Nathuram Godse: The True Story of Gandhi's Assassin*, written by journalist **Dhaval Kulkarni** will be published by Pan Macmillan India in 2022.
- 42. Book Nehru, Tibet and China authored by Avtar Singh Bhasin has been released.
- 43. Book Operation Khukri, Authored by Major General Rajpal Punia & Damini Punia has been released.
- 44. ▶ Book *Operation Trojan Horse*, by *Abhishek Sharan and D.P. Sinha*, has been released.
- 45. ▶ Book *Policymaker's Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, DC*, authored by **Kaushik Basu** has been released.
- 46. Book Renegades: Born in the USA, written by former US Prez Barack Obama and Bruce Springsteen, has been released.

- 47. ▶ Book Space. Life. Matter by science journalist Hari Pulakkat has been released.
- 48. Book The Art of Conjuring Alternate Realities, authored by Shivam Shankar Singh and Anand Venkatanarayanan has been released.
- 49. ▶ Book *The Biography of a Failed Venture*, Authored by *Prashant Desai*, has been released.
- 50. Book *The Earthspinner*, authored by **Anuradha Roy** has been released.
- 51. Book The Fourth Lion: Essays for Gopalkrishna Gandhi, authored by Venu Madhav Govindu and Srinath Raghavan, has been released.
- 52. Book *The Great Big Lion*, written by 3-year old **Chryseis Knight** has been released in India.
  - 🔪 Considered gifted, Knight, who is currently residing in Canada, learnt reading at age of one and been writing since age of 2 years.
- 53. ▶ Book *The Great Hindu Civilisation*, by *Pavan K. Varma*, has been released.
- 54. ▶ Book *The Long Game: How the Chinese Negotiate with India*, by **Vijay Gokhale** has been released.
- 55. Book *The Most Incredible Olympic Stories*, by noted Argentinian Author Luciano Wernicke, has been released.
- 56. ▶ Book *The Ramayana of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji*, written by Late Baljit Kaur Tulsi Ji, has been released.
- 57. ▶ Book *The Spiritual CEO*, by S. Prakash has been released.
- 58. ▶ Book *The Startup Wife*, by **Tahmima Anam**, has been released.
- 59. ▶ Book Transformation in Times of Crisis, authored by Nitin Rakesh and Jerry Wind, won UK's International Business Book of Year Award 2021.
- 60. ▶ Book Battle Ready for 21st Century, co-edited by AK Singh Brig Narender Kumar, has been released.
- 61. ▶ Book **Habba Khatoon** written by Kajal Suri has been released.
  - Nabba Khatoon, also known as *The Nightingale of Kashmir*, was a Kashmiri poet and ascetic. She was wife of Yousuf Shah Chak, the last Emperor of Kashmir.
- 62. ▶ Book **The Light of Asia**, authored by **Jairam Ramesh** has been released.
- 63. ▶ Book **Why We Kneel How We Rise** by Noted Jamaican cricketer **Michael Holding**, has been released.
- 64. ▶ Book on *OPERATION KHUKRI*, written by Rajpal Punia & Damini Punia, has been released.
- 65. Book on life of Veer Savarkar titled Savarkar: A contested Legacy (1924-1966), written by Vikram Sampath has been released.
- 66. ▶ Book, A Begum and A Rani, authored by Rudrangshu Mukherjee, has been released.
- 67. Chief Justice of India NV Ramana released former Supreme Court judge RV Raveendran's book Anomalies in Law and Justice.
- 68. ▶ Cricketer **Suresh Raina**'s Memoir *Believe What Life and Cricket Taught Me*, will be released in 2021. It has been co-written by Bharat Sundaresan.
- 69. ▶ Deepak Ravindran's Book *The Pain-Free Mindset* has been released.

- 70. ▶ English translation of **Anant Vijay**'s book *Amethi Sangram: Aitihasik Jeet Ankahi Dastan*, Titled *Dynasty to Democracy: The Untold Story of Smriti Irani's Triumph*, has been released.
- 71. Evan Osnos's New Book Joe Biden: American Dreamer, a Biography of Joe Biden, has been released.
- 72. Film Historian Rochona Majumdar's New Book Art Cinema And India's Forgotten Futures, will be released in September 2021.
- 73. Film producer Ronnie Screwvala Authored Book Skill It, Kill It has been released.
- 74. Filmmaker-writer Tahira Kashyap Khurrana's new book *The 7 Sins of Being A Mother*, will be released soon.
- 75. Former Cricketer and Coach **Ravi Shastri's** First Book *Stargazing: The Players in My Life* will be released soon.
- 76. ▶ Former Indian Cricketer **Suresh Raina**'s autobiography **Believe What Life and Cricket Taught Me**, has been released. It has been co-authored by Bharat Sundaresan.
- 77. Former PepsiCo CEO **Indra Nooyi** 's memoir *My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future* will be published in September 2021.
- 78. Former RBI governor **Bimal Jalan's** new book *The India Story*, has been released, focusing on India's economic history and aims to provide lessons for future of India's political economy. His earlier books include *India Then and Now* AND *India Ahead*.
- 79. Former Union Minister **K J Alphons**'s new book *Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government*, has been released.
- 80. Former election commissioner **Ashok Lavasa**'s book *An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation*, has been released.
- 81. ▶ Harry Potter Series Creator British Author JK Rowling's new book *The Christmas Pig*, will be released Later in 2021.
- 82. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan unveiled Krishna Saksena's book My Joys and Sorrows as a Mother of a Special Child.
- 83. Inampith winning noted author **Amitav Ghosh's** new book **The Living Mountain**, will be released in 2022.
- 84. Journalist Sundeep Mishra's book Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story has been released.
- 85. ▶ Journalist turned filmmaker **Vinod Kapri**'s book *1232 km: The Long Journey Home* will be released in May 2021.
- 86. Last book of Noted Children's author Subhadra Sen Gupta, titled Let's Go Time Travelling Again, has been released.
- 87. ▶ MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan Released **Gauri Shankar Sharma's** new book *Janaksuta Sut Shaurya*.
- 88. Mountaineer Aditya Gupta's new book *7 Lessons from Everest Expedition Learnings from Life and Business*, has been released, aiming to raise 1 crore for COVID-19 relief from sale proceeds.
- 89. New Book All Roads Lead North: Nepal's Turn To China, written by Amish Raj Mulmi has been released.
- 90. New Book Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Power: 5 Battlegrounds authored by Rajiv Malhotra has been released.
- 91. New Book *Cinema Through Rasa*, by Prachand Praveer has been released.
- 92. ▶ New Book *Names of the Women*, by **Jeet Thayil** has been released.
- 93. New Book *The Cursed Inheritance*, authored by **Sutapa Basu** has been released.
- 94. New Book Wanderers, Kings, Merchants: The Story of India through Its Languages, authored by Peggy Mohan has been released.

- 95. New Children's Book India To The Rescue, by Sushant Singh & Shruthi Rao has been released.
- 96. New book *An Invitation to Die: A Colonel Acharya Mystery*, Authored by *Tanushree Podder*, has been released.
- 97. New book Balakot Air Strike: How India Avenged Pulwama, written by Navy veteran Manan Bhatt has been released.
- 98. New book My Own Mazagon, authored by Captain Ramesh Babu has been released.
- 99. New book 1232 km: The Long Journey Home by filmmaker Vinod Kapri has been released, which depicts journey of seven migrant workers from Bihar, who journeyed back home on their bicycles, during COVID-19 Lockdown.
- 100. ▶ New book **Manohar Parrikar: Brilliant Mind, Simple Life** authored by **Nitin Gokhale** has been released. It is based on Life of Manohar Parrikar, India's former defence minister and four-time chief minister of Goa.
- 101. Nobel Prize-winning Japanese-British Author Kazuo Ishiguro's New Book Klara and the Sun Novel, has been released.
- 102. Noted American Actor Will Smith announced his autobiography titled Will.
- 103. Noted Author **Ruskin Bond**'s new book *All-Time Favourites for Children*, has been released.
- 104. ▶ Noted Filmmaker **Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra** announced his autobiography **The Stranger In The Mirror**, co-written with Reeta Ramamurthy Gupta.
- 105. Noted Indian British author **Ruskin Bond's** new book **It's a Wonderful Life** has been launched.
- 106. Noted Jnanpith Awardee author **Amitav Ghosh**'s new book *The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis*, has been released.
- 107. Noted neurologist Ashok Panagariya's memoir *Monk in a Merc*, will be released soon. He passed away recently due to COVID-19.
- 108. Noted novelist Kunal Basu's new Book *In An Ideal World* will be released in 2022.
- 109. ▶ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik released Poetry book Beyond Here and Other Poems written by Bishnupada Sethi.
- 110. PM Narendra Modi released Hindi translation of book *Odisha Itihaas*, written by Utkal Keshari Harekrushna Mahtab. It has been translated into Hindi by Shankarlal Purohit.
- 111. Ramesh Narayan's new Book A Different Route to Success: It Could Be Yours, has been released.
- 112. Rural Journalist Jaideep Hardikar's new book Ramrao: The Story of India's Farm Crisis, has been released.
- 113. Sanjaya Baru's New Book *India's Power elite: Caste, class and cultural revolution*, has been released.
- 114. Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan's Children's book Prince with a Paintbrush: The Story of Raja Ravi Varma, has been released.
- 115. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu released book *Palleku Pattabhishekam*, authored by former MP Yalamanchili Sivaji, based on rural India and agriculture.
  - Ne also released Terrace Garden: Midde Thota, by Thummeti Raghothama Reddy.
- 116. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu Relased book *Urdu Poets and Writers Gems of Deccan*, authored by journalist **J.S. Ifthekhar**.

- Ne also received books on former PM P.V. Narasimha Rao Manavottama Rama authored by Satyakasi Bhargava and Nallagonda Kathalu authored by Shri Mallikarjun.
- 117. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu Released Book **Neelimarani My Mother, My Hero,** written by By **Achyuta Samanta**.
- 118. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu released book **Suparipalana** written by retired civil servant **Shailendra Joshi**. It is Telugu translation of *Echo T Calling: Towards People-Centric Governance* written by former Telangana Chief Secretary S K Joshi.
- 119. Vijay Gokhale Authored Book *Tiananmen Square: The Making of a Protest*, has been released.
- 120. Wildlife Biologist Sanjay Gubbi's book Leopard Diaries the Rosette in India, has been released.
- 121. e-book *Dawn Under The Dome*, written by Post Master General of Mumbai *Swati Pandey*, in collaboration with Orchida Mukherjee has been released. It depicts history of Mumbai General Post Office building.

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## **Committees**

- 1. K.P. Krishnan Committee has submitted its report on feasibility of Variable Capital Companies in International Financial Services Centres, to International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).
  - ➤ IFSCA had set up this Committee to explore potential for allowing another legal structure popularly known as a variable capital company (VCC) as an additional option through which asset managers could pool investors' funds.
- 2. Former Infosys CEO **SD Shibu Lal** will head a new 3 member task force formed to help government in bringing major bureaucratic reforms through its *Mission Karmayogi*. Other 2 members are Govind Iyer (Egon Zehnder) and Pankaj Bansal (PeopleStrong).
- 3. Govt constituted a Committee for suggesting measures to double production and quadrupling exports of handlooms, in 3 years, headed by **Sunil Sethi** (Chairman of Fashion Design Council of India).
- 4. Govt constituted a Committee headed by **Sunil Sethi** (Chairman, Fashion Design Council of India), to recommend measures for doubling production and quadrupling exports of handlooms in 3 years.
- 5. Govt constituted a committee headed by **Ashish Shiradhonkar**, to develop a technological platform streamlining appeal filing process related to direct and indirect taxation matters.
- 6. Govt formed a 259 member Implementation Committee under chairmanship of Home Minister **Amit Shah**, to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence, which falls on 15th August 2022, as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- 7. Govt has set up 25-member development council for cement industry, to recommend ways to eliminate waste, increase production and quality. It will be chaired by Puneet Dalmia (CMD, Dalmia Bharat Group).

- 8. Govt reconstituted advisory committee to form plan for studying mythical Sarasvati river, after earlier panel's 2 year term ended in 2019. Committee will continue to be chaired by Culture Minister (Prahlad Singh Patel currently).
- 9. International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) constituted a committee to examine global best practices in ship financing and leasing, identify opportunities and devise a roadmap to enable such activities from GIFT IFSC. It will be chaired by **Vandana Aggarwal**, former Senior Economic Advisor.
- 10. International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) constituted an Expert Committee on Investment Funds to recommend road map for funds industry in IFSCs, to develop a comprehensive and consistent regulatory framework based on global best practices.
  - Notak Mahindra Asset Management Company).
- 11. International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) constituted an Expert Committee to recommend approach towards development of Longevity Finance Hub and provide road map for the same.
  - It is estimated that by 2040, there will be more members of silver generation (over 60 years age) than people under 20. This will throw new challenges in areas of wealth management, health, insurance, and other investment products.
  - Nakhate (Bank of America) and Gopalan Srinivasan (Ex-CMD of NIACL).
- 12. Ministry of Ayush has set up an interdisciplinary team of experts to explore potential of Yoga as a productivity enhancing tool for the population, chaired by H R Nagendra.
- 13. Ministry of Labour & Employment Government constituted an Expert Group to provide technical inputs and recommendations on fixation of Minimum Wages and National Floor Minimum Wages, chaired by **Ajit Mishra** (Director of Institute of Economic Growth).
- 14. Niti Aayog constituted two task forces that will recommend a policy framework for the enforcement of contracts as well as effective conciliation mechanism.
  - None task force, which will suggest facilitation of speedy resolution of contractual disputes between private entities and government, will be headed by Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.
  - Nother task force, which will recommend a policy framework for enforcement of contracts, will be led by Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar.
- 15. RBI Formed Standing External Advisory Committee for evaluating applications for Universal Banks and Small Finance Banks. It will be headed by Former RBI Deputy Governor **Shyamala Gopinath**.
- 16. ▶ RBI has set up a Committee to undertake comprehensive review of working of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) and recommend suitable measures for enabling ARCs to meet growing requirements of financial sector. The committee will be headed by **Sudarshan Sen** (former RBI Executive Director).

- 17. RBI panel under N. S. Vishwanathan suggested 4-tier structure for Urban Co-operative Banks, with minimum CRAR (Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio) varying 9 to 15 %. UCBs can be split into four categories -
  - Tier-1 (deposits up to Rs 100 crore)
  - Tier-2 (deposits between Rs 100-Rs 1,000 crores)
  - Name of the Tier-3 (deposits between Rs 1,000 crore to Rs 10,000 crores)
  - Tier-4 (deposits over Rs 10,000 crores)
- 18. ▶ SEBI reconstituted its Takeover Panel, which looks into the applications seeking exemption from the mandatory open offer that an acquirer needs to make to minority shareholders.
  - 🦠 Panel is chaired by N K Sodhi (Former chief justice of high courts of Karnataka and Kerala).
  - Nother Members N Venkatram (MD and CEO, Deloitte India), Darius Khambata (former advocate general, Maharashtra) and Thomas Mathew T (former chairman of LIC).
- 19. Supreme Court-appointed 4-member committee to study three new controversial agricultural laws, submitted its report.
  - Committee comprised of three agricultural economists-Ashok Gulati, Pramod Joshi and Anil Ghanvat. Bharatiya Kisan Union President Bhupinder Singh Mann was initially a part, but resigned later.
- 20. Tamil Nadu State Govt has set up a five-member *Economic Advisory Council to the Chief Minister*, in lines with PM-EAC at the central level. Its Members include -
  - Nesther Duflo (French economist and Nobel laureate)
  - Value of Jean Dreze (Belgian-born Indian welfare economist, social scientist and activist)
  - 🥄 Raghuram Rajan (former RBI Governor)
  - 🥄 Arvind Subramanian (Former Chief Economic Advisor to Government of India)
  - 🦠 S Narayan (Former Union finance secretary).

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## **Days**

- 1. Aug 15, 2021 -75th Independence Day of India, observed under campaign titled Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
  - 🔪 On this occasion, PM Narendra Modi addressed the nation from Red fort in Delhi -
    - 🥄 Announced Rs 100 lakh crores Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti National Master Plan, for developing holistic infrastructure.
    - Nannounced To open entry for girls into Sainik schools across country.

- Announced a National Hydrogen Mission in view of climate change, aiming to make India a hub for production and export of green hydrogen.
- Announced India's Target of becoming an 'energy independent country by 2047, the year when India will celebrate the 100th year of Independence.
- Announced 'Mission Circular Economy' that will replace petroleum with other forms of energy to make India achieve self-reliance in energy production by 2047. It would include a mix of electric mobility, gas-based economy, doping ethanol in petrol and making the country a hub for hydrogen production.
- Announced rice distributed under several government schemes to be fortified by 2024 (including Public Distribution System and mid-day meals in schools), to tackle malnutrition. Fortified rice is a cost-effective strategy to increase mineral and vitamin content in diets.
- Announced that 75 'Vande Bharat' trains will connect different parts of the country in 75 weeks to mark the ongoing 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- Nindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) successfully carried out Ground Run and Low Speed Taxi Trials (LSTT) of the Hindustan-228 (VT-KNR) aircraft, as a milestone for first fixed-wing Made-in-India civil aircraft in India.
- Nan All Women Tri-Services Mountaineering Team scaled Mt Manirang (21,625 ft) in Himachal Pradesh.
- 🔪 Gallantary Awards 2021 Announced -
  - Neresident Ram Nath Kovind approved 144 Gallantry awards to Armed Forces, police and paramilitary personnel on eve of Independence Day.
  - These include one Ashok Chakra, one Kirti Chakra, 15 Shaurya Chakras, four Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 116 Sena Medals (Gallantry), five Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and two Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).
  - 🥄 Ashok Charka Babu Ram (ASI in Jammu and Kashmir Police).
  - 🥄 Kirti Charka Altaf Hussain Bhat (Constable in Jammu and Kashmir police) (posthumous).
  - 🔪 Shaurya Chakra -
    - Narun Kumar Pandey (Army)
    - Navi Kumar Chaudhary (Army)
    - 🔪 Ashutosh Kumar (Army)
    - Vikas Khatri (Army)
    - Li. Kumar (Army)
    - Neeraj Ahlawat (Army)

- 🥄 Sachin Reuben Sequeira (Navy)
- Nerminder Antil (Air Force)
- Narun Singh (Air Force)
- Note that the contract of the
- Nanjinder Singh (CRPF)
- Sunil Choudhary (CRPF)
- Nebasis Sethy (Odisha Police)
- 🔪 Sudhir Kumar Tudu (Odisha Police)
- Nahbaz Ahmad (J&k Police)
- 🔪 Nao Sena Medal -
  - 🔪 Prashant Handu
  - Nunil S Korti
  - Napin Panikar
  - 🥄 Raj Krishna Manu
  - New Prahlad, MCA
- 🥄 Vayu Sena Medal Uttar Kumar, Deepak Mohanan
- Nadditionally, 1380 Police personnel been awarded Medals on Independence Day 2021.
- Ninistry of Youth Affairs and Sports organized Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 throughout country. Under it, Each week programmes will be held in 75 districts and at 75 villages in each district till 2nd October 2021.
- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar unfurled national flag at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre New Delhi and also flagged off a pioneering expedition 'Operation Blue Freedom'.
  - \ Under it, A team of people with disabilities from across country undertook an expedition till Siachen Glacier to create a new World Record for largest team of people with disabilities to reach the world's highest battlefield.
- Ministry of Science and Technology's Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) established *Science Museum* in Chandel, an Aspirational District of Manipur. It has been established at Maha Union Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Japhou, Chandel.
- Novement of the Schram Awards (PMSA) for 2018, awarded to 69 workers in 3 categories Shram Bhushan Awards (1 Lakh), Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana Awards (60000) and Shram Shree/Shram Devi Awards (40000).
- Sports minister Anurag Thakur launched nationwide Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 programme, as part of Independence Day celebrations Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsay. The series of events will conclude on October 2, 2021.

- Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar unveiled a website to mark 75th Independence Day celebrations across country, at URL indianidc2021.mod.gov.in. It is installed with a Virtual Reality (VR) feature for first time, to showcase real-time celebrations from Red Fort in New Delhi in a 360-degrees format.
- 🔪 Indian Army installed a 100-ft tall Indian National Flag in Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir.
- 🥄 Indian Diaspora in US hoisted biggest Indian Flag at Times Square in New York (25 feet tall).
- Nother Nations that Observe their Independence Day on Aug 15 Republic of the Congo, Liechtenstein, North Korea & South Korea, Bahrain.
- 2. Jul 11 **World Population Day**. It was established by Governing Council of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1989. It was inspired by public interest in Five Billion Day on 11 July 1987, approximate date on which world's population reached 5 billion
  - Non this occasion, Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved Draft *Population (Control, Stabilization, and Welfare) Bill 2021*,

    Prepared by Uttar Pradesh Law Commission (UPLC). It aims at curbing over-population issue. It proposes to incentivise couples who do not have more than two babies.
- 3. July 14 is observed as National Day of France, also known as Bastille Day. It is commemorated the anniversary of Storming of the Bastille during French Revolution on 14 July 1789. July 14 is also observed as Shark Awareness Day Globally.
- 4. ▶ 29 May is observed as International **Day of UN Peacekeepers**, with 2021 theme is *road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security.* 
  - 3 Indian peacekeepers, who laid down their lives while serving in UN peacekeeping missions in 2020, are among 129 personnel honoured on International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2021. Indian Personnel are Corporal Yuvraj Singh, Ivan Michael Picardo Mulchand Yadav.
  - Nindia will launch UNITE AWARE mobile tech platform for UN Peacekeepers to improve their safety and security in line of duty.
- 5. ▶ 6th UN Global Traffic Safety Week 2021 observed between May 17-23, 2021.
  - It is a biennial global road safety campaign hosted by WHO. 2021 theme is *Streets for Life*. It calls for 30 km/h speed limits to be the norm for cities, towns and villages worldwide, with #Love30 campaign.
  - 🔪 May 23 is also observed as World Turtle Day.
- 6. 8th July is Observed as Rythu Dinotsavam meaning Farmer's Day in Andhra Pradesh. It marks birth anniversary of 14th CM of Andhra Pradesh, Y.S Rajasekhara Reddy, being celebrated since 2019.
- 7. Aug 20 is observed as Sadbhavana Diwas, commemorating birth anniversary of former PM Rajiv Gandhi.
  - Indian National Congress instituted Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award in 1992, an year after his death. It was last conferred upon Gopalkrishna Gandhi, in 2018 (24th edition of this award).

- Aug 20 is also observed as **Akshay Urja diwas** in India, observed since 2004, to raise awareness about the developments and adoption of renewable energy in India.
- 8. National Panchayati Raj Day in India. It began in 2010. It marks passing of Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 that came into force with effect from 24 April 1993. On this occasion -
  - NAMITVA Scheme to entire nation. He also launched distribution of e-property cards to 4.09 lakh property owners.
    - Central Sector Scheme Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas' (SVAMITVA) was launched by PM on 24th April 2020, in pilot phase. It aims at socio-economic empowerment of rural mass and making them self-reliant.
    - \ It was approved for implementation at an outlay of 566 crores, over 5 years (2020-2025). It will cover approx 6.62 lakh villages.
  - 🔪 PM also confered National Panchayat Awards 2021, in mentioned categories -
    - 🥄 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (224 Panchayats)
    - 🥄 Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (30 Gram Panchayats)
    - 🥄 Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award (29 Gram Panchayats)
    - 🥄 Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award (30 Gram Panchayats)
    - 🔪 e-Panchayat Puraskar (12 States) -
      - 🥄 Uttar Pradesh ranked at top, followed by Assam and Chhattisgarh at 2nd Odisha, Tamil Nadu at 3rd.
- 9. Apr 10 is observed as **World Homoeopathy Day**. It marks Birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of Homoeopathy. He was born on 10 April 1755.
- 10. Apr 11 is observed as National Safe Motherhood Day in India.
  - 🥄 In 2003, Govt. marked M K Gandhi's Wife Kasturba Gandhi's birth anniversary on April 11 as National Safe Motherhood Day.
  - 🥄 April 11 is also observed globally as World Parkinson's Day.
- 11. Apr 12 is marked as International Day of Human Space Flight. It commemorates Yuri Gagarin's historic spaceflight on Apr 12, 1961.
  - Nay was proclaimed by UN in 2011. In 1957, first human made earth satellite Sputnik I was launched into outer space. On April 12, 1961, Yuri Gagarin became the first man to orbit earth successfully.
- 12. Apr 13 is anniversary of Jallianwala Bagh massacre, when on 13 April 1919, Reginald Dyer ordered troops of British Indian Army to fire into a crowd of unarmed Indian civilians, killing over 1000 people.
- 13. Apr 15 is observed as World Art Day, being observed since 2012.

- 14. Apr 17 is observed as World Hemophilia Day, observed by World Federation of Hemophilia.
- 15. ▶ Apr 18 is observed as **World Heritage Day**, also as International Day of Monuments and sites. It was proclaimed by UNESCO in 1983. 2021 Theme is **Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures**.
  - Non this occasion, Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated first Online Exhibition on Ramayana, the Epic by Maharishi Valmiki.
- 16. ▶ Apr 2 is observed as World Autism Awareness Day, proclaimed in 2007.
  - 🔪 Apr 2 is also observed as International Children's Book Day (ICBD).
- 17. ▶ Apr 21 is marked as National Civil Services Day.
  - It was on this day in 1947, That First Home Minister Sardar Shri Vallabhai Patel addressed first batch probationers of Administrative Services.
  - New Apr 21 is also observed as World Creativity and Innovation Day.
- 18. Apr 22 is observed as World Earth Day, Being Observed Since 1970. 2021 Theme is Restore Our Earth. On this occasion -
  - NASA launched four astronauts to International Space Station. SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket propelled Crew Dragon spacecraft with NASA astronauts Shane Kimbrough and Megan McArthur, along with JAXA astronaut Akihiko Hoshide and ESA astronaut Thomas Pesquet, for a 6 month mission.
  - Note: The Council Launched (IGBC Mission on Net Zero).
  - 🔪 Apr 22, 2021 is also observed as International Girls in ICT Day, observed annually on fourth Thursday in April.
  - Indian Firm Wipro announced its goal to achieve Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2040, in line with objective of Paris Agreement to cap temperature rise to 1.5 C.
- 19. ▶ Apr 23 is observed as UNESCO **World Book and Copyright Day**. It is being observed since 1995. For 2021, Tbilisi (Capital of Georgia) is declared as World Book Capital.
  - 🥄 Apr 23 is also observed as Global English Language Day and Spanish Language Day.
  - April 23 also observed as Khongjom Day in Indian state of Manipur, commemorating warriors who fought in 1891 Anglo-Manipur war.
    - 🔪 War was fought between 31 March and 27 April of 1891. It resulted in victory of British.
    - The war has its significance in Indian history for bravery of soldiers that fought against three sides of British attack, that is, from Silchar, Kohima and Myanmar. Battle was fought at the Kheba hills of Khongjom in Manipur, hence named Khongjom Day.

- 20. Apr 25 is observed as **World Malaria Day**, established by World Health Organization in 2007. 2021 Theme is Zero malaria starts with me (2019-2021).
  - Apr 25 also marks International **Delegate's Day**. It was first observed in 2020, on 75th anniversary of San Francisco Conference (1945).
  - 🔪 Apr 25 is also observed as World Penguin Day.
- 21. Apr 26 is observed as **World Intellectual Property Day**, established by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 2000. On 26 Apr in 1970, WIPO had come in force. 2021 Theme is *Intellectual property and small businesses: Taking big ideas to market*.
  - Apr 26 is also observed as UN International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day, Proclaimed in 2016. It aims to raise awareness of consequences of 1986 Chernobyl disaster and risks of nuclear energy.
- 22. Apr 29 International Dance Day. It marks birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre (born on 29 April 1727), a French dancer, and creator of modern ballet, and great reformer of dance.
- 23. Apr 30 is observed as Ayushman Bharat Diwas, being observed since 2018. Under Ayushman Bharat / Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), Health Insurance of 5 lakh rupees per family is given to a family.
  - 🔪 Apr 30 is also Observed as International Jazz Day, declared by UNESCO in 2011.
- 24. Apr 5 is observed as National Maritime Day in India, being observed since 1964.
  - The saga of India shipping started on April 5, 1919, when SS Loyalty, the first ship of The Scindia Steam Navigation Company travelled from Mumbai to United Kingdom (London).
- 25. Apr 5 is observed as UN International Day of Conscience, being observed by UN since 2020.
- 26. Apr 6 is observed as International **Day of Sport for Development and Peace**.
  - Napr 6 is also known as World Table Tennis Day, observed since 2015.
- 27. Apr 7 is observed as **World Health Day**, with 2021 theme *Building a Fairer and Healthier World for Everyone*. It marks establishment of World Health Organization, on Apr 7, 1948.
  - 🥄 April 7 is also observed as International Day of Reflection on 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.
- 28. Apr 9 is observed as CRPF's Valour Day.
  - A CRPF contingent on April 9, 1965 fought against Pakistanis in Rann of Kutch, eliminating 34 Pakistani Soldiers, losing 6 CRPF Soldiers.
- 29. April 14th is Birth Anniversary of **B R Ambedkar**. He campaigned against social discrimination towards *Dalits*. He was independent India's first law and justice minister, and architect of Constitution of India. His Birth anniversary is observed as Social Justice Day, announced in 2018. Note that UN World Day of Social Justice is observed on Feb 20.

- 🔪 On this occasion -
  - 🥄 Govt declared April 14 (B R Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary) as public holiday.
  - A rare short film made on Dr. B R Ambedkar in 1968 has been acquired by National Film Archive of India. Film is in Marathi, titled 'Mahapurush Dr. Ambedkar'.
  - NM Modi released four books based on B R Ambedkar's life, written by **Kishor Makwana**. Books are Dr. Ambedkar Jivan Darshan, Dr. Ambedkar Vyakti Darshan, Dr Ambedkar Rashtra Darshan, and Dr. Ambedkar Aayam Darshan.
  - Note to honour BR Ambedkar.
- April 14 is also observed as World Chagas Disease Day, to increase awareness of Chagas disease. It is observed since 2020.
- 🔪 Apr 14 is also observed as National Fire Service Day in India.
- 30. April 15 is observed as Himachal Day.
  - 🥄 It came into being as a centrally administered territory on 15 April 1948, after integration of thirty erstwhile princely states.
  - 🥄 Himachal Pradesh became a union territory on 1 November 1956.
  - \ Later, on 25 Jan 1971, Himachal Pradesh became 18th state of India.
- 31. April 24 is Observed as -
  - 🥄 International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, observed since 2019.
  - 🔪 World Day for Laboratory Animals.
  - 🔪 Apr 24, 2021 is also observed as World Veterinary Day. It is observed on Last Saturday of April.
- 32. Aug 01 is observed as **Muslim Women's Rights Day**, to mark enacting of law that made Triple Talaq a criminal offence. Triple Talaq Bill was passed by Both houses in July 2019. The day is observed since 2020.
- 33. Aug 10 is observed as **World Biofuel Day**, to create awareness about importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels. Theme set by India's Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for WBD 2021 is *Biofuels for Sustainability and Rural Income*.
  - 🔪 On this occasion -
    - Narendra Modi launched Ujjwala 2.0 at Mahoba (Uttar Pradesh), aiming to issue deposit-free LPG connections to one crore additional families who could not be covered under earlier phase of PMUY.
    - Nalso, India's national Policy on Biofuels 2018 aims 5% blending of Biodiesel in HSD by 2030.
  - Naug 10 is also birth anniversary of V V Giri, 4th president of India Between 1969 1974.
  - 🥄 Aug 10 is also observed as World Lion Day.

- 34. Aug 12 **International Youth Day**, proclaimed by UN General Assembly (UNGA) in December 1999. 2021 Theme is *Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health*.
  - On This occasion, Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur confered National Youth Awards 2017-18 and 2018-19 to 22 awardees. He also felicitated 10 young winning entrepreneur teams of agri-enterprise challenge S.O.L.V.E.D 2021 (Social Objectives-Led Volunteer Enterprise Development).
- 35. Aug 12 is Observed as World **Elephant Day**, being observed since 2012.
  - Non this occaison, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav released population estimation protocol to be adopted for All India elephant and tiger population estimation in 2022, which are to be converged for the First time.
  - Aug 12 is also Birth anniversary of ISRO Founder Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, knows as father of India's Space Proramme. It is observed as National Remote Sensing Day.
- 36. ▶ Aug 13 World organ donation day.
  - 🥄 Aug 13 is also observed as International Left-Handers Day.
  - 13 August is also commemorated as "Patriots Day" in Manipur, to honour Kangeilpak soldiers that lost their lives during Anglo-Manipur War.
- 37. Aug 19 UN **World Humanitarian Day**, Being observed since 2009. It is dedicated to recognize humanitarian personnel and those who have lost their lives working for humanitarian causes. 2021 theme is *The Human Race*.
  - Nug 19 is also observed as World Photography Day.
  - 🥄 Aug 19 is also birth anniversary of 9th president of India Shanker Dayal Sharma.
- 38. Aug 20 is observed as World Mosquito Day, to raise awareness about causes of malaria and how it can be prevented. 2021 theme is Reaching the zero-malaria target.
  - \ It commemorates discovery by British doctor Sir Ronald Ross in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans. In 1902, Ross won Nobel Prize for Medicine becoming first British person to receive the award.
- 39. Aug 24 is observed as World Gujarati Day, Marking Poet Narmad's birth anniversary.
- 40. Aug 29 is observed as National Sports Day in India. It marks birth anniversary of India's hockey legend, Major Dhyan Chand.
  - 🔪 Notably -
    - Recently, Govt renamed India's Highest Sports Honour Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.
    - This year, Govt delayed conferment of National Sports Awards 2021, to include consideration of performance in 2020 Olympics and Paralympics into selection criteria.

- 🔪 On this Ocaasion -
  - Sports Minister Anurag Thakur launched Fit India Mobile Application at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in Delhi, to celebrate second anniversary of Fit India Movement and as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
  - Neresident Ram Nath Kovind laid foundation stone for Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath AYUSH Vishwavidyalaya at Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh).
- Nug 29 is also observed as UN International Day Against Nuclear Tests, established in December 2009.
- Aug 29 is also observed as **Telugu Language Day**, to mark birthday of Telugu poet Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy. Govt of Andhra Pradesh provides funds and presents awards, to promote Telugu language.
- 41. Aug 30 is observed as National Small Industry Day In India, to support and promote small Industries for their overall growth.
  - 🥄 Aug 30 is also observed as UN International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances.
- 42. Aug 7 is observed as **National Handloom Day**, being observed since 2015. It commemorates Swadeshi movement that was launched On Aug 7, 1905. It focuses on contribution of handloom to the socio economic development of the country and also increase the income of weavers.
- 43. Aug 8 is observed in India as *Quit India Movement Day*, which marks launching of Quit India Movement at Bombay session of All India Congress Committee by M K Gandhi, on 8 August 1942, demanding end to British rule in India.
  - Also, Sarla Thukral, first Indian woman to pilot an aircraft, has been honoured by Google with a Doodle on her 107th birth anniversary on Aug 08, 2021.
- 44. Aug 9 is observed as **International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples** (Also called World Tribal Day). 2021 Theme is *Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract*.
  - The day was proclaimed by UNGA in 1994. August 9 marks 1st meeting of UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations of Sub-Commission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights was held in 1982.
  - August 9 also marks anniversary of atomic bombing in Nagasaki during World War II. The incident took place on August 9, 1945, when United States dropped an atomic bomb named Fat Man, on Nagasaki in Japan.
    - Three Days Earlier, on Aug 6, An atomic bomb named Little Boy was dropped on Hiroshima (Japan). The two bombings killed between 129000 and 226000 people, most of whom were civilians. It still remains only use of nuclear weapons in armed conflict.
  - National Traders' Day.
- 45. August 14 is observed as Naga Independence Day, celebrated in states of Nagaland and Manipur.

- When India became independent from British rule, Nagas under Naga National Council wished to remain free. On 14 August 1947, Nagas declared independence of Naga region. Nagas did not take part in first and second general elections held in 1952 and 1957 respectively.
- Nalso, Govt decided to observe 14th August every year as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day (विभाजन विभीषिका स्मृति दिवस), to commemorate sacrifice of people who faced pain during violence during India-Pakistan partition in 1947.
- 46. ▶ First Ever UN International Day for People of African Descent has been observed on 31 August 2021.
  - Notably, UN is observing International Decade for People of African Descent, between 2015-2024.
- 47. Jul 17 World Day for International Justice. It marks adoption of Rome Statute in 1998. With help of this treaty International Criminal Court (ICC) was established.
- 48. July 10 is observed as **National Fish Farmers Day**, proclaimed by Government in 2001.
  - It is celebrated in remembrance of scientists Dr. K. H. Alikunhi and Dr. H.L. Chaudhury who successfully demonstrated technology of induced breeding (Hypophysation) in Indian Major Carps on 10th July, 1957 at erstwhile 'Pond Culture Division' of CIFRI at Cuttack.
- 49. July 15 World Youth Skills Day. On 18 December 2014, UN General Assembly (UNGA) declared 15th July as World Youth Skills Day.
  - \ July 15 also marks Anniversary of Skill India Mission (Pradhanmantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna ), in which over 1.25 crore youth have been trained so far. It was launched by PM Narendra Modi on July 15, 2015.
  - Nalso, Jul 15 is observed as Educational Development Day in Tamil Nadu, to mark birth Anniversary of Former CM K Kamaraj.
  - 🥄 Also, India's National Plastic Surgery Day, which is observed on July 15, has now been Adopted as World Plastic Surgery Day.
- 50. July 18 UN **Nelson Mandela International Day**, proclaimed by United Nations in 2009, and first UN Mandela Day held in July 2010.
  - Notably, United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize was established by UN in 2014, awarded every 5 years. It was last awarded in 2020, to Guinean doctor Morissana Kouyate and Marianna Vardinoyannis of Greece.
- 51. July 2 is observed as World **Sports Journalists Day**.
  - July 2 is also observed as World UFO (Unidentified Flying Objects) day, observed since 2001. On some places, it is observed on June 24, the date on which 9 unusual objects were saw flying over Washington (USA) in 1947.
- 52. July 20 International Chess Day, marks founding of International Chess Federation in 1924.
- 53. July 20 is observed as Space Exploration Day, marking Anniversary of NASA's Apollo 11 Mission, which was spaceflight that first landed humans on the Moon. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin formed American crew that landed Apollo Lunar Module Eagle on July 20, 1969.

- Note that They spent about two and a quarter hours together outside the spacecraft, and collected 47.5 pounds (21.5 kg) of lunar material to bring back to Earth. This day marks man's first historic landing and walk on the surface of another celestial body.
- 54. July 23 is observed as **National broadcasting Day** in India. On this day in 1927, 1st ever radio broadcast in country went on the air from Bombay Station under a private company called Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC).
  - 🔪 July 23 is also birth anniversary of Legendary Indian Freedom Fighters Chandra Shekhar Azad and Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
- 55. July 24 is Observed by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) as Income Tax Day (Aayakar Diwas). On this day in 1860, Income Tax was introduced for first time in India by James Wilson.
- 56. July 26 is Observed as International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, adopted by UNESCO in 2015.
- 57. ▶ July 26 marks **Kargil Vijay Diwas**. On this date in 1999, India took command of high outposts which were captured by Intruding Pakistanis.
- 58. July 28 is observed by World Health Organization as *World Hepatitis Day*. 2021 theme is *Hepatitis can't wait*.
  - 🔪 July 28 is also observed as World Nature Conservation Day.
- 59. July 29 is observed as World Tiger Day. It was proclaimed in 2010 at Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia where signatories declared an agreement that the governments of tiger populated counties would double tiger population by 2022, termed as TX2. 2021 Theme is *Their Survival is in our hands*.
  - 🔪 In 2018, Nepal became first country to double tiger population. India also doubled tiger population in 2018.
  - Nas per 4th All India Tiger Estimation 2018 (Released in 2019)-
    - 🔪 India has 70 % of world's tiger population.
    - Number of Tiger reserves in India has reached 50, up from 9 in 1973. Earlier 3 Tiger estimation reports were released in 2006, 2010, 2014.
    - Nount of tigers in India rose to 2967 in 2018. Count grew from 1,411 in 2006 to 2,226 in 2014 and to 2,967 in 2018.
    - 🥄 Top 5 States Madhya Pradesh (526), Karnataka (524), Uttarakhand (442), Maharashtra (312) and Tamil Nadu (264).
  - Notably, India's 14 Tiger Reserves received Global CA/TS recognition for good Tiger Conservation standards.
- 60. July 3, 2021 is Observed as UN **International Day of Cooperatives**. 2021 Theme is Rebuild better together. It is observed on First Saturday of July.
- 61. ▶ July 30 is observed as UN **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons**, proclaimed by UN General Assembly in 2013. 2021 theme is *Victims' Voices Lead the Way*.
  - Iuly 30 is also birth anniversary of Muthulakshmi Reddi, India's first female legislator and also known as a woman of many firsts.

    Tamil Nadu Government declared that every year hospitals will celebrate her birth anniversary as 'Hospital Day.'

- 🔪 Jul 30, 2020 is also named as International Day of Friendship.
- 62. July 31 is observed as World Ranger Day, to mark founding day of International Ranger Federation (IRF) on this day in 1992.
- 63. July 4 marks US Independence Day, commemorating Declaration of Independence of United States on July 4, 1776.
- 64. June 1 World Milk Day. It has been marked by Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), observed since 2001.
  - Nov 26 is observed as **National Milk Day** In India, to commemorate birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, father of India's White Revolution. India is top Milk Producer Nation, followed by US.
  - \( \) June 1 is also observed by United Nations as Global Day of Parents.
- 65. June 11 is observed as Green Mizoram Day in Mizoram State.
- 66. June 12 **World Day against Child Labour**. 2021 theme *Act now: end child labour*. It was established by International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2002.
- 67. June 13 is observed as International **Albinism Awareness Day** (IAAD). 2021 Theme is *Strength Beyond All Odds*.
- 68. June 14 is observed as World Blood Donor Day.
- 69. ▶ June 15 is observed as UN World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.
  - 🥄 June 15 is also observed as Global Wind Day.
- 70. June 16 International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR).
- 71. June 17 World Day to **Combat Desertification and Drought** (WDCDD), proclaimed in Jan 1995 by United Nations General Assembly. 2020 theme is *Restoration*. *Land*. *Recovery*. On this occasion -
  - **\ 2021** Land for Life Award has been won by Familial Forestry of Rajasthan, a unique concept that relates a tree with a family, making it a green family member.
    - NUN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) organises Land for Life Award every two years to recognize excellence and innovation in efforts towards land in balance. Theme for 2021 Award is "Healthy Land, Healthy Lives".
    - Land for Life Award was launched at UNCCD COP 10 in 2011, and is considered world's highest reward regarding land conservation and restoration.
  - Environment Ministry released latest version of *Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India*, published by Space Application Centre, ISRO, Ahmedabad. It provides state wise area of degraded lands for time frame 2018-19.
- 72. June 18 is observed by UN as Sustainable Gastronomy Day.
  - 🥄 June 18 is also observed as Autistic Pride Day.
- 73. June 19 is observed as World Sickle Cell Day, to raise public awareness about sickle cell disease and its treatment methods. It was proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly in 2008.

- Sickle Cell Disease is a commonly occurring genetic disease. It is an inherited genetic abnormality of hemoglobin (oxygen-carrying protein found in red blood cells) due to which red blood cells (RBCs) causes stuck in small blood vessels and are unable to carry adequate amount of oxygen throughout body.
- Nune 19 is also observed as International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict.
- \ June 19 is also observed as National Reading Day, to honour father of Library Movement in Kerala, P.N. Panicker whose death anniversary falls on June 19.
- 74. June 2 is Statehood Day of **Telangana**, which was formed in 2014 as India's 29th State.
- 75. June 20 UN **World Refugee Day**, Proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly in Dec 2000. 2021 Theme is *Together we can achieve anything*.
- 76. June 21 UN International Yoga Day, being Observed Since 2015. 2021 Theme is Yoga for well-being.
  - Non this occasion -
    - 🦠 PM Narendra Modi launched *WHO M-Yoga* App, developed by Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga.
    - 🔪 Ayush Minister Kiren Rijiju launched *Namaste Yoga* app, to raise awareness about yoga and make it accessible.
    - Nealth Minister addressed inaugural ceremony of Global Yoga Conference 2021.
    - 🔪 India Post issued a special cancellation stamp, through its 810 Head Post offices.
    - 🔪 Education Minister of State Sanjay Dhotre launched NIOS Diploma course in Yogic Science.
  - 🔪 Other Observations Made on June 21 -
    - 🔪 World Music Day.
      - 🥄 First all-day musical celebration on the day of the summer solstice was celebrated in Paris in 1982.
      - Note this Observance, French integrated content, media and communications group Vivendi partnered with Grammy winner Ricky Kej for "My Earth Concert for Kids".
    - Nummer Solstice day. Summer Solstice is longest day of year which marks official start of summer season in Northern hemisphere.
      - Ninternational Day of Celebration of the Solstice was proclaimed by UN General Assembly in 2019.
    - Norld Hydrography Day, Proclaimed by International Hydrographic Organization in 2005.
- 77. June 23 United Nations Public Service Day, proclaimed in 2003.
  - 🔪 June 23 is also observed as International Olympics Day and UN International Widows' Day.
  - Vune 23 is Death Anniversary of Noted politician Syama Prasad Mukherjee, who founded Bharatiya Jana Sangh (the predecessor to Bharatiya Janata Party).

- 78. June 25 is observed as International Day of Seafarer (DotS).
  - 🥄 June 25 is also observed as World Vitiligo Day.
- 79. June 26 **International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**, Proclaimed by United Nation General Assembly in December 1987 and Observed since 1989. 2021 Theme is Share Facts On Drugs, Save Lives.
  - Nune 26 is also observed as International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.
- 80. ▶ June 27 International **MSME Day**, being observed since 2017. 2021 theme is MSME 2021: key to an inclusive and sustainable recovery.
  - Non this occasion, MSME and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari called for creation of Ratings system for MSMEs and Dashboard for effective monitoring of schemes.
- 81. June 28, 2021, is 100th Birth Anniversary of P. V. Narasimha Rao, 9th Prime Minister of India.
- 82. June 29 is observed as **National Statistics Day** in India.
  - **1** 2021 Theme is Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)- 2 (End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture).
  - 🦠 It is celebrated annually on occasion of Birth anniversary of India's eminent statistician, Late Prof Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis.
  - Nardees -
    - Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis National Award in Official Statistics for lifetime achievements was conferred upon Dr. R. B. Barman (Former Chairman of National Statistical Commission).
    - Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis National Award in Official Statistics in category of **in-service Official Statistician** above 45 years age, was conferred upon Dr. Sitabhra Sinha (Professor at Institute of Mathematical Sciences Chennai).
    - Prof. C.R. Rao National Award in Statistics for Young Statisticians was given to Dr. Kiranmoy Das (Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata).
  - Iune 29 is also observed by UN as International **Day of the Tropics**, proclaimed by UN in 2016.
- 83. June 3 World Bicycle Day, declared by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2018. It promotes use of Bicycle for its environmental and health benefits.
- 84. June 30 is observed annually as International **Asteroid Day**. It marks event anniversary of Tunguska event in 1908, when an asteroid leveled about 2,150 square kilometres forest in Siberia.
  - Nune 30 is also observed as UN International Day of Parliamentarism, proclaimed in 2018.
  - Nune 30 is also observed as World Social Media Day.
- 85. June 5 World Environment Day, designated by United Nation General Assembly (UNGA) in 1972. It was first celebrated in 1974.

- 2021 Theme is *Ecosystem Restoration*. It is hosted in Pakistan in 2021. India was host Nation in 2018.
- Non this occasion -
  - 🔪 UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030 has been launched, which was proposed by El Salvador in 2019.
  - Films Division presented *Oasis of Hope* online festival, to mark WED.
  - 🔪 A New product category of Green Room Air Conditioners has been launched on Government e-Marketplace (GeM).
  - NTPC become a signatory to UN Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate, joining coveted league of companies that focus on efficient water management.
  - NAME NAME NOT THE NAME OF THE EXPERT COMMITTEE ON Road Map for ethanol blending in India 2020-2025. Govt has reset target to achieve 20 % ethanol blending in petrol by 2025, compared to target of 2030 earlier.
  - Naryana Govt announced creating a 80 acres of Oxi-van in Karnal district, consisting 10 types of forests.
- \ June 5 is also observed as International Day for the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, observed by UN Food and Agriculture Organization since 2018.
- 86. June 7 is observed as World **World Food Safety Day**, with 2021 theme 'Food Safety, everyone's business'. It was First Observed in 2019, facilitated by World Health Organisation (WHO) in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of United Nations (UN).
- 87. ▶ June 8 World Oceans Day. 2021 theme is 'The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods'.
- 88. Mar 01 is observed as **Zero Discrimination Day** annually by UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS). It has been observed since 2014.
  - Nar 1 is observed as Civil Accounts Day in India, since 1976.
- 89. Mar 14 is observed as International **Pi**  $(\pi)$  **Day**, observed since 1988.
  - Nalso, UNESCO Observes Mar 14 as International Day of Mathematics, Proclaimed in 2019.
  - Nar 14 is also observed as International Day of Action for Rivers.
- 90. Mar 15 is observed as **World Consumer Rights Day**. 2021 Theme is *Tackling Plastic Pollution*.
- 91. Mar 20 is observed as **International Day of Happiness**, with 2021 Theme *Happiness For All, Forever*. It has been observed by UN since 2013.
  - 🔪 UN released World Happiness Report 2021 (149 Nations Analyzed for 6 Variables) -
    - 🔪 India is named among most unhappy nations, ranked 139th, compared to 144th last year.
    - Nop 5 Finland (1), Denmark (2), Switzerland (3), Iceland (4), Netherlands (5)
    - Notion 3 Afghanistan (149), Zimbabwe (148), Rwanda (147)

- 🔪 Mar 20 is also observed as UN French Language Day.
- Nar 20 is also observed as World Sparrow Day. 2021 Theme is I Love Sparrows.
- 🥄 Mar 20 is also Observed as World day of theatre for children and Young People.
- 🔪 Mar 20 is also observed as World Oral Health Day. Theme for 2021-2023 is Be Proud Of Your Mouth.
- 92. Mar 21 is observed as -
  - 🔪 UN International **Day of Forests**, proclaimed in 2012. 2021 Theme is *Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being.*
  - Norld Down Syndrome Day, Observed since 2006.
  - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Proclaimed in 1966. 2021 Theme is *Youth standing up against racism*.
  - 🔪 World Poetry Day, Proclaimed by UNESCO in 1999.
  - Norld Puppetry Day.
- 93. Mar 22 is observed Globally as World Water Day, Being Observed by UN since 1993. 2021 Theme is Valuing water. On this occasion -
  - Narendra Modi launched *Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain* campaign, for Promoting water conservation. This campaign will be implemented across country from March 22 to November 30, 2021.
  - Vuttar Pradesh Govt signed agreement to implement **Ken Betwa Link Project (KBLP)**, the first project of the National Perspective Plan for interlinking of rivers.
    - \ It will mark beginning of inter-state cooperation to implement vision of carrying water from areas that have surplus water to drought prone and water deficit areas through interlinking of rivers.
    - NBLP involves transfer of water from Ken to Betwa River through construction of Daudhan Dam and a canal linking the two rivers. It will provide annual irrigation of 10.62 lakh ha, drinking water supply to about 62 lakhs people and generate 103 MW power.
    - 🔪 It will immensely benefit water starved region of Bundelkhand, spread across MP and UP.
  - \ United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) partnered with Denmark Government, to support India's flagship programme, Jal Jeevan Mission, to provide strategic technical support to Jal Jeevan Mission. UNOPS shall focus on scalable delivery models in focused 11 water-scare districts of Uttar Pradesh in Bundelkhand and Vindhya regions.
  - **■** UNESCO felicitated winners of water conservation awareness programme *H2Ooooh! Waterwise program for children of India*, along with screening of their winning animation short films.
    - VINESCO launched this programme in 2020, in partnership with National Mission for Clean Ganga, United Schools Organization (USO), Water Digest and India based global animation major Toonz Media Group.

- 94. Mar 22 is observed as **Bihar Diwas**, marking formation of state of Bihar. On Mar 22 i 1912, British had carved out Bihar from Bengal.
- 95. Mar 23 is Obvserved As Martyr's Day (Shaheedi Diwas) in India. It marks death anniversary of Great Freedom Fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru on 23 March 1931, in Lahore (Pakistan).
  - 🔪 On this occasion, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Smarak was inaugurated in New Delhi by Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.
  - Also, On this occasion, A Commemorative Postage Stamp was released, to mark 100 Years of First Visit of M K Gandhi to Odisha (On 23rd March, 1921.
  - 🔪 In India, apart from Mar 23, there are 5 otherd days declared as Martyrs' Day-
    - 🥄 Jan 30 Date of Assasination of M K Gandhi by Shri Nathuram Godse, is Observed as Martyr's Day.
    - May 19 Bengali Language Movement of Barak Valley in Assam was a protest against decision of Government of Assam to make Assamese only official language of state, even though significant proportion of population were Bengali. Main incident, in which 15 people were killed by state police, took place on 19 May 1961. 19 May is thus designated Bhasha Shahid Divas ("Language Martyrs Day").
    - 1 October is Police Martyrs' Day. On this date in 1959, a CPRF patrol at Indo-Tibetan border in Ladakh was ambushed by Chinese forces.
    - 🔪 Odisha observes 17 November, death anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai as Martyr's Day.
    - 🦠 Birthday of Rani Lakshmibai, 19 November is observed as Martyrs' Day in Maharashtra.
  - Nar 23 is also Birth Anniversary of Noted Freedom Activist Ram Manohar Lohia.
- 96. Mar 23 is observed as **World Meteorological Day**, to mark establishment of World Meteorological Organization on Mar 23, 1950.
- 97. ▶ Mar 24 World Tuberculosis Day. 2021 Theme is *The clock is ticking*.
  - On this occasion, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan launched *Tribal TB Initiative*, as a step towards achieving 'TB Mukt Bharat' by 2025.
  - Nar 24 is also observed as International Day for Achievers.
- 98. Mar 25 is observed as -
  - National Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade
  - 🥄 International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members.
- 99. Mar 27 is observed as World Theatre Day, proclaimed in 1961 by International Theatre Institute.
  - Also, on Mar 27, Earth Hour was observed, as a worldwide movement organized by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
    - Nevent is held annually by encouraging turning off non-essential electric lights for one hour (8:30 to 9:30 p.m.), on a specific day towards end of March, as a symbol of commitment to the planet.

- 100. Mar 3 is observed as **World Hearing Day**. 2021 theme is *Hearing Care for All*. On this occasion -
  - Norld Health Organization (WHO) published first world report on hearing on World Hearing Day 2021. It states that 25 % People will be experiencing mild-to-profound hearing loss by 2050.
  - Neath Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurated six new 'Outreach Service Centers for Communication Disorders' across country by All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH) Mysuru. They are IGIMS Patna, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, and Karnataka's Bidar IMS, Belagavi IMS, Karnataka IMS, and Sri Devaraj Urs Academy of Higher Education and Research.
- 101. ▶ Mar 3 is observed as UN **World Wildlife Day**. 2021 Theme is *Forests and Livelihoods: sustaining people and planet*. It was proclaimed in 1973.
- 102. Mar 30 is statehood day of State of **Rajasthan**, established on Mar 30, 1949.
- 103. Mar 4 is observed as National Security / Safety Day in India, as a tribute to all security forces of country. It was observed with theme *Road Safety*. National Safety Council was set up on 4 March 1966.
- 104. ▶ Mar 7 is observed as *Janaushadhi Diwas*, with Mar 1 7 observed as *Janaushadhi Week*. Theme is *Jan Aushadhi Seva bhi*, *Rozgar bhi*. 2021 is 3rd observerance of Janaushadhi Diwas.
  - Non this occasion, PM Narendra Modi launched 7500th Jan Aushadhi Kendra at North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS) Shillong.
- 105. Mar 8 is observed as **International Women's Day**. 2021 Theme is **choose to challenge**. United Nations began celebrating the day in 1977. On this occasion -
  - Soogle announced to support 1 million rural women entrepreneurs in India during its virtual event called Women Will. It also launched a global Google.org Impact Challenge for Women, under which Google will provide \$25 million in grants to enterprises that are doing important work to help women and girls reach their full potential.
  - NDFC Bank launched **SmartUp Unnati mentoring Programm**, to support women entrepreneurs. It will initially target over 3000 women entrepreneurs, who will be assisted by Bank's senior women executive leaders.
  - New Environment Minister Prakash Javedkar launchesd e-book The Green Queens of India A nation's pride.
  - Ministry of Women and Child Development informed that, all major schemes of Ministry have been classified under 3 umbrella schemes viz. Mission Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti.
  - 🔪 Jammu and Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha launched Super-75 scholarship scheme to support education of meritorious girls in UT.
  - 🔪 Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launched Savings Account catering to financial needs of women, called *Garima Savings Account*.
  - Yes Bank launchd women-centric 'Yes Essence' services that will offer preferentially-priced loans and healthcare benefits, among other services.

- Nodisha government will set up a new department namely *Mission Shakti*, to work towards strengthening *self help groups*, by bringing them all under one platform to ensure greater focus and synergy and to avoid duplication in activities.
- 🦠 Firs first flight landed at Trishul airport of Bareilly, with an all-women crew, Making Bareilly 8th Airport in Uttar Pradesh.
- 106. ▶ May 1 Labour Day, also known as International Worker's Day and May Day. In India, first celebration of the Labour Day was organised in Madras by Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan on May 1, 1923.
  - Labour Day commemorates happenings of May 4, 1886, the Haymarket affair (Haymarket Massacre) in the Chicago. It was a big event as workers were on the general strike for their eight-hour workday, with protests getting violent.
- 107. May 1 is Formation day of Gujarat and Maharashtra. Both states were formed on May 01, 1960, when Bombay state was split.
  - 🔪 May 1, 2021 also marked as 400th Prakash Prav of Guru Teg Bahadur Ji (9th Sikh Guru).
- 108. May 10, 2021 is observed as First ever UN International Day of Argania.
  - Argan tree is a native species of the sub-Saharan region of Morocco, which is resilient to a harsh environment under water scarcity, risk of erosion and poor soils.
- 109. ▶ May 11 National Technology Day in India.
  - \ It marks anniversary of Pokhran Nuclear Tests (Operation Shakti) of 1998. It was coined by late PM Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, as a reminder of India's technological advancements.
  - Nay 11 also marks flight of Hansa-3, India's first indigenous aircraft which was developed by National Aerospace Laboratories.
  - Nevery year, Technology Development Board seeks applications for National awards for commercialization of technologies under 3 categories National Awards, MSME awards, and Startup awards. In 2021, 15 winners have been selected for these awards.
- 110. ▶ May 12 International Nurses Day, Being observed since 1965. It is observed on Birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, noted British social reformer, statistician, and the founder of modern nursing. She was born on May 12, 1820. 2021 Theme is Nurses: A Voice to lead.
- 111. May 15 is observed as International **Day of Families**, proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly in 1993.
  - May 15, 2021 is observed as International Astronomy Day. It is Observed twice a year one in autumn and another in spring. Next Astronomy Day will be observed on October 9, 2021.
- 112. May 16 Statehood Day of Sikkim. Sikkim Joined Indian Union as 22nd state on May 16, 1975.
  - 🔪 On this occasion, Book Sikkim: A History of Intrigue and Alliance, written by Preet Mohan Singh Malik has been released.
  - 🔪 May 16 is also observed as UN International Day of Living Together in Peace.
  - May 16 is also observed as International Day of Light. It marks anniversary of first successful operation of laser in 1960 by physicist Theodore Maiman. It is being held since 2018.

- 🥄 May 16 is also observed as National Dengue Day in India.
- Nay 16 is also observed as World Agri Tourism Day.
- 113. May 17 World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD), first observed on 17 May, 1969. It marks establishment of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and also signing of first International Telegraph Convention in 1865 in Paris. 2021 Theme is Accelerating Digital Transformation in challenging times.
  - Nay 17 is also observed as **World Hypertension Day**, Observed Since 2006. 2021 Theme is *Measure Your Blood Pressure*, Control It, Live Longer.
- 114. May 18 is Observed as **International Museum Day**, held since 1977. 2021 Theme is *The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine*.

  May 18 is also observed as World AIDS Vaccine Day.
- 115. May 2, 2021 is 100th Birth Anniversary of Noted Filmmaker and Bharat Ratna Awardee **Satyajit Ray** (Born 2 May, 1921).
  - 🔪 Ministry of Information & Broadcasting will organise year-long centenary celebrations of Shri Satyajit Ray across India.
  - In recognition of his legacy, *Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema* has been instituted by govt, to be given at International Film Festival of India (IFFI) every year. It will consist of cash prize of 10 lakh rupees.
- 116. May 20 is observed as World Bee Day, being observed since 2018. 2021 Theme is Bee engaged Build Back Better for Bees".
  - Nay 20 is also observed as **World Metrology Day**. 2021 theme is Measurement for Health. The date is the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875.
- 117. May 21 is observed as **UN International Tea Day**, observed since 2020.
  - Nay 21 is also observed as World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, proclaimed by UNESCO in 2002.
- 118. May 21, death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, is observed as Anti-Terrorism Day in India.
- 119. ▶ May 22 **International Day for Biological Diversity** (IDB), first observed by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1993. 2021 Theme is **We're part of the solution**.
  - Non this occasion, *Shaji NM*, also called *Tuber Man* of Kerala, has been awarded India Biodiversity Award 2021 in individual category of *Conservation of domesticated species*. He conserves wide array of around 200 tuber crops.
- 120. ▶ May 24 **Commonwealth Day** in India. It is globally observed on Second Monday of March. However, in some nations Including India, it is observed on May 24.
  - May 24 is Birth Anniversary of Queen Victoria (1819), who was Queen of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 20 June 1837 until her death. On 1 May 1876, she adopted additional title of Empress of India.
- 121. May 26, 2021 observed by UN as Global *Vesak Day*, observed on Full Moon in May, as most sacred day to Buddhists around world. In India, it is observed as Buddha Purnima. It was on Day of *Vesak* that -

- 🔪 2.5 millennia ago, in 623 B.C., Buddha was born.
- Nuddha attained enlightenment.
- 🦠 Buddha in his eightieth year passed away.
- 122. ▶ May 28 is Birth Anniversary of Legendary freedom Fighter Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, also called Veer Savarkar. May 28 is also observed as International Day of Action for Women's Health.
  - Nay 28 is observed as World Hunger Day, an initiative of the Hunger Project.
- 123. ▶ May 29 is observed as International **Everest Day**. On this day in 1953, Nepalese Tenzing Norgay and New Zealand's Edmund Hillary climbed Mt. Everest, as first humans to achieve this feat.
  - Nepal decided to observe the day as International Everest Day in 2008 when the legendary climber Hillary passed away.
  - Notably, Hong Kong mountaineer *Tsang Yin-hung* recently recorded world's fastest ascent of Mt. Everest by a woman, in just 25 hours and 50 minutes.
  - 🔪 May 29 is also observed as World Digestive Health Day, by World Gastroenterology Organisation.
- 124. May 3 World **Press Freedom Day**. 2021 Theme is *Information as a Public Good* and host nation is *Namibia*.
  - \ In December 1993, UNGA following recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference proclaimed 3 May as World Press Freedom Day.
  - VINESCO marks World Press Freedom Day by conferring the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, created in 1997.
  - Investigative journalist and media executive Maria Ressa of Philippines has been named as 2021 laureate of UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
- 125. ▶ May 30 is statehood day for Goa. On this day in 1987, Goa became 25th state of India. It was a Union Territory along with Daman and Diu from December 1961 onwards when Goa was liberated from Portugese rule.
- 126. May 31 is Observed as **No Tobacco Day**, established by World Health Organization (WHO).
  - Non this occasion, World Health Organisation (WHO) Honored India's Health Minister Harsh Vardhan with WHO Director-General Special Recognition Award, for his works in area of tobacco control.
  - 🥄 WNTD is one of eight official global public health campaigns marked by WHO, Others are -
    - 🔪 World Health Day Apr 7
    - 🔪 World Blood Donor Day June 14
    - 🔪 World Immunization Week Last week of April
    - 🔪 World Tuberculosis Day Mar 24
    - 🔪 World Malaria Day Apr 25

- 🔪 World Hepatitis Day July 28
- 🔪 World AIDS Day Dec 1
- 127. May 4 is observed as International Firefighters' Day (IFFD), established in 1999, after deaths of five firefighters in a bushfire in Australia.
  - Nay 4 is also observed as Coal Miners Day.
  - 🔪 May 4, 2021 is also observed as World Asthma Day, observed on First Tuesday of May.
- 128. ▶ May 5 is observed as -
- 129. ▶ May 7 is Birth Anniversary of India's first Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. He started Vishwa Bharati University in Shantiniketan. His birth anniversary is also known as Pochise Boishakh.
- 130. ▶ May 8 World Red Cross Day, also known as Red Crescent Day. It commemorates birth anniversary of Henri Dunant (born on 8 May 1828), the founder of Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
  - Nay 8 is also observed as 'World Thalassaemia Day'.
  - Nay 8 is also observed as *Victory in Europe* Day, Marking formal end of World War II in Europe, when allied powers defeated German leader Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Forces, On May 8, 1945.
  - Nay 08, 2021 is Also observed as World Migratory Bird Day. It is observed on second Saturday in May and in October.
  - 🔪 May 8 9 every year is also observed as Time of Remembrance for Those Who Lost Their Lives during Second World War.
- 131. Dbservations on July 1 -
  - \ July 1 is Observed as GST (Goods & Services Tax) Day. GST regime came into Force on July 1 2017, unifying indirect taxes in India into One.
  - \ July 1 is observed as Doctors Day in India. This day honours legendary physician and second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy.
  - 🔪 July 1 is observed as Chartered Accountants Day In India.
  - 🥄 July 1 is Observed as National Postal Worker Day in India.
  - July 1 is observed as Foundation Day of SBI, India's Largest Bank. On 1 July 1955, Imperial Bank of India became State Bank of India.
  - \ July 1, 2021 marks 200th year anniversary of India's oldest running newspaper, Mumbai Samachar. The Gujarati newspaper, with its office located in an iconic red building at Horniman Circle in Mumbai's Fort area, was first published in 1822.
- 132. Odisha Day (Utkala Dibasa) is observed on 1 April, in memory of formation of state as a separate state out of Bihar, Bengal and Odisha provinces with addition of Koraput and Ganjam from Madras Presidency on 1 April 1936.
- 133. UT of Puducherry Observed its De-Jure day on 16th August, meaning The Legal Merger of the UT with the Indian Union.

- Nuducherry became independent by virtue of a referendum on October 18, 1954. But treaty of cession signed between French and Indian governments was ratified by French Parliament only on August 16, 1962.
- Nalso, Google paid a tribute to Indian activist and poet Subhadra Kumari Chauhan on her 117th birth anniversary, on Aug 16, 2021.
- 134. ▶ World Water Week is organized by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) since 1991, to address global water issues and concern. 2021 theme is *Building Resilience Faster*.

Top

## **Defence**

- 1. Tri Nation Table Top Anti-Narcotics & Maritime Search and Rescue exercise (Exercise Shield TTX2021) held between Maldives, Sri Lanka and India Navies, in virtual mode for the first time, with Indian Navy as lead agency and coordinated by Maritime Warfare Centre Mumbai.
- 2. 11th edition of Indo-US Joint Special Forces Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR 2021 conducted at Special Forces Training School located at Bakloh (Himachal Pradesh).
- 3. 12th Indo-Russia joint Army exercise INDRA-21 held at Volgograd (Russia).
  - Note that 12th edition of exercise INDRA NAVY 21, biennial maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Russian Navy was also held recently in Baltic Sea, attended by INS Tabar on India's Behalf. It also attended Russia Navy's 325th Navy Day celebrations.
- 4. 12th edition of exercise INDRA NAVY 21, biennial maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Russian Navy held in Baltic Sea, attended by INS Tabar on India's Behalf. It also attended Russia Navy's 325th Navy Day celebrations.
- 5. 19th edition of Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise VARUNA 2021 concluded in Arabian Sea.
- 6. ▶ 1st bilateral Naval exercise **AL Mohed AL Hindi**, between Indian and Saudi Arabian Navy held at King Abdulaziz Naval base in Al Jubail (Saudi Arabia).
- 7. 2nd edition of exercise **Zair-Al-Bahr** between Indian Navy and Qatar Navy conducted in Persian Gulf.
- 8. 5th edition of Indo-Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise KAZIND-21 began at Aisha Bibi (Kazakhstan), to last till 11 September 2021.
- 9. 7th edition of biennial event *Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)*, hosted by **French** Navy at *La Réunion*.
  - Now Ions was initiated by Indian Navy in 2008, to enhance maritime cooperation among Navies of littoral states of Indian Ocean Region. France has assumed Chairmanship in June 2021, for 2 years.
  - 🦠 Réunion Island is a French department in Indian Ocean, known for its volcanic, rainforested interior, coral reefs and beaches.
- 10. Sth Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Special Forces Exercise "Khanjar" began at Special Forces Brigade of National Guards of Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek.

- 11. Indian Naval Landing Craft Utility (LCU) L58, 8th and last ship of Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mark IV Class, has been commissioned into Indian Navy at Port Blair (Andaman & Nicobar Islands). It has been Indigenously built by GRSE Kolkata.
- 12. As per SIPRI Yearbook 2021 -
  - 9 nuclear armed states (US, Russia, UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea) together possessed estimated 13080 nuclear weapons at start of 2021, marking a decrease from 13400 estimation at beginning of 2020. However, number of deployed nuclear weapons increased to 3825, from 3720 last year.
  - Nations with number of Nuclear Warheads at beginning of 2021 -
    - NS 5550
    - Nussia 6255
    - VK 225
    - 🔪 France 290
    - China 350
    - 🔪 India 156
    - 🔪 Pakistan 165
    - 🔪 Israel 90
- 13. DRDO conducted First Trials of 5th generation Python-5 Air-to-Air Missile, onboard Indigenous Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA).
- 14. DRDO flight tested a New Generation Nuclear Capable Ballistic Missile **Agni P (Prime)**, as is a new generation advanced variant of Agni class of missiles. It is a canisterised missile with range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 kms.
- 15. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), under Chairmanship of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, approved issue of RFP for construction of 6 Conventional Submarines under **Project P** 75 (I), under Strategic Partnership Model, at cost 43000 Crores.
  - 🔪 It is first case processed under Strategic Partnership model, and will be one of largest 'Make in India' projects.
  - NAC also approved proposals concerning Capital Acquisitions of various equipment, amounting approx 6000 crores.
- 16. Govt approved a long-pending proposal to restructure nearly 200-year-old Ordnance Factory Board that operates 41 ammunition and military equipment production facilities into seven state-owned corporate entities, to improve its accountability, efficiency and competitiveness. 7 new entities will include -
  - Name Ammunition and Explosives group
  - Vehicles Group
  - 🔪 Weapons and Equipment group
  - 🔪 Troop Comfort Items group

- 🔪 Ancillary group
- Nopto-Electronics group
- Narachute group
- 17. India Joined Nations that possess nuclear missile tracking vessels, with Indian Navy commissioning its secretive Ocean Surveillance Ship Named INS Dhruv, earlier codenamed VC-11184.
  - New Text It will boost India's ballistic missile defense capability and electronic maritime warfare.
  - 🔪 Other nations with this capability are US, France, Russia and China.
- 18. India retained its position as 3rd biggest military spender in world in 2020, according to SIPRI Military Expenditure Report -
  - Top 5 US (\$778 billion), China (\$252 billion), India (\$72.9 billion), Russia (\$61.7 billion) and UK (\$59.2 billion).
  - Note: The Globally, military spending in 2020 rose to \$1981 billion, rise of 2.6 % compared to 2019.
- 19. ▶ India Uzbekistan joint military exercise **DUSTLIK II** commenced in Foreign Training Node Chaubatia at Ranikhet (Uttarakhand). 1st edition was held at Uzbekistan in Nov 2019.
- 20. Indian Air Force for the first time Participated in **Ex Desert Flag VI**, an annual multi-national warfare exercise hosted by **United Arab Emirates** Air Force. Nations incolved are UAE, India, USA, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Bahrain.
- 21. Indian Air Force formally inducted Rafale aircraft into 101 Squadron at Air Force Station Hasimara in Eastern Air Command.
  - 101 Squadron is second IAF Squadron to be equipped with Rafale aircraft. It was formed on 01 May 1949 at Palam, with active participation in 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars.
  - \ 1st Rafale squadron is *No.17 Golden Arrows* (Ambala). In September 2020, IAF inducted first batch of five Rafales of 36 jets, contracted under a €7.87 billion Inter-Governmental Agreement signed in September 2016.
- 22. Indian Army Formally Closed Down Military Farms, which were set up for supplying hygienic cow's milk to troops billeted in various garrisons across British India. First Military farm was raised on 01 Feb 1889 at Allahabad.
- 23. Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Ship **Vigraha**, seventh in series of Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs), has been commissioned by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh in Chennai.
  - 🔪 It has been designed and built indigenously by Larsen & Toubro Ship Building Limited.
- 24. Indian Coast Guard inducted **Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Mk-III** in its fleet, which are indigenously manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
  - Name The helicopters are capable of undertaking embarked operations from ships which will enhance Coast Guard capabilities.
- 25. Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 323, the first unit of indigenously built ALH Mk III aircraft, has been commissioned into Indian Navy, at INS Hansa (Goa).

- Squadron will operate 3 ALH Mk III, a multirole helicopter with Shakti engine manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- 26. Indian Naval Ship **Tabar** commenced deployment to several Nations in Africa and Europe. Along with PASSEX Exercises with host navies, it will also participate in bilateral exercises like **Ex Konkan** with Royal Navy (UK), **Ex Varuna** with French Navy and **Ex Indra** with Russian Navy.
- 27. ▶ Indian Naval Ship Talwar participated in Exercise Cutlass Express 2021, conducted along East Coast of Africa.
  - 🥄 It is an annual exercise conducted to promote maritime security in East Africa and Western Indian Ocean.
  - 2021 edition of the exercise involves participation of 12 Eastern African countries, US, UK, India and various international organisations.
- 28. ▶ Indian Naval Ship Trikand participated in First ever India-European Union Joint Navel Exercise, **IN** − **EUNAVFOR**, in Gulf of Aden. European Nations Participating in Exercise are Italy, Spain and France.
- 29. Indian Navy hosted Goa Maritime Symposium (GMS-21), under aegis of Naval War College Goa, for the first time in virtual mode. Theme for GMS-21 IS Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for IOR Navies.
- 30. Indian Navy launched *Operation Samudra Setu-II* to help in faster transportation of medical oxygen and other requirements from other countries to India, amid COVID-19 pandemic.
- 31. Indian Navy participated (for the first time) in multi-lateral maritime exercise **La Pérouse**, conducted in Eastern Indian Ocean Region.

  The exercise was attended by France, Australia, Japan US Navies.
  - 🔪 La Pérouse joint exercise was initiated by France in 2019. Its First edition included ships from Australia, Japan and US.
  - 🥄 It is named after the eighteenth century French Naval explorer.
- 32. Indian Navy participated in 20th edition of US Navy-led **Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT)** exercise in Singapore, with participation of 20 other partner nations as well.
- 33. Indian Navy participated in bilateral exercise with UAE Navy off the coast of Abu Dhabi, named Zayed Talwar 2021.
- 34. Indian Navy participated in sea phase of Exercise Malabar 2021, along with Navies from US, Japan and Australia.
  - Nalabar series of maritime exercise commenced in 1992 as an India US Exercise, Joined by Japan in 2015 and Australia in 2020.
- 35. Indian Navy's first destroyer INS Rajput has been decommissioned at Naval Dockyard Visakhapatnam, after serving nation for 41 years.
  - 🥄 INS Rajput was commissioned on 04 May 1980, at Poti, Georgia (erstwhile USSR), as lead ship of Rajput Class Destroyers.
- 36. Indian Navy's oldest hydrographic survey ship INS Sandhayak has been decommissioned, after serving for 40 years.
- 37. Indo-UK Joint Naval Exercise Konkan 2021 held in the English Channel, attended by INS Tabar on Indian Navy's Behalf.
- 38. Misc. Defence News (April 2021) -

- To help Armed Forces to conduct successful operations, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat operationalised 3rd Joint Logistics Node (JLN) in Mumbai, to strenthen logistics support.
- DRDO lab Defence Laboratory Jodhpur (DLJ) developed an Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard naval ships against enemy missile attack. These Include three indigenously developed variants namely Short Range Chaff Rocket (SRCR), Medium Range Chaff Rocket (MRCR) and Long Range Chaff Rocket (LRCR).
- 🥄 India gifted 50 metre patrol vessel P S Zoroaster to Seychelles Coast Guard.

#### 39. Misc. Defence News (July 2021) -

- First lot of 12 Short Span Bridging System (SSBS)-10 m, developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in association with L&T Ltd, has been inducted into Indian Army. The 12 bridges are part of 102 SSBS-10 m to be built by L&T Ltd.
- Israeli Firm *Rafael Advanced Defense Systems* unveiled Sea Breaker, a 5th generation precision-guided missile system, which can precisely target sea and land targets up to a range of 300 kilometres.
- Ninistry of Defence implemented SPARSH (System for Pension Administration (Raksha)), as an integrated system for automation of sanction and disbursement of defence pension.
- 🔪 Indian Army named a firing range at Gulmarg in Baramulla district (J&K) after Bollywood actress Vidya Balan.
- Indian Navy received first two of its MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters (MRH) from US Navy, manufactured by Lockheed Martin as an all-weather helicopter designed to support multiple missions.
- Note the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched an Artificial Intelligence-powered application developed by ministry and IIT-Kanpur to improve grievance redressal mechanisms of Central government.
- Indian Navy received its 10th anti-submarine warfare and patrol aircraft P-8I Poseidon from US-based Boeing. Ministry of Defence had initially signed contract with Boeing for 8 *P-8I* aircraft in 2009 for Navy, which was later extended to 4 additional P-8I aircraft, in 2016.
- NRDO successfully flight-tested New Generation Akash Missile (Akash-NG), a surface-to-air Missile. It also successfully flight-tested indigenously developed low weight, fire and forget Man Portable Antitank Guided Missile (MPATGM).
- Nussia successfully test-fired its new advanced S-500 air defence missile systems.
- Indian Navy recieved first two Sikorsky MH-60R multi-role helicopters from US, as part of 24 Multi Role Helicopters (MRH) deal with Lockheed Martin (US), valued \$2.4 billion.
- 🔪 Indian Navy participated in a two-day bilateral Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with UK's Royal Navy Carrier Strike Group.
- Notian Naval Ship Saryu participated in coordinated patrol (CORPAT) with Indonesian Navy, in its 36th edition.
- 40. Misc. Defence News (June 2021) -

- NIndian Army observed 100th anniversary of raising of Army Educational Corps (AEC) on 01 June 2021.
- Iran's largest navy ship *The Kharg*, sank after catching fire in Gulf of Oman.
- North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) organized Steadfast Defender 21 war games military exercises.
- 🥄 31st edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between Indian and Thai Navies has been conducted.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved policy on archiving, declassification, and compilation, publication of war and operations histories. Under this, each organisation under Ministry will transfer records such as war diaries and letters of proceedings to History Division, for proper archival.
- Ministry of Defence signed contract with Goa Shipyard Ltd, for construction of two Pollution Control Vessels (PCVs) for Indian Coast Guard (ICG), at cost of 583 crores. These are scheduled for delivery by November 2024 and May 2025 respectively. At present, ICG has three PCVs in its fleet at Mumbai, Visakhapatnam and Porbander.
- Nefence Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed progress of construction of first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) built by Cochin Shipyard Ltd, at Kochi. IAC will be commissioned as INS Vikrant in 2022.
- 🔪 Ukraine and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) launched Joint Sea Breeze Drills in Black Sea, despite Russian Protest.
- A integrated bilateral exercise between Indian and US Forces in Indian Ocean Region has been concluded. Indian Navy along with Indian Air Force participated with US Navy Carrier Strike Group.
- 🥄 Turkey and Azerbaijan held joint military drills *Mustafa Kemal Ataturk 2021* in Baku.
- 41. Misc. Defence News (May 2021) -
  - NIndian Army launched first Green Solar Energy plant in North Sikkim to harness renewable energy, with capacity of 56 KVA.
- 42. Misc. Defence News / Events (August 2021)-
  - Nordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli launched new 7.62 X 39mm portable weapon called *TriCa (Trichy Carbine)*, a mini version of the Trichy Assault Rifle (TAR).
  - NS Khanjar became first Indian Navy ship to call at heritage coastal port of Gopalpur in Odisha, as part of Aazadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (to commemorate 75th anniversary of Independence) and Swarnim Vijay Varsh (50th anniversary of 1971 War).
  - Note: The Gujarat will host Biennial Defence Expo-2022 (12th edition) in Gandhinagar in March 2022.
  - US approved sale of Harpoon Joint Common Test Set and related equipment to India for estimated \$82 million. Harpoon is an antiship missile.
  - Note That The Carrier Vikrant successfully accomplished its maiden sea voyage, built by Cochin Shipyard Limited with more than 76% indigenous content. It is 262 metres long and 62 m at widest part.

- NRDO successfully test-fired medium-range subsonic cruise missile Nirbhay, as India's first Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM), with range over 1500 KMs.
- 🥄 Indian Navy ships INS Ranvijay and INS Kora undertook bilateral maritime exercise with Vietnam Navy, at Cam Ranh (Vietnam).
- A 'Joint Guidance for the Australia India Navy to Navy Relationship' document signed between Indian and Australian Navies, aligned to the '2020 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched *Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC)* 5.0 under Innovations for Defence Excellence Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO), with Problem Statements in several areas.
- N Indian Army organised a 400 Km JAZBAA-E- TIRANGA Relay Marathon in In Jammu and Kashmir.
- India and Russia signed deal for immediate procurement of 70,000 AK-200 series assault rifles from Russia. Thus comes amid India and Russia working on a project to jointly manufacture over 6 lakh AK-203 rifles in India.
- Nagpur based private company. This is first instance of ammunition being manufactured by private industry in India.
  - Nese new multi-mode hand grenades will replace *Grenade No 36* of World War I vintage design.
- Nakistan launched indigenously developed guided multi-launch rocket system Fatah-1, capable of precisely delivering conventional warheads upto 140 KMs.
- As part of Its ongoing goodwill visit to Europe and Africa, INS Tabar took part in a Maritime Partnership Exercise with Algerian Navy (with ship Ezzadjer), as India's First Naval Exercise with Algeria.
- Ninistry of Defence signed a contract worth 1349 Crores with Mahindra Defence Systems, to buy 14 Integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Defence Suits (IADS) for Indian Navy.
- 3rd edition of annual exercise Gandiv held by National Security Guard (NSG), in Multiple cities in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and the National Capital Region.
- 43. Misc. Defence News / Events (March 2021) -
  - India Air Force attended Sri Lankan Air Force's 70th anniversary Celebrations. Also, India described Sri Lanka as 'Priority One' partner in defence sphere.
  - NRDO conducted successful flight test of Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology, enabling DRDO to develop a long-range air-to-air missile.
  - 🔪 India and Philippines signed agreement to facilitate deals on military hardware, including supply of BrahMos cruise missiles.
  - Novt sanctioned 12 new SSB battalions, comprising over 13000 personnel for Guarding Nepal and Bhutan borders.

- NRDO's Sindhu Netra Satellite was Launched along with Brazil's Amazonia-1 and 17 other co-passenger satellites, onboard Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C51.
- 🔪 DRDO conducted final development test of Air Independent Propulsion (AIP), aimed at making Indian submarines more lethal.
  - AIP marine propulsion technology allows non-nuclear submarine to operate without providing access to atmospheric oxygen by surfacing or by using snorkel. This can replace diesel-electric propulsion system used in non-nuclear vessels.
- Nalyani Rafael Advanced Systems (KRAS), joint venture between Kalyani Group of India and Rafael Advanced Defence Systems of Israel, released first batch of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) kits for Indian Army and Air Force.
- Defence ministry signed deal worth 1188 crores with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), for supply of 4960 Milan-2T Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) for Indian Army.
- As per report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI, India's arms imports came down by 33 %, between 2011-2015 and 2016-2020. India still remains the second highest importer though, only behind Saudi Arabia.
  - 🔪 Top 5 global arms exporters were US, Russia, France, Germany and China in 2016-2020.
- Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 310, The Cobras, a maritime reconnaissance squadron of the Indian Navy based at Goa observed its Diamond Jubilee. It was Commissioned at Hyéres, France on 21 Mar 1961.
- Navy announced to hold *Group Arabian Sea Warfare Exercise*, as major naval exercise alongside Belgium, France and Japan in Mideast.
- India and Madagascar Navies undertook 1st joint patrolling of Madagascar's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and also conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX).
- 44. Multinational Military Exercise **SHANTIR OGROSHENA 2021** (Front Runner of the Peace) hosted by **Bangladesh**, to commemorate birth centenary of Bangladesh 'Father of the Nation' Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and mark 50 years of Bangladesh liberation from Pakistan.
  - 🔪 Other Nations to participate in Exercise India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka.
  - **\^** Theme of exercise is **Robust Peace Keeping Operations**.
  - 🥄 Military observers from USA, UK, Turkey, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Singapore were in attendance throughout exercise.
- 45. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval commissioned Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) Sajag into service.
- 46. ▶ North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) military exercise *DEFENDER-Europe 21* began in Albania, with participation from US and several european nations.
- 47. Offshore Patrol Vessel ICGS Vajra has been commissioned into Indian Coast Guard, as 6th vessel in series of 7 OPVs being built by L&T.

- 48. ▶ Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh flagged-in Indian Army Skiing Expedition *ARMEX-21* in New Delhi, which was conducted in mountain ranges of Himalaya, to promote adventure activity across country.
  - The expedition was flagged off at Karakoram Pass in Ladakh on March 10, 2021 and culminated at Malari in Uttarakhand on July 06, 2021.
- 49. Russia Launched its first stealth naval warship, fully equipped with stealth technology making it hard to detect it by enemy vessels.
  - The full stealth warship, Merkuriy naval corvette, is built under Project 20386.
  - Note: 20386 is Russia's newest class of corvettes being constructed by Severnaya Verf for the Russian Navy.
- 50. US approved sale of six P-8I patrol aircraft to India, for an estimated cost of USD 2.42 billion.
  - N-8I aircraft is a variant of the Boeing P-8 Poseidon aircraft that serves as a replacement for US Navy's P-3 fleet.
  - 🥄 Indian Navy is the first international customer for P-8 aircraft, with Indian variant called P-81.

**Top** 

#### **Economy**

- 1. State Govt Budgets FY 22 (2021-22) -
  - Nrunachal Pradesh -
    - ↑ Total expenditure for FY 22 (2021-22) estimated at 21680 crores, with Revenue Deficit 580 crores.
    - Notate Govt will develop 3 model villages along Indo-Tibet border area as a pilot project, with allocation of 30 crores.
  - Nandhra Pradesh -
    - 🔪 In a first-of-its-kind initiative, AP State government Included a Gender Budget and Child Budget in State's Budget for FY 22.
  - National Park Bihar -
    - 🥄 Total expenditure for FY 22 (2021-22) estimated at 2.18 Lakh crores, with Revenue surplus 9196 crores.
    - 🔪 Policy Highlights -
      - State will begin implementation of Saat Nishchay Yojana-2 in 2021-22, with 4671 crores allocation. Key schemes under Saat
      - Nishchay-2 include creating centres of excellence in polytechnic and ITIs, establishing mega-skill development centres, providing grants up to 5 lakh to youth for setting up businesses, providing cash incentive to female students (25000 to 50000) and housing for homeless and landless poor in urban areas.
  - 🔪 Delhi -

- 🔪 Total expenditure for FY 22 (2021-22) is estimated to be 69000 crores. Budget is themed *Deshbhakti*.
- 🔪 Policy Highlights -
  - 🦠 Health card will be issued to all citizens of Delhi, to be used through an online Health Information Management System.
  - School curriculum for classes nursery to 8 will be revised, with focus on personality development, along with a class daily on patriotism. 100 schools of excellence will be opened for grades 9 to 12 in different parts of Delhi.
  - Norman Proposed two new schemes Delhi Heritage Promotion and Delhi Tourism Circuit.

# 🔪 Gujarat -

- 🔪 Total expenditure for FY 22 (2021-22) estimated to be 2.23 Lakh crores, with Revenue surplus 1209 crores.
- 🔪 Policy Highlights -
  - Unproductive land will be utilised for horticulture and herbal crops under Mukhyamantri Bagayat Vikas Mission. Agriculture Organic Market Scheme will allow farmers to directly sell organic farm produce in urban areas. Kisan Suryodaya Yojanahas been introduced to provide day-time power supply to farmers.
  - Number of the International Mediation and Arbitration Centre will be established at GIFT city.
  - New Bulk Drug Industrial Park will be established at Jambusar and Medical Device Industrial Park will be established at Rajkot.

# 🔪 Haryana -

- 🥄 Total expenditure for 2021-22 is estimated to be 1.56 Lakh crores.
- 🔪 Policy Highlights -
  - \$ 8585 crores allocated towards Medium term expenditure framework (MTEF) reserve fund, to be spent on special projects in health, agriculture and infrastructure sectors.
  - Kisan Mitra Yojana will be launched to facilitate financial services for farmers. Har Khet Swasth Khet Abhiyan will be launched to focus on soil quality.

## 🔪 Himachal Pradesh -

- Notal expenditure for 2021-22 estimated to 50192 crores.
- 🔪 Policy Highlights -
  - State government will formulate Swaran Jayanti Energy Policy in 2021-22 for the promotion of energy sector. New policy will also be formed for increasing survival percentage of new plantations.
  - Navaran Jayanti Paramparagat Beej Suraksha Samvardhan Yojana will be started for the conservation and propagation of traditional seeds.

- \ Integrated beneficiary database management system will be developed for the proper selection of beneficiaries under various schemes.
- Nonorarium for ASHA / Anganwadi workers and Helpers will be increased by 300 to 750 per month.

#### 🔪 Jharkhand -

- New Expenditure for 2021-22 estimated to be 91277 crores.
- 🔪 Policy Highlights -
  - New Padhna Likhna Abhiyaan will be launched to achieve 100% literacy in state. Jharkhand Tribal University and Jharkhand Open University will be established to ensure reach of higher education among students in remote rural regions.
  - Community solar irrigation facilities will be provided under the Kisan Samriddhi Yojana in various blocks of state. 1200 crores allocated Kisan Karj Mafi Yojana.

#### 🔪 Karnataka -

- Total expenditure for 2021-22 estimated to be 246207 crores, framed as First *Outcome-Based Budget*. In this budget, all the departments were given specific targets and responsibilities that are required to be completed in a specified time.
- 🔪 Policy Highlights -
  - Note that the control of the control
  - Additional subsidy of 15% will be provided for post-harvest management and processing plants, construction of cold storage.
  - Nomen entrepreneurs in health sector will be provided loans up to two crore rupees at subsidised interest rate of 4%. Women's self-help groups will be supported to start 6,000 micro-enterprises in sectors such as catering, solid-waste management.

#### 🔪 Uttarakhand -

- Notal expenditure for 2021-22 estimated to be 57400 crores.
- 🔪 Policy Highlights -
  - 🔪 Song Drinking Water project will be launched in 2021-22, with 150 crores allocation.
  - Nural Development and Migration Commission will be established to curb reverse migration from state.

#### 🔪 Kerala -

- Notal expenditure for 2021-22 estimated to be 211873 crores.
- 🔪 Policy Highlights -

- 🔪 Tax Proposals -
  - Nerala flood cess (1% of GST) will not be levied after July 2021.
  - Nax on liquid and compressed natural gas (LNG and CNG) will be reduced from 14.5% to 5%
  - Newly registered electric vehicles will be reduced by 50% for next five years.
  - Note That the second is a second in the second in the second is a second in the second
- Nolicy to encourage eco-friendly construction of buildings will be formulated.
- Construction of 3 industrial corridors (Kochi-Palakkad, Kochi-Mangalore, and Capital City Regional Development) involving investment of about Rs 50,000 crore will begin in 2021-22.
- 🔪 Madhya Pradesh -
  - Notal expenditure for 2021-22 estimated to be 234918 crores.
  - 🔪 Policy Highlights -
    - Nukhya Mantri Krishak Fasal Uparjan Sahayata Yojana will be introduced to provide financial aid to farmers through Department for Civil Food Supplies and state cooperative marketing federation, with allocation 2000 crores.
    - Note: CM Rise scheme will be launched to upgrade 9,200 schools with modern infrastructure.
    - Nukhya Mantri Swa-Rozgar Yojanawill be launched to provide loans at low interest rates to encourage self-employment among youth, with 112 crores allocation.
- 🔪 Maharashtra -
  - Notal expenditure for 2021-22 estimated to be 484091 crores.
  - 🔪 Policy Highlights -
    - Name of women.
    - 🔪 Post COVID counselling and treatment centres will be set up in every district hospital and government medical college.
    - Note to strengthen Agricultural Produce Market Committee will be launched with capital outlay of 2000 crores.
    - Narad Pawar Gram Samrudhi Yojana will be implemented to provide grants for permanent cow sheds, goat rearing sheds and poultry sheds and composting.
- 🔪 Odisha -
  - Notal expenditure for 2021-22 estimated to be 170000 crores.
  - 🔪 Policy Highlights -
    - **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Budget** has been introduced to map various schemes and programmes of state government to the respective UN SDG goals and targets (set of 17 goals in various areas).

■ Urban Wage Employment Initiative-MUKTA has been introduced to provide wage employment opportunities to urban poors.

#### 🔪 Punjab -

Notal expenditure for 2021-22 estimated to be 168015 crores.

- 🔪 Policy Highlights -
  - Nove will launch a new umbrella scheme 'Kamyaab Kisan Khushaal Punjab' by converging various development schemes for providing end-to-end support to farmers, with outlay 3780 crores for 3 years.
  - ▲ Govt will double amount of pension provided to sections from 750 to 1500, such as elderlies, widows, orphans, and persons with disabilities.

### 🔪 Rajasthan -

- Notal expenditure for 2021-22 estimated to be 250747 crores.
- 🔪 Policy Highlights -
  - Nealth -Universal Health Care scheme will be implemented to provide health insurance of five lakh rupees to each family. A Bill will be introduced to provide healthcare as a right. 25 Nursing colleges will be constructed, in addition to 8 that currently exist.
  - Separate budget for agriculture will be presented from next year onwards. Chief Minister's Krishak Sathi Yojana will be implemented, with outlay of 2,000 crore over three years.
  - Name of the strain of the stra
    - New MSME policy will be released.
    - New industrial cluster will be developed at Marwar with investment of Rs 750 crore
    - Note: The Company of the Constructed Section 2006 Constructed Section 2007 Constructed Section 2

#### 🔪 Telangana -

- 🔪 Total expenditure for 2021-22 estimated to be 230826 crores.
- 🔪 Policy Highlights -
  - New scheme will be started for the upgradation of infrastructure in government schools, with Allocation 4000 crores.
  - No. CM Dalit Empowerment Programme will be started to provide for the all-round development of persons belonging to scheduled castes, with 1000 crores Allocation.
  - Constituency Development Fund of MLAs and MLCs will be increased from 3 to 5 crore rupees.
  - 🔪 To encourage farmers to take up the cultivation of oil palm, subsidy of Rs 30,000 per acre will be provided.

- 🔪 Uttar Pradesh -
  - Notal expenditure for 2021-22 estimated to be 550271 crores.
  - 🔪 Policy Highlights -
    - Atmanirbhar Krishak Samanvit Vikas Yojana will be introduced to achieve doubling of farmers' income by 2022., with 100 crores allocation.
    - Nukhyamantri Saksham Suposhan Yojana will be launched to combat issue of malnutrition of women and children.
    - Nukhamantri Pravasi Shramik Udyamita Vikas Yojana will be introduced to provide employment and self-employment to workers who returned back to state due to COVID-19.
- 2. Amazon launched \$250 million Amazon Smbhav Venture Fund, to invest in startups focusing on technology innovations in SMB (small and medium business) digitization, agriculture and healthcare in India.
  - 🥄 This was announced during Amazon Sambhav online Summit on theme Unlocking Infinite Possibilities for India.
- 3. 15th Finance Commission recommended grants worth 2.37 Lakh Crores for Rural local bodies (RLBs/PRIs) during 2021–22 to 2025–26. Out of which, 1.42 Lakh Crores has been recommended for water and sanitation.
- 4. 43rd GST Council meet under Chairmanship of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman -
  - SST Council constituted a group of ministers (GoM) in order to decide on rates of COVID-19 relief material, headed by Meghalaya CM Conrad K Sangma.
- 5. Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) National Mission for Financial Inclusion, completed 7 years of successful implementation, on Aug 28, 2021.
  - So far, over 43 crore bank accounts have been opened under it, storing over 1.46 Lakh crores. Out of these accounts, 36.86 crore (86%) are operative.
  - 🔪 55% Jan-Dhan account holders are women and 67% Jan Dhan accounts are in rural and semi-urban areas.
- 6. Shivalik Small Finance Bank commenced operations as a small finance bank, after it received approval from RBI for the same.
  - No Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank was granted in-principle approval by RBI for transition into a small finance bank in January 2020, under Scheme on voluntary transition of Urban Co-operative Bank into a Small Finance Bank.
- 7. Vinited States Agency for International Development (USAID) and US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) jointly sponsored a \$50 million loan guarantee for Indian women and small business borrowers by tying up with private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank
  - \ Under it, KMB will provide loans for on-lending to non-bank lenders in MSME and microlending space, likely to benefit 30000 women borrowers and 7500 MSMEs.

- 8. Airtel Payments Bank launched *Rewards123* savings account, which provides customers with additional perks and rewards.
- 9. Alliance Insurance launched insurance portal **SMEInsure**, to provide financial security to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), small shop and business owners Alliance.
- 10. American Banking firm Citigroup announced to exit retail banking in India and 12 other countries, to focus on its wealth management business.
- 11. An online platform for debt trading has been set up by 10 major Banks (including SBI, ICICI, Canara, Standard Chartered, Kotak Mahindra, Deutsche Bank, Bank of Baroda, PNB, Axis Bank and HDFC Bank), for trading of corporate loans in secondary market, Called Secondary Loan Market Association (SLMA).
  - National Property It has been formed on recommendation of RBI's Task Force on Development of Secondary Market for Corporate Loans.
- 12. As First such move for Small Finance Banks, RBI will be conducting one special long term repo operation (SLTRO) for small finance banks (SFB) for each month, totalling 10000 crores.
  - SLTRO will be valid for 3 years.
  - Yersh lending can be done for loans of up to Rs 10 lakh. There will be no tenor restrictions.
- 13. As per Govt Data, India received FDI inflow of US\$ 67.54 billion during April to December 2020.
  - It is highest ever for first ninth months of a financial year and 22% higher as compared to first ninth months of earlier FY 20 (2019-20).
  - Also, Singapore has been topmost source of FDI in India during concerned period, with Inflow of \$15.7 billion, followed by US (\$12.82 billion) and Mauritius (\$3.47 billion).
- 14. As per Govt Data, Rs 2.74 Lakh Crore Foreign Portfolio Investments (FPI) inflows were received in Indian equity markets During FY 21 (2020-21).
- 15. As per Govt data related to Agriculture Trade -
  - Exports USD 41.25 billion in 2020-21, compared to USD 35.16 billion in 2019-20 (17.34 % Increase).
  - 🔪 Imports USD 20.67 billion in 2020-21 , compared to USD 20.64 billion in 2019-20 (.002 % Increase).
  - Nalance of Agri. Trade (Exports -Imports), improved from USD 14.51 billion in 2019-20 to USD 20.58 billion in 2020-21.
- 16. As per RBI -
  - Nindia's external debt at end-March 2021 stood at US\$ 570 billion, with increase of US\$ 11.5 billion over end-March 2020.
  - Nexternal debt to GDP ratio increased to 21.1 %, compared to 20.6 % at end-March 2020.
- 17. As per RBI Data, For full year FY21, current account balance recorded a surplus of 0.9% of GDP, due to contraction in trade deficit to \$102.2 billion, from \$157.5 billion in FY20. This is first time that India has recorded an annual current account surplus in 17 years.

- Nalance of payment position improved due to large inflows in form of FDI and FPI. Net FDI inflows at \$44 billion in FY21, were higher \$43 billion in FY20. Net FPI also increased to \$36.1 billion in 2020-21.
- 18. As per RBI's Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Review -
  - NBI retained real GDP growth prediction at 9.5% for FY 21-22.
  - Ney Monetary Policy Rates also kept unchanged -
    - Nepo Rate 4.00 %
    - Neverse Repo 3.35 %
    - Nank Rate 4.25 %
    - CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) 4 %
    - NECTION SLR STATE STATE
    - Narginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate 4.25 %
- 19. ▶ As per UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2021 -
  - 🔪 FDI in India -
    - TDI In India stood at US\$ 64 billion in 2020, increase of 27 % over 2019. It makes Making India 5th largest FDI inflow receiver globally.
    - Note that the isaltributed primarily to acquisitions in information and communication technology (ICT) industry.
    - 🔪 In Term of FDI Outflows, India ranks 18th, with outflows of US\$ 12 billion in 2020, compared to US\$ 13 billion in 2019.
  - 🔪 Global -
    - Note: 1.5 trillion in 2010, down from US\$ 1.5 trillion in 2010,
    - 🥄 Top FDI Inflow Nations US, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, India
    - 🥄 Top FDI Outflow Nations China, Luxembourg, Japan, Hong Kong, US
- 20. As per a Bank of America Report, India needs USD 401 billion in capital investment, to save over 100 GW of energy and 1.1 billion tonne of greenhouse gasses between 2015 and 2030, to meet measures to control pollution under Paris climate agreement.
  - Name of the India's Carbon Emission Check Progress -
    - As per 3rd Biennial Report submitted to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), India's emission intensity of GDP reduced by 24 % between 2005 and 2016, achieving its goal to reduce emission intensity of GDP by 20-25 % from 2005 levels, much earlier than target year of 2020.
    - In 2015, India raised ambition in its nationally determined contributions (NDC) to reduce emission intensity of its GDP by 33-35 % below 2005 levels, by 2030.

- 🔪 India's share of non-fossil fuel-based energy has already reached 38 %, against NDC target of 40 % by 2030.
- Number 175 GW renewable energy capacity by 2022, which was subsequently enhanced to 450 GW by 2030.
- India has however, not yet announced a net zero emission target like many other major economies, which mostly aim to achieve it by 2050.
- 21. As per data by Ministry of Commerce and Industry -
  - New Highest ever merchandise exports of USD 95 billion in Q1 of 2021-22 has been achieved, which is 85% higher than exports of Q1 of 2020-21. Govt has set target of USD 400 billion merchandise exports in 2021-22.
  - Nindia received highest ever FDI inflow in 2020-21 of USD 81.72 billion, higher by 10% compared to USD 74.39 billion in 2019-20.
  - Number of startups recognised by DPIIT has crossed 50,000 and is spread across 623 districts in India.
- 22. As per report by UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) -
  - Number of the first seconomy will contract by **6.9** % in FY 21 (2020-21) and will grow by 5 % in FY 22 (2021-22).
  - Nalso, UNCTAD estimates global economy to grow by 4.7 % in FY 22 (2021-22).
- 23. Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved **USD 484** Million loan to improve road maintenance and transport connectivity in Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor- CKIC in **Tamil Nadu**.
  - Note: This Corridor is part of India's East Coast Economic Corridor. It stretches from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu and connects India to production networks of Southeast and East Asia.
- 24. Axis Securities launched YIELD platform, to buy and sell bonds as well as debentures in secondary market.
- 25. Bank of Maharashtra emerged at top among public sector lenders in terms of loan and deposit growth during FY 2020-21.
  - 13.45 % increase in advances at Rs 1.07 lakh crores, followed by Punjab & Sind Bank (8.39 % growth).
  - 🔪 BoM's deposits also saw 16 % growth, most among PSBs.
- 26. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), on behalf of Department of Telecommunication, invited global tender for Development (*Creation, Upgradation, Operation & Maintenance and Utilisation*) of **BharatNet**, through Public Private Partnership model in 9 separate packages across 16 states, for concession period of 30 years.
  - Nunder this, Govt will provide maximum Grant of 19041 Crores, as Viability Gap Funding.
  - Nathya Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
- 27. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) announced to sell its entire 61.65 % Stake in Numaligarh refinery (Assam), to Oil India, Engineers India Ltd and Assam Govt for 9876 crores. This will clear way for for privatisation of BPCL.

- In keeping with Assam Peace Accord, Govt will keep Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) in public sector. Therefore, BPCL had to sell its entire stake to PSUs.
- 28. Capital market regulator SEBI formed group of experts to examine feasibility of introducing Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPACs) like structures in India, under Primary Market Advisory Committee (PMAC).
  - New SPACs are formed to raise capital in an initial public offering (IPO) with the purpose of using the proceeds to identify and merge with a target company.
- 29. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs decreased threshold for mandatory e-invoicing from rupees 100 crores to rupees 50 crores, effective April 2021.
- 30. China overtook UAE to become India's second-largest export destination in FY21 (2020-21), after US.
  - 🥄 India's exports to China hiked by 28% in FY21 to over \$50 billion. While exports from India to UAE came down by 42% to \$17 billion.
- 31. Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal launched **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)**, that aims to provide assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialization.
  - Scheme was announced by PM Narendra Modi in January 2021, during *Prarambh: Startup India International Summit*, marking 5 year anniversary of Startup India initiative.
  - 🥄 945 Crores corpus will be divided over 4 years for providing seed funding to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India.
  - Nature Earlier in March 2021, Govt had constituted an expert advisory committee which was responsible for overall execution and monitoring of Startup India Seed Fund Scheme. It was chaired by H K Mittal.
- 32. Competition Commission of India Approvals (April 2021) -
  - Napproved acquisition of 89.6% shareholding of Gangavaram Port by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zones.
    - Nearlier in March, APSEZ announced plans to acquire 58.1% stake in GPL, for 3600 Crores.
  - Approved acquisition by Tata Digital Limited of up to 64.3% of the total share capital of Supermarket Grocery Supplies Private Ltd (SGS) and SGS' sole control over Innovative Retail Concepts Private Limited.
- 33. Competition Commission of India Approvals (July 2021) -
  - Name Approved acquisition of SB Energy Holding Limited by Adani Green Energy Limited.
  - Approved \$450 million investment from Japanese-conglomerate Softbank into Bundl Technologies, parent of Indain food tech Firm Swiggy.
  - Approved acquisition of *Mukand Limited*, by Bajaj Sevashram, Bachhraj & Company, Bachhraj Factories and Sanraj Nayan Investments.
- 34. Competition Commission of India Approvals (June 2021) -

- Approved combination relating to BYJU'S (Think & Learn Private Limited)'s acquisition of Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL).
  - 🔪 Edtech Startup Byju's had earlier acquired tutorial chain Aakash Educational Services (AESL) for \$950 million.
- Approved acquisition of 51% equity share capital in each of 3 Electricity Supply Companies of Odisha Western Electricity Supply Company of Odisha, Southern Electricity Supply Company of Odisha and Central Electricity Supply Company of Odisha, by Tata Power Company.
  - It relates to acquisition of 51% of equity share capital in each utility by TPCL from Grid Corporation of Odisha Limited (GRIDCO).
- Name of Phosphates Limited.
- 35. Competition Commission of India Approvals (March 2021) -
  - Approved acquisition of 51% of the equity share capital of North Eastern Electricity Supply Company of Odisha (NESCO) by Tata Power Company Limited, from Grid Corporation of Odisha Limited (GRIDCO).
- 36. Competition Commission of India Approvals (May 2021) -
  - 🥄 Approved acquisition of 100% stake of Ingram Micro Inc. by Imola Acquisition Corporation.
  - Approved green channel notice filed by *Kyndryl Holdings LLC* and *Grand Ocean Managed Infrastructure Services Private Limited*, in relation to internal restructuring of IBM Corporation. IBM plans to spin off its global MIS Business into a new public company.
  - Name Approved acquisition of YES Asset Management (India) and YES Trustee Limited, by GPL Finance and Investments.
  - Approved acquisition of additional 25% shareholding of Adani Krishnapatnam Port by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone.

    APSEZ will now hold 100% shareholding in Krishnapatnam Port.
- 37. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) elected T V Narendran (CEO & MD of Tata Steel) as its new President for 2021-22.
- 38. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) initiated a project on *Open Network for Digital Commerce* (ONDC), tasked to Quality Council of India (QCI).
  - It aims at promoting open networks developed on open sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform.
  - Novement of an Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), designed to curb digital monopolies.
- 39. Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) has setup **Dairy Investment Accelerator** under its Investment Facilitation Cell, to provide dedicated focus towards promoting & facilitating investments in Indian Dairy sector, by serving as interface with investors and provide support across investment cycle.

- 40. Dutch development bank FMO will invest \$137 million in Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF), managed by EverSource Capital, that invests in India' green energy space.
- 41. Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) signed USD 10.40 million loan deal with Southern African Nation Eswatini (Swaziland) on behalf of Indian government, as per an agreement reached earlier.
- 42. Facebook announced new programme called *Small Business Loans Initiative*, launched in partnership with lending platform Indifi, to help Indian Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs) that advertise on Facebook to get quick access to credit through independent lending partners.
- 43. ▶ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Lyonpo Namgay Tshering (Finance Minister of Bhutan) jointly launched BHIM-UPI in Bhutan.
  - Name Bhutan is first country to adopt UPI standards for its QR deployment, and first neighbouring country to accept mobile based payments through BHIM App.
  - Name of this launch also made Bhutan second country after Singapore to have BHIM-UPI acceptance at merchant locations.
- 44. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced several measures to provide relief to diverse sectors affected by 2nd wave of COVID-19 pandemic.
  - 17 measures amounting to 6,28,993 crores were announced, including two measures announced earlier additional Subsidy for DAP & P&K fertilizers, and extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) from May to November, 2021.
  - Announced Measures are -
    - **1.10 lakh crore Loan** Guarantee Scheme for COVID Affected sectors Under this, additional credit of 1.1 lakh crore will be provided to businesses, including 50000 crores for health sector.
    - New York Time Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) -
      - Novt has expanded Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), launched as part of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Package in May 2020, by Rs 1.5 lakh crores.
      - \ Under expanded scheme, limit of admissible guarantee and loan amount is proposed to be increased above existing level of 20% of outstanding on each loan.
      - Noverall cap of admissible guarantee is thus raised from Rs. 3 lakh crore to Rs. 4.5 lakh crores.
    - Note: Tredit Guarantee Scheme for Micro Finance Institutions -
      - 🥄 This new scheme aims to benefit small borrowers who are served by network of Micro Finance Institutions.
      - Suarantee will be provided to Banks for loans to new or existing NBFC-MFIs or MFIs for on lending upto Rs 1.25 lakh to approximately 25 lakh small borrowers.

- \ Loans from banks to be capped at MCLR plus 2%. Maximum loan tenure will be 3 years, and 80% of assistance to be used by MFI for incremental lending. Interest rates will be at least 2% below maximum rate prescribed by RBI.
- Name of old loans.
- No Guarantee cover will be available for funding provided by MLIs to MFIs/NBFC-MFIs till March 31, 2022 or till guarantees for an amount of 7,500 crores are issued, whichever is earlier.
- Suarantee will be provided upto 75% of default amount for upto 3 years through National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC).

# Note that Tourists Guides/ Stakeholders -

- Note: This new scheme aims at providing relief to people working in tourism sector.
- Norking capital/loans will be provided to people in tourism sector to discharge liabilities and restart businesses, covering 10700 Regional Level Tourist Guides and about 1000 Travel and Tourism Stakeholders (TTS).
- 🥄 TTS's will be eligible to get a loan upto 10 lakh each while tourist guides can avail loan upto Rs 1 lakh each.

# 🥄 Free **one month tourist visa** to 5 lakh tourists -

Name of this new scheme aims at boosting tourism sector, envisaging giving free Visas to first 5 lakh Tourists visiting India.

# 🥄 Extension of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana -

- NBRY, which was launched on 1st Oct, 2020, incentivizes employers for creation of new employment, restoration of loss of employment through EPFO.
- Number This, subsidy is provided for 2 years from registration for new employees with wages under 15000 for both Employer's and Employee's share of contribution (total 24% of wages) for establishments upto 1000 employees; and only employee's share (12% of wages) in case of over 1000 employees.
- Novt has now extended date of registration under the scheme from 30-6-2021 to 31-03-2022.

## Nadditional Subsidy for DAP & P&K fertilizers -

Additional subsidy to farmers for DAP and P&K fertilizers was announced recently. Existing Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) was 27500 crores in FY 2020-21, which has been increased to 42275 crores in FY 2021-22.

## 🥄 Free food grains under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) -

- Sovt extended Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY-III) till Deepawali 2021 (Nov 4, 2021). Under it, over 80 crore people will continue to get decided amount of free food grain every month.
- Estimated financial implications of the scheme will Rs 93,869 crore, bringing the total cost of PMGKY to Rs 2,27,841 crores.

## 🥄 Strengthening Public Health -

- 🥄 23220 crores additional support for public health with emphasis on children and paediatric care/paediatric beds.
- 🦠 8 Special Measures for Boosting growth and employment -
  - Release of Climate Resilient Special Traits Varieties ICAR has developed bio-fortified crop varieties having high nutrients. 21 such varieties of rice, peas, millet, maize, soyabean, quinoa, buckwheat, winged bean, pigeon pea & sorghum will be dedicated to the nation.
  - 🥄 Revival of North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC) -
    - NERAMAC was established in 1982 to support farmers of North-East in getting remunerative prices of agrihorticulture produces.
    - 🥄 It proposes to set up North-Eastern Centre for Organic Cultivation, facilitating equity finance to entrepreneurs.
    - 🔪 A revival package of 77.45 crores has been announced to support and revive NERAMAC.
  - 🔪 33000 crores Boost for Project Exports through National Export Insurance Account (NEIA) -
    - NEIA promotes Medium and Long Term project exports by providing covers to buyer's credit, given by EXIM Bank, to less credit-worthy borrowers and supporting project exporters.
    - \ It has been decided to provide additional corpus to NEIA over 5 years, enable it to underwrite additional 33000 crores of project exports.
  - 🔪 88000 crores boost to Export Insurance Cover -
    - New Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) promotes exports by providing credit insurance services.
    - 🔪 It has been decided to infuse equity in ECGC over 5 years to boost export insurance cover by Rs. 88,000 crore.
  - 🔪 19041 crores for Broadband to each Village through BharatNet PPP Model -
    - Nout of 250000 Gram Panchayats, 156223 Gram Panchayats have been made service ready by May 2021.
    - It is proposed to implement BharatNet in PPP model in 16 States (bundled into 9 packages), on viability gap funding basis. For this, additional 19041 crores will be provided.
    - Notal outlay under BharatNet will be enhanced to Rs. 61,109 crore.
  - 🔪 3.03 lakh crores for Reform-Based Result-Linked Power Distribution Scheme -
    - Revamped Reforms-Based power distribution scheme of financial assistance to DISCOMS was announced in Budget 2021-22, aiming at state specific intervention in place of "one size fits all".
    - \ Under this, it is aimed to provide assistance for installation of 25 crore smart meters, 10000 feeders, 4 lakh km of LT overhead lines. Ongoing works of IPDS, DDUGJY and SAUBHAGYA will also be merged in the scheme.

- Noutlay for the scheme is 303058 crores, out of which Central Government's share will is 97631 crores.
- Nextension of Tenure of PLI Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing -
  - PLI scheme provides incentive of 6% to 4% on incremental sales of goods under target segments that are manufactured in India, for a period of five years.
  - \ Incentives are applicable from 01.08.2020 with base year as 2019-20. However, amid pandemic, companies have been unable to achieve incremental sales condition.
  - 🔪 It has been decided to extend the tenure of the scheme launched in 2020-21 by one year i.e. till 2025-26.
- 🔪 New streamlined process for PPP Projects and Asset Monetization -
  - A new policy will be formulated for appraisal and approval of PPP proposals and monetization of core infrastructure assets, including through InvITs.
  - \ It will ensure speedy clearance of projects, as Current process for approval of Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects is long.
- 45. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched 250 crores worth alternate investment fund (AIF), for small and mid-sized export-oriented companies, called *Ubharte Sitaare*. It is jointly sponsored by Exim Bank of India and SIDBI. While fund size is 250 crore, it will have a greenshoe option (over-allotment option) of Rs 250 crore.
  - Launched from Lucknow (UP), this Fund will identify Indian enterprises with potential advantages that are currently underperforming or unable to tap their potential to grow.
- 46. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched asset monetisation pipeline of Central ministries and public sector entities, **National**Monetisation Pipeline (NMP Volumes 1 & 2), developed by NITI Aayog, based on mandate for *Asset Monetisation* under Budget 2021-22.
  - Report on NMP has been organised into two volumes. Volume I is a guidance book, detailing conceptual approaches and potential models for asset monetisation. Volume II is actual roadmap for monetisation, including the pipeline of core infrastructure assets under Govt.
  - NMP estimates monetisation potential of Rs 6.0 lakh crores through core assets of Central Government, over 4 years upto 2025. This includes more than 12 line ministries and more than 20 asset classes.
  - Top 5 sectors capture 83% of aggregate pipeline value. These include Roads (27%) followed by Railways (25%), Power (15%), oil & gas pipelines (8%) and Telecom (6%).
- 47. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled 4th edition of Public Sector Bank (PSB) Reforms Agenda 'EASE 4.0' for 2021-22 -
  - 🔪 As per annual report for PSB Reforms Agenda EASE 3.0 -

- SBI, Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India won awards for best performing banks for PSB Reforms EASE 3.0 based on the EASE index.
- NSBs reported profits and accelerated on technology-driven reforms in 2020-21. PSBs reported profit of 31817 crore in FY21 as compared to loss of 26016 crore in FY20, as first year when PSBs have reported profit after five years of losses.
- NPA stood at 6.16 lakh crore as of March 2021, reduction of 62000 crore from March 2020 levels.
- Credit@click was a flagship initiative under EASE 3.0. Nearly 4.4 lakh customers benefitted through such simplified credit access.
- 🔪 In FY21, PSBs collectively disbursed 40819 crores of fresh retail loans through leads sourced from several digital channels.
- 1 72% of financial transactions happening at PSBs is now through digital channels.
- Noverall score of PSBs increased by 35% between March-2020 and March-2021, with average EASE index score improving from 44.2 to 59.7 out of 100.
- Next edition of EASE reforms (EASE 4.0) aims to further agenda of customer-centric digital transformation into PSBs' ways of working -
  - 🔪 It will additionally include *Dial-a-loan* doorstep facilication, Promoting Procsss automation, Co-lending with NBFCs etc.
- Govt also approved Indian Banks' Association's (IBA) proposal to increase family pension to 30% of last salary drawn, taking family pension to 30000 to 35000 per family of bank employees. Govt also approved to increase employers contribution under NPS to 14% from 10%.
- 48. ▶ Finance Ministry allowed housing finance companies (HFCs) with asset size of over 100 crores to recover dues using SARFAESI law. Earlier, HFCs with assets over 500 crores were allowed to use SARFAESI law to recover dues.
- 49. Fintech Firm Niyo launched NiyoX, in partnership with Equitas Small Finance Bank, along with *oo7 banking bundle*. It comprises 0% commission on mutual funds investment, o account maintenance charges, and upto 7% interest on account balances.
- 50. Fintech firm PayU acquired India's First payment gateway **BillDesk**, for **\$4.7 billion**, as largest acquisition in India's digital payments space.
- 51. FirstRand Bank, South Africa's second largest bank announced to exit its India Operations, few days after Citigroup announced to exit retail business in India.
- 52. ▶ Foreign exchange reserves of India crossed \$600 billion mark for the first time, making India get past Russia, to become 4th largest Forex reserve Holder. Top 3 China, Japan, Switzerland.
- 53. GST revenue collected in July 2021 is **1.16 Lakh** crores of which CGST 22197 crores, SGST 28541 crores, IGST 57864 crores and Cess 7790 crores.

# 54. Govt kept interest rates unchanged on Small Savings Schemes for Q2 (July-Sept) of 2021-22 -

| Scheme Name   | Interest Rate |
|---|---------------|
| Post Office Savings Account                           | 4%            |
| 5-Year Post Office Recurring Deposit (RD) Account     | 5.8%          |
| Post Office Time Deposit (TD) Account – 1, 2, 3 Years | 5.5%          |
| Post Office Time Deposit Account (TD) – Five Years    | 6.7%          |
| Post Office Monthly Income Scheme Account (MIS)       | 6.6%          |
| Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS)                  | 7.4%          |
| Public Provident Fund (PPF)                           | 7.1%          |
| National Savings Certificates (NSC)                   | 6.8%          |

| Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) | 6.9% |
|-------------------------|------|
| Sukanya Samriddhi       | 7.6% |

- 55. Govt announced infusion of 14500 crores into 4 Public Sector Banks Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of India and UCO Bank, by issuing non-interest bearing bonds.
- 56. Govt announced onetime enhance subsidy rates for DAP and other P & K fertilisers for upcoming Kharif season.
  - Subsidy rate for DAP has been enhanced from 511 per bag to 1211 per bag, an increase of 700 per bag. This will ensure that DAP will continue to be available to farmers at last years' price of 1200 per bag.
  - Novt will spend additional 14775 crores as subsidy in Kharif season.
- 57. ▶ Govt hiked foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in pension fund management to 74% from 49%, under national pension system (NPS).
- 58. Govt. issued schedule for Sovereign Gold Bonds Scheme 2021-22, to be issued in 6 tranches Between May September 2021. Terms -

| ,                |   |
|------------------|---|
| Sl. No.          | Item  |
| Issuance         | To be issued by RBI on behalf of Government of India.   |
| Eligibility      | The Bonds will be restricted for sale to resident individuals, HUFs, Trusts, Universities and Charitable Institutions.  |
| Denomination     | The Bonds will be denominated in multiples of gram(s) of gold with a basic unit of 1 gram.  |
| Tenor            | Tenor of Bond will be 8 years with exit option after5th year to be exercised on the next interest payment dates.  |
| Minimum size     | Minimum permissible investment will be 1 gram of gold.  |
| Maximum<br>limit | Maximum limit of subscription shall be 4 KG for individual, 4 Kg for HUF and 20 Kg for trusts and similar entities.   |
| Joint holder     | In case of joint holding, investment limit of 4 KG will be applied to the first applicant only.   |
| Issue price      | Price of Bond will be fixed on the basis of simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity, published by India Bullion and Jewellers Association. Discount of 50 per gram for online payments. |
| Payment option   | Cash payment (upto 20000) or demand draft or cheque or electronic banking.  |
| Redemption price | Redemption price will be in based on simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity, of previous 3 working days published by IBJA.   |
|                  |   |

| Sales channel | Bonds will be sold through banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India, post offices and recognised stock exchanges or through agents.                                       |
|---------------|--|
| Interest rate | 2.50 percent % payable semi-annually.  |
| Collateral    | Bonds can be used as collateral for loans.   |
| Tax treatment | Interest shall be taxable as per the provision of Income Tax Act 1961. Capital gains tax arising on redemption of SGB to an individual has been exempted.                  |
| Commission    | Commission for distribution shall be paid at the rate of 1% of total subscription received by receiving offices and will be shared at least 50% of commission with agents. |

- 59. HDFC Bank and Common Services Centres (CSCs) launched chatbot 'Eva' on CSCs Digital Seva Portal to support Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) in providing banking services for last mile rural consumers.
- 60. Hurun India Wealth Report 2020 identified a novel household category in India called *New Middle Class*, which accounts for an average savings of Rs 20-lakh per annum. As per report, number of such cumulative households in India stands at 633,000.
  - Neport states that there are around 4,12,000 dollar-millionaire households across India, with net worth over 7 crores.
  - Name are over 3000 households with wealth over 1000 crores.
  - 🔪 *Indian middle class*, with earnings over 2.5-lakh per annum, are approx 5.64 Crores.
- 61. ICICI Bank has cut India's first set of *swaption* deals with HSBC and Standard Chartered Bank, initiating new era of risk management in India's interest-rate derivatives market, to draw more overseas funds into local debt assets.
  - Naption interest-rate derivative product helps both local borrowers and investors to rein in funding costs in a rising rate scenario and retain investment returns in a falling rate scenario.
  - \ In June 2019, RBI had issued guidelines for *swaption* deals. A swaption contract gives buyer the right, but not the obligation, to enter into an interest-rate swap deal.
- 62. ▶ ICICI Bank launched digital banking platform, especially for retail merchants, called *Merchant Stack*.
- 63. ICICI Bank tied up with SWIFT to help overseas partner banks to send instant remittances on behalf of their customers to beneficiary in India. This makes ICICI Bank first bank in Asia-Pacific and 2nd globally to offer the facility, called 'SWIFT gpi Instant', for cross border inward payments.
- 64. ▶ India attracted highest ever total FDI inflow of **US\$ 81.72 billion** during FY 21 (2020-21), 10% more than FY 20's US\$ 74.39 billion. Other Stats for FDI Inflow during FY 21 -
  - 🥄 FDI equity inflow grew by 19% (US\$ 59.64 billion),compared to previous FY 20 (US\$ 49.98 billion).
  - No In terms of top investors, Singapore is at top with 29%, followed by U.S.A (23%) and Mauritius (9%).

- 🥄 Gujarat is top recipient state with 37% share of total FDI Equity inflows, followed by Maharashtra (27%) and Karnataka (13%).
- 65. ► India attracted total FDI inflow of US\$ 72.12 billion during April to January 2021 (highest ever for first 10 months of a financial year). It is 15% higher as compared to first ten months of 2019-20 (US\$ 62.72 billion).
  - Nuring Concerned Period, Singapore leads FDI investment in India (30.28%), followed by USA (24.28%) and UAE (7.31%).
- 66. India extended soft loan of USD 108.28 million to Eswatini (Swaziland) for construction of its Parliament building, through Exim Bank.
  - 🔪 India also extended a USD 100 million Line of Credit to Sri Lanka to help finance various projects in solar energy sector.
- 67. India overtook US to become 2nd most sought-after manufacturing destination globally, according to real estate consultant Cushman & Wakefield.
  - Notina remains at Top, followed by India, US, Canada and Czech Republic.
- 68. India signed \$2.5 million project readiness financing (PRF) loan with Asian Development Bank, to support project preparation and design activities to upgrade major district roads in **Sikkim**.
- 69. India signed \$300 million loan agreement with *Asian Development Bank (ADB)*, as additional financing to scale up improvement of rural connectivity to help boost rural economy in **Maharashtra**, under project named *Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project*.
- 70. ▶ India signed \$250 million Loan agreement with World Bank, for Second Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP-2), which aims at improving safety and performance of dams across India.
  - The project will be implemented in approximately 120 dams across the states of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu.
- 71. India signed \$32 Million loan with World Bank for Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project, to improve management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram.
- 72. India signed **\$484 million** loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB), to improve transport connectivity and facilitate industrial development in Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu.
  - CKIC is part of India's East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC), which stretches from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu and connects India to production networks of South, Southeast, and East Asia.
- 73. India signed **\$500 million** loan agreement with **Asian Development Bank** (ADB), to expand metro rail network in **Bengaluru**, with construction of two new metro lines totaling 56 km in length.
  - Note The Project will construct two metro lines, along Outer Ring Road and National Highway 44 between Central Silk Board and Kempegowda International Airport with 30 stations.
  - Additional \$2 million technical assistance grant from ADB will help state government formulate urban development plans and their implementing frameworks, focusing on TOD and multimodal integration.

- 74. India signed contract for 2nd tranche of Euro 150 million Loan with European Investment Bank (EIB), for Pune Metro Rail project.
  - EIB had earlier approved loan of Euro 600 million to fund Pune Metro Rail project. First tranche of Euro 200 million was signed in 2019.
- 75. India's Adani Green Energy acquired SoftBank-backed **SB Energy Holdings Limited** for enterprise value of \$3.5 billion.
- 76. India's NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) partnered with UAE's oldest private bank *Mashreq Bank*, to launch Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payment system in **UAE**.
- 77. India's overall exports (merchandise & services) during FY 21 (2020-21) are estimated at USD 493.19 Billion, compared to USD 528.37 Billion during FY 20 (2019-20), showing negative growth of (-) 6.66 percent.
  - Noverall trade deficit during FY 21 estimated at 12.74 billion USD, compared to 77.76 Billion USD In FY 20.
- 78. Indian Insurance Major *Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)* has been named 3rd strongest and 10th most valuable insurance brand globally, in Brand Finance Insurance 100 report for 2021. Globally -
  - 🦠 Most Valuable Brand Ping An Insurance (China)
  - Nost Strongest Brand Poste Italiane (Italy)
- 79. Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) became second most-valued listed public sector bank, with market capitalisation of over 50000 crores, surpassing PNB and BOB.
- 80. India's first sectoral index in Agri commodities basket, named *GUAREX*, has been launched by National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX).
  - GUAREX is a price based sectoral index that tracks the movement in the futures contracts of guar gum refined splits and guar seed on a real-time basis. Weightage of guarseed and guar gum refined splits in the index will be 63 and 37 %, respectively.
- 81. ▶ India's foreign-exchange reserves surpassed Russia's to become world's fourth-largest reserve, Reaching \$580 billion. China has largest reserves, followed by Japan and Switzerland.
- 82. Injeti Srinivas (IFSCA Chairperson) launched pilot run/soft launch of International Bullion Exchange, which is scheduled to go live on October 1, 2021 (Foundation Day of IFSCA).
  - As announced in Budget 2020-21, International Financial Services Centres Authority (Bullion Exchange) Regulations 2020 were notified in December 2020, which cover Bullion Exchange, Clearing Corporation, Depository and Vaults.
  - Note That in the International Bullion Exchange shall reportedly be *Gateway for Bullion Imports into India*, wherein all bullion imports for domestic consumption shall be channelized through it.
  - \ It is expected to bring all market participants at a common transparent platform for bullion trading and provide efficient price discovery and enable greater integration with other segments of financial markets and help establish India as a dominant trading

hub.

- 83. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed loan agreement for JPY 10 billion with Tata Cleantech Capital Limited (TCCL), to support TCCL to offer loans to businesses across India that focus on renewable energy generation, e-mobility solutions and energy efficiency.
  - Japan also finalised loans and a grant totalling around 233 billion yen (\$2.11 billion) for several key infrastructure projects in India, including 4th phase of Delhi Metro and Japan's first ever official development assistance to a project in Andaman and Nicobar islands.
- 84. Japan announced USD 9.3 million worth of cold chain equipment and related assistance to India to help fight against COVID-19 pandemic.
- 85. ▶ Kandla SEZ has been awarded IGBC Platinum Rating, making it First Green SEZ to achieve IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating for Existing Cities.
- 86. Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC) announced Scheme for funding up to 10 crores for startups, called *Startup Kerala*.
  - It will support startups in all stages of their growth. Assistance will be 25 lakh for productisation, 50 lakh for commercialization and 100 lakh for scaling up.
- 87. Kerala Govt announced financial package of over approx 5650 crores to help revive state economy that has been reeling due to COVID-19 pandemic. It mainly aims to assist small-scale farmers and traders. Highlights -
  - State Govt will provide subsidized loans and announced new loan schemes under Kerala State Financial Enterprise (KSFE) and Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC). State Govt will give subsidized loans and will bear 4% of interest of loans for 6 months for loans up to 2 lakh.
  - 🔪 MSMEs have been given a building tax exemption during facilitation period (Jul Dec 2021).
  - Notate Govt also decided to provide loans up to 1 crore at 5% interest rates for 500 business enterprises in a year, for entrepreneurs under age of 50.
  - $ilde{lack}$  State announced a moratorium of 1 year for loans that will be taken by the small-scale enterprises from KFC.
- 88. Key RBI Announcements on Developmental and Regulatory Policies -
  - Enhanced limit of maximum end-of-day balance for payment banks from 1 to 2 lakh, to further financial inclusion and expand ability of payment banks to cater to customers' needs.
  - Expanded Direct Membership of Centralised Payments Systems such as RTGS and NEFT facilities, to non-bank payment system firms. Until now, CPSs were limited to banks only.
  - 🔪 Decided to extend fresh support of 50,000 crore to All India Financial Institutions for new lending in 2021-22 -

- NABARD 25,000 crores
- NHB 10000 crores
- Name of the strategy SIDBI 15000 crores.
- No Proposed to constitute a Committee to review working of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARC) in financial ecosystem and recommend measures for enabling ARCs to meet growing requirements of financial sector.
- Accepted Recommendation of an Advisory Committee (Under Sudhir Shrivastava), to revise Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limits to 47010 crores for all states, against current limit of 32225 crores.
- To promote optimal utilisation of payment instruments by enabling interoperability amongst issuing entities, RBI proposed to make interoperability mandatory for full-KYC PPIs and for all acceptance infrastructure. To incentivise migration of PPIs to full-KYC, it is proposed to increase limit of outstanding balance in such PPIs from 1 to 2 lakh.
- Enhanced loan limit from 50 to 75 lakh per borrower against pledge/hypothecation of agricultural produce backed by Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs)/electronic-NWRs(e-NWRs) issued by warehouses regulated by Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA).
- To measure extent of financial inclusion in country, RBI will periodically publish a *Financial Inclusion Index*. FI Index will be published annually in July for financial year ending previous March.
- 89. LIC Cards Services launched a contactless prepaid gift card **Shagun**, in collaboration with IDBI Bank on RuPay platform, to foray into market of e-gift cards.
- 90. MSME Ministry announced inclusion of Retail and Wholesale trades as MSMEs, to benefit 2.5 Crore Retail and Wholesale Traders. It will enable them to avail benefit of priority sector lending under RBI guidelines, and will allow them to register on Udyam Registration Portal.
- 91. Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture (MCCIA) partnered with NABARD, to launch India's first agro-export facilitation centre in Pune, to boost agricultural exports from region and adhere to global standards.
- 92. Malaysia surpassed Indonesia to become India's biggest Crude Palm Oil (CPO) exporter in 2020-21, after Indonesia imposed heavy taxes on exports of edible oil. Malaysia's palm oil exports to India surged 238 % to 2.42 million tonnes in first seven months of 2020-21 marketing year.
- 93. Manila (Philippinnes) Based funding agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved **USD 112 million** loan to finance water supply infrastructure in **Jharkhand** State, named *Jharkhand Urban Water Supply Improvement Project*.
- 94. Markets regulator SEBI doubled overseas investment limit of alternative investment funds and venture capital funds to \$1,500 million.
- 95. Misc. Corporate News / Events (March 2021)

- Government amended *Insurance Ombudsman Rules 2017*, to improve working of Insurance Ombudsman mechanism to facilitate resolution of complaints regarding deficiencies in insurance services in a timely and cost-effective manner. Amended rules have enlarged scope of complaints to Ombudsmen, also including insurance brokers.
- NEPFO recommended 8.50% annual rate of interest to be credited on EPF accumulations in members' accounts for FY 21 (2020-21).
  - Also, EPFO extended its provident fund, pension and insurance benefits to all employees of existing establishments covered under erstwhile J&K PF Act and employees of newly covered establishments.
- NOTE HDFC ERGO General Insurance launched *Business Kisht Suraksha* cover, with aim of protecting balance sheet of lending Institutions in case of a catastrophe / natural disaster.
- SBI Mutual Funds launched its first overseas offering, titled *SBI International Access US Equity FOF*, as an open-ended fund of funds scheme investing in a mutual fund scheme/ETFs that invest in US markets, which are domiciled overseas.
- Niemens Closed acquiring 99.22 % stake in C&S Electric, for 2100 crores.
- Anil Ambani-led Reliance Power achieved financial closure for its 745 MW Unit in Bangladesh, along with partner JERA of Japan, by tying up funds with a group of lenders that includes Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- India will levy a customs duty of 40% on solar modules and 25% on solar cells from April 2022, to cut imports and boost local manufacturing.
- $ilde{\hspace{1em}}$  Tata Motors launched 'Wheels of Love' holistic programme to support new parents in its workforce.
- 🔪 Axis Bank launched wearable contactless payment devices under brand *Wear 'N' Pay* .
- As per Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology's (MeitY) Digital Payment Scorecard, SBI topped the list of Banks' performance on various digital parameters, for 3 consecutive months.
- Samsung Electronics' System LSI Business and Mastercard signed MOU to develop a biometric card that features a built-in fingerprint scanner to authorize transactions securely at in-store payment terminals.
- NBI imposed penalty of 2 Crore on State Bank of India, for contravention of certain RBI provisions.
- Power Grid Corporation signed Share Purchase Agreement with Jaiprakash Power Ventures Limited (JPVL) to acquire 74% stake in Jaypee Powergrid Limited-JV (JPL), in which POWERGRID holds 26% equity. JPL-JV has developed a 214 Km long EHV power transmission project to evacuate power from Karcham-Wangtoo project in Himachal Pradesh.
- Note that Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) launched 'IOB Trendy', savings account customised for growing millennial population in country by considering their banking preferences.

- Note That In Note that I was a second secon
- Yes Bank launched *Yes Essence Plus* accelerator program to support women-led startups in partnership with SHEROES, the women-only social network.

# 96. Misc. Corporate News (July 2021) -

- Notice ICICI Bank launched customized solutions for Doctors, titled Salute Doctors.
- Note: HDFC Bank launched SalaamDilSey initiative to show gratitude to doctors for their tireless service during pandemic.
- Naxis Bank partnered with Amazon Web Services (AWS), to power its digital transformation programme.
- 🔪 Indian Bank launched its flagship Business Mentoring Program MSME Prerana, in Maharashtra.
- Nman Aviation and France's Airbus Helicopters signed first aircraft purchase order by a GIFT city (Gujarat International Finance Tech) based leasing company, under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan of India.
- Razorpay partnered with Mastercard to launch *MandateHQ*, as a payment interface to help card-issuing banks to enable recurring payments for their customers.
- 🔪 Paytm launched *Postpaid Mini*, to provide small-ticket loans ranging 250 1000, in partnership with Aditya Birla Finance.
- SBI General Insurance launched new health insurance plan named *Arogya Supreme*, designed to ensure that customers can have full health insurance coverage, including 20 basic covers and 8 optional covers.
- Export Import Bank of India extended USD 35.26 million loan for a power transmission project being executed by Kalpataru Power Transmission in Senegal, under National Export Insurance Account (NEIA) scheme.
- Adani Group completed takeover of Mumbai International Airport, becoming India's biggest airport operator with 8 airports. With this, Adani group's airports now account for 25% of total footfalls and 33% of air cargo in India.
- Telangana Govt's business incubator *T-Hub* partnered with NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), to foster innovation and entrepreneurship across healthcare sector. T-Hub will run a three-month cohort-based programme AIC T-Hub Foundation, for startups creating solutions in healthcare.
- 🥄 Federal Bank launched FEDDY, Artificial Intelligence-powered virtual assistant to help customers with banking-related queries.
- LIC Launched *Arogya Rakshak Health Insurance* Plan, as a non-linked, non-participating, regular premium, individual plan. It provides fixed-benefit health insurance cover against certain specified health risks and provides timely support in case of medical emergencies.
- 🥄 Payments Firm Razorpay acquired artificial intelligence (AI)-based risk analysis platform TERA Finlabs.

- Microsoft acquired San Francisco(US) Based *RiskIQ* for 500 Million USD, which is a provider of cybersecurity services, including malware and spyware monitoring and mobile app security.
- 🔪 Google Cloud launched its new Cloud Region in Delhi NCR (as 2nd in India), after 1st in Mumbai.
- Note: ICICI Bank and HPCL Launched Co-Branded Credit Card ICICI Bank HPCL Super Saver Credit Card.
- Reliance Retail Ventures (RRVL) acquired majority stake in local search company Just Dial for 3497 crores. Reliance Retail will now hold 40.95% stake in Justdial.
- 🔪 Lending platform U GRO Capital signed co-lending partnership with Bank of Baroda, for lending to MSMEs.
- Naisalo Digital has been selected by State Bank of India as its National Corporate Business Correspondent for financial inclusion by providing banking services through kiosks.
- Nangalore International Airport signed 10 year partnership with IBM, to set up *Airport in a Box* platform, to help Bangalore Airport improve its productivity.
- Soogle-parent Alphabet announced to launch a new robotics company called *Intrinsic*, which will focus on building software for industrial robots. It will be carved out of X, Alphabet's Moonshot factory that houses futuristic firms.
- NBI imposed penalty of 5 crore on Axis Bank, for non-compliance with certain RBI directions.

#### 97. Misc. Corporate News / Events (April 2021) -

- Name BharatPe launched lending product to provide instant liquidity to distributors, wholesalers, traders and dealers, Called Distributor to Retailer (D2R) Finance. It would offer collateral-free loans of up to 50 lakh for a period of seven days to 30 days.
- ICICI Bank and Axis Bank tied up with global e-commerce major Amazon and cards major Visa to launch a retail payments entity, to rival state-owned NPCI.
- Tinance Ministry stated that Businesses with turnover over 5 crores will have to furnish six-digit HSN or tariff code on the invoices issued for supplies of taxable goods and services from April 1, 2021.
- SBI Funds Management Pvt. Ltd became first mutual fund house in India to cross 5 lakh crore average assets under management (AAUM) mark.
- 🔪 Edtech Startup Byju's acquired tutorial chain Aakash Educational Services (AESL) for \$950 million.
- Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) acquired residual 25 % stake in Adani Krishnapatnam Port, for 2800 crores. With this, APSEZ will increase its stake from 75 to 100 % in Krishnapatnam Port.
- Naxis Bank became co-promoters of Max Life Insurance, after acquisition of 12.99% stake collectively by Axis Entities in Max Life.
- Indian cryptocurrency exchange WazirX launched India's first Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) Marketplace, to feature exclusive artwork from artists.

- Nunjab National Bank (PNB) launched a digital initiative "PNB@Ease" under which every transaction undertaken by a bank branch will be initiated and authorised by customers themselves.
- RBI imposed penalty of 40 Lakh on Himachal Pradesh State Co-operative Bank, for non-compliance with regulatory directions in *Review of Frauds Guidelines on Monitoring and Reporting System*.
- RBL Bank and Mastercard partnered to launch mobile-based consumer-friendly payment solution *Pay by Bank App*, as a first-of-its-kind payment functionality in India. This will enable RBL customers to contactlessly transact across world through their mobile banking application.
- Gautam Adani Led Adani Group became India's third group to cross USD 100 billion market capitalisation, after Tata Group and Reliance Industries.
- Notes Investment app ETMONEY launched India's first Aadhaar-based SIP payments feature, enabling anyone to start a SIP and set up automatic payments using Aadhaar based OTP verification.
- Facebook signed First Deal in India, to buy renewable energy from a local firm's 32 MW wind power project in southern Karnataka, as part of larger portfolio that Facebook and Mumbai-based CleanMax are working on.
- 🥄 Rating agency Fitch kept sovereign rating of India unchanged at 'BBB-' with a negative outlook.
- 🥄 Aceware FinTech launched Kerala's first neobank, Ace Money Neobank, in partnership with Yes Bank and ICICI Bank.
- Coal India signed its first solar power purchase agreement for sale of 100 Megawatt (MW) solar power with Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam (GUVNL). CIL aims at 3000 MW of solar power generation by 2024.
- RBI imposed penalty of 40 Lakh on Himachal Pradesh State Co-operative Bank, for non-compliance with regulatory directions related to Frauds Monitoring and Reporting.
- NHDFC Bank named top arranger of corporate bond deals in 2020-21 (FY21), followed by Axis Bank and ICICI Bank.
- 🥄 Paytm Launched video-based wealth community, wherein users can interact with subject-matter experts on financial topics.
- As per Budget announcement, Govt infused 200 crores in IFCI Ltd, increasing its holding to 63.8 % (from 61.02 %).
- 98. Misc. Corporate News / Events (August 2021) -
  - LIC Cards and IDBI Bank partnered to launch two variants of co-branded RuPay Credit Cards called Lumine Platinum and Eclat Select.
  - Ningapore based DBS and Temasek partnered to jointly launch a US\$500 million growth stage debt financing platform, called *EvolutionX Debt Capital*.
    - Notably, DBS has been named global winner for Most Innovative in Digital Banking by Financial Times publication, The Banker.

- Edtech platform BYJU'S acquired Singapore-based Great Learning which focuses on professional and higher education, for 600 million USD.
- Necure financial messaging services provider SWIFT launched SWIFT Go Service, which enables consumers to send fast and secure cross-border payments anywhere across world, from their bank accounts.
- RBI imposed penalty of 50.35 lakh on Nashik based Janalaxmi Co-operative Bank, for non-compliance with RBi directions on *Placement of Deposits with Other Banks by Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks*.
- SEBI allowed payments banks to carry out activities of investment bankers, to provide easy access to investors to participate in public and rights issues by using various payment avenues.
- Education financing platform GyanDhan received NBFC license from RBI. It aims to disburse 650 crores worth of education loans in FY22.
- Canadian pension fund Ontario Municipal Employees' Retirement System (OMERS) acquired 19.4 % stake in India-based renewable power producer Azure Power Global for \$219 million, from International Finance Corporation and IFC GIF Investment Company.
- No Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB) launched *Health and Wellness Savings Account* to help customers manage their wealth and health, amid challenging covid-19 pandemic scenario. Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB) launched *Health and Wellness Savings Account* to help customers manage their wealth and health, amid challenging covid-19 pandemic scenario.
- RBI imposed penalty of 1 Crore on Netherlands Based Cooperatieve Rabobank UA, for deficiencies in abiding by certain regulatory compliances.
- NEL Technologies' Became 4th Indian IT Firm to touch 3 Lakh Crores Market Cap, after TCS, Infosys and Wipro.
  - Also, HCL's CSR Arm HCL Foundation launched an online portal *My e-Haat*, to empower artisans and strengthen value chain of handicraft sector in India.
  - Also, IT Firm Infosys crosed \$100 billion in market capitalisation, becoming 4th Indian company to do so, after Reliance Industries (\$140 billion), TCS (\$115 billion) and HDFC Bank (\$100.1 billion).
- Cryptocurrency exchange CoinDCX became India's first crypto unicorn, after raising \$90 million led by Facebook co-founder Eduardo Saverin's fund B Capital, valuing it at \$1.1 billion.
- Asian Development Bank began a green housing initiative in India aiming to reduce carbon emissions and conserve water and energy, through a tie-up with low cost housing financier IIFL Home Finance.
- Neguitas Small Finance Bank launched *Equitech*, as a fintech accelerator programme aimed at start-up ecosystem.
- AU Small Finance Bank Launched app AU 0101, to provide consolidated banking services and its Brand Campaign BADLAAV Humse Hai.
- 🥄 RBI partially lifted digital ban on HDFC Bank, which was put in December 2020, barring it from issuing new credit cards.

- SBI Life Insurance launched a unique age protection solution called *SBI Life eShield Next*, which enhances protection coverage as insured achieves life's milestones.
- TCS crossed 13-lakh-crore mark in market value, becoming 2nd Indian Company to do so after Reliance Industries.
- Notak Mahindra Bank deployed a secure, Do It Yourself (DIY) Digital Repayment Platform called *Neo Collections*, for missed loan repayments, in a tie-up with Creditas Solutions.
- World Bank Group member IFC extended \$75 million support to Industrial real estate and logistics parks' developer IndoSpace's logistics, to develop logistics and industrial parks with an objective to enhance warehousing and supply chain infrastructure in India.
- Tata Power will set up India's first large scale battery storage of 50 megawatt hour (MWh) along with a 50 MW solar plant at Leh, with project valued at 386 crores.
- Xarnatak Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) launched *Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System (FRUITS)* portal, an e-governance project of government of Karnataka, to assist Farmers in availing crop loans and other facilities easily.
- Name Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) launched AI-enabled chatbot named *Urja* as a self-service platform for customers, for faster resolution of issues. URJA is first such chatbot in oil and gas industry in India, launched under Project Anubhav of BPCL.
- 🔪 ICICI Bank's Germany Unit launched a digital and instant Blocked Account for students aspiring to study in Germany.
  - In a Blocked Account, students must keep a certain amount of money, in order to get a Balance Confirmation Certificate (BCC), a mandatory requirement for a student Visa in Germany.
- Najaj Finserv received SEBI approval to start Mutual Fund business, paving way for it to set up an Asset Management Company (AMC).
- RBI imposed penalty of 3 crore on *Transaction Analysts (India)*, for contravention of certain provisions related to Issuance and Operation of PPIs.
- Tlipkart-owned payments platform PhonePe received an insurance broking licence from IRDAI, enabling it to distribute insurance products from all insurance companies in India, on its platform.
- Nayments system RuPay launched campaign titled #FollowPaymentDistancing, to promote and encourage contactless payments.
- \ LoanTap, Digital lender with its own NBFC, launched LIMITLESS Credit line backed Cards, in association with SBM Bank (State Bank of Mauritius) and Rupay network.
- 99. Misc. Corporate News / Events (June 2021) -
  - 🥄 e-pharmacy PharmEasy acquired Medlife, to make PharmEasy largest player in domestic online pharmacy sector.

- India Post Payments Bank and Mahindra Rural Housing Finance partnered for cash management solutions, enabling IPPB to offer cash management and collection services to MRHFL through its access points and postal service providers.
- 🥄 RBI imposed penalty of 2 crore on Punjab National Bank and 4 crores on Bank of India, for non-compliance with certain RBI Norms.
- Note: DBS Bank has been named by Forbes at top, out of 30 domestic and international banks in India for 2nd consecutive year.
- NHDFC Bank announced its plans to become carbon-neutral by 2031-32.
- SBI launched collateral-free *Kavach Personal Loan*, to enable customers to meet medical expenses for Covid treatment. Under it, customers can avail loans up to 5 lakhs at effective interest rate of 8.5 % per annum.
- Nayments services provider BharatPe acquired multi-brand loyalty platform PAYBACK India.
- National Plank launched Easy Credit digital lending platform to enable customers to meet financial requirements, from their homes.
- ICICI Bank launched ICICI STACK for Corporates, as a comprehensive set of digital banking solutions for corporates and their entire ecosystem.
- As per Bank for International Settlements, Indian banks' credit-to-GDP ratio rose to 5 year high of 56% in 2020, having total outstanding bank at \$1.52 trillion in India. Higher credit-to-GDP ratio indicates aggressive and active participation of the banking sector in real economy.
- SBI Card partnered with Fabindia, a retail platform for a wide range of handcrafted products by artisans, to launch an exclusive cobranded contactless credit card.
- Naisabazaar.com and SBM Bank India Jointly launched *Step Up Credit Card*, a credit builder product designed for consumers with limited access to formal credit, due to ineligible credit score.
- Narti Airtel partnered with Tata group's TCS, for implementing 5G network solutions for India.
- Fertiliser cooperative IFFCO will set up a nano urea liquid manufacturing plant in Argentina, in partnership with *Instituto Nacional de Asociativismoy Economia Social (INAES)* and *Cooperative Confederation of Argentina 'Cooperar'*.

#### 100. ► Misc. Corporate News /Events (May 2021) -

- To help MSMEs fight COVID-19, SIDBI lauched two loan products at concessional rate, which will help augment supply of essential Commodities. Products are SHWAS (SIDBI assistance to Healthcare sector in War Against Second wave of COVID19) and AROG (SIDBI Assistance to MSMEs for Recovery & Organic Growth during COVID19 pandemic).
- Nabour ministry hiked maximum sum assured payable under Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme 1976, from 6 to 7 lakh.
- RBI imposed penalty of 3 crore on ICICI Bank, for non-compliance with directions related to shifting of securities between categories.

- \ Jana Small Finance Bank launched *I choose my number* feature, giving its customers the option to select their chosen number as their bank account number.
- 🥄 RBI approved prepaid payment business (PPI) Licenses for Bajaj Finance and Eroute Technologies.
- Geojit Financial Services partnered with Punjab National Bank to provide three-in-one account to Bank's customers. The new service gives customers who have a savings account with PNB, a PNB Demat account and a Geojit trading account.
- Noogle launched international money transfer facility for its payments app Google Pay users in US, enabling them to pay app users in India and Singapore, in partnership with remittance Firms *Wise* and *Western Union Co*.
- Nairtel Payments Bank launched *DigiGold* platform for customers to make investments in gold, in partnership with SafeGold.
- Nonline investment platform Groww acquired Indiabulls Mutual Fund for 175 crores.
- \ India is 2nd largest insurance-technology market in Asia-Pacific, accounting for 35 % of USD 3.66 billion insurtech-focused venture capital invested in APAC. China stands first with approx 43 % of investments.
- RBI's Arm Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) will build Digital Financial Infrastructure named *National Digital Financial Infrastructure (NADI)*, which will provide a roadmap and framework for future digital financial services growth in India.
- Note: SBI partnered with HyperVerge, to use its flagship *Video Banking solution*, to boost online account openings, Assisted by AI engines.
- Notak Mahindra Bank issued foreign portfolio investor (FPI) licence to the GIFT IFSC alternative investment fund (AIF) of True Beacon Global, as first FPI licence issued to an AIF incorporated in GIFT IFSC by any custodian bank or designated depository participant in India.
- 🥄 RBI Imposed Penalty of 1 Crore on each of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank and City Union Bank.
- $ilde{lack}$  Equitas Small Finance Bank became first SFB to offer Online account opening facility for NRIs.
- NEBI Imposed 5.25 crores Fine on Cairn India for Fraud under Share Buyback.
- Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance launched hyper-flexible savings plan, *Vision LifeIncome Plus Plan*, that provides guaranteed regular income plus flexible bonus pay-outs.
- RBI imposed penalty of 10 crores INR on HDFC Bank, for contravention of provisions related to marketing and sale of third-party non-financial products to bank's customers.
- NPCI partnered with Turkey's global payment solutions company PayCore, as a certified partner for RuPay SoftPOS to drive cashless payments across Turkey.
- 🥄 Tata Digital acquired a majority stake (64%) in online grocery BigBasket.

- 101. NITI Aayog and Payments Firm Mastercard released report *Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat*, identifying challenges in accelerating digital financial inclusion in India, and measures for promoting the same.
- 102. National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) has been incorporated (also called bad bank), by Corporate Affairs Ministry.
  - It aims at becoming one-stop solution for stressed banking systems assets. Under first phase, 22 stressed accounts amounting 89000 crores have been identified to be transferred to NARCL.
- 103. ▶ National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) launched India's first sectoral indices in agri-commodities space namely GAUREX and SOYDEX.
  - QUAREX is a return-based index. It will track price movement in futures contracts of its guar gum refined splits and guar seed on a real-time basis. Weightage of guar gum refined splits will be 36.57 % and guar seed will be 63.43 %.
  - SOYDEX will follow price changes in futures contracts of refined soy oil and soybean. Weightage of refined soy oil will be 32.08 % and soybean will be 67.92 %.
- 104. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) secured **Euro 68.87 million** (Rs 600 cr) loan from Deutsche Bank, Germany's largest bank, for onward lending to cooperatives in India.
  - Nan agreement was also signed between Indian Chamber of Commerce and NCDC, to boost farmers linkages with markets.
- 105. ▶ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and *SBI Payments* launched *RuPay SoftPoS* for merchants, which will be helpful in transforming NFC enabled smartphones into merchant Point of Sale (PoS) terminals for retailers.
  - Nerchants will be able to accept contactless payments of up to 5000 by simple tap and pay mechanism using their smartphones.
- 106. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) announced formation of wholly-owned subsidiary firm NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd.
- 107. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has set out new guidelines for digital payment apps limiting their share in the overall volume of transactions on unified payment interface (UPI) at 30%, to enforce parity in fast-growing digital payments industry.
  - NonePe and Google Pay, with market share of around 40% each, will have to now *moderate* new customer acquisition and reduce transaction volume to within prescribed limits by end of 2022.
  - Nalso, PhonePe became first company to cross one billion transactions on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) infrastructure.
- 108. National Statistical Office (under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation) released estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for **first quarter (April-June) Q1 of 2021-22**, both at Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices-
  - Note that Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q1 of 2021-22 is estimated at 32.38 lakh crores, as against 26.95 lakh crores in Q1 of 2020-21, showing Growth of 20.1 %. Growth in earlier 4 Quarters −
    - 🔪 Q4 of FY 2020-21 1.6 %
    - **♦** 03 of FY 2020-21 0.4 %

- 🔪 Q2 of FY 2020-21 (-7.5) %
- 🔪 Q1 of FY 2020-21 (-23.9) %
- 🔪 Overall, India's GDP contracted by 7.3% in 2020-21
- Note: The content of the content of 2021-22 also shown growth 31.7 %.
- 109. ▶ National Statistical Office released Provisional Estimates of National Income for FY 2020-21, both at Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices -
  - Real GDP (GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices) -
    - Estimated to be 135.13 lakh crores, as against First Revised Estimate of GDP for 2019-20 of 145.69 lakh crores, showing contraction of -7.3 % in 2020-21.
- \ In Q4 of 2020-21, GDP estimated at 38.96 lakh crores, against 38.33 lakh crore in Q4 of 2019-20, showing **growth of 1.6** %.
- 110. Newly elected Tamil Nadu Govt presented State budget for FY 22 (2021-22) -
  - Expenditure for 2021-22 is estimated to be Rs 329035 crores, increase of 12.9% over actual expenditure in 2019-20 and 7.5% over revised expenditure for 2020-21.
  - Nax on petrol will be reduced by three rupees per litre, estimated to cause a revenue loss of Rs 1,160 crore a year.
  - 🔪 Around eight lakh houseless families in rural areas will be provided with a house in 5 years.
  - 🔪 Implementation of Old Age Pensions scheme will be overhauled and its coverage expanded to all deserving beneficiaries.
  - A wage employment scheme will be implemented on a pilot basis to provide gainful employment to urban poor, with initial allocation 100 crores.
  - Notably, Tamil Nadu presented a separate agricultural budget for FY 22, becoming third state to present a separate farm budget, after Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
    - Nature of Tamil Nadu M Karunanidhi (Kalaignarin Anaithu Grama Orunginaintha Velaan Valarchi Thittam).
  - 🔪 To promote organic farming, State government will implement 'Organic Farming Development Scheme' at a cost of 33 crores.
- 111. PM Narendra Modi launched digital payment solution **e-RUPI**, as a person and purpose specific digital payment solution.
  - e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment. It aims to ensure that money is being used for the purpose for which any help or any benefit is being provided.
  - e-RUPI is a digital voucher which a beneficiary gets on his phone in form of an SMS / QR code. It is a pre-paid voucher, redeemable at any centre that accepts it.

- 112. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) increased maximum entry age of NPS (National Pension System) from 18-65 years to 18-70 years, to senior citizens, who are planning to be a part of NPS.
- 113. President promulgated Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance 2021, to amend Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016.
  - \sqrt{1} It aims to provide efficient alternative insolvency resolution framework for corporate persons classified as MSMEs under the Code, for quicker and cost-effective outcomes.
- 114. Punjab National Bank incorporated wholly-owned subsidiary **PNB Cards & Services Limited**, with authorised capital 25 Crores, which will deal with banks' non-financial support services related to its credit card business.
- 115. RBI Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy statement -
  - RBI has cut its real GDP growth forecast for FY 22 (2021-22) to 9.5 %. It predicts economy to grow at 18.5 % in Q1, 7.9 % in Q2, 7.2 % in Q3 and 6.6 % in Q4.
  - 🥄 Policy rates have been kept unchanged at -
    - Nepo Rate : 4.00%
    - 🥄 Reverse Repo Rate : 3.35%
    - 🔪 Marginal Standing Facility Rate : 4.25%
    - Nank Rate: 4.25%
    - **CRR** : 4.00%
    - **N** SLR : 18.00%
- 116. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announced several relief measures, to support Economy during 2nd wave of COVID-19 Pandemic -
  - Nerm Liquidity Facility of **50000 crores** at repo rate to Ease Access to Emergency Health Services, With tenure up to 3 years.
  - Negative Special Long Term Repo Operations for Small Finance Banks (upto 31 Oct, 2021)-
    - 🥄 To support MSMEs, 3-year repo operations of 10000 crores, for fresh lending up to 10 lakh per borrower, available .
  - Lending by Small Finance Banks (SFBs) to MFIs (asset size up to 500 crores) for on-lending to be classified as priority sector lending (up to 31 Mar, 2022).
  - 🥄 Stress Resolution Framework 2.0 for Individuals, Small Businesses and MSMEs -
    - Norrowers with exposure up to 25 crores, who did not avail restructuring under previous framework, may be considered under Resolution Framework 2.0, valid till September 30, 2021.
    - 🔪 Borrowers who availed restructuring under earlier Framework, lending institutions can now increase period up to total 2 years.

- Tor small businesses restructured earlier, lending institutions can review working capital sanction limits, as a one-time measure.
- Noting Provisions and Countercyclical Provisioning Buffer -
  - Nar 2022. Sanks can use 100% of their floating provisions as on 31 Dec 2020, for making specific provisions for NPAs, permitted up to 31 Mar 2022.
- Maximum days of overdraft in a quarter for state governments has been increased from 36 to 50 days, with number of consecutive days of OD increased from 14 to 21 days, available up to 30 Sep, 2021.
- 117. RBI Issued updated Guidelines for full-KYC Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) -
  - Nandating Interoperability by March 2022.
  - Number of the state of the stat
  - 🥄 Permitting Cash Withdrawal from Full-KYC PPIs of Non-Bank PPI Issuers. Conditions -
    - Naximum limit of 2000 per transaction with an overall limit of 10000 per month per PPI.
    - All cash withdrawal transactions performed using a card / wallet, shall be authenticated by an Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) / PIN.

# 118. RBI Released Annual Report 2020-21 -

- 🥄 To make Accounting year equivalent to Financial year, accounting year of RBI was changed from July June to April March.
- Nalance sheet size of RBI increased by 6.99 % to Rs 57.1 lakh crores from 53.3 lakh crores an year ago.
- Name -
  - Note: Cross total income for 2020-21 amounted to 1.33 Lakh Crores as compared to 1.49 Lakh Crores in 2019-20.
  - Nexpenditure of RBI in 2020-21 remained **34146** Crores as compared to expenditure of 92540 Crores in 2019-20.
  - 2020-21 ended with overall surplus of **99122** Crores, to be transferred to government. It is calculated by deducting expenditure from income (133272 34146 = 99126 Crores Approx). In 2019-20, Surplus transferred to Govt was 57127 Crores.
- 🔪 Bank frauds of 1 Lakh and above -
  - Necreased by 25 % in value to Rs 1.38 Lakh Crores in FY21 (2020-21), Compared to 1.85 Lakh Crores in FY 20 (2019-20). Frauds in terms of Numbers decreased 15% in the same period, to 7363.
  - Public sector banks (PSBs) accounted for 59 % (81901 Crores) worth of Frauds in FY 21 (2020-21), Decreasing from 80 % in FY 20 (2019-20).
- 🔪 Gold -
  - NBI Holds 695 metric tonnes of gold as compared to 661 metric tonnes as on June 30, 2020.

- 🔪 Securities -
  - RBI's holding of domestic securities increased from 11.7 Lakh Crores as on June 30, 2020 to 13.3 Lakh Crores as on March 30, 2021.
- 🔪 Currency (at end-March 2020) -
  - Value and volume of banknotes in circulation increased by 16.8 % and 7.2 % respectively, during 2020-21, as against increase of 14.7 % and 6.6 % respectively, during 2019-20.
  - Total value of coins in circulation increased by 2.1 % in 2020-21, while total volume increased by 1.0 %.
- NPA -
  - Note That Series Note That Note That Series Note That Se
  - Near Provision coverage ratio of SCBs improved to 75.5 % at end-December 2020 from 66.6 % in March 2020.
- 119. RBI announced *Retail Direct* scheme, as a one-stop solution to facilitate investment in government securities (G-secs) by individual investors.
  - \ Under this, retail investors can open and maintain *Retail Direct Gilt Account* (RDG Account) with RBI, through which they can directly buy and sell government securities (G-Secs), both primary and secondary.
- 120. RBI announced a separate on-tap liquidity window of Rs 15,000 crores, to help ailing businesses in contact intensive sectors. It has been opened till March 31, 2022, with tenors up to 3 years at repo rate.
- 121. RBI announced setting up of a regulatory review authority, **RRA 2.0**, to review its regulations internally and in consultation with other stakeholders.
  - No Deputy governor M Rajeshwar Rao has been appointed as head of RRA, which would be set up for 1 year initially.
  - 🥄 RBI had earlier set up an RRA on April 1, 1999 for reviewing regulations, based on feedback from public and financial institutions.
- 122. RBI announced that benchmark securities of tenor 2, 3, 5, 10, 14-year tenor and Floating Rate Bonds (FRBs) will be, henceforth, issued using uniform price auction method.
  - 🦠 For other benchmark securities i.e. 30-year and 40-year, the auction will continue to be multiple price-based auction.
  - \ Under uniform price auction method, all successful bidders are required to pay for allotted quantity of government securities at the same rate, which is the auction cut-off rate.
- 123. RBI approved surplus of 99122 crores to Central Government, for FY 21.
  - 🥄 RBI, as manager of government finances, pays dividend every year from its surplus profit.
  - Nor FY 20, RBI had transferred 44% of its surplus to Government, at 57128 crores.

- 124. RBI asked banks and financial institutions to use any widely accepted alternative reference rate (AAR) instead of LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rates), as reference rate for entering into new financial contracts.
  - Necently, Financial Conduct Authority (UK) announced that all LIBOR settings would either cease to be provided by any administrator or would no longer be representative.
  - RBI also advised financial institutions to cease using Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MIFOR), a benchmark which references the LIBOR, latest by December 31, 2021.
- 125. RBI barred **Mastercard** from issuing new credit, debit and prepaid cards in India, for its failure to comply with its data storage norms.
  - Nation has been taken under Section 17 of Payment and Settlement Systems Act 2007.
  - 🥄 RBI clarified that this will not impact existing Mastercard customers in India.
- 126. RBI cancelled Banking licence of Panvel (Raigad District), Maharashtra based Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank. With this, process of paying the depositors of Bank will begin. as per DICGC Act 1961, up to 5 Lakh.
- 127. RBI cancelled Banking licence of Pune based Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank, ceasing it from carry on banking business.
- 128. ▶ RBI cancelled licence of *Dr Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar Urban Co-operative Bank* (Latur, Maharashtra), stating it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects to carry on banking business.
- 129. ▶ RBI cancelled licence of Amravati (Maharashtra) based Bhagyodaya Friends Urban Co-operative Bank, as the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.
  - \ Under cancellation of licence and liquidation of a Bank, process of paying depositors is carried out as per DICGC Act 1961, which entitles depositers to receive up to INR 5 Lakh of their deposited money.
- 130. RBI cancelled licence of Bagnan (West Bengal) based *United Co-operative Bank*, forcing it to cease carrying on banking business.
  - \ Under cancellation of licence and liquidation of a Bank, process of paying depositors is carried out as per DICGC Act 1961, which entitles depositers to receive up to INR 5 Lakh of their deposited money.
- 131. RBI cancelled licence of Margao (Goa) based Madgaum Urban Co-operative Bank, ceasing it from carrying on banking business.
  - Nepositors get their money as per DICGC Act 1961, with ceiling 5 lakh per depositor.
- 132. RBI capped tenure of Whole-time directors, MD and CEOs of commercial banks to 15 years.
- 133. RBI granted *in-principle* approval to **Centrum Financial Services Limited** to set up a small finance bank, which will take over Troubled Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC Bank).
  - 🔪 As of now, 11 Small Finance Banks are Operational in India.
- 134. RBI has set up an advisory group to assist second regulatory review authority (**RRA 2.0**) which was constituted recently, to streamline regulations and reduce compliance burden of regulated entities. It will be Headed by SBI MD **S Janakiraman**.

- 135. RBI included street vendors identified as part of PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi Scheme) in tier-1 and tier-2 centres as beneficiaries under *PIDF* (Payments Infrastructure Development Fund) Scheme.
  - $ilde{\ \ }$  Street vendors in tier-3 to tier-6 centres will continue to be covered under the Scheme.
  - Note PIDF Scheme was announced by RBI in January 2021, to encourage deployment of Points of Sale (PoS) infrastructure (both physical and digital modes) in tier-3 to tier-6 centres and northeastern states.
- 136. ▶ RBI increased limit of fund transfer under Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility Scheme from Rs 50,000 per transaction to Rs 2 lakh per transaction. limit of 12 transactions in an year has also been removed.
  - Nowever, for cash-based transfers under Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility, per transaction limit of Rs 50,000 and annual limit of 12 Transactions, will still persist.
- 137. RBI issued Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) Rating 2021 for March 2021, which stands at 270.59 as against 207.84 for March 2020.
  - RBI had earlier announced construction of a composite DPI rating, with March 2018 as base (100) to capture extent of digitisation of payments across country.
- 138. RBI issued its first **financial inclusion index**, to measure extent of financial inclusion in India.
  - FI-Index is conceptualised as a comprehensive index incorporating details of banking, investments, insurance, postal and pension sector. It comprises of three broad parameters Access (35%), Usage (45%), and Quality (20%), with each of these consisting of various dimensions, computed based on a number of indicators.
  - ► FI-Index has been constructed without any 'base year', and reads **53.9** for period ending **March 2021**, against 43.4 for period ending March **2017**. It will be published annually in July every year.
- 139. ▶ RBI joined Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as a Member, which was Launched at Paris One Planet Summit in 2017.
  - NGFS is group of central banks willing to share best practices and contribute to development of environment and climate risk management in financial sector.
- 140. RBI launched *Scheme of Penalty for non-replenishment of ATMs*, under which it will impose monetary penalties on ATMs/WLAs that run out of cash, effective from October 01, 2021.
  - 🔪 Cash-out at any ATM of more than ten hours in a month will attract a flat penalty of 10000 per ATM.
- 141. RBI monetary policy committee (headed by Governor Shaktikanta Das) kept key lending rates unchanged for sixth consecutive policy review meeting. MPC Rates as of now -
  - Nepo Rate 4.00 %
  - 🥄 Reverse Repo 3.35 %

- 🔪 Bank Rate 4.25 %
- 🔪 CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) 4 %
- 🔪 SLR(Statutory Liquidity ratio) 18.00 %
- 🔪 Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate 4.25 %
- 142. RBI notified enhancement of collateral free loans to self-help groups (SHGs) from **10** to **20 lakh** under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
  - NAY-NRLM is flagship programme of Govt, for promoting poverty reduction through building strong institutions of poor, and enabling them to access a range of financial services and livelihoods.
- 143. ▶ RBI ranked 2nd in terms of reserves transferred to government as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) for FY 2020-21, after Turkey.
  - NBI transferred 99122-crore surplus to government for FY21, 73% higher than 57128 crores paid in 2019-20.
- 144. RBI updated rules for extending loans to directors of other banks and relatives of directors. Banks may now extend personal loans up to 5 crores to directors of other banks and directors' relatives other than spouses without board approval (up from earlier limit of 25 lakh).
- 145. ▶ RBI will put in place a *Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring* (PRISM), a web-based end-to-end workflow automation system, to strengthen compliance by supervised entities (SEs).
  - Note This is aimed at helping supervised entities to strengthen their internal defences and resilience and bringing focus on root cause analysis.
- 146. ▶ Rajasthan Govt introduced *Indira Gandhi Urban Credit Card Scheme*, to provide interest-free loan up to 50000 to street vendors, people in age group of 18-40 years working in service sector and unemployed of urban areas hit by Covid-19-induced financial crisis.
- 147. SBI launched *Aarogyam* healthcare business loan to provide enhanced support to healthcare sector amid the pandemic. Under this, entities in healthcare ecosystem can avail loans up to 100 crores, repayable in 10 years.
- 148. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) launched programme *Digital Prayaas*, an App-based end to end digital lending tool platform, to facilitate loans to entrepreneurs from low-income groups, with objective to sanction a loan by the end of the day.
- 149. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) provided the first approval under SIDBI **Cluster Development Fund** (SCDF), to Tamil Nadu Govt, for financing up to INR 524 Crores, to strengthen MSME clusters in State.
  - 🥄 Tamil Nadu is the first State to get funding under the SIDBI Cluster Development Fund.
- 150. State Bank of India (SBI) Signed first deal in external commercial borrowing (ECB) market using new **Secured Overnight Financing**Rate (SOFR), with SBI and Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) signing \$100 million deal for five years.
  - Note: SOFR is new alternative benchmark rate which will replace existing LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate).

- This has been triggered by decision of Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) in UK not to compel contributing banks for LIBOR calculation after December 2021.
- 151. State Bank of India raised \$1 billion from *Japan Bank for International Cooperation* (JBIC) to extend loans to the supply chain of the Japanese automobile industry in India.
- 152. Stock exchange BSE has set up a wholly-owned subsidiary *BSE Administration & Supervision Ltd (BASL)*, for carrying out administration and supervision activities of all Sebi-registered investment advisors.
- 153. UAE's National Central Cooling Company Tabreed and International Finance Corporation (IFC) announced to invest USD 400 Million in India and South-East Asian countries to build cooling service infrastructure.
- 154. UK's Cairn Energy secured a French Court order to seize several properties of Indian Government in France, to recover a part of USD 1.7 billion arbitration award. The Dispute -
  - In 2006-2007, Cairn UK transferred shares of Cairn India Holdings to Cairn India. Indian Income tax authorities ruled that since Cairn UK has made capital gains, it must pay capital gains tax up to 24500 crores.
  - 🥄 However, Cairn Energy interpreted Indian laws on capital gains differently and refused to pay.
  - Note to this, several rounds of litigation at High Court and Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) followed. Cairn Energy lost case at ITAT and a case on valuation of capital gains is pending before Delhi High Court.
  - Later in Dec 2020, Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague (Netherlands) ruled that Indian government was wrong in applying retrospective tax on Cairn. It asked Indian Government to return USD \$1.2 billion-plus interest and penalty to Cairn, amounting to approx 1.7 Billion USD.
- 155. ▶ Union Bank of India has launched *UNI CARBON CARD*, an HPCL co-branded credit card on Rupay platform of NPCI.
- 156. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) announced USD 41 million-loan guarantee program to finance investment in renewable energy solutions by Indian SMEs.
- 157. Uttar Pradesh Govt approved proposal for 4480 crore loan from Punjab National Bank, for financing 594-km long Ganga Expressway project, India's 2nd longest expressway, which involves investment of approx 36000 crores.
  - Nanga Expressway Phase-1 will connect Bijauli village on NH-334 in Meerut district with Judapur Dandu village on NH-19 in Prayagraj District.
  - Neerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Budaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Raebareli, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj.
- 158. Wadia Group-owned airline GoAir rebranded itself as 'Go First', with motto You Come First.
- 159. West Bengal Govt presented State Budget for FY 2021-22 (on July 7, 2021) -

- Expenditure estimated to be Rs 3,08,727 crore, an annual increase of 18% over the actual expenditure in 2019-20.
- Tax proposals Stamp duty for registration of sale or lease of land, houses, or flats will be reduced by 2% and market value for their registration will reduced by 10%.
- Lakshmir Bhandar scheme will provide monthly support of 1000 to women from scheduled caste/tribe household and 500 to general category women.
- New Krishak Bandhu Scheme will provide support to farmers (5000 to 10000 per acre). In addition, it provides for a one-time grant of 2 lakh rupees to family members of a farmer of 18 to 60 years of age in case of untimely death. Scheme has annual outlay of 3600 crore.
- Student Credit Card Scheme: Low interest loans will be provided to students at 4% and there will be a moratorium till one year after the completion of course of study.
- 160. Wipro overtook HCL to be named 3rd largest Indian IT services company by market capitalization (2.65 trillion INR).
  - TCS remains at the top (11.51 trillion), followed by Infosys.
  - Nipro also recently announced its target to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2040, in line with objective of Paris Agreement to cap temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius.
- 161. ▶ World Bank Group Entity International Finance Corporation (IFC) will provides up to \$150 million to Bajaj Finance, to enable it to expand its lending to MSME sector.
  - Note: IFC also invested USD 40 Million in Online up-skilling platform Upgrad.
- 162. World Bank Group Member International Finance Corporation (IFC) provided loan of \$250 million to Indian Firm HDFC, to promote affordable green housing finance for low and middle income borrowers.
- 163. ▶ World Bank Group entity International Finance Corporation (IFC) partnered with American private equity investment firm *JC Flowers*, to help Indian domestic lenders resolve their distressed assets and free up capital for new lending. Under this, IFC will invest up to \$100 million in JC Flowers India Fund.
- 164. ▶ World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved loan for USD 300 million for canal-based drinking water projects in **Punjab**.
  - Note that Project will be co-financed as USD 105 million by each of IBRD (World Bank), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and Rest (USD 90 Million) by Punjab government.
- 165. World Bank announced to introduce a \$100-million credit guarantee scheme to boost India's rooftop solar programme, allowing MSMEs to avail concessional debt financing for setting up rooftop solar units. It will be in association with State Bank of India.

- 166. ▶ World Bank approved **\$125 million** Loan for **Resilient Kerala Program**, to support Kerala's preparedness against natural disasters, climate change impacts, disease outbreaks, and pandemics.
- 167. World Bank approved **USD 32 million** project to improve management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram, titled *Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project*.
- 168. World Bank approved **USD 500 million** *Raising and Accelerating Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Performance (RAMP)* Program, to help boost India's MSME sector, targeting improvements in performance of 5.5 lakh MSMEs.

**Top** 

### **International**

- 1. Global Youth Development Index by Commonwealth Secretariat Youth Division -
  - \ It measures progress on youth development in 183 countries, calculated using five main domains education, health and well-being, employment and opportunity, civic participation and political participation.
  - Number of the second in the second second in the second second in the second se
  - 🔪 Top 5 Germany, Denmark, Australia, Switzerland, United Kingdom (UK).
  - 🥄 Bottom 3 Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Mali.
- 2. 10th Edition of Hurun Global Rich List 2021 -
  - Note: 1t ranked 3228 billionaires from 2,402 companies and 68 countries.
  - Top 5 Elon Musk (197 Billion USD), Jeff Bezos (189 Billion USD), Brnard Arnault (114 Billion USD), Bill Gates (110 Billion USD), Mark Zuckerberg (101 Billion USD)
  - Nukesh Ambani is ranked 8th Globally, with net worth 83 Billion USD.
- 3. 15 Indian universities named in Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2020, also known as Shanghai Ranking.
  - 🥄 Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore has been listed in 501-600 bracket globally, while it tops among Indian universities.
- 4. 23 nations, including India, collectively launched a bold new plan called **Mission Innovation 2.0**, during *Innovating to Net Zero* Summit hosted by Chile.
  - 🥄 It aims to spearhead a decade of innovation for global investment in clean energy research and development.
  - 🥄 It is 2nd phase of global Mission Innovation initiative, launched alongside Paris Agreement at 2015 COP21 conference.
- 5. 27 Nations grouping European Union (EU) joined Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) initiative of India, which aims to promote disaster-resilient infrastructure.

🔪 It was launched by India in 2019, to promote research in areas of infrastructure risk management, financing, and recovery mechanisms. 6. 7 Indian companies Named in 2021 Fortune's Global 500 list of top 500 enterprises globally, measured by revenues. Name of the Indian Companies in List with Global Ranks -Neliance Industries (155) Nate Bank of India (205) 🔪 Indian Oil (212) 🔪 Oil & Natural Gas (243) Rajesh Exports (348) Tata Motors (357) Narat Petroleum (394) 🔪 Top 5 Overall -🔪 Walmart (US) 🔪 State Grid (China) Nazon (US) National Petroleum (China) Sinopec (China) 7. Economic Freedom Index 2021 released by Heritage Foundation (US) -🥄 Top 3 - Singapore (1) , New Zealand (2), Australia (3) Nottom 3 - Suriname (169), Iran (168), Turkmenistan (167) NIndia ranked 121. Neighbors - Bangladesh (121), Sri Lanka (131), China (107), Pakistan (152) 8. World's 50 Greatest Leaders list for 2021, released by Fortune Magazine -New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern topped The List, followed by mRNA Pioneers and Dan Schulman (PayPal CEO) 9. Auckland (New Zealand) topped EIU Global Liveability Ranking 2021. 🦠 Top 5 - Auckland (New Zealand), Osaka (Japan), Adelaide (Australia), Wellington (New Zealand), Tokyo (Japan) 10. Global Peace Index 2021 by Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) -Nindia ranked 135th, compared to 139th rank last year. Nop 5 - Iceland (1), New Zealand (2), Denmark (3), Portugal (4), Slovenia (5)

- Nottom 5 -Afghanistan (163), Yemen (162), Syria (161)
- 🔪 Neighbors China (100), Pakistan (150), Sri Lanka (95), Bangladesh (91)
- 11. US India Artificial Intelligence Initiative has been launched by Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF), to focus on AI cooperation in critical areas that are priorities for both nations.
- 12. Vunited States, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan will establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform to enhance regional connectivity.
- 13. World Competitiveness Index 2021 report by Institute for Management Development (IMD) -
  - 🥄 India ranked 43rd, same as last year.
  - Nop 3 Switzerland (1), Sweden (2), Denmark (3).
- 14. A United Nations report called to scale up Carbon Capture, Use and Storage (CCUS) Technology, to boost efforts under Paris Agreement on Climate change which aims for net-zero emissions goal in order to limit global warming.
  - CCUS is a significant carbon emissions reduction technology, comprising capturing CO2 from fuel combustion or industrial processes, transporting it through ship / pipeline, and using it to create valuable products / services or store it permanently underground in geological formations.
- 15. Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani left Afghanistan after surrendering to Taliban forces, which entered Kabul soon after US Withdrew its forces from Afghanistan.
  - Taliban called it an end to War in Afghanistan, that started in 2001 when US invaded Afghanistan and toppled Taliban-ruled Islamic Emirate. Taliban has now regained power after 19 years and 8 months insurgency against allied NATO and Afghan Armed Forces.
  - 🔪 It was longest war in US history, surpassing Vietnam War (1955–1975) by approx 5 months.
  - Nalso -
    - Note that India announced a new category of electronic visas to fast-track applications from Afghans who wish to leave Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, called *e-Emergency X-Misc Visa*.
    - India termed Afghanistan evacuation mission as *Operation Devi Shakti*, to evacuate Indians from Afghanistan after Taliban's takeover.
- 16. ▶ Africa become first continent to complete collection of comprehensive digital use data and land-use change data under **Open DEAL**Initiative.
  - NEAL stands for Data for the Environment, Agriculture, and Land Initiative.
- 17. African Union suspended membership of Republic of **Mali**, after second military coup detention of a president and prime minister in nine months.

- Nilitary coup leader Colonel Goita had ordered arrest of country's interim President N'Daw and Prime Minister Ouane recently, causing global outrage.
- 18. Apple announced first-of-its-kind carbon removal initiative, called *the Restore Fund*, which will invest in forestry projects. It is launched in partnership with *Conservation International* and *Goldman Sachs*.
- 19. As Per OECD -
  - China, US, India, and Luxembourg attracted most FDI in pandemic-hit 2020, with global FDI flows came down 38 % to 15-year low, at \$846 billion.
  - Note: The contract of the contraction of the contra
  - 🥄 India's FDI inflows had jumped 13 % to \$57 billion in calendar year 2020.
- 20. As per 16th Global Wind Report 2021 by Global Wind Energy Council -
  - 2020 was best year in history for the global wind industry, as this sector installed 93GW of new capacity in 2020. This represents a 53% year-on-year increase.
  - As of now, 743 GW wind power capacity has been installed worldwide, helping to avoid over 1.1 billion tonnes of CO2 annually.
  - Nowever, report shows that current rate of wind power installed will not be enough to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. World needs to install a minimum of 180 GW of new wind energy every year, to limit global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.
  - Nas of now, total installed wind power capacity in **India** is approx **39 GW**, fourth largest in world (after China, US and Germany).
  - Report says that Due to several constraints, India may miss its 2022 Renewable Energy Targets of 175 Gigawatt green energy capacity by December 2022. India has pledged an NDC of 33-35 % reduction in carbon emissions intensity of its economy by 2030 compared to 2005 levels, apart from 40 % non fossil fuel-based power generation by 2030.
- 21. As per 3rd edition of Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking -
  - 🔪 Top 3 -
    - Number (UK)
    - 🔪 University of Sydney (Australia)
    - NMIT University (Australia)
  - N India -
    - 🥄 Top 3 Indian Universities -
      - 🥄 Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (81st)
      - Number 200 September 200 JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research (101 200)

- Novely Professional University (101 200)
- 22. As per 6th edition of UN Sustainable Development Report (2021) -
  - Name of the India ranked 120th.
  - 🔪 Top 3 Finland, Sweden, Denmark
  - Neighbors China (57), Pakistan (129), Bangladesh (109), Sri Lanka (87)
- 23. As per Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2021 by Shanghai Ranking -
  - 🔪 Top 5 Universities Globally -
    - Narvard University (US)
    - Stanford University (US)
    - Nuiversity of Cambridge (UK)
    - Nassachusetts Institute of Technology (US)
    - University of California (US)
  - Night Indian Universities in List -
    - None of the Indian universities could make it to the top 100 spots.
    - National Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore is only Indian institute to have scored a rank in the top 500.
    - Note: India has 14 entries in global 1000.
- 24. As per Global Skills Report 2021 by Coursera -
  - Name of the stanked for the standard of the st
  - 🥄 Top 3 Switzerland, Luxembourg, Austria
- 25. As per *Safe Cities Index 2021* by *Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)*. Copenhagen scored 82.4 points out of 100, to top the fourth edition of the EIU's biennial index, which measures the level of urban safety. Yan -
  - Nopenhagen (Denmark) is named world's safest city, Followed by Toronto (Canada), Singapore, Sydney (Australia), Tokyo (Japan)
  - 🔪 Indian Cities in List New Delhi (48), Mumbai (50).
- $\textbf{26.} \blacktriangleright \textbf{As per Annual } \textbf{\textit{International Intellectual Property } \textbf{Index released by US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) \textbf{As per Annual International Intellectual Property } \textbf{\textit{Index released by US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) \textbf{\textit{Index released by US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) \textbf{\textit{Index released by US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) \textbf{\textit{Index released by US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) \textbf{\textit{Index released by US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) \textbf{\textit{Index released by US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) \textbf{\textit{Index released by US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) \textbf{\textit{Index of Commerce Global Innovatio$ 
  - Name of the contract of the co
  - Nop US (1), UK (2), Germany (3), France (4)
- 27. As per BP's Statistical Review of World Energy, Top Crude Oil Suppliers to India in 2020 Iraq (47 MT), Saudi Arabia (38 MT), UAE (22 MT) and USA (10.7 MT).
- 28. As per Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021 -

- Apple is world's most valuable company (Valued at USD 2443 billion), followed by Microsoft, Amazon, Alphabet, Facebook and Tencent.
- 🔪 Globally, US has most (243 companies) in list, followed by China (47), Japan (30) and UK (24).
- 🔪 India ranks 9th with 12 companies. Reliance Industries (USD 188 billion) ranked 57th globally and is top Indian company in list.
- 29. As per International Energy Agency (IEA) report, Global CO2 emissions will surge by 1.5 billion tonnes in 2021, to 33 billion tonnes.
  - Nis will be 2nd largest increase in history. Key driver is coal demand which will grow by 4.5.
- 30. As per Swiss National Bank (SNB), India ranks 51st in terms of Holding money in Swiss Banks during 2020, with 2.55 billion (INR 20706 Crores) Swiss Francs (CHF) of Indians' money stored in swiss banks.
  - 🔪 Top 3 UK (CHF 377 billion), US (152 billion).
- 31. As per World Trade Organisation (WTO), India entered top ten agricultural produce exporters in 2019, ranking 9th with share of 3.1% in global agricultural exports.
- 32. As per report by *Rhodium Group*, China emits 27 % greenhouse gas pollution of total global emission, US 2nd with 11 % and India 3rd (6 %).
- 33. Asian Development Bank (ADB) launched *Asia Pacific Tax Hub*, to create an inclusive platform to promote strategic policy dialogue, improve knowledge sharing and strengthen coordination on tax policy and administration matters.
- 34. Asian Development Bank (ADB) partnered with Global NGO *Habitat for Humanity International* to help microfinance institutions (MFIs) deliver housing loans to low-income families in rural and peri-urban areas of India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Philippines.
- 35. Asian Development Bank (ADB) raised 307 million USD from its first panda bond issue in more than a decade, representing its largest-ever borrowing in an Asian local currency. It pays 3.2 % annual coupon and features a 5 year bullet maturity redeeming in March 2026.
- 36. At 2021 UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, *Tata Communications* announced launch of *School of Hope and Empowerment* (S.H.E.) in collaboration with The Better India, to support women from small towns to overcome key barriers to entrepreneurship.
- 37. At 74th World Health Assembly, Switzerland and World Health Organization (WHO) launched first *WHO BioHub* Facility, to enhance rapid sharing of viruses and other pathogens between laboratories and partners globally.
  - \ Under the agreement, Switzerland will make available to WHO the *Spiez Biocontainment Laboratory*, as a repository for Sars-CoV-2 viruses or other pathogens with epidemic or pandemic potential.
  - 🥄 The Assembly was chaired by India's Health Minister Harsha Vardhan, as WHO's Executive Board chairman.
- 38. Australia announced grant of AUD 1.4 million (8.12 crores INR) under **Australian-India Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative**Partnership (AIIPOIP), an initiative under Shared Vision for Maritime Cooperation in Indo-Pacific.

- NAIIOIP is a four-year grant program (2020-2024). The grant round one of this initiative will be commissioned in 2021.
- India launched Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) at East Asia Summit in Bangkok in 2019, with focu on 7 pillars. Australia is leading partner on maritime ecology pillar.
- 39. BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) Nations' space agencies signed agreement for cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing, under India's BRICS Chairship.
  - As per ISRO, it will to enable building a virtual constellation of specified remote sensing satellites of BRICS space agencies and their respective ground stations will receive data.
- 40. BRO's Project DANTAK completed its Diamond Jubilee (60 Years) in Bhutan, which was established on April 24, 1961.
  - Amid importance of connectivity in socio-economic development and growth of Bhutan, DANTAK was tasked to construct motorable roads in Bhutan.
- 41. Barakah nuclear power plant in Al Dhafrah region of Abu Dhabi began commercial operations, as first nuclear power plant in UAE.
  - 🔪 It is being been built by Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC) and Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO).
  - \ Upon completion, It will have four reactors with 5.600 megawatts (MW) of total capacity, which will meet 25% of UAE's demand and will save 21 million tons of annual CO2 emisisons.
- 42. Canada joined *Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)*, an initiative launched by India in 2019, at UN Climate Action Summit in New York in September 2019. CDRI now includes 22 countries, 4 international partners and two private sector organisations.
- 43. Central American Nation **El Salvador** became first country to grant legal tender status to **Bitcoin**, the world's largest cryptocurrency.
- 44. Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) member countries accepted *Sinatra Doctrine*, to deal with increasing Chinese influence.
  - Note that I strategic sovereignty of European Union by protecting technological sectors of its economy.
  - Sinatra doctrine was name used by Soviet government of Mikhail Gorbachev to describe their policy to allow neighbouring Warsaw Pact states to determine their internal affairs. The name was taken from the song "My Way" which was popularized by Frank Sinatra.
- 45. Centre for World University Rankings 2021-22 -
  - Top 5 Harvard University (US), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US), Stanford University (US), University of Cambridge (UK), and Oxford University (UK).
  - 🔪 India -
    - ◆ 68 Indian institutes have made it to the list of top 2000 higher education institutes across world, led by IIM-Ahmedabad
       (415th) and Indian Institute of Science (459th).
- 46. Chandler Good Government Index 2021 -

- 🔪 India ranked **49th** in list.
- 🥄 Top 3 Finland (1), Switzerland (2), Singapore (3)
- 🥄 Neighbors China (40), Pakistan (90), Sri Lanka (74)
- 47. ▶ China began operating world's second-largest hydropower station, as 289 meter high Baihetan Hydropower Station in Southwest China, despite environmental damage concerns. It has capacity of 16000 MW.
  - China's Three Gorges Dam is world's largest hydro power station in terms of installed capacity, with 22500 MW Capacity, built at Yangtze River.
- 48. ▶ China indefinitely suspended all activity under *China-Australia Strategic Economic Dialogue*, amid strained relations between two nations.
- 49. China, largest greenhouse emitter in world, launched its first national emissions-trading scheme, called carbon market, with trading in Shanghai opening at a price of 48 yuan (\$7.40) per ton of carbon.
- 50. Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic Updates (April 2021) -
  - Note: Carnivac-Cov, world's first-ever COVID-19 vaccine for animals has been registered by Russia.
  - Carl Bildt (former Prime Minister of Sweden) has been appointed as WHO Special Envoy for Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-Accelerator).
  - Nunjab Govt named Bollywood actor and philanthropist Sonu Sood Ambassador for Punjab's COVID vaccination programme.
  - Govt. approved Pharma Firm *Dr. Reddy's* application for emergency use authorisation to Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine, as 3rd vaccine to receive emergency use approval in India after locally manufactured *Bharat Biotech's Covaxin* and *Oxford-Astrazeneca's Covishield*.
  - Amid Ongoing second wave of Pandemic, Govt announced free food grains @ 5 Kg per person per month to nearly 80 Crore beneficiaries under National Food Security Act 2013 (NFSA), for May and June 2021, on same pattern as earlier "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY)". Govt will bear full expenditure of over 26000 Crores for the same.
  - Nastralia cancelled *Pitch Black 2020* multilateral air combat training exercise, amid ongoing pandemic.
  - 🔪 Google announced 135 crores funding support for India's pandemic battle, amid raging 2nd wave of Covid-19 Pandemic.
  - 🔪 Norway announced USD 2.4 million support for medical services in India, amid 2nd wave of Covid-19 Pandemic.
- 51. Covid-19 Pandemic Updates (August 2021) -
  - ➤ UK moved India from red to amber list, lifting mandatory 10-day hotel quarantine for fully vaccinated passengers from India. Under UK's traffic light system for international travel, those returning from countries in Amber list are not subjected to compulsory institutional quarantine, instead, they have to undergo a 10-day quarantining at home.

- Number (Odisha) became first Indian city to achieve 100 % COVID-19 vaccination.
- World Health Organization (WHO) created a new advisory group named *The International Scientific Advisory Group for Origins of Novel Pathogens* (SAGO), to systematically study emergence of future emerging pathogens with pandemic potential.
- Amid need to establish more facilities to regulate testing of COVID-19 vaccines, Govt identified 2 Autonomous Institutes of Department of Biotechnology (DBT) National Institute of Animal Biotechnology Hyderabad (NIAB) and National Centre for Cell Science Pune (NCCS), for upgradation as Central Drug Laboratories (CDLs).
- Naharashtra Govt launched a special mission for women from poor families who have lost their husbands to Covid-19 infection. Under this, a bunch of 18 schemes and services will be provided to these women.

# 52. Covid-19 Pandemic Updates (July 2021) -

- Norld Bank added 8 billion USD in aid for Coronavirus vaccines for developing countries, now totaling 20 billion USD.
- 🔪 US announced additional \$41 million assistance to help India respond to COVID-19 pandemic, taking total aid to over \$200 million.
- 🦠 Kerala Govt launched campaign *Mathru Kavacham*, to provide COVID-19 vaccines to all the pregnant women in state.
- No IMF approved general allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) of US\$650 billion, to boost global liquidity, as IMF's largest SDR allocation ever.
- World Bank Group entity International Finance Corporation invested \$16.5 million in genetics diagnostics and research company *MedGenome*, to increase access to COVID-19 testing in India.
- Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma launched a scheme to provide social and financial security to women who have lost their husbands to COVID-19, named *Chief Minister's COVID-19 Widows Support Scheme'*. Under it, one-time assistance of 2.5 lakh each will be given to such women whose family income is less than 5 lakh per annum.
- Saudi Arabia announced 3 year travel ban and penalties for citizens who visit countries on its red list, which includes India. Saudi's red list has nations with are deemed as areas of high COVID-19 infections.
- Researchers from IIT Hyderabad deveolped India's first Rapid Covid-19 RNA Test kit that allows self-testing at home, called 'COVIHOME.

### 53. Covid-19 Pandemic Updates (June 2021) -

- NITI Aayog and Piramal Foundation launched *Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum* Abhiyaan in 112 Aspirational Districts, under *Aspirational Districts Collaborative*, to assist district administrations in providing home-care support to Covid-19 patients with mild symptoms.
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) devised an online tracking portal *Bal Swaraj* (COVID-Care link) for children in need of care and protection, during Covid-19 Pandemic.

- As per International Labour Organisation report *World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2021*, global unemployment rate will be 5.7% in 2022, 6.3% in 2021 & there will no recovery in global jobs until 2023.
- Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma launched CM Sishu Seva Scheme, to help children orphaned due to COVID-19. State government would give 3500 per month per child including Central government support of 2000.
- Novt launched 'Project O2 for India' to step up production of medical oxygen to meet the potential increase in demand due to further expected waves of pandemic.
- Madhya Pradesh Govt launched *Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan* to make people aware of COVID-19 pandemic, to avoid its spread.
- Israel became first mask-free country in COVID-19 period, by ending rule of applying masks in Public places, after majority of population has been vaccinated.
- Note: IDFC FIRST Bank launched *Ghar Ghar Ration* Program, an employee-funded program for its low-income customers whose livelihoods are affected by COVID-19.
- World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), World Health Organisation (WHO), and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) announced a joint platform to help nations plug gaps in accessing COVID-19 vaccines, technologies, and treatments.
- Norld Health Organization (WHO) announced to set up a hub in South Africa to give companies from poor and middle-income countries the know-how and the licenses to produce Coronavirus Vaccines.
- Delhi Govt launched Mukhyamantri Covid-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana, to provide financial assistance to families who lost their members to Covid-19. Under it, 50000 ex-gratia will be given to families that lost a member to Covid-19 and an additional 2500 per month will be given if the deceased was only earner.
- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik announced new scheme **Ashirbad**, for education, health and maintenance of Children orphaned due to COVID-19. Under it, 2500 per month will be deposited in bank accounts of family members who have taken responsibility for children after death of parents.

## 54. Covid-19 Pandemic Updates (May 2021) -

- Nodisha Govt announced Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana for journalists, declaring journalists as frontline Covid warriors. It will provide INR 2 lakh health insurance cover and 15 Lakh Life Insurance cover for journalists.
- Armed forces launched operation "CO-JEET" to aid COVID-19 relief efforts.
- Nerum Institute of India (SII) announced to expand its vaccine business in UK, with investment of £240 million.
- Nimachal Govt launched dedicated Covid-19 Helpline at 'Mukhyamantri Sewa Sanklap Helpline 1100.

- \ Japan and UN Development Programme (UNDP) partnered to provide oxygen generation plants to North Eastern Region in India, amid 2nd wave of COVID pandemic.
- Nimachal Govt launched a state-wide wellness programme 'AYUSH Ghar Dwar', to promote Yoga & Ayurveda during 2nd wave of pandemic.
- 🔪 Jharkhand govt Launched *Amrit Vahini* App, to enable booking Covid beds Online.
- Chhattisgarh Govt Launched *Mahtari Dular Yojana*, under which it will bear expenses of education of children orphaned due to Covid-19.
- Note that Bihar government launched 'HIT Covid App' to ensure regular monitoring and tracking of Covid-19 patients who are in home isolation.
- NIMF proposed \$50 billion plan to end Covid-19 pandemic, with a target of vaccinating at least 40 % of world's population by end of 2021 and 60 % by end of 2022.
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) launched SAMVEDNA(Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance) Toll-Free Helpline (1800-121-2830), to provide psychosocial mental support for Children affected during COVID 19 Pandemic.
- Naharashtra government launched *Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance*, to meet state's oxygen needs, giving Special incentives to oxygen-producing industries.
- Naryana launched *Sanjeevani Pariyojana*, to provide for supervised and quick medical care at home largely for people in rural areas with mild to moderate symptoms.
- \ UK Govt announced developmet of Global Pandemic Radar, as an advanced international pathogen surveillance network to identify COVID-19 variants and emerging diseases.
- NAME Narendra Modi approved creation of *PM-CARES for Children scheme*, for children orphaned due to COVID-19. It includes free education and creating 10 lakh corpus for each child, which will be given to them on attaining age of 23.
- 55. Danish Red Cross launched first of its kind catastrophe bond for volcano-related disasters, which will enable quick financial aid to those who are suffering because of eruption of 10 volcanoes in Chile, Ecuador, Cameroon, Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala and Indonesia. Aim is to raise \$3 million with launch of this bond.
- 56. Debswana Diamond Company discovered world's third-largest diamond in Jwaneng mine in Botswana (South Africa), which measures 73mm long, 52mm wide, and 27mm thick, and weighs 1098 carats.
  - 🥄 At present, largest diamond ever recorded is 3106-carat Cullinan Diamond, found in South Africa in 1905.
- 57. Denmark Parliament approved building a 20 billion-kroner (\$3.3 billion) artificial island in Copenhagen, to house over 35000 people.

- 58. Department of Science and Technology launched India Science Research Fellowship (ISRF) Programme for Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand researchers to work in Indian Universities and Research Institutions.
  - Note to develop S&T partnerships.
  - In 2021, 40 scholars from 6 countries have been awarded under ISRF Programme.
- 59. Deutsche Bank and Continuum Green Energy subsidiary *Continuum Energy Levanter* executed world's first green hedging transaction with a second party opinion based on a specially designed green hedge framework.
  - Note: The FX hedge solution is for 6 years tenor in USD/INR on notional of US\$185 million.
- 60. ▶ Egypt announced discovery of a 'Lost Golden City' that was buried under sands of capital of Luxor in Egypt for past 3000 years.
  - National This has been identified as most important discovery since unearthing of King Tutankhamun's tomb approximately 100 years ago.
  - The 3400-year-old royal city was built by Amenhotep III, abandoned by his heretic son, Akhenaten, and contains well preserved remains.
- 61. Energy Transition Index Report 2021 released by World Economic Forum -
  - Norway (2), Denmark (3)
  - Nations in List.
  - Neighbors China (68), Pakistan (104), Bangladesh (97), Sri Lanka (69)
- 62. European Commission proposed to put world's first carbon border tax, on imports of carbon-intensive steel, aluminium, cement, fertilisers and electricity, as part of a programme to meet its new climate target.
  - As proposed, The border levy should be phased in from 2026. It is designed to protect European industries from competitors abroad not subject to the same carbon levies.
- 63. European Parliament ratified post-Brexit trade deal between European Union and United Kingdom, clearing hurdle towards ratification of EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, which will ensure post-brexit continuation of tariff and quota-free trade.
- 64. European Union approved Norway, Canada and US to participate in **Permanent Structured Cooperation** (PESCO) defence initiative, as first time EU bloc has allowed a third state to participate in PESCO project.
  - The countries will now participate in Military Mobility Project in Europe, aimed at overcoming delays in moving troops across Europe.
- 65. European Union released 2030 Digital Compass Plan, to counter EU's reliance on key technologies owned by Chinese and US companies, as exposed by Covid-19 pandemic.
  - New Plan will be presented to EU Parliament for final approval, aiming to enable EU to produce fifth of global output of cutting-edge semiconductors by 2030. EU also seeks to make its first quantum computer in five years.

- 66. ▶ Facebook and Google will build new subsea cables from US to Singapore and Indonesia, called Echo and Bifrost that will provide vital new connections between Asia-Pacific region and North America.
- 67. Financial Action Task Force (FATF) added four countries Haiti, Malta, Philippines and South Sudan, to list of *jurisdiction under increased monitoring* for strategic deficiencies.
  - Nature FATF had earlier identified 17 countries as having strategic deficiencies, taking the number now up to 21.
- 68. Geneva-based World Trade Organization revised upwards growth forecast of global merchandise trade in FY 22 (2021-22) to 8 %, after fall of 5.3 % in FY 21 (2020-21), amid COVID-19 pandemic.
- 69. Global Gender Gap Report 2021 by World Economic Forum -
  - Number 156 countries.
  - Norway (3)
  - 🔪 Bottom 3 Afghanistan (156), Yemen (155), Iraq (154)
  - 🔪 Neighbors Pakistan (153), China (107), Bangladesh (65), Sri Lanka (116)
- 70. Google announced building an undersea cable, that will connect US, Uruguay, Brazil, and Argentina, to bolster capacity of internet connection between these regions. It will be named *Firminia*, after a Brazilian abolitionist and author Maria Firminia dos Reis.
- 71. Henley Passport Index 2021 -
  - 🔪 India stands at number 84 on list, as Indian citizens can visit Visa-Free or Visa-on-Arrival in over 58 places.
  - 🔪 Top 3 Japan (1), Singapore and Germany (2), South Korea (3)
- 72. ▶ Inclusive Internet Index 2021, released by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) in partnership with Facebook -
  - Nindia has been ranked at **49th** spot, along with Thailand.
  - 🔪 Top 5 Sweden (1), US (2), Spain (3), Australia (4), Hong Kong (5)
- 73. India and Israrel signed a three-year work program (2021-2023) agreement for development in Agriculture cooperation, under Indo-Israel Agriculture Action Plan (IIAP).
  - India and Israel are implementing INDO-ISRAEL Agricultural Project Centres of Excellence and INDO-ISRAEL Villages of Excellence.
  - NDO-ISRAEL Villages of Excellence is a new concept aimed at creating a model ecosystem in agriculture across 8 states, alongside 13 Centers of Excellence within 75 villages.
- 74. India and Maldives signed a contract for implementation of India-funded *Greater Male Connectivity Project*, as largest infrastructure initiative in Maldives.

- Under it, 6.74-km-long bridge and causeway link will be built to connect capital city Male with adjoining islands of Villingli, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi.
- 🥄 It has been Funded under a grant of \$100 million and a line of credit of \$400 million from India.
- Also, India's Shapoorji Pallonji Group's infrastructure arm Afcons signed agreement with Republic of Maldives, to construct Male to Thilafushi Link project, popularly called Greater Male' Connectivity Project (GMCP).
- 75. ▶ India and Norway will work in area of marine spatial planning in the oceanic space for next five years, under **Indo-Norway Integrated**Ocean Initiative MOU signed in 2019.
  - Note that the support of the sustainable ocean resources utilisation to advance economic and social development in coastal areas, known as Marine Spatial Planning (MSP).
  - In primary state, National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) will develop a marine spatial planning framework for Puducherry and Lakshadweep.
- 76. India and Russia announced establishment of a new **2+2 dialogue** at foreign and defence minister level, to enhance co-operation.
  - 🔪 So far, India has this mechanism with US, Japan, and Australia.
- 77. India and US re-established US-India Homeland Security Dialogue, which was earlier called-off by Earlier US Prez Donald Trump. It aims at discussing important issues such as cybersecurity, emerging technology and violent extremism.
- 78. ▶ India and several members *OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting* adopted a high-level statement containing an outline of a consensus solution to address tax challenges arising from digitalisation of economy.
  - No Proposed solution consists of two components Pillar One which is about reallocation of additional share of profit to the market jurisdictions and Pillar Two consisting of minimum tax and subject to tax rules.
- 79. ▶ India announced operationalization of *BRICS Agricultural Research Platform*, prepared and set up in India for strengthening cooperation in field of agricultural research & innovations amongst BRICS members.
  - It was launched during 11th meeting of BRICS Agriculture Ministers, attended by Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on India's Behalf.
  - Nalso, Action Plan for 2021-24 for agricultural cooperation of BRICS countries was also adopted.
- 80. India assumed rotational presidency of 15 member UN Security Council (UNSC) for month of August 2021, from France.
  - Neresidency of UN Security Council is held by each of members in turn for one month.
- 81. India got elected to 3 UN Economic and Social Council bodies Executive Board of UN Women, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice- CCPCJ, and Executive Board of World Food Programme.
  - 🔪 UN ECOSOC is one of 6 major organs of UN, responsible for coordinating social and economic fields of UN.

- 82. India has been elected to UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of six main organs of United Nations, for 2022-24 term.
- 83. India has been ranked 14th among 114 countries in World Giving Index 2021, by Charities Aid Foundation (CAF).
  - 🔪 List has been topped by Indonesia, followed by Kenya, Nigeria, Myanmar and Australia.
  - Norld Giving Index offers glimpse of global trends in generosity, and people from which country are most likely to engage in social activities.
- 84. India in collaboration with UN launched **UNITE AWARE** technology platform for peacekeeping missions, aimed at providing terrain-related information to peacekeepers. It was launched in presence of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at UN headquarters in New York City (US).
  - NIndia has contributed USD 1.64 million for UNITE Aware Project.
  - Note that India had assumed Presidency of 15-nation UN Security Council for August 2021.
- 85. India moved up to 3rd spot on EY's Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index, due to good performance on solar photovoltaic (PV) front. Top 5 consist of US, China, India, UK and France.
- 86. India ranked 10th in Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2020, released by International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
  - Nop 3 -
    - 🔪 US (1), UK and Saudi Arabia (2nd), Estonia (3rd).
- 87. India ranked 20th among top 100 countries named in Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021 by Startup Blink.
  - 🔪 Top 5 US, UK, Israel, Canada and Germany.
- 88. India remained largest recipient of remittances in 2020, followed by China and Mexico, as per *Migration and Development Brief* report by World Bank.
  - Name of the last o
    - 🥄 Remittances received by India in 2020 were USD 83 billion, slightly lower than USD 83.3 billion in 2019.
    - 🥄 Remittances outflow From India in 2020 was USD 7 billion, against USD 7.5 billion in 2019.
  - Note: Clobal remittance inflow was USD 540 billion in 2020, approx 2 % lower as compared to USD 548 billion in 2019.
  - Largest remittance-sending country in 2020 was US (USD 68 billion), followed by UAE (USD43 billion), Saudi Arabia (USD34.5 billion).
- 89. India retained its position as 2nd largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in UK, after US, in 2020.
  - Number of the Indian companies invested in 99 projects and created 4,830 jobs in Britain.
  - Nuscompanies in 389 projects and created 19301 new jobs in 2020-21 in UK.
- 90. India retained top spot with 25.5 billion real-time payment transactions, followed by China with 15.7 billion transactions.

- 🔪 In 2020, transaction volume in India for Online transactions stood at 38.4 %, while paper-based payments were 61.4 %.
- 🦠 By 2025, Online payments share in India will rise to 71.7 %, leaving paper-based transactions at 28.3 %.
- 91. India scored 90.32% in United Nation's Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP) latest Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, seeing remarkable jump from score of 78.49% in 2019. India saw improvement in all 5 key indicators, with notable 100% score in Transparency. Others -
  - Normalities: 95.83% in 2021 (from 87.5% in 2019)
  - Natitutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 88.89% in 2021 (from 66.67% in 2019)
  - Naperless Trade: 96.3% in 2021 (from 81.48% in 2019)
  - Cross-Border Paperless Trade: 66.67% in 2021 (from 55.56% in 2019)
- 92. India, Italy and Japan launched a trilateral partnership to create stability around Indo-Pacific region, and counter threats from china.
- 93. India, Japan and Australia launched **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative** (SCRI), to build resilient supply chains in Indo-Pacific region, to reduce dependence on China.
  - 🥄 India was represented virtually by Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal.
- 94. Indian IT Firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) opened its first European innovation centre in Amsterdam (The Netherlands), under TCS

  Pace Ports Network, to bring universities, startups and government together and help use technology to solve sustainability challenges.
- 95. Indian Naval Ships visited Mongla (Bangladesh), to attend *Swarnim Vijay Varsh* celebrations of Bangladesh, which commemorates 50 years of Bangladesh's liberation war against Pakistan in 1971.
- 96. Indian PSU ONGC Videsh (OVL) lost development rights for Farzad-B giant gas field in Iran to Iranian Petropars Group, amid Issues in negotiations between OVL and Iranian authorities.
  - 🔪 OVL owns 40 % participating interest (PI) in block, with Indian Oil Corporation owning 40 % PI and with Oil India remaining 20 %.
  - 🥄 National Iranian Oil Company signed contract worth \$1.78 billion with Petropars Group for development of Farzad-B Gas Field.
  - This gas field has reserves of 651 billion cubic metres, and is expected to record 28 million metric standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD) of production within 5 years. Notably, India's total gas consumption in FY21 was about 166 MMSCMD.
- 97. Indian renewable energy company *ReNew Power* has been included in World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Lighthouse Network, which recognises companies using new technologies to achieve environmentally sustainable and profitable growth.
- 98. Indo-Israel Joint Venture (IOC Phinergy Private Limited) between Indian Oil Corporation Limited (Indian Oil) and Israeli Firm Phinergy, has been launched. It plans to manufacture Aluminum-Air systems in India and develop fuel cells and indigenous hydrogen storage solutions for promoting green mobility.

- 99. International Criminal Police Organisation (*Interpol*) launched a new global database named *I-Familia*, to identify missing individuals through family DNA and to help police solve the cold cases in member countries.
- 100. International Monetary Fund (IMF) authorised USD 650 billion expansion in is lending resources, to provide more support for vulnerable countries amid coronavirus pandemic.
  - This is highest such expansion in IMF History. Earlier in 2008 Global financial crisis, IMF had increased its resources by USD 250 billion.
- 101. Israel, India and UAE signed a trilateral partnership with Israel-based Firm Ecoppia, which is producing an innovative robotic solar cleaning technology in India for a landmark project in UAE.
  - 🥄 Ecoppia specializes in robotic solutions for solar, with its manufacturing base in India and over 2700 MW of global projects.
- 102. Italy launched its first-ever mega food park and food processing unit in India, at Fanidhar in Mehsana district of Gujarat, as first Indian-Italian food park project.
- 103. Japan ratified Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the free trade agreement between Australia, China, and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Japan become 3rd member to ratify this agreement, which was signed by 15 countries in November 2020.
  - 🥄 India has not joined RCEP agreement as its key concerns were not addressed.
- 104. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) secured trademark registrations in 3 countries Bhutan, UAE and Mexico, aimed at protecting identity of brand *Khadi* globally. Apart from these, KVIC's trademark applications are pending in 40 countries.
- 105. Larsen & Toubro secured engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract from a consortium under Public Investments Fund of Saudi Arabia (PIF), for 1.5 GW Sudair Solar photovoltaic (PV) Project, considered to be largest solar project in Saudi Arabia.
- 106. Maldives Launched *Fiyavathi Renovation Project*, for young Maldivians, which is funded by India as part of India's total grant assistance of MVR 200 million to Maldives.
- 107. ▶ Marine ecosystem conservation Programme *Blue Nature Alliance* has been launched, Including 5 organizations such as Conservation International and Global Environment Facility (GEF). It Aims to -
  - Note that the Conserve 18 million square kilometres of ocean in 5 years.
  - Notect 5% of world's ocean in 5 years.
  - Nelp achieve 30% ocean conservation by 2030.
- 108. Microsoft acquired AI speech tech firm **Nuance** for **\$19.7 billion**, as its second-biggest acquisition after LinkedIn (\$26 billion). It will help Microsoft's prowess in voice recognition and will give it a boost in the health care market.
  - Nuance is known for its Dragon software which helps to transcribe speech using deep learning.

- 109. ▶ Microsoft and UK Govt partnered to build most powerful forecast weather and climate change supercomputer in world, to be operational by 2022.
- 110. Microsoft announced to retire its iconic Internet Explorer (IE) browser, On June 15, 2022. Afterwards, Microsoft will instead promote Microsoft Edge as its web browser offering to all users.
  - Ninternet Explorer was once most widely used web browser, attaining a peak of about 95 % usage share by 2003.
  - 🔪 Its usage share has since declined with launch of Firefox (2004) and Google Chrome (2008).
- 111. Microsoft launched its 1st Asia Pacific Public Sector Cyber Security Executive Council, which consists of policymakers and influencers from Brunei, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
  - 🔪 It aims to accelerate public-private partnerships in cybersecurity and share threat intelligence.
- 112. Microsoft officially launched its new Windows operating system Windows 11, to succeed Windows 10, which was launched in 2015.
  - Nindows 11 has new user interface, a new Windows Store, and improvements to performance. It will also support Android apps via Amazon's app store.
- 113. MoU signed for execution of 679 MW Lower Arun Hydro Electric Project in Nepal, between India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) and Investment Board of Nepal.
  - Lower Arun Hydro Electric Project is located in Sankhuwasabha and Bhojpur Districts of Nepal. The project will not have any reservoir or dam and will be a tail race development of 900 MW Arun3 HEP. It will generate 2970 million units of electricity per annum. It is expected to cost around 1.3 Billion USD.
  - 🥄 This is 2nd project awarded to SJVN in Nepal, after 900 MW Arun 3 Hydro Electric Project in Sankhuwasabha District.
- 114. New Zealand became first country to introduce a law that will require banks, insurers and investment managers to report impacts of climate change on their business.
  - All banks / Insurerers with assets / AUM over than NZ\$1 billion (\$703 million), and all equity and debt issuers listed on stock exchange, will have to make disclosures.
  - 🔪 This is inline with New Zealand's aim to get to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- 115. New Zealand signed US-led **Artemis Accords** with NASA, an international agreement to cooperate with NASA on peaceful, safe, sustainable, and transparent space exploration.
  - 🔪 Other Nations who have signed Australia, Brazil, Canada, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Luxembourg, Ukraine, UAE, UK, US.
  - Natemis Accords is a US led effort to return humans to Moon by 2024, and to expand and deepen space exploration.
- 116. On 11 Apr 2021, Hashemite Kingdom of **Jordan** completed 100 years of of founding. On 11 April 1921, Emirate of Transjordan was established with Abdullah as Emir, after Independence from United Kingdom.

- 117. PM Narendra Modi Virtually inaugurated Maitri Setu between India and Bangladesh, along with with Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina.
  - Maitri Setu has been built over **Feni** river, which flows between Indian boundary in Tripura and Bangladesh. 1.9-km-long bridge joins Sabroom in India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh, built at 133 Crores.
  - Nith this, Tripura became 'Gateway of North East' with access to Chittagong Port of Bangladesh, which is 80 Kms from Sabroom.
  - Nalso laid foundation stone for setting up an Integrated Check Post at Sabroom.
- 118. ▶ PM Narendra Modi chaired high-level open debate on *Enhancing Maritime Security A Case for International Cooperation*, at UN Security Council, making him first Indian PM to have chaired a UN Security Council open debate.
  - Non this occasion, UN Security Council adopted first-ever presidential statement on maritime security.
  - Also, Russian President Vladimir Putin suggested creation of a maritime security body in UN Security Council, to address all issues regarding piracy, maritime crimes and terrorism.
  - Notably, India assumed rotational presidency of 15 member UN Security Council (UNSC) for month of August 2021, from France.
- 119. PSUs REC Ltd and Power Finance Corporation (PFC) signed pact with Bhutan-based Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Ltd (KHEL), to finance a 600-megawatt hydroelectric project at Trashiyangtse (Bhutan).
  - 🥄 KHEL is a 50:50 joint venture between SJVN India and Druk Green Power Corporation (Bhutan).
- 120. Philippines become first country to get approval for commercial production of genetically modified "golden rice", a variety of rice enriched with nutrients to help reduce childhood malnutrition.
  - Note that Golden rice has been developed by Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute (DA-PhilRice) in partnership with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). ■
- 121. QS World University Rankings 2021 -
  - Nop 5 -
    - Nassachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)
    - 🥄 Stanford University (USA)
    - 🔪 Harvard University (USA)
    - 🥄 California Institute of Technology (USA)
    - Number (UK) University of Oxford (UK)
  - Number of the second se
    - IIT Bombay ranked at top among 29 Indian Universities in overall List, ranked 172nd globally, followed by IISC Bangalore (185) and IIT Delhi (193).
- 122. QS World University Rankings 2022 -

- 🔪 Top 5 -
  - Nassachusetts Institute of Technology (US)
  - Nuiversity of Oxford (UK)
  - Name of the standard University (US)
  - University of Cambridge (UK)
  - Narvard University (US)
- Number of the Indian Universities in List -
  - NIT Bombay (177), IIT Delhi (185) and IISC Bangalore (186) are top 3 Indian Universities.
  - Notal 35 Indian Indian Universities have been included in List.
- 123. Rail Transportation between India & Nepal got a boost, with India and Nepal signing a Letter of Exchange (LoE) to India-Nepal Rail Services Agreement (RSA) 2004.
  - With this, Cargoes in all categories of wagons that can carry freight on Indian Railways network within India, can also now carry freight to and from Nepal. This will reduce transportation costs for automobiles and certain other products whose carriage takes place in special wagons.
  - National Property This will allow market forces to come up in rail freight segment in Nepal, and will increase efficiency of Nepal Railways.
- 124. Russia and China began work of their biggest Joint Nuclear Power Project. Under it, Russia will jointly build four high-power nuclear power plants in two Chinese cities.
  - Nuclear Power Plant.
- 125. Russia's lower house of parliament (*State Duma*) approved a bill to enable incumbent President Vladimir Putin to run for two more terms starting 2024, until 2036.
- 126. Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a law to formalize Russia's exit from Open Skies treaty, after US President Joe Biden informed that US will not rejoin Open Skies Treaty.
  - Earlier, Former US President Donald Trump pulled US out of Open Skies Treaty, claiming that Russia had violated the agreement that allows the two nations and their allies to monitor each another's airspace. US formally withdrew in November 2020.
- 127. ▶ Saudi Arabia joined US, Canada, Norway, and Qatar in forming a new platform called *Net Zero Producers Forum*, for oil and gas producers to discuss how to support implementation of Paris Agreement on climate change.
- 128. Singapore became first country to complete official process for ratification of **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership** (RCEP) agreement.

- NCEP is world's largest trade pact, which was signed by all 10 ASEAN members and key partners including China, South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand at 4th RCEP leaders summit in November 2020.
- 🥄 India has so far kept itself away from the pact.
- 129. ▶ Singapore unveiled 60 MW Capacity Floating Solar Panel Farm, to help achieve goal of quadrupling its solar energy production by 2025, to tackle climate change.
  - Notably, world's largest floating solar project is being developed at Omkareshwar dam (Narmada river), Madhya Pradesh. It will have 600MW capacity, and will begin operations in 2022-23.
- 130. ▶ Singapore's Sunseap Group will build world's largest floating solar farm and energy storage system in Batam (Indonesia), with capacity of 2.2 gigawatt-peak (GWp).
- 131. South Africa granted world's first patent on an invention created by an artificial intelligence inventor, for *Device for Autonomous Bootstrapping of Unified Sentience* (DABUS), an AI developed by Missouri physicist Stephen Thaler.
- 132. South Korean electronics maker LG exited loss-making mobile phone business, to focus on other products / services.
- 133. Sri Lanka announced to develop West Container Terminal (WCT) at Colombo Port along with India and Japan.
  - This is notable as recently Sri Lamka government ejected India and Japan as partners from a 2019 tripartite agreement to jointly develop East Container Terminal (ECT), citing resistance to "foreign involvement".
- 134. ▶ Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB), a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), launched its programme in Bhutan.
  - Number of this programme.
  - \ in this 24 months' duration Program, India in collaboration with UNDP and TIWB Secretariat, will aim to aid Bhutan in strengthening its tax administration.
- 135. Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2021 -
  - Nop 5 -
    - 🥄 Tsinghua University (China)
    - Neking University (China)
    - National University of Singapore (Singapore)
    - Nuiversity of Hong Kong
    - 🥄 Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)
  - Number of the Indian Universities in List -
    - 🔪 Total 63 Universities named in List.

- Top 3 Indian Universities 
  IISC Bangalore (37)
  - N IIT Ropar (55)
  - N IIT Indore (78)
- 136. UAE became first Gulf nation to open an embassy in Israel, located in Tel Aviv Stock Exchange building. It came an year after both countries signed an agreement to normalise diplomatic ties.
- 137. UAE, Brazil, Albania, Gabon and Ghana have been elected to 15 Member UN Security Council (UNSC), for 2 year term starting January 2022.
  - Ne newly elected nations will replace Vietnam, Estonia, Niger, Tunisia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
  - 🔪 UNSC has 5 Members (5 Permannent and 10 Non Permanent).
    - 🥄 Permanent China, France, Russia, US, and US.
    - Non Permanent -
      - 🥄 India , Ireland, Kenya , Mexico, Norway, UAE, Brazil, Albania, Gabon and Ghana.
- 138. UN Committee for Development Policy (CDP) recommended graduation (Upgradation) of Bangladesh from category of *Least Developed Country (LDC)*, after Bangladesh fulfilled eligibility criteria in terms of per capita income, human assets and economic and environmental vulnerability.
  - Nangladesh will get time up to 2026 to prepare for transition to status of a developing country.
  - ♥ Usually, countries are given 3 years for transition but this year due to the pandemic, Bangladesh has been given 5 years.
- 139. UN Development Programme (UNDP) Presented an Independent report on performance of India's Aspirational Districts Programme, launched in 2018 -
  - 🦠 It has been depicted as a very successful model of local area development, serving as a best practice for other countries.
  - **NOTE:** VINDP's analysis spans across 5 key sectors of ADP—health and nutrition; education; agriculture and water resources; basic infrastructure; and skill development and financial inclusion.
- 140. UN General Assembly adopted a resolution sponsored by India, declaring 2023 as the 'International Year of Millets'.
- 141. US Department of Energy, India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) launched a US-India Hydrogen Task Force, under US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP).
- 142. US President Joe Biden issued executive order to set up Climate Change Support Office (CCSO) within Department of State, to advance US initiative to address global climate crisis.

- 143. US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) and US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) launched the US-India Climate
  Technologies Action Group (CTAG), which aims to bring together stakeholders from both countries that can contribute to advanced global action on climate.
- 144. ▶ Vietnam appointed Honorary Consul General of Vietnam in Bangalore, to promote cooperation between Vietnam and State of Karnataka. Industrialist **N.S. Srinivasa Murthy** has been appointed as first honorary consul general of Vietnam from India.
- 145. World **Press Freedom Index 2021** report by Reporters Without Borders (180 countries) -
  - Norway topped the index for 5th consecutive year.
  - Top 5 Norway (1), Finland (2), Sweden (3), Denmark (4), Costarica (5)
  - 🔪 Bottom 3 Turkmenistan (178th), North Korea (179th), Eritrea (178th)
  - 🥄 India's rank remained unchanged at 142nd.
  - 🥄 Neighbours China (177th), Bangladesh (152), Pakistan (145), Sri Lanka (127th).
- 146. ▶ World Bank launched a new *Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund*, to better roll out cybersecurity development agenda in a systematic manner.
  - New fund has been developed as an associated trust fund under broader Digital Development Partnership (DDP) umbrella program, in partnership with Estonia, Japan, Germany, and Netherlands.
  - $ilde{lack}$  It aims to enhance cyber and digital security capability and capacity in World Bank member countries.
- 147. World's first ship tunnel will be constructed in Norway, to be completed by 2025-2026, underneath mountains in Stadhavet peninsula.
  - The 37 meters high and 1700 metres long Tunnel will be built with cost \$315 million.
  - North Sea.
- 148. World's largest and tallest observation wheel called *Ain Dubai*, will be unveiled in Dubai (UAE) on October 21, 2021.
  - \ It is 250 metres high, located at Bluewaters Island. It will get past current world's tallest observation wheel, High Roller, in Las Vegas, measuring 167.6 m (550 ft).
- 149. World's longest pedestrian suspension bridge (516 Metres) named *Arouca*, opened in Portugal. It stays 175 metres above Paiva river and links two hills with granite cliff faces.
- 150. ▶ sGermany Ratified International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement, becoming 5th nation to do so after amendments that entered into force in January 2021, that opened its Membership to all UN Member States.
  - Nermany aims at generating two-thirds of its electricity needs from solar and wind by 2030.

## **Meetings**

- 1. 2nd UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference will be held in October 2021 in Beijing (China), to focus on opportunities, challenges and solutions towards achieving sustainable transport worldwide.
  - 🥄 1st Global Sustainable Transport Conference was held in 2016 in Ashgabat (Turkmenistan).
- 2. 31st Meet of 30-member NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) summit held in Brussels (Belgium).
  - 🔪 During The summit, NATO leaders declared that China poses a constant security challenge and is working to undermine global order.
- 3. 47th G7 summit held in Cornwall (England), Presided by UK, with theme Build Back Better.
  - 🔪 UK had invited India, Australia, South Korea and South Africa as Guest Countries for G7 Summit 2021.
  - Narendra Modi Attended the Summit Virtually.
- 4. VIN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice 2021 Held in Japanese city of Kyoto.
- 5. G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting (in-person) held in **London** (UK), attended by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on India's Behalf.
  - Also, 1st India-France-Australia Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Dialogue held in London, on sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meet.
  - 🥄 G7 Nations Include Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, and US.
  - Number Indian attended the Summit on a special invitation from UK.
- 6. Indian PM Narendra Modi and UK PM Boris Johnson attended Virtual India-UK Summit. Both nations adopted an ambitious India-UK Roadmap to 2030 to steer cooperation for next 10 years. MoUs/Declarations -
  - Naunch of an Enhanced Trade Partnership
  - 🥄 Joint Declaration of Intent on cooperation in the fields of Digital and Technology
  - 🦠 Statement of Principles on new joint work between India and the UK on the India Energy Security Scenarios Calculator
  - NOUs -
    - 🔪 India-UK Global Innovation Partnership
    - 🥄 India-UK Migration and Mobility Partnership
    - Name of the Cooperation in field of Telecommunications/ICT
    - 🥄 Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in customs matters
    - Nedical products regulation
    - Narmacopoeial Cooperation
- 7. Indian PM Narendra Modi attended 2021 Leaders' **virtual Climate Summit**, organized by US. Representatives from 38 Nations attended. Notable pledges made by Large Economies -

- VS-
  - $\sim$  Announced to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% 52%, relative to the level of 2005, by 2030.
  - Numerated Submitted a new Nationally Determined Contribution to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- Nindia Reaffirmed its target of installing 450 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2030.
- \ European Union announced to reduce emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and by 100% by 2050.
- $ilde{\hspace{-0.1cm} extstyle \hspace{-0.1cm} extstyle \hspace{-0.$
- 8. PM Narendra Modi Attended Virtual India-EU Leaders' Meeting, with participation of all 27 EU Member Nations. This is first time EU hosted a meeting with India in EU+27 format.
  - India and EU agreed to resume discussions about a free trade agreement (FTA), 8 years after the talks got stalled.
  - India and EU launched comprehensive 'Connectivity Partnership', focused on enhancing digital, energy, transport and people-to-people connectivity.
- 9. PM Narendra Modi attended first QUAD (Quadrilateral Framework) Leaders' Summit, attended by India, US, Australia and Japan.
  - VUAD grouping of India, USA, Australia and Japan, aims to safeguard interests of democratic nations in Indo-Pacific region and address global challenges and Chinese aggression.
- 10. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated 2nd edition of *Maritime India Summit 2021*, held Virtually.
  - Non this occasion, *Real-time Vessel Tracking System* was launched, to help seafarers and fishermen. This system has been named as "Sagar-Manthan: Mercantile Marine Domain Awareness Centre (MMDAC)".
  - 🥄 The summit ended with March 4 observed as *Chabahar Day,* marking importantce of Chabahar Port in Iran.
- 11. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh attended Virtual 8th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus.
  - It is an annual meeting of Defence Ministers of 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries and 8 dialogue partners Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and US.
  - Number 2 Brunei is Chair of the ADMM Plus forum this year.

**Top** 

### **National**

1. 3 Centers of Excellence (COEs) have been inaugurated in Karnataka under Indo-Israel Agricultural Project (IIAP), to use Israeli technologies in field of Horticulture.

- 29 Centres of Excellence (COEs) are operational across India in 12 States, implementing advanced Israeli Agro-Technology tailored to local conditions.
- 2. Cabinet Approvals (May 25, 2021) -
  - 🔪 General -
    - Approved Home Affairs Ministry's proposal for creation of 1 post of Director in Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) at National Disaster Response Force Academy Nagpur. Academy will impart skill based practical training to over 5000 personnel annually.
    - Approved opening of a new Consulate General of India in Addu City (Maldives), to help augment India's diplomatic presence in Maldives.
- 3. Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep S Puri launched EatSmart Cities Challenge and Transport 4 All Challenge.
  - Note: EatSmart Cities Challenge aims to motivate Smart Cities to develop a plan that supports healthy and sustainable food environment.
  - Transport4All Digital Innovation Challengeaims to develop digital solutions that will make public transport safe, affordable and reliable.
  - Noth are open to All Smart Cities, capitals of States /UTs and all cities with population over 5 lakh.
- 4. Nag River Pollution Abatement Project has been approved, with cost 2117 crores. Project will be implemented under National River Conservation Plan, to reduce pollution level in terms of untreated sewage, flowing solid waste and other impurities.
- 5. Raimona in Kokrajhar district became Assam's sixth national park.
  - Also, Eastern Assam's Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary, under stress for unregulated coal mining is in process of becoming 7th national park in Assam.
  - 🥄 Earlier 5 national parks are Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa.
- 6. Ist edition of North Eastern Region District SDG Index Report and Dashboard 2021-22 has been released, based on NITI Aayog's SDG India Index. It has been Jointly developed by NITI Aayog, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and UNDP.
  - Top 5 Districts (Among 103 in list)-
    - Nast Sikkim (Sikkim)
    - 🔪 Gomati (Tripura)
    - North Tripura (Tripura)
    - Nest Tripura (Tripura)
    - Serchhip (Mizoram)
  - 🥄 Kiphire district of Nagaland ranked last.

7. 3rd edition of **SDG India Index** and **Dashboard** 2020–21 released by NITI Aayog, as comprehense measure of progress made by States and UTs towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals. 3rd edition covers 16 Goals on 115 quantitative indicators, with qualitative assessment on Goal 17, compared to covering 13 Goals with 62 indicators in first edition in 2018. 🔪 States and Union Territories are classified based on their SDG India Index score -Napirant: 0−49 Nerformer: 50–64 Front-Runner: 65–99 Achiever: 100 Nop Performing -Nerala (75), Best Performing State Nimachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu (74) 🔪 Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Uttarakhand (72) **№** Sikkim (71) Naharashtra (70) Notion States -🔪 Chhattisgarh, Nagaland, Odisha (61) Narunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh (60) **Assam** (57) Narkhand (56) Name (52), Worst Performing State Nizoram, Haryana, and Uttarakhand are top gainers in 2020–21, in terms of improvement in score from 2019, with an increase of 12, 10 and 8 points, respectively. Nall States / UTs -🔪 Aspirant (0-49) - NIL Nerformer (50 - 64) -🦠 States - Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Nagaland, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, uttar Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Bihar 🔪 UTs - Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu

- 🔪 Front Runner -
  - States Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Mizoram, Punjab Haryana, Tripura
  - 🔪 UTs Chandigarh, Delhi Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, J&K, Ladakh
- 🔪 Achiever (100) NIL
- 8. 6 Indian Sites have been added to UNESCO World Heritage Sites Tentative List, taking number of sites from India in tentative list to 48. Sites are -
  - 🔪 Ganga Ghats of Varanasi,
  - 🔪 Temples of Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu,
  - Natpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh,
  - 🔪 Maharashtra Military Architecture
  - 🥄 Hire Benkal Megalithic site,
  - 🦠 Bhedaghat Lametaghat of Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh
- 9. 6th Annual Raisina Dialogue Held in virtual format, along with Chief Guests Paul Kagame (President of Rwanda) and Mette Frederiksen (PM of Denmark). Theme for 2021 Edition is "#ViralWorld: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of Control.
  - Since its inception in 2016, Raisina Dialogue has emerged as India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, hosted by Observer Research Foundation.
- 10. Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Bill 2021 has been passed by state Assembly, whichwas earlier approved by Cabinet. It criminalizes Forced conversions with provision of jail term up to 10 yrs and over Rs 50000 fine.
- 11. Budget Session 2021 -
  - Neld in 2 Parts (Feb 1 to 13, 2021 and Mar 8 to 25, 2021) -
    - 🔪 Part 2 (Mar 8 to 25, 2021) -
      - 🥄 Notable Info Disseminated During Question Hour -
        - Commerce Ministry announced that Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) will be assisting the states and union territories in order to prepare "Annual Export Ranking Index" of different districts.
        - Sports Ministry extend Khelo India scheme from 2021-22 to 2025-26, with amount 8750 crores estimated as financial implication of new Khelo India Scheme (2021-22 to 2025-26). Also, Yogasana has been included in Khelo India Youth Games 2021.

- \ India has developed its first indigenously developed App Store called "Mobile Seva Appstore", with over 965 live apps of several domains and categories of public services.
- Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari announced Vehicle Scrapping Policy, aimed at creating an Eco-System for phasing out of Unfit and Polluting Vehicles.
- 🔪 Bills Summary -
  - **20** Bills (17 in Lok Sabha and 03 in Rajya Sabha) were introduced. 18 Bills were passed by Lok Sabha and 19 were passed by Rajya Sabha.
  - 🥄 Total number of Bills passed by both Houses of Parliament is 18.
- 🥄 Bills Passed by Parliament (Passed by Both Houses Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) -

## National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill 2020 -

- 🥄 It seeks to regulate and standardise education and practice of allied healthcare professionals.
- An Allied health professional should have obtained a diploma or degree under this Bill, of over 2000 Hours duration.
- Nation A Healthcare professional should have obtained a degree under this Bill, of minimum 3600 hours duration.
- National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions, to perform related following functions with regard to Allied and Healthcare professionals.
- Commission will constitute a Professional Council for every recognised category of allied and healthcare professions.
- Nithin six months from passage of Bill, states will constitute State Allied and Healthcare Councils.
- Prior permission of State Council will be required to establish a new institution, open new courses, increase admission capacity.
- National Register. Any person who contravenes this, will be punished with fine of 50000.

## National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Bill 2021 -

- No. Bill seeks to establish National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID), as principal development financial institution (DFIs) for infrastructure financing.
- Nout DFIs -
  - No DFIs are set up for providing long-term finance for such segments of economy where risks involved are beyond acceptable limits of commercial banks and other financial institutions.

- \ Unlike banks, DFIs do not accept deposits from people. They source funds from several sources and are often supported through government guarantees.
- NBFID will be set up as a corporate body with authorised share capital of 1 lakh crore rupees. Initially, central government will own 100% shares of NBFID, which may subsequently be reduced up to 26%.
- NBFID may borrow money from central government, RBI, scheduled commercial banks, mutual funds, and multilateral institutions such as World Bank and Asian Development Bank.
- Central government will provide grants worth 5000 crores to NBFID by end of first financial year. The government will also provide guarantee at a concessional rate of up to 0.1% for borrowing from multilateral institutions, sovereign wealth funds, and other foreign funds.
- 🦠 Bill also provides for any person to set up a DFI by applying to RBI.
- The Finance Bill, 2021
- Name of the Puducherry Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2021
- Name of the Puducherry Appropriation Bill, 2021
- 🔪 The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2021
- 🔪 The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2021
- 🔪 The Appropriation Bill, 2021
- No.2) Bill, 2021 The Appropriation (No.2)
- Name of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021 -
  - Namends Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1950.
  - Statement of Objects and Reasons of Bill states that Bill has been introduced to give effect to modifications proposed by state of Tamil Nadu.
  - No. Bill replaces entry for Devendrakulathan community with DevendrakulaVelalar, which includes communities that are currently listed separately within Act. These are Devendrakulathan, Kalladi, Kudumban, Pallan, Pannadi, and Vathiriyan.
- Nines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill 2021 -
  - Note: 1957, which regulates mining sector.
  - Act empowers central government to reserve any mine (other than coal, lignite, and atomic minerals) to be leased through an auction for a particular end-use, known as captive mines. **Bill** provides that no mine will be reserved for particular end-use.

- **Bill** provides that captive mines (other than atomic minerals) may sell up to 50% of their annual mineral production in open market after meeting their needs.
- \ Under the Act, states conduct auction of mineral concessions (other than coal, lignite, and atomic minerals).

  Bill empowers central govt to specify time period for completion of auction. If state govt can not complete auction within this period, auctions may be conducted by central government.
- Act provides for a non-exclusive reconnaissance permit (for minerals other than coal, lignite, and atomic minerals). Bill removes the provision for this permit.

### 🔪 Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2021 -

- ▶ Bill amends Insurance Act 1938, which provides framework for functioning of insurance businesses. **Bill** seeks to increase maximum foreign investment allowed in an Indian insurance company.
- Act allows foreign investors to hold up to 49% of capital in an Indian insurance company. **Bill** increases limit on foreign investment in an Indian insurance company from 49% to 74%, and removes restrictions on ownership and control.

## 🔪 The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill 2020 -

It amends Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1971, which provides for the termination of certain pregnancies by registered medical practitioners.

## 🔪 Termination of pregnancy -

- \ Under the **Act**, pregnancy may be terminated within 12 weeks, subject to certain conditions. For termination of a pregnancy between 12 to 20 weeks, two medical practitioners are required to give their opinion.
- **Note: Bill** amends this provision to state that a pregnancy may be terminated within 20 weeks, with opinion of a registered medical practitioner. Approval of two registered medical practitioners will be required for termination of pregnancies between 20 to 24 weeks.
- Note that upper limit of termination of pregnancy will not apply in cases where such termination is necessary due to diagnosis of substantial foetal abnormalities.

## 🔪 Protection of privacy of a woman -

No Bill states that no registered medical practitioner will be allowed to reveal the name and other particulars of a woman whose pregnancy has been terminated, except to a person authorised by law.

## 🔪 Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 -

- \ It seeks to amend Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996, which contains provisions to deal with domestic and international arbitration and defines law for conducting conciliation proceedings.
- Act allowed a party to file an application to set aside an arbitral award. Courts interpreted this to mean that an automatic stay on an arbitral award was granted the moment an application for setting aside an arbitral award was made before a court. In 2015, Act was amended to state that an arbitral award would not be automatically stayed merely because an application is made to a court to set aside the arbitral award.
- Note That a stay on arbitral award can be provided, if court is satisfied on some mentioned conditions.
- Act specified certain norms for arbitrators in a separate schedule. Bill removes Schedule for arbitrators and states that norms for arbitrations will be specified under regulations.
- Najya Sabha (Pending in lok Sabha) -
  - National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill 2019 -
    - No. Bill declares certain institutes of food technology, entrepreneurship, and management as institutions of national importance.
    - These institutes are the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management Kundli, and Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Thanjavur. Bill declares these institutes as National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management.
    - Note: Bill provides for structure of board of governors of the said institutes.

#### 🔪 Budest Seeion 2021 Phase 1 -

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Presented Union Budget 2021-22 in Parliament, as her 3rd Union Budget and 2nd Full Budget of newly elected NDA Government forming 17th Lok Sabha, led by PM Narendra Modi. Details can be seen here.
- Ninfo -
  - Novt. will close two pharma PSUs and disinvest other three. Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd (IDPL) and Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd (RDPL) will be shut down.
  - Preliminary surveys by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), have shown presence of Lithium resources of 1600 tonnes (inferred category) in pegmatites of Marlagalla Allapatna area, Mandya district (Karnataka).

- Lithium is a key element for new technologies and finds its use in ceramics, glass, telecommunication and aerospace industries.
- Archaeological Survey of India has established 6 new Circles by bifurcation of its existing Circles Rajkot Circle, Jabalpur Circle, Tiruchirappalli (Trichy) Circle, Meerut Circle, Jhansi Circle and Raiganj Circle.
- Govt has included Specialty Steel under Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, to help improve availability of specialty steel in country.
- Ninistry of Agriculture recently launched a new Central Sector Scheme titled 'Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs). Budgetary provision of Rs 6865 crores has been made for the same.

#### 🔪 Bills Passed -

### 🔪 Major Port Authorities Bill 2020 -

- It seeks to provide for regulation, operation and planning of major ports in India and provide greater autonomy to these ports. It seeks to replace Major Port Trusts Act 1963.
- Application Bill will apply to the major ports of Chennai, Cochin, Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Kandla, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Mangalore, Mormugao, Paradip, V.O. Chidambaranar, and Vishakhapatnam.
- **Major Port Authorities Board -** Under **Act**, all major ports are managed by respective Board of Port Trusts. **Bill** provides for creation of a Board of Major Port Authority for each major port.
  - No Board will comprise of a Chairperson and a deputy Chairperson, appointed by government. It will have other designated prominent members.
- **Powers of the Board Bill** allows the Board to use its property, assets and funds as deemed fit for the development of major port.
- **Fixing of rates -** Currently, Tariff Authority for Major Ports fixes scale of rates for assets and services available at ports. Under **Bill**, the Board or committees appointed by Board will determine these rates.
- ➤ **Financial powers of Board -** Under **Act**, Board has to seek prior sanction of government to raise any loan. Under **Bill**, to meet its capital and working expenditure requirements, the Board may raise loans from any bank / financial institution, within or outside India that is compliant with laws. For loans above 50% of its capital reserves, Board will require government approval.
- **Corporate Social Responsibility Bill** provides that the Board may use its funds for providing social benefits.

- **Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects Bill** defines PPP projects as projects taken up through a concession contract by Board. For such projects, the Board may fix the tariff for the initial bidding purposes.
- **Adjudicatory Board Bill** provides for constitution of an Adjudicatory Board by government, to replace existing Tariff Authority for Major Ports constituted under 1963 Act.
- **Penalties -** Under **Act**, there are various penalties for contravening provisions of the Act, up to 10000 or penalty for evading rates may extend up to 10 times the rates. Under **Bill**, any person contravening any provision of the Bill or any rules or regulations will be punished with a fine of up to 1 lakh rupees.

### 🔪 Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill 2021 -

- It amends Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, which provided for bifurcation of state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) into UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh. Bill repeals Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Ordinance 2021.
- Act provides that Article 239A of Constitution, which is applicable to the UT of Puducherry, shall also apply to UT of J&K. Bill states that in addition to Article 239A, any other provision of the Constitution which refers to elected members of a legislative assembly of a state and is also applicable to UT of Puducherry, will apply to UT of J&K.
- Act specifies that members of IAS, IPS and IFS serving in state of J&K would continue to serve in 2 New UTs. Further, in future, postings of officers in New UTs would be from Arunachal Goa Mizoram Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre.
- No. Bill amends these clauses to provide for the merger of the officers in the existing cadre of J&K with AGMUT cadre.

## 🔪 National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill 2021 -

- It repeals NCT of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Ordinance 2020, promulgated in December 2020.
- NET OF Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Act 2011.
- 2011 Act provides for relocating slum dwellers and Jhuggi-Jhompri clusters, regularising unauthorised colonies, village abadi areas (and their extensions), creating policy or plan for farm houses constructed beyond permissible building limits, and for all other areas of NCT of Delhi. Master Plan for Delhi 2021 was notified by central government in February 2007.
- 🔪 2011 Act was valid till December 31, 2020. Bill seeks to extend this to December 31, 2023.

▶ Bill amends Act to provide that unauthorised colonies will be identified for regularisation as per NCT of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Act 2019, and NCT of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Regulations 2019.

### 12. Monsoon Session of Parliament 2021 (Jul 19 - Aug 11, 2021) -

- Notable Info Disseminated During Monsoon Session 2021 -
  - Nove will set up *Indian Institute of Heritage* at Noida (UP), to impart higher education and research in field related to rich Indian heritage and its conservation leading to Masters and Ph.D courses.
  - Stand Up India Scheme has been extended up to 2025, whose objective is to facilitate loans between 10 lakh and 1 Crore to at least one Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) borrower and one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a green field enterprise in manufacturing, services or trading sector.
  - Geo-imaging satellite EOS-03 is scheduled for launch in third quarter of 2021, to enable near-real time monitoring of natural disasters like floods & cyclones. EOS-03 would also enable monitoring of water bodies, crops, vegetation condition, forest cover changes etc.
  - 15th Finance Commission (headed by N K Singh) has recommended a performance-based challenge fund of 8000 crore to States for incubation of new cities, upto 1000 crores for a City and s State can have only one new city under proposed scheme.
  - 🔪 Govt. Of Uttar Pradesh proposed renaming Jhansi Railway Station as Veerangana Laxmibai Railway Station.
  - Govt has approved Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) to be implemented by Ministry of Earth Sciences at a total budget of 4077 Crores for 5 years during 2021-2026. Private institutions will also be included for development of technologies for this mission to explore possibilities of mining and bio-diversity in deep ocean and to support blue economy.
  - Novt has set loans disbursement target under PM Mudra Yojana (PMMY) at 3 Lakh Crores for 2021-22 (FY22), lower than 3.21 Lah Crores in previous year.
  - India registered its highest ever annual FDI Inflow of US \$81.72 billion during last financial year 2020-21 (FY 21), compared to 74.39 Billion USD in earlier FY 20 (2019-20).
  - Not will set up a National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics, in collaboration with IIT Bombay, for creating a world-class talent pool in India.
  - 🔪 Joint satellite mission NISER (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) of ISRO-NASA will be launched in early 2023.
  - National Community of Portuguese Language Countries, CPLP as Associate Observer in July 2021.
- Nuring the Session, 22 Bills were passed by both Houses of Parliament, including 2 appropriation Bills. List of Passed Bills (By Both Houses of Parliament) -

### National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill 2019 -

It declares National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management Kundli and Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology Thanjavur as as institutions of national importance, calling dem National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management.

### 🔪 Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021 -

- It seeks to provide framework for development, maintenance, and management of aids to navigation in India, and repeals Lighthouse Act 1927, which provides for maintenance and control of lighthouses in India.
- Nill provides that Govt will appoint a Director General, Deputy Director Generals, and Directors for districts.
- Novt may appoint a Central Advisory Committee (CAC) for consultation on related matters.
- Sovt will be responsible for development, maintenance, and management of all general aids to navigation and vessel traffic services.
- Note that no person shall be allowed to operate on any aid to navigation, or any vessel traffic service unless he holds a valid training certificate.
- No. Bill provides that marine aids to navigation dues will be levied for every ship arriving at or departing from any port in India.
- 🔪 Govt may designate any aid to navigation under its control as a heritage lighthouse.

## Nuvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill 2021 -

It Amends Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015. A similar Bill empowering district magistrates to issue adoption orders was introduced in Lok Sabha in August 2018. However, Bill lapsed with dissolution of 16th Lok Sabha.

### 🔪 Key Features -

- Act states that adoption of a child is final on issuance of an adoption order by civil court.
  - **Bill** provides that instead of the court, the district magistrate (including additional district magistrate) will issue such adoption orders. This aims speeding up disposal of cases and enhance accountability.
- As per **Act**, offences committed by juveniles are categorised as heinous offences, serious offences, and petty offences. Serious offences include offences with three to seven years of imprisonment.
  - **Bill** adds Offences Where Maximum Sentence is More Than 7 Years Imprisonment But No Minimum Sentence Has Been Prescribed Or Minimum Sentence Of Less Than 7 Years Is Provided To Be Treated As Serious Offences.

- Note that any person aggrieved by an adoption order passed by district magistrate may file an appeal before Divisional Commissioner, within 30 days. Such appeals should be disposed within four weeks.
- Act provides that there will be no appeal for any order made by a Child Welfare Committee concluding that a person is not a child in need of care and protection. **Bill** removes this provision.
- Act provides that offences against children that are punishable with imprisonment of more than seven years, will be tried in the Children's Court. Other offences (imprisonment under seven years) will be tried by a Judicial Magistrate. Bill amends this to provide that all offences under the Act will be tried in the Children's Court.
- Act provides that states must constitute one or more Child Welfare Committees for each district for dealing with children in need of care and protection. Bill adds certain criteria for a person to be ineligible to be a member of CWC. These include having any record of violation of human rights or child rights or being a part of the management of a child care institution in a district.

### Nactoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2020 -

- 🥄 It seeks to amend Factoring Regulation Act 2011, to widen scope of entities which can engage in factoring business.
- \ Under the Act, factoring is a business where an entity (factor) acquires receivables of another entity (assignor) for an amount. Receivables is amount owed by customers (debtors) to assignor for use of any goods / services.

## 🔪 Change in definitions -

- **Receivables Act** defines receivables as monetary sum which is right of a person under a contract. **Bill** amends this to mean any money owed by a debtor to assignor for toll or for the use of any facility or services.
- **Assignment Act** defines assignment to mean transfer of undivided interest of any assignor in any receivable due from debtor, in favour of factor. **Bill** adds that such a transfer can be in whole or in part.
- **Factoring business Bill** defines factoring business as acquisition of receivables of an assignor by assignment for a consideration. Acquisition should be for collection of receivables or for financing against such assignment.
- **Registration of factors -** Under **Act**, no company can engage in factoring business without registering with RBI. For a NBFC to engage in a factoring, its assets in factoring business, and income from factoring business should both be more than 50% (of gross assets/net income) or over a RBI threshold. **Bill** removes this threshold for NBFCs to engage in factoring.
- Registration of transactions Under Act, factors are required to register details of every transaction of assignment of receivables in their favour. These details should be recorded with Central Registry under SARFAESI Act 2002, within 30 days, failing which may attract fine of up to 5000 per day. Bill removes the 30 day time period.

- **Bill** also states that where trade receivables are financed through Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS), transaction details should be filed with Central Registry by concerned TReDS, on behalf of factor.
  - TReDS is an electronic platform for facilitating financing of trade receivables of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- Note that the second section is a second section with Central Registry for transactions done through TReDS, and any other matter as required.

#### 🔪 Inland Vessels Bill 2021 -

- It replaces **Inland Vessels Act 1917**, which provided for regulation of inland vessel navigation by states including the registration of vessels, and safe carriage of goods and passengers. **Bill** seeks to introduce a uniform regulatory framework for inland vessel navigation across country. Key features -
- Note: Bill defines Mechanically propelled inland vessels to include ships, boats, sailing vessels, container vessels, and ferries. Govt will prescribe classification, design and other details for these vessels.
  - To operate in inland waters, all such vessels must have a certificate of survey, and a certificate of registration.

    Vessels with Indian ownership must be registered with Registrar of Inland Vessels, appointed by state Govt.
- Such vessels will be required to follow certain specifications for signals and equipment to ensure navigation safety. In case of a hazard, avessel master will send a distress signal to other vessels in proximity and to concerned state Govt. If a vessel master abstains from rendering assistance after answering a distress call, he will be penalised with fine of 10000.
- 🔪 All accidents aboard such vessels must be reported to nearest police station and a state government appointed authority.
- Nove will prescribe the minimum number of people that vessels must have, for various roles. Violations will attract penalty of up to 10000 for first offence, and 25000 for subsequent offences.
- Vessels will dispose sewage as per notified standards. State governments will grant vessels a certificate of prevention of pollution.
- Central Govt will maintain an electronic centralised record of data on inland vessels, with information on registration, crew and certificates issued.
- Note that the state will be utilised for various purposes including emergency preparedness, containment of pollution, and boosting inland water navigation. Each state will constitute such a development fund.
- No. Bill empowers state governments to delegate certain functions related to non-mechanically propelled inland vessels to their local governments. State governments will prescribe criteria for identification and categorisation of such vessels.

## 🔪 Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill 2021 -

- It amends Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016, and replaces Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment)
  Ordinance 2021, which aimed to provide efficient alternative insolvency resolution framework for corporate persons classified as MSMEs under the Code, for quicker and cost-effective outcomes.
- Code provides a time-bound process for resolving the insolvency of corporate debtors (within 330 days) called corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP).
- Note that the pre-packaged insolvency resolution process for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), called the pre-packaged insolvency resolution process (PIRP). Unlike CIRP, PIRP may be initiated only by debtors. During PIRP, management of company will remain with debtor.
- Application for initiating PIRP may be filed in the event of a default of at least one lakh rupees. The central government may increase the threshold of minimum default up to one crore rupees through a notification.
- Currently, under 2006 MSME Act, an enterprise with an annual turnover of up to 250 crores, and investment in plant and machinery or equipment up to 50 crore, is classified as MSME.
- Note That The Pierre of the Pi
- Nesolution plan must be approved by committee within 90 days from commencement date of PIRP.
- During PIRP, debtor will be provided with a moratorium under which certain actions against the debtor will be prohibited.
- Nuring PIRP, board of directors or partners of debtor will continue to manage affairs of the debtor.
- At any time from PIRP commencement date but before the approval of the resolution plan, committee of creditors may decide to terminate PIRP and instead initiate CIRP.

## 🥄 Coconut Development Board (Amendment) Bill 2021 -

- It amends **Coconut Development Board Act 1979**, that established Coconut Development Board. **Bill** seeks to amend composition of Coconut Development Board to improve its management and administration.
- Name and its products outside India also.
- Act allows Board to finance suitable schemes to improve quality and increase production of coconut. This would apply to areas where coconut is grown on a large scale. Bill amends this to extend such financing to all coconut producing states.
- **Note Note** Vunder **Act**, Chairman of the Board (also CEO) is appointed by central Govt. Bill proposes to make post of Chairman a non-executive one. Bill creates a separate post of CEO, to be appointed by central Govt.

- Number Act, 2 members representing departments of Revenue and Civil Supplies and Co-operation are appointed by central Govt. Bill proposes to substitute member representing department of Civil Supplies and Co-operation with a member representing department of Consumer Affairs. Bill adds an ex-officio member to the Board, who will be Joint Secretary to government, in charge of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture.
- Under Act, Board includes 3 members representing states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. Bill adds that a fourth representative from Andhra Prades, will also be included in Board.
- Number Act, Board also includes five members appointed in rotation by central Govt, representing 5 states (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Maharashtra, Orissa, and West Bengal) and 5 UTs (Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Goa, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep, and Pondicherry). Bill reduces this to provide for 4 members representing 11 states (removing Andhra Pradesh from the existing list, and adding Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Nagaland, Telangana, and Tripura) and three union territories (removing Goa, and Daman and Diu).
- Under Act, Board includes 2 members representing coconut growers of Kerala and one each representing coconut growers of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Bill adds 2 more members, each representing coconut growers of Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.

## Nirports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021 -

- It seeks to amend Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act 2008, which established Airport Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) that regulates tariffs and other charges for aeronautical services rendered at major airports.
- Act designates an airport as a major airport if it has an annual passenger traffic of at least 35 lakh. Bill adds that central government may group airports and notify the group as a major airport.

## 🔪 Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill 2021 -

- **Bill** provides for constitution of a Commission for better co-ordination, research, identification, and resolution of problems related to air quality in National Capital Region (NCR) and adjoining areas. Adjoining areas have been defined as areas in Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh, adjoining the National Capital Territory of Delhi and NCR.
- Commission will required to form sub-committees on: (i) monitoring and identification, (ii) safeguarding and enforcement, and (iii) research and development.
- **Note:** Note: N

## 🔪 Essential Defence Services Bill 2021 -

- It seeks to replace Ordinance promulgated in June 2021. Bill allows central government to prohibit strikes, lock-outs, and lay-offs in units engaged in notified essential defence services.
- 🦠 Bill amends Industrial Disputes Act 1947, to include essential defence services under public utility services.
- Note that the prohibition order through illegal lock-outs or lay-offs will be punished with up to one year imprisonment or Rs 10,000 fine, or both.

### 🔪 Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Bill 2021 -

- No. Bill seeks to amend the Limited Liability Partnership Act 2008, that provides for regulation of limited liability partnerships (LLP). LLP is an alternative corporate body form to traditional partnership firms. Under LLP, a partner's liabilities are limited to their investment in the business.
- **Note:** Note: Not
- Act specifies manner of operations of LLPs, and provides that violating these requirements will be punishable with a fine upto 5 Lakh. **Bill** decriminalises these provisions and imposes a monetary penalty.
- Act states that government may direct an LLP to change its name on certain grounds, Failing which is punishable with fine upto 5 lakh. Bill removes some of these grounds, and empowers government to allot a new name to such an LLP instead of levying a fine.
- Under Act, if an LLP carry out an activity to defraud their creditors, every person party to it knowingly is punishable with imprisonment of up to two years and a fine upto 5 lakh. Bill increases the maximum term of imprisonment from two years to five years.
- **Note Note** \times \text{\text{\text{VINDERSOL}} Under \text{\text{\text{Act}}}, non-compliance with an order of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) is punishable with imprisonment up to six months and fine up to 50,000. **Bill** removes this offence.
- \ Under **Bill**, government may appoint adjudicating officers for awarding penalties under the Act. These will be central government officers not below the rank of Registrar.
- **Bill** allows government to establish special courts for ensuring speedy trial of offences under the Act. Appeals against orders of these special courts will lie with High Courts.
- ▶ Under **Act**, appeals against orders of NCLT lie with the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). **Bill** adds that appeals cannot be made against an orders that have been passed with consent of parties. Appeals must be filed within 60 days (extendable by another 60 days) of the order.

- ▶ **Bill** provides for formation of a small LLP where contribution from partners is up to Rs 25 lakh (may be increased up to five crore rupees), turnover for the preceding financial year is up to Rs 40 lakh (may be increased up to 50 crore). Govt may also notify certain LLPs as start-up LLPs.
- \ Under **Bill**, government may prescribe standards of accounting and auditing for classes of LLPs, in consultation with National Financial Reporting Authority.

### Neposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2021 -

- \ It seeks to amend Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act 1961, that established Corporation to provide insurance for bank deposits and guarantee credit given by banks and financial institutions.
- **Bill** seeks to provide depositors time-bound access to their insured deposit amount, in case they are restricted from accessing their bank deposits.
- \ Under the **Act**, Corporation is liable to pay the insured deposit amount to depositors of an insured bank. **Bill** adds that Corporation will be liable to pay insured deposit amount to depositors on an interim basis.
  - Corporation will not be liable to make interim payment if RBI removes restrictions on bank for payment to depositors, and insured or transferee bank is in a position to pay the depositors without any restrictions.
- **Bill** mandates Corporation to pay insured amount to the depositors within 90 days of date of liability arising (extended by an additional 90 days).
  - $ilde{\ \ }$  Within first 45 days, insured bank must furnish details of all outstanding deposits to the Corporation.
  - Nithin 30 days of receipt of details, Corporation will verify authenticity of the claims.
  - Nithin 15 days of verification, Corporation must make the payment to such depositors.
- \ Under Act, insured banks are required to pay a premium to Corporation on their deposits, on a Rate notified by Corporation. Act limits rate of premium (per annum) for a bank at 0.15% of its total outstanding deposits. Bill allows Corporation to increase this maximum limit with prior approval of RBI.
- \ Under Act, once Corporation makes payment to depositors, insured or transferee bank, becomes liable to repay the same amount to Corporation, in a prescribed time. Bill adds that Corporation may change this time limit for such period.

### 🔪 Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill 2021 -

- **Note : Bill** amends Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order 1950, which empowers President to specify Scheduled Tribes (STs) in various states / UTs. It permits Parliament to modify this list of notified STs.
- Note: Proposed changes in list of STs in Arunachal Pradesh under the Bill -

| Original list Proposed changes under the Bill |
|---|
|---|

| Abor                    | Deleted from the list  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Khampti                 | Tai Khamti   |
| Mishmi, Idu, and Taroan | Mishmi-Kaman (Miju Mishmi), Idu (Mishmi), and Taraon (Digaru Mishmi) |
| Momba                   | Monpa, Memba, Sartang, and Sajolang (Miji)                           |
| Any Naga Tribes         | Nocte, Tangsa, Tutsa, and Wancho                                     |

# Tribunals Reforms Bill 2021 -

\ It seeks to dissolve certain existing appellate bodies and transfer their functions to other existing judicial bodies. It replaces a similar Ordinance promulgated in April 2021.

| Acts   |                                  | Proposed   |  |
|--|----------------------------------|--|--|
|  | Body                             | entity   |  |
| The Cinematograph Act, 1952  | Appellate<br>Tribunal            | High Court   |  |
| The Trade Marks Act, 1999  | Appellate Board                  | High Court   |  |
| The Copyright Act, 1957  | Appellate Board                  | Commercial Court or the Commercial Division of a High<br>Court*  |  |
| The Customs Act, 1962  | Authority for<br>Advance Rulings | High Court   |  |
| The Patents Act, 1970  | Appellate Board                  | High Court   |  |
| The Airports Authority of India Act, 1994  | Airport<br>Appellate<br>Tribunal | Central government, for disputes arising from the disposal of properties left on airport premises by unauthorised occupants.  High Court, for appeals against orders of an eviction officer. |  |
| The Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002                    | Airport<br>Appellate<br>Tribunal | Civil Court#   |  |
| The Geographical Indications of Goods<br>(Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 | Appellate Board                  | High Court   |  |

Nother Features -

- ➤ Finance Act 2017 merged tribunals based on domain. It also empowered central Govt to notify rules on composition of search-cum-selection committees, qualifications of tribunal members and their terms and conditions of service. **Bill** removes these provisions from Act. Provisions on composition of selection committees, and term of office have been included in Bill.
- Chairperson and Members of Tribunals will be appointed by government on the recommendation of a Search-cum-Selection Committee, which will include Chief Justice of India or a Supreme Court Judge nominated by him as Chairperson.
- State administrative tribunals will have separate search-cum-selection committees, with Chief Justice of Concerned High Court as Chairman.
- No. Bill provides for 4 year term (subject to upper age limit of 70 years for Chairperson, and 67 years for members). Further, it specifies minimum age requirement of 50 years for appointment of a chairperson or a member.

### 🔪 Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021 -

- Note: The same in the same in
- **2** 2012 Act had amended IT Act to impose tax liability on income earned from sale of shares of a foreign company on a retrospective basis. **Bill** proposes to nullify this retrospective basis for taxation.
- Under IT Act, NRIs must pay tax on income through any business connection or asset situated in India. Amendments made by 2012 Act clarified that if a company is incorporated outside India, its shares will be deemed to be in India if they derive value substantially from assets in India. Thus, persons who sold such shares of foreign companies before enactment of Act (May 28, 2012), are liable to pay tax on income earned from such sale.
- 🔪 Bill proposes to nullify this tax liability imposed on such persons provided they fulfil certain mentioned conditions.
  - \ If person has filed an appeal / petition in this regard, it must be withdrawn or person must submit an undertaking to withdraw it.
  - If person has given notice for any arbitration or mediation in this regard, notices or claims under such proceedings must be withdrawn or person must submit an undertaking to withdraw them. Other conditions, as may be prescribed.
- Note that if a concerned person fulfils mentioned conditions, all assessment or reassessment orders issued in relation to such tax liability will be deemed to have never been issued.

## 🔪 Central Universities (Amendment) Bill 2021 -

- It amends Central Universities Act 2009, that provides for establishment of Central Universities for teaching and research in various states. These states include: (i) Andhra Pradesh, (ii) Bihar, (iii) Kerala, and (iv) Haryana.
- Note: Bill provides for establishment of the Sindhu Central University in UT of Ladakh.

## Nationalisation) Amendment Bill 2021 -

- It seeks to amend General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act 1972, that was enacted to nationalise all private companies undertaking general insurance business in India. Bill seeks to provide for a greater private sector participation in public sector insurance companies regulated under the Act.
- Act had set up General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC). Businesses of companies nationalised under the Act were restructured in four subsidiary companies of GIC National Insurance, New India Assurance, Oriental Insurance, and United India Insurance.
  - Act was amended in 2002 to transfer control of these four subsidiary companies from GIC to government, making them independent companies. Since 2000, GIC exclusively undertakes reinsurance business.
- Act requires that shareholding of government in specified insurers (GIC and other 4 companies) must be at least 51%.

  Bill removes this provision.
- Act defines general insurance business as fire, marine or miscellaneous insurance business. It excludes capital redemption and annuity certain business from definition.
  - Capital redemption insurance involves payment of a sum on a specific date by insurer after beneficiary pays premiums periodically.
  - Nunder annuity certain insurance, insurer pays the beneficiary over a period of time.
  - **Bill** removes this definition and instead, refers to definition provided by Insurance Act 1938. Under Insurance Act, capital redemption and annuity certain are included within general insurance business.
- ▶ **Bill** provides that Act will not apply to specified insurers from date on which government relinquishes control of insurer. Control means power to appoint a majority of directors of a specified insurer or to have power over its management or policy decisions.
- Act empowers government to notify terms and conditions of service of employees of specified insurers. Bill provides that schemes formulated by government will be deemed to have been adopted by the insurer.
  - Note that the Act will be transferred to board of directors of the insurer.

**Bill** specifies that a director of a specified insurer (not a whole-time director) will be held liable only for certain acts. These include acts which have been committed with his knowledge, attributable through board processes and with his consent or connivance or where he had not acted diligently.

### National Commission for Homoeopathy (Amendment) Bill 2021 -

- 🥄 It amends National Commission for Homoeopathy Act 2020, that had replaced Homoeopathy Central Council Act 1973.
- 1973 Act had set up Central Council of Homeopathy for regulating homoeopathic education and practice. 2020 Act replaced Council with a national commission for regulating homoeopathic education and practice.
- Nefore 2020 Act was passed, 1973 Act was amended in 2018 to provide for reconstitution of Central Council, within a year. This time period was extended from 1 to 4 years.
  - 1973 Act was also amended to provide that till Council was reconstituted, its powers would be exercised by a Board of Governors. Since, setting up of National Commission was delayed and Central Council was not reconstituted, the Board continued to function.
- National Commission was constituted on July 5, 2021 to supersede Central Council and on same date, the 1973 Act was repealed. 2021 Bill specifies that all powers exercised and functions performed by Board of Governors will be deemed to have been done under 2020 Act and will continue to remain in force.

## 🔪 National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (Amendment) Bill 2021 -

- It amends National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act 2020, that had replaced Indian Medicine Central Council Act 1970.
- 1970 Act had set up Central Council of Indian Medicine to regulate education and practice of Indian Medicine system (includes Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy). 2020 Act replaced Council with a National Commission for the same. Since, setting up of National Commission was taking time, 1970 Act was not repealed immediately with passage of 2020 Act.
- Meanwhile, 1970 Act was amended in September 2020 to provide for reconstitution of Central Council, within a year (extended to 2 years later). 1970 Act was also amended to provide that till Council was reconstituted, its powers would be exercised by a Board of Governors, constituted by government.
- National Commission was constituted on June 11, 2021 to supersede Central Council and on same date, 1970 Act was repealed. 2021 Bill specifies that all powers and functions of Board of Governors will be deemed to have been done under the 2020 Act and will continue to remain in force.

### Nonstitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment) Bill 2021 -

🥄 It amends Constitution to allow states and UTs to prepare their own list of socially and educationally backward classes.

- National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was established under National Commission for Backward Classes Act 1993. Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Act 2018 gave constitutional status to NCBC, and empowered President to notify list of socially and educationally backward classes for any state / UTs for all purposes.
- 2021 Bill amends this to provide that President may notify list of socially and educationally backward classes only for purposes of central government. This list will be prepared and maintained by central government.
- ➤ Further, **Bill** enables states / UTs to prepare their own list of socially and educationally backward classes, which may differ from central list.
- Article 338B of Constitution mandates central and state governments to consult NCBC on all major policy matters affecting socially and educationally backward classes. **Bill** exempts states / UTs from this requirement for matters related to preparation of their list of socially and educationally backward classes.
- 13. Odisha government and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India signed MoU for setting up an Integrated Steel Complex in Kendrapara District, with an investment of over 50000 crores.
  - 🥄 It was signed on occasion of Biju Patnaik's Birth Anniversary (Former Chief minister of Odisha).
- 14. A centre of excellence for the dairy sector will be set up in Rajasthan in collaboration with Denmark, to promote growth in the sector.
- 15. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched *Horticulture Cluster Development Programme*, To ensure holistic growth of horticulture. In pilot phase, it will be implemented in 12 horticulture clusters out of 53 selected clusters.
- 16. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched *Madhukranti* Portal, an initiative of National Bee Board (NBB), developed for online registration to achieve traceability source of Honey and other beehive products on a digital platform.
- 17. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched a digital platform namely *Kisan Sarathi*, to facilitate farmers to get right information at right time, in their desired language.
  - 🥄 It was launched on occasion of 93rd ICAR Foundation Day (Jul 16).
- 18. Aimed at boosting state's agriculture and horticulture, Arunachal Pradesh cabinet approved two credit-linked schemes, to facilitate 300 crores investment in agro-based sectors.
  - Notate Govt earmarked 60 crore of subsidy each for Atma Nirbhar Krishi Yojana for agriculture and Atma Nirbhar Bagwani Yojana for horticulture, during 2021-22 fiscal.
- 19. Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary & Chairman NIXI inaugurated 3 initiatives for National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) -
  - 🥄 IPv6 Expert Panel (IP Guru) It will extend support to Indian entities who find it technically challenging to migrate and adopt IPv6.
  - NIXI Academy It will educate Indians to learn technologies like IPv6 which are normally not taught in Educational Institutes.

- NIXI-IP-INDEX NIXI has developed an IPv6 index portal for Internet community, which will showcase IPv6 adoption rate in India and across world.
- 20. Andhra Govt announced *AP Information Technology Policy for 2021-2024*, which is expected to generate over 55000 jobs in state over 3 years.
  - 🔪 IT, Electronics and Communications Department will be transformed into a revenue center to achieve self-sustenance.
  - New IT Policy will link incentive disbursement to realization of committed direct employment, ensuring transparent and effective utilization of public funds.
- 21. Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched revamped **YSR Bima** scheme, where government itself will directly pay insurance amount to family of deceased to make insurance claims easier. State government allocated 750 crores for 2021-22 for the scheme.
- 22. Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy released first installment worth 672 crores under **Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme** for 2021-22. A total of 10.88 lakh students will benefit from this.
  - 🥄 This Scheme was launched to provide scholarships to students, who are unable to pay their fees because of financial issues.
- 23. Andhra Pradesh Govt started a programme to transform foundational learning in government schools, with support of 250 Million USD from World Bank, called **Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation (SALT).** It aims to strengthen foundation schools and provide training and skill development to teachers.
- 24. Andhra Pradesh government ordered implementation of 10 % reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) in education and employment, in accordance with 103rd Constitution Amendment Act. Kapus will also be included under EWS quota.
  - Earlier In 2017, previous TDP government enacted a Bill seeking to include Kapus into list of BCs, by creating a separate category called BC-F. This Bill is still awaiting assent from President.
  - \ Later in 2019, TDP government passed a legislation to bifurcate 10% EWS quota into two parts, to provide 5% reservation to Kapus treating them as OC.
  - Now replicated guidelines for EWS quota in educational institutions and employment, to benefit Kapus and other OC sections eligible for EWS reservation.
- 25. Andhra Pradesh government will set up *India's first government-run ambulance network for animals*, to further boost animal husbandry and veterinary sector.
- 26. As per Draft National Space Transportation Policy 2020 -
  - 🦠 Indian private companies will now be allowed to establish and operate rocket launch sites, with prior permission from government.

- Any orbital or sub-orbital rocket launch from Indian or overseas territory can only be conducted with authorization from Indian National Space Promotion & Authorization Center (IN-SPACe), an independent body constituted by Govt.
- 27. As per *Ease of Living Index 2020* by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), Bengaluru is named most liveable city in India, followed by Chennai, Shimla, Bhubaneshwar and Mumbai.
- 28. As per Booket The India Story -
  - \ India's installed renewable energy capacity now stands at over 141 GW, which is about 37 % of country's total capacity. This includes solar capacity of 41.09 GW.
  - Nindia's renewable energy capacity is the 4th largest in the world.
- 29. As per Govt Data, India has so far achieved emission reduction of **28%** over 2005 levels, against target of 35% by 2030 committed in its NDC (Nationally determined contributions).
  - This has kept India on leaderboard in keeping its Paris Climate Change (COP21) commitments, along with an exponential increase in renewable energy capacity, which touched 100 GW Recently (excluding large hydro).
  - This was stated by RK Singh (Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, and President of International Solar Alliance), during INDIA-ISA Energy Transition Dialogue 2021.
  - As on End of July 2021, 38.5% of India's installed power generation capacity is based on clean renewable energy source, poised to reach 40% by 2023. India stands at 4th position in world in terms of installed RE capacity 5th in Solar and 4th in Wind energy capacity.
  - Number of 175 GW Normall 450 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 from its existing target of 175 GW by 2022.
- 30. As per Govt Data, total installed renewable energy capacity in India (excluding large hydro capacity of approx 46 GW) crossed mile-stone of 100 GW, making India stand at 4th position in world in terms of installed RE capacity, 5th in solar and 4th in wind in terms of installed capacity.
  - While 100 GW has been installed, 50 GW is under installation and 27 GW is under tendering. India has also enhanced its ambition to install 450 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.
  - India aims at 175 GW RE Capacity by 2022 (Excluding nuclear and large hydro power). It Includes 100 GW solar, 60 GW wind, 5 small hydro, 10 GW Biomass power, and 0.168 GW Waste-to-Power.
- 31. As per International Energy Agency (IEA), India will add 26000 megawatt (MW) of hydropower projects by 2030, up from 46209 MW capacity Currently.
  - India is world's 3rd largest consumer of electricity and world's 3rd largest renewable energy producer with 38% (140.6 GW out of 382 GW) of total installed energy capacity from renewable sources, as of March 31, 2021.

- In 2016, Paris Agreement's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions targets, India committed producing 40% of its total electricity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. India has also set a target of producing 175 GW by 2022 and 450 GW by 2030 from renewable energy.
- 32. As per Report on *United Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2019-20* for School Education in India, Gross Enrolment Ratio at all levels of school education has improved in 2019-20 compared to 2018-19. Highlights for 2019-20 -
  - Total students in school education from pre-primary to higher secondary crossed 26.45 crores, higher by 42.3 lakh compared to 2018-19.
  - Number is more than 12.08 crore.
  - 96.87 lakh teachers have been engaged in school education, higher by 2.57 lakh compared to 2018-19. This has improved Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR).
- 33. As per State of India's Environment Report 2021 by CSE -
  - \ India's rank has dropped by two places from last year to 117 on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted as a part of UN's 2030 agenda.
  - Notably, as per Niti Aayog's SDG Index, India's overall SDG score has improved by 6 points from 60 in 2019 to 66 in 2020-21.
- 34. As per UNESCO, India's investment in research remains unsatisfactory, which has been stagnant at 0.7% of GDP for years.
  - As per Report, India's research intensity has been declining since 2014.
  - Science and Technology Policy of 2003 fixed threshold of 2% of GDP to research and development (R&D) by 2007, which was set back to 2018 in new Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (2013) and then again to 2022 by PM Economic Advisory Council.
- 35. As per data on *India Business Process Outsourcing Promotion Scheme* (IBPS) launched by Govt, to facilitate expansion of several IT and BPO companies in tier-II and III cities -
  - 🥄 Top 3 states in Job Creation are Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab.
- 36. As per govt data, India added 12.1 gigawatt (GW) power generation capacity in 2020-21, of which 7.7 GW was from renewable energy sources (64 %).
  - India is third largest producer and third largest consumer of electricity, with installed capacity of 384 GW. Of it, approx 38 % is from renewable energy sources.
- 37. Ashgabat (Turkmenistan capital) has been named as world's most expensive city for foreign workers, as per 2021 cost-of-living survey by consultancy firm Mercer. Top 5 -
  - Ashgabat (Turkmenistan)
  - 🔪 Hong Kong

- 🔪 Beirut (Lebanon)
- 🔪 Tokyo (Japan)
- 38. Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma appointed 13 'Guardian Ministers' for 34 districts of state, to be entrusted with administrative roles and responsibilities of their assigned districts and oversee implementation of various government policies.
- 39. Assam Cabinet announced creation of an independent department to protect and preserve *faith*, *culture* and *traditions* of tribes and indigenous communities of the state.
- 40. Assam Government announced 3-day state mourning to commemorate police personnel and civilians who lost their lives in a clash, amid ongoing Assam-Mizoram border Dispute. Background -
  - During British era, Mizoram was called Lushai Hills, a district of Assam. Mizoram-Assam Border Dispute dates to mentioned notifications -
    - 1875 derived from Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) Act 1873, that demarcated Lushai Hills (now Mizoram) from Cachar district of Assam.
    - 🔪 1933 demarcated Lushai Hills and Manipur.
  - Nizoram's stance is that demarcation should be based on 1875 Notification. As per Mizo leaders, Mizo society was not consulted hence they are against 1933 Notification. Assam government follows Notification of 1933.
  - 164.6-km inter-state border demarcates Mizoram and Assam. Three Mizoram districts namely Aizawl, Mamit, and Kolasib share a border with three Assam districts namely Karimganj, Hailakandi, Cachar.
- 41. Assam Govt launched a digital real-time Flood Reporting and Information Management System (FIRMS), making Assam First state to have a real-time digital flood reporting system.
- 42. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Smart Cities Mission (SCM), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban (PMAY-U) completed 6 years of Implementaion, on June 25, 2021. Progress so far -
  - NAMRUT -
    - It aims at ensuring universal coverage of drinking water supply and substantial improvement in coverage and treatment capacities of sewerage and septage, along with storm water drainage, non-motorized urban transport and green spaces & parks.
    - Noverall Mission allocation is 1 lakh crore including central share of 50000 crores.
    - No far, 105 lakh household water tap connections and 78 lakh sewer/ sepatage connections have been provided under Mission and in convergence with other schemes.
  - Nart Cities Mission -

- \ It aims to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, and application of 'Smart' solutions.
- As of now, value of tendered smart city projects is over 178500 crores, work orders have been issued for Projects worth 146125 crores and projects worth 45080 crores are fully completed and operational.
- 🔪 On this Occasion, Govt declared -
  - 🔪 Smart City awards 2020 -
    - 🥄 Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Surat (Gujarat) won the award jointly for their overall development.
    - 🥄 Among States Uttar Pradesh (1), Madhya Pradesh (2) Tamil Nadu (3)
  - Nate Smart Cities Assessment Framework 2.0 -
    - 🦠 It was launched to provide an overarching roadmap to formulate, implement and monitor urban climate actions.
    - Note: Note:
- 🥄 Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban (PMAY-U) -
  - 🥄 It aims to provide pucca house to all eligible beneficiaries of Urban India by 2022, with vision of 'Housing for All'.
  - So far, about 1.12 crore houses have been sanctioned for its beneficiaries, out of which more than 83 lakh houses are grounded and more than 50 lakh completed.
  - NAY-U's Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) -
    - Note That The Composition of the
    - Nearly 16 lakh beneficiaries belonging to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), Lower Income Group (LIG) and MIG have so far been brought under the fold of CLSS.
  - Amid reverse migration taking place due to COVID-19, MoHUA launched Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs), a sub-scheme under PMAY(U) for urban migrants/poor.
- 43. Bengaluru has been named among top 5 technology centres in APAC region, while Hyderabad is ranked in the Top 10 list, as per a report by Colliers titled *Growth Engines of Innovation*.
- 44. Bihar Govt announced 2 new schemes *Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyami Yojna* (MMUY) and *Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Yojana* (MYUY), to provide more employment opportunities to youths and young women in state.
  - 🦠 State Govt would now provide 10 lakh to an unemployed woman or youth to start a new business or small industries in state.
  - Note: 10 lakh, 5 lakh would be subsidy while 5 lakh would be loan.

- 45. Bihar Govt launched Ethanol Production Promotion Policy 2021, becoming first India state to have an ethanol promotion policy under the National Policy of Biofuels 2018.
  - 🥄 The policy will allow extraction of ethanol, which was earlier restricted to sugarcane, from surplus quantities of the maze as well.
- 46. Border Roads Organisation (BRO) constructed highest motorable road in world at 19300 ft at Umlingla Pass in Eastern Ladakh, creating a record in high-altitude road construction. It bettered the previous record of a road in Bolivia connecting to its volcano Uturuncu at 18,953 ft.
- 47. Cabinet Approvals (Apr 07, 2021) -
  - 🔪 General -
    - New Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes Approved -
      - Approved Ministry of New & Renewable Energy's proposal for implementation of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme *National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV (Photo Voltic) Modules*, for achieving manufacturing capacity of Giga Watt (GW) scale in high efficiency solar PV modules, with outlay of 4500 crores.
      - Approved Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for White Goods (Air Conditioners and LED Lights), with outlay of 6238 crores over 5 years, to attract global investments, generate large scale employment opportunities and enhance exports.
        - Over 5 years, this PLI Scheme will lead to investment of 7920 Crores, Production worth 1.68 Lakh Crores, exports worth 64400 Crores, revenues of 49300 crores and will create 4 lakh direct / indirect employment.
      - Natus of Production-Linked Incentive Schemes -
        - In Budget 2021-22, Finance Minister announced outlay of INR 1.97 Lakh Crores for Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes for 13 sectors, to boost manufacturing and generate employment.
        - Ninimum production in India as a result of PLI Schemes is expected to be over US\$ 500 billion in 5 years.
        - First 3 PLI Schemes were approved in March 2020, followed by another 10 New PLI Schemes in November 2020. Of these, previous 3 Schemes have been notified, and 6 of 10 New Schemes have been approved by Cabinet.
          - Electronic/Technology Products MeitY
          - Narmaceuticals drugs D/o Pharmaceuticals
          - Networking Products D/o Telecommunications
          - Nood Products -Ministry of Food Processing Industries
          - 🔪 White Goods (ACs & LED) DPIIT
          - Nigh Efficiency Solar PV Modules -MNRE

- National Another 4 Schemes in process of obtaining Cabinet approval -
  - Nationalis & Auto Components D/o Heavy Industry
  - Nature Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery D/o Heavy Industry
  - Note: New York Ne
  - No Specialty Steel -M/o Steel →

- NOUs -
  - Cabinet apprised of a MoU signed between India's National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL) and Japan's Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere (RISH), for Academic and Research Cooperation.
- 48. Cabinet Approvals (Apr 28, 2021)
  - NOUs -
    - 🔪 UK Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters
- 49. Cabinet Approvals (April 20, 2021) -
  - Name of the General -
    - Approved amendments to Finance Bill 2021, to clarify and rationalise proposals further and address concerns. Amendments will provide equity and inclusiveness to all taxpayers.
    - Approved Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase 2A (Central Silk Board Junction to K.R. Puram) and Phase 2B (K.R. Puram to Airport via Hebbal Junction) of total length 58.19 km, with cost 14788 Crores.
  - NOUs -
    - NOU between Competition Commission of India (CCI) and Administrative Council for Economic Defense of Brazil (CADE).
    - Nutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) between Institute of Chartered Accounts of India (ICAI) and CPA ("Certified Practising Accountant") Australia.
    - NoU between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ).
    - NoU between Director General of Trade Remedies (India) and Bangladesh Trade & Tariff Commission, for establishment of a framework of cooperation in area of trade remedial measures.
  - 🔪 CCEA Approvals -
    - Approved proposal of Department of Fertilizers for formulation of exclusive subsidy policy for Urea produced through coal gasification route by Talcher Fertilizers Limited (TFL).

- Considering strategic energy security, urea self-sufficiency of India and country's vast coal reserves, it has been decided go ahead with Talcher Fertilizer Limited plant based on coal gasification technology.
- The project shall improve availability of fertilizer to farmers thereby boosting development of eastern region and will save transport subsidy for supply of urea in eastern India.
- Note: It would assist in reducing Urea imports of approx 12.7 LMT per annum.
- 50. Cabinet Approvals (Aug 04, 2021) -
  - 🔪 General -
    - Approved continuation of 1023 Fast Track Special Court (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive POCSO Courts as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) from 01-04-2021 to 31-03-2023, with outlay of 1573 crores (972 crores as Central Share, to be funded from Nirbhaya Fund).
      - \ Fast Track Special Courts are dedicated courts for swift justice for victims of sexual offences and strengthen the deterrence framework for sexual offenders.
  - NOUs -
    - 🔪 MoU between Indian Institute of Space science and Technology (IIST) and Delft University of Technology (Netherlands).
  - CCEA -
    - Approved continuation of revised Samagra Shiksha Scheme for 4 years (2021-22 to 2025-26), with outlay of 294283 crores, which includes Central share of 185398 crores.
      - \ It covers 1.16 million schools, over 156 million students and 5.7 million Teachers of Govt. and Aided schools (from preprimary to senior secondary level).
      - It is an integrated scheme for school education covering entire gamut from pre-school to class XII. The scheme treats school education as a continuum and is in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal for Education (SDG-4).
- 51. Cabinet Approvals (Aug 18, 2021) -
  - 🔪 General -
    - Approved ratification of Kigali Amendment to Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete Ozone Layer for phase down of Hydroflurocarbons (HFCs).
      - Kigali Amendment to Montreal Protocol was adopted by Parties to Montreal Protocol in October 2016, at 28th meet of Parties to Montreal Protocol held at Kigali (Rwanda).
      - Montreal Protocol was successful in preserving and restoring ozone layer, by phasing out certain ozone depleting gases.

        HFCs were used to replace substances banned in that agreement because they have zero impact on ozone.

- \ However, HFCs are powerful greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change, so Kigali amendment added HFCs to the list of chemicals that countries promise to phase out.
- Nigali Amendment asks member nations to add HFCs to list of controlled substances and approved a timeline for their gradual reduction by 80-85 % by late 2040s.
- India will complete its phase down of HFCs in 4 steps from 2032 onwards with cumulative reduction of 10% in 2032, 20% in 2037, 30% in 2042 and 85% in 2047.
- Approved to launch a new Mission on Oil palm to be known as *National Mission on Edible Oils Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)*, as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme with special focus on North east region and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, to reduce dependence on imports for edible oils.
  - 🔪 Outlay of 11040 crores has been made for this scheme, with 8844 crores as Central share and 2196 crores as State share.
  - \ Under this, it is proposed to cover an additional area of 6.5 lakh hectare for oil palm till 2025-26 and reach target of 10 lakh hectares.
  - Normal Production of Crude Palm Oil is expected to go upto 11.20 lakh tonnes by 2025-26 and upto 28 lakh tonnes by 2029-30.

### NOUs -

- 🔪 MOU between Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Florida International University (FIU), for cooperation in field of Geology.
- NoU between Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Switzerland).
- NoU between India's National Disaster Management Authority and Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief of Bangladesh, for Cooperation in Disaster Management, Resilience and Mitigation.
- NOU between Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India and *GARDP Foundation on Antimicrobial Resistance*\*Research and Innovation, to strengthen relations within the framework of international scientific and technological collaboration.
- NOU between Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), Switzerland.

### 🔪 CCEA Approvals -

- Approved revival package of 77.45 crores (17 crore as fund based support and rest as non-fund based support) for revival of PSU North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC).
  - Nith this, remunerative price to farmers of NER of their products will be ensured.

- \ It will help NERAMAC to implement various innovative plans namely better farming facilities, training to farmers in clusters, organic seeds and fertilizer, to promote products of NE farmers through global participation.
- 52. Cabinet Approvals (Aug 25, 2021) -
  - NOUs -
    - MOU between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Institute of Professional Accountants of Russia (IPAR), for cooperation in areas of Professional Accountancy Training, Advancement of Accounting Knowledge and related areas.
  - 🔪 CCEA Approvals -
    - Approved Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for sugar season 2021-22 (October September) at **290 per quintal** -
      - Sasic recovery rate of 10%, providing premium of 2.90/qtl for each 0.1% increase in recovery over and above 10%, a reduction in FRP by 2.90/qtl for every 0.1% decrease in recovery.
      - No deduction in case of sugar mills where recovery is below 9.5%. Such farmers will get 275.50 per quintal for sugarcane in ensuing sugar season 2021-22 in place of 270.75/qtl in current sugar season 2020-21.
      - Cost of production of sugarcane for sugar season 2021-22 is 155 per quintal, while FRP of 290 per quintal at a recovery rate of 10% is higher by 87.1% over production cost, giving farmers a good return over their cost.
      - In current sugar season 2020-21, about 2976 lakh tons of sugarcane of worth 91000 crores was purchased by sugar mills, an time high level. In ensuing sugar season 2021-22, about 3088 lakh tons of sugarcane is likely to be purchased by sugar mills.
    - 🔪 Approved FDI proposal for an investment of upto 15000 crores in Anchorage Infrastructure Investment Holding Ltd -
      - AIIHL is incorporated specifically for investment in infrastructure and construction-development sectors, which may include transport and logistics etc. along with downstream investment in airport sector and aviation related businesses.
      - Investment also includes transfer of share of Bangalore International airport to AIIHL, and investment of 950 crore in AIIHL by 2726247 Ontariao Inc, a subsidiary of OAC which is the administrator of OMERS', one of Canada's largest defined benefit pension plans.
- 53. Cabinet Approvals (Jul 22, 2021) -
  - 🔪 General -
    - Napproved Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for specialty steel, for 2023-24 to 2027-28, With outlay of 6322 crores.
      - 🔪 It is expected to bring in investment of approx 40000 crores and capacity addition of 25 MT for speciality steel.
      - Note: It will give employment to about 5,25,000 people, of which 68,000 will be direct employment.

- Speciality steel has been chosen as target segment, as out of production of 102 million tonnes steel in India in 2020-21, only18 million tonnes value added steel/speciality steel was produced in country.
- Nit is expected to boost speciality steel production to 42 million tonnes by 2026-27.
- Approved establishment of an Integrated Multi-purpose infrastructure Development Corporation for UT of Ladakh, WITH authorized share capital 25 crores and recurring expenditure around 2.42 crore per year. It will be undertaking various kinds of developmental activities in UT.
- Approved establishment of a central university in Ladakh at a cost of 750 crore, to promote Higher Education in Ladakh.
- 54. Cabinet Approvals (July 08, 2021) -
  - 🔪 General -
    - Approved proposal of *Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare* to make post of Chairman (Coconut Development Board) as Non-Executive one.
    - 🔪 Approved modifications in Central Sector Scheme of Financing Facility under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund -
      - Eligibility extended to State Agencies/APMCs, National & State Federations of Cooperatives, Federations of Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) and Federations of Self Help Groups (SHGs).
      - Interest subvention -
        - At present, Interest subvention for loans upto 2 crore in one location is eligible. In case, one eligible entity puts up projects in different locations then all such projects will be now be eligible for interest subvention for loan upto 2 crore. For a private sector entity, there will be a limit of a maximum of 25 such projects.
        - Note The APMCs, interest subvention for loans upto 2 crore will be provided for each project of different infrastructure types, within the same market yard.
      - Nower has been delegated to Agriculture Minister, to make necessary changes, about addition / deletion of beneficiary.
      - Period of financial facility extended from 4 to 6 years upto 2025-26, and overall period of scheme extended from 10 13 years upto 2032-33.
    - Approved new scheme *India COVID-19 Emergency Response & Health System Preparedness Package: Phase-II*, amounting 23123 crore for FY 2021-22, with Central Share 15000 crores.
      - \ It aims to accelerate health system preparedness for immediate responsiveness for early prevention, detection and management, with focus on health infrastructure development including for Paediatric Care.
      - Nase-II of the Package has Central Sector (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) components.

- NoU between Institute of Cost Accountants of India and Association of Chartered Certified Accountants of UK
- Nemorandum on Cooperation (MoC) between Competition Commission of India (CCI) and Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC)

### 55. Cabinet Approvals (July 14, 2021) -

- NOUs -
  - Nenmark Cooperation in field of Health and Medicine
  - Nussia Cooperation regarding coking Coal, which is used for Steel making
- 🔪 CCEA Approvals -
  - To boost growth livestock sector and enhance income of 10 crore farmers in Animal Husbandry Sector, CCEA approved a Special Livestock Sector Package consisting of several activities by revising various components of various govt schemes, for 5 years starting 2021-22.
    - This package envisages Central govt support of 9800 crore over 5 years, for leveraging investment of 54618 crore for 5 years.
    - 🔪 All schemes under Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying will be merged into 3 broad categories -
      - Nevelopment Includes Rashtriya Gokul Mission, National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD), National Livestock Mission (NLM) and Livestock Census and Integrated Sample Survey (LC & ISS) as sub-schemes.
      - Note that the DC Disease Control (LH & DC) which includes present Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH & DC) scheme and National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP).
      - Infrastructure Development Fund Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development fund (AHIDF) and Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) are merged and present scheme for support to Dairy Cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organizations engaged in Dairy activities is also included in this category.

#### 🔪 General -

- Approved 11th Extension of term of Commission constituted under Article 340 of Constitution to examine issue of Subcategorization within Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Central List by 6 months, upto 31st January 2022.
- Approved continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for *Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary* for five years (upto 31-03-2026), at cost 9000 crores, with Central share 5357 crores.
  - It also includes Gram Nyayalayas Scheme to be implemented in a Mission Mode with 50 crores cost, through National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms.

- Approved increased Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief to pensioners, to 28% (from 17% of Basic Pay/Pension earlier).
- Approved scheme for promotion of flagging of merchant ships, by providing subsidy worth 1624 crore over 5 years, to support Indian shipping companies in global tenders floated by Ministries and CPSEs.
- Approved continuation of National AYUSH Mission (NAM) as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, upto 31-03-2026, with cost 4607.30 crores (3000 crores as Central Share).
  - National AYUSH Mission is being implemented by Ministry of AYUSH, to provide cost effective AYUSH Services, with a universal access.
- Approved changing nomenclature & mandate of North Eastern Institute of Folk Medicine (NEIFM) as North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda & Folk Medicine Research (NEIAFMR), for imparting quality Education and Research in Ayurveda & Folk Medicine at Pasighat (Arunachal Pradesh).
- Approved continuation of Rebate of State and Central taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) till 31-03-2024, on exports of Apparel/Garments (Chapters-61 & 62) and Made-ups (Chapter-63), in exclusion from Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme for these chapters.

### 56. Cabinet Approvals (June 09, 2021) -

- 🔪 General -
  - Approved allotment allotment of 5 MHz Spectrum in 700 MHz frequency band to Indian Railways for public safety and security services at stations and in trains. With this, Railways has envisaged to provide LTE (Long Term Evolution) based Mobile Train Radio Communication on its route, with investment over 25000 Crores. The project will be completed in 5 years.
- 🔪 CCEA Approvals -
  - Approved proposal of Department of Fertilizers for extension of applicability of New Investment Policy (NIP)-2012 read with its amendment dated 7th Oct 2014 for Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (RFCL).
    - 🥄 RFCL is a JV consisting of National Fertilizers, Engineers India Limited and Fertilizers Corporation of India.
    - NFCL is reviving erstwhile Ramagundam Unit of FCIL by setting up a new gas based green field neem coated Urea Plant with installed capacity of 12.7 Lakh Metric Ton per annum, with cost 6165 crores.
  - Napproved increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all mandated Kharif crops for marketing season 2021-22.
    - New Highest increase in MSP over previous year has been recommended for sesamum (452 per quintal) followed by tur and urad (300 per quintal each).

- NSP sat a level of at least 1.5 times of the All-India weighted average Cost of Production (CoP).
- Nexpected returns to farmers are estimated to be highest in case of Bajra (85%) followed by urad (65%) and tur (62%).

### 57. Cabinet Approvals (June 13, 2021) -

- 🔪 General -
  - Approved Introducing *Inland Vessels Bill 2021, to* replace Inland Vessels Act 1917, and regulate safety, security and registration of inland vessels. It will propose a unified law for entire country, instead of separate rules framed by the States.
    - 🥄 Certificate of registration granted under proposed law will be deemed to be valid in all States / UTs.
    - Note in Bill provides for a central data base for recording the details of vessel, vessel registration, crew.
    - \ It requires all mechanically propelled vessels to be mandatorily registered. All non-mechanically propelled vessels will also have to be enrolled at district, taluk or panchayat or village level.
- 🔪 CCEA Approvals -
  - Approved proposal of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) on *Deep Ocean Mission*, to explore deep ocean for resources and develop deep sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources.
    - Sestimated cost is 4077 crores for 5 years. Cost for first phase for 3 years (2021-2024) is 2823.4 crores.
    - 🔪 Deep Ocean Mission with be a mission mode project to support Blue Economy Initiatives.
  - 🔪 Approved fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy Rates for P&K Fertilizers for year 2021-22. Rates are as under -

| Per Kg Subsidy rates (in Rs.) |                       |                   |                    |  |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| N (Nitrogen)                  | <b>P</b> (Phosphorus) | <b>K</b> (Potash) | <b>S</b> (Sulphur) |  |
| 18.789                        | 45.323                | 10.116            | 2.374              |  |

#### 58. Cabinet Approvals (June 2, 2021) -

- 🔪 General -
  - Approved Model Tenancy Act for circulation to all States / UTs for adaptation by way of enacting fresh legislation or amending existing rental laws suitably. It will help overhaul legal framework with respect to rental housing across country.
    - Nodel Tenancy Act aims at creating a vibrant, sustainable and inclusive rental housing market in the country.
    - \ It will enable creation of adequate rental housing stock for all the income groups thereby addressing issue of homelessness.
- 🔪 MOUs -
  - Nargentina Cooperation in field of Mineral Resources.

- Approved Signing and Ratification of an Agreement on Cooperation in field of *Mass Media* between all Member States of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
- 🥄 Maldives, Japan Cooperation in sustainable urban development.
- 59. Cabinet Approvals (June 23, 2021)
  - Name of the General -
    - Approved merger of **Central Railside Warehouse Company Limited** with its holding enterprise **Central Warehousing Corporation**, to unify similar functions of both the companies.
  - NOUs -
  - Nith Saint Vincent and The Grenadines for Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to Taxes.
- 60. Cabinet Approvals (June 30, 2021) -
  - 🔪 General -
    - Approved a Reforms-based and Results-linked, Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme, to improve operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of all DISCOMs/ Power Departments excluding Private DISCOMs.
      - \ Under this, it is aimed to provide assistance for installation of 25 crore smart meters, 10000 feeders, 4 lakh km of LT overhead lines. Ongoing works of IPDS, DDUGJY and SAUBHAGYA will also be merged in the scheme.
      - Noutlay for the scheme is 303058 crores, out of which Central Government's share will is 97631 crores.
    - Approved extending date for registration of beneficiaries for availing benefit under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) for nine months, from 30th June, 2021 to 31st March, 2022. upon this extension, it is expected that 71.8 lakh employment will be generated in the formal sector as against the earlier projection of 58.5 lakh.
    - Approved Loan Guarantee Scheme for Covid Affected Sectors (LGSCAS), enabling funding of up to 50000 crores to provide financial guarantee cover for brownfield expansion and greenfield projects related to health/medical infrastructure.
      - In addition, Cabinet has also approved additional funding of 150000 crores under existing Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).
    - Approved revised implementation strategy of BharatNet program, through Public Private Partnership mode in 16 States, to extend BharatNet upto all inhabited villages beyond Gram Panchayats in concerned States, with maximum viability gap funding of 19041 crores. Total outlay under BharatNet will now be enhanced to 61109 crores.
      - States covered are Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. An estimated 3.61 lakh villages will be covered.

NOUs -Nambia - Cooperation in Refurbishing Personnel Administration and Governance Reforms. Nyanmar - Cooperation in health research. Nepal - Cooperation in health research. 61. Cabinet Approvals (Mar 03, 2021) -NOUs -France - Renewable Energy 🔪 Fiji - Agriculture and Allied Sectors 62. Cabinet Approvals (Mar 10, 2021) -🔪 General -🔪 Approved **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi** (PMSSN), as a single non-lapsable reserve fund for share of Health from proceeds of Health and Education Cess, levied under Section 136-b of Finance Act 2007. Naccruals into PMSSN will be utilized for flagship schemes (Ayushman Bhara (AB-PMJAY), Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres, National Health Mission, PM Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) etc). Nadministration of PMSSN is entrusted to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and In any financial year, expenditure on such schemes of MoHFW would be initially incurred from PMSSN and thereafter, from Gross Budgetary Support (GBS). Name of the Approved amendments in Insurance Act 1938, paving way for 74 % FDI in Insurance sector, up from 49 % currently. 63. Cabinet Approvals (Mar 16, 2021) -NOUs -Naldives - Sports and Youth Affairs. Name of the General -🔪 Approved closure of Ministry of Textiles PSU Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India Limited (HHEC), which has been incurring losses since FY 16. Npproved presenting a Bill in parliament, which aims to set up a government-owned development finance institution (DFI) with initial paid-up capital of 20000 crores, to provide long-term funds to infrastructure projects. Sovernment will give Rs 5,000 crore as grant to the proposed institution. Name in the leverage around 3 Lakh Crores from markets in few years. 🔪 Notably, India aims to spend 111 Lakh Crores on infrastructure projects by 2025. 🔪 CCEA -

- Approved Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) of Comprehensive Scheme for Strengthening of Transmission & Distribution in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, at estimated cost 9129 crores.

  It has been implemented through POWERGRID, to be commissioned in phased manner by December 2021.
- 64. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Mar 23, 2021) -
  - NOUs -
    - Nemorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with Japan in field of Water Resources.
    - NOU Between UPSC (India) and Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC) of Afghanistan.
- 65. Cabinet Approvals (Mar 31, 2021) -
  - 🔪 General -
    - Approved Central Sector Scheme *Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)*, with outlay of 10900 crores.
      - \ It aims to support creation of global food manufacturing champions commensurate with India's natural resources and support Indian brands of food products in the international markets.
- 66. Cabinet Approvals (May 05, 2021) -
  - NOUs -
    - 🥄 UK Global Innovation Partnership, Migration and Mobility Partnership.
  - Name of the General -
    - Approved Allocation of additional foodgrain under PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana Phase III- for another 2 months (May to June 2021) @ 5 kg per person per month, to 80 Crore beneficiaries covered under NFSA. Govt will bear full expenditure of over 26000 Crores for the same.
  - 🔪 CCEA Approvals -
    - Approved strategic disinvestment and transfer of management control in IDBI Bank, by Govt nd LIC, who together own over 94% of equity of IDBI Bank (GoI 45.48%, LIC 49.24%).
- 67. Cabinet Approvals (May 12, 2021)
  - 🔪 General -
    - Approved proposal of Department of Heavy Industry for implementation of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme *National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage*, for achieving manufacturing capacity of 50 Giga Watt Hour (GWh) of ACC and 5 GWh of *Niche* ACC, with outlay of 18100 crores.

- ACCs are new generation advanced storage technologies that can store electric energy either as electrochemical or as chemical energy and convert it back to electric energy when required.
- Approved transfer of 1500 square metres of land belonging to Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) at Mussoorie to State Government of Uttarakhand, for infrastructure project *Aerial Passenger Ropeway System* between Dehradun and Mussoorie.
  - \ It is is a mono-cable ropeway of 5580 meters length under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, between Purkul Gaon (Dehradun) and Library (Mussoorie), with estimated cost 285 crores.
  - 🥄 This will reduce traffic flow on road route from Dehradun to Mussoorie, and will help boost tourism.
- NOUs -
  - NoU between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Qatar Financial Centre Authority (QFCA).
- 68. Central Govt announced 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category and 27% for OBCs, for UG and PG medical and dental courses from current academic year 2021-22.
- 69. Central Govt announced creation of a new **Ministry of Co-operation**, to provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening cooperative movement in country, to realize vision of *Sahkar se Samriddhi*.
  - Nalso, Govt Expanded Finance Ministry with addition of Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) into it.
    - 🔪 DPE was earlier under *Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises,* which administered 48 central PSEs.
    - Ninistry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises ceased to exist from 7 July, 2021. It was splitted into Ministry of Heavy Industries AND Department Of Public Enterprises (which has been Merged Into Ministry of Finance).
- 70. Central PSU Power Grid Corporation of India (POWERGRID) established an e-Tendering Portal called PRANIT, to enable paperwork and promote ease of operation.
- 71. Central Sector Scheme Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs) completed 1 year of implementation. It was launched by PM Modi on 29-02-2020 at Chitrakoot (Uttar Pradesh), with budgetary provision of 6865 crores. During 1s year, 2200 FPO produce clusters were allocated for formation of FPOs.
  - 🥄 FPOs will be provided financial assistance upto Rs 18 lakh per FPO for a period of 03 years.
  - 9 selected Implementing Agencies (IAs) are engaging Cluster-Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) to aggregate, register & provide professional handholding support to each FPO for a period of 5 years.
- 72. Central Silk Board (Ministry of Textiles) and Agriculture Ministry signed MoU for a *convergence model* in order to implement *Agro-forestry in silk sector* under *Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) Scheme*, which was launched in FY 2017 (2016-17).
- 73. Chhattisgarh Govt announced to launch **Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhoomihin Krishi Majdoor Nyay Yojana**, under which landless families will be provided assistance of 6000 every year.

- 74. Chhattisgarh Govt launched *Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Majdur Nyay Yojana*, with provision of 200 crores, to support 12 lakh landless families with minimum wages of 6000 annually.
- 75. Chhattisgarh Govt. announced creation of 4 new districts in state, along with development of parks exclusively for women in all districts.

  New Districts will be named Mohla-Manpur, Sakti, Sarangarh-Bilaigarh and Manendragarh.
  - 🔪 18 new tehsils will be formed in the process of formation of new districts. This will take number of districts in state to 32.
- 76. ▶ Chhattisgarh became first state to recognise Community Forest Resource Rights in an urban area, with state government recognising rights of residents of Dhamtari district over 4127 hectares of forests.
- 77. Chipmaker Intel collaborated with Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to launch the 'AI For All' initiative, aimed at creating a basic understanding of artificial intelligence (AI) for people in India.
- 78. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated **e-SANTA**, an electronic platform to connect aqua farmers and buyers. It will enable farmers to get a better price and exporters to directly purchase quality products from farmers, enhancing speed and traceability.
- 79. Delhi Govt approved constituting Delhi Board of School Education, to provide in-house affiliation to Govt and Private Schools in Delhi.
- 80. Department of Science and Technology's Science and Engineering Board (SERB) has set up a portal that offers real time information on various research projects supported by it, Called 'SERB PRoject Information System & Management (SERB PRISM)'.
- 81. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda jointly launched *School Innovation Ambassador Training Program (SIATP)*, for 50000 school teachers in tribal areas, to help provide quality education to children in tribal areas.
- 82. Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank Launched an implementation plan for school education called *Students' and Teachers'*Holistic Advancement Through Quality Education (SARTHAQ).
  - Education Minister also launched MyNEP2020 Platform of NCTE Web Portal, to invite inputs for preparing draft for development of National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) and National Mission for Mentoring Program membership (NMM).
- 83. Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched **National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)**, for ensuring that every child necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by end of Grade 3, by 2026-27. It aims to cover the learning needs of children in the age group of 3 to 9 years.
- 84. Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched **Start-up Accelerators of Meity for pRoduct Innovation, Development and growth (SAMRIDH)** programme, aimed at creating a conducive platform to Indian Software Product start-ups to enhance their products and securing investments for scaling their business. It is being implemented by Meity Start-up Hub (MSH).
  - NAMRIDH programme will focus on accelerating the 300 start-ups by providing customer connect, investor connect, and international immersion in next 3 years, along with investment of up to 40 lakh.

- It aims to further Indian start-up growth which has seen emergence of 63 Unicorns (Over 1 Billion USD Valuation) and made india third largest Unicorn hub globally with a total valuation of 168 Bn USD.
- 85. Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm **Tauktae** in Arabian Sea, became strongest tropical cyclone to make landfall in Gujarat, since 1998 Gujarat cyclone.
- 86. Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Minister Giriraj Singh launched Online Course Mobile App *Matsya Setu*, developed by ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), to disseminate latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to the aqua farmers.
- 87. Food Processing Industries Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated **Indus Best Mega Food Park** at Raipur (Chhattisgarh), set up at cost 145.5 crores. It will provide employment to 5000 persons and will benefit about 25000 farmers.
- 88. Four more wetland sites from India get recognition from Ramsar Secretariat as **Ramsar sites** Thol and Wadhwana from Gujarat and Sultanpur and Bhindawas from Haryana.
  - Nith this, number of Ramsar sites in India are 46 and surface area covered by these sites is now 1083322 hectares. Newly added sites from Haryana are its first Ramsar sites.
  - Aim of Ramsar list is to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits.
- 89. General Conferences (Apr 21-30, 2021) -
  - 🔪 UK became first country to regulate use of self-driving vehicles at slow speeds (Up to 60 KMPH) on motorways.
  - Note: Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal will represent Delhi and India at World Cities Culture Forum 2021, with theme *The Future of Culture*.
  - Australian Govt revoked Victorian state government's deal to join China's Belt and Road Initiative, stating it as inconsistent with Australian foreign policy.
  - Novement Note: Note:
  - 🥄 Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman virtually inaugurated first 3D printed house in India at IIT Madras.
  - Shana Govt, Bharti Airtel and Millicom International Cellular announced execution of agreement for transfer of Airtel Tigo, to Government of Ghana.
  - \ First ever UN Food Systems Summit will be be held in September 2021, to strategize the actions for positive change in Agri-food systems in World, to realize vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 90. General Conferences (Aug 11-20, 2021) -

- Zila Panchayat Parishad of Aligarh passed resolution seeking to rename Aligarh as Harigarh. Also, Mainpuri Zila panchayat passed resolution seeking to rename Mainpuri as Mayan Nagar, after sage Mayan who founded Mainpuri.
- UP Govt decided to set up new training and operational centres for Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) commandos in Saharanpur's Deoband known for its Islamic seminary Darul Uloom, and four other places.
- VP CM Yogi Adityanath launched the Rashtriya Swasthaya Sevak Abhiyan,by launching Health Warrior Portal, to train health workers.
- Narendra Modi formally launched *National Automobile Scrappage Policy*, during Investors Summit in Gujarat. Its key points include
  - Persons who get their old vehicles scrapped voluntarily, will be given certificate for the same, which will enable them to avail waiver on registration fee on purchase of new vehicle, along with some exemption in road tax.
- VINICEF India and Facebook launched a one-year joint initiative on ending violence against children with a special focus on online safety.
- \ India's first Drone Forensic Lab and Research Center has been launched up in Kerala, at Kerala State Police CyberDome, to help in keeping a watch over unauthorized drones and also for production of drones for police use.
- US Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney re-introduced legislation in US House of Representatives to award Congressional Gold Medal to M K Gandhi, in recognition of his contributions through non-violence and peace.
- Vinion Minister Jitendra Singh released India's first cattle genomic chip 'IndiGau' for conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds, developed at National Institute of Animal Biotechnology Hyderabad (NAIB).
- Assam's Kaziranga National Park became first National Park in India to be equipped with satellite phones, to prevent poaching and ensure coordinated functioning.
- Ninistry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched *SonChiraiya* (A brand and logo)- for marketing of urban Self-Help Group (SHG) products, aimed at helping women become financially empowered.
- To create design-oriented excellence in Handloom Sector, National Institute of Fashion Technology (under Ministry of Textiles) will set up 10 new Design Resource Centres at Weavers' Service Centres (WSCs) of Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kannur, Indore, Nagpur, Meerut, Bhagalpur and Panipat.
- NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in collaboration with *La Fondation Dassault Systemes* (France), launched third series of the 'Student Entrepreneurship Program' (SEP 3.0) for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL), with theme *Made in 3D Seed the Future Entrepreneurs Program*.

- Agri Minister Narendra Singh Tomar attended 6th meeting of Agriculture Ministers of member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), held Virtually.
- As a unique initiative, Ministry of Tribal Affairs in partnership with Art of Living Foundation, Aurangabad (Maharashtra) launched Vrushka Bandhan Project where 1100 tribal women creatied Rakhis for Raksha Bandhan with seeds of indigenous trees.
- Health minister Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated Arogya Dhara 2.0, to increase reach of AB PM JAY programme to poorest of poor. It came after completion of 2 Crore treatments under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), With treatments worth 25000 crores provided so far.
- Naharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray launched e-crop survey initiative, effective from August 15. It was initially introduced as a pilot in two districts, jointly implemented with Tata Trust.

## 91. General Conferences (Aug 21-31, 2021) -

- Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated India's first smog tower in Connaught Place (Delhi), as 20-metre-tall structure, set up to improve air quality in a radius of around 1 km.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation repealed Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Rules 2021, replacing with liberalized Drone Rules 2021, as UAS Rules 2021 were perceived as being restrictive in nature.
  - It includes several relaxations such as yellow zone reduced from 45 km to 12 km from airport perimeter and maximum penalty for violations reduced to 1 lakh.
- 🥄 Tiwa tribesmen observed their Wanchuwa Festival in Assam, to mark their good harvest.
- First-ever G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment held at Santa Margherita Ligure (Italy), in Hybrid format (both physical & Virtual). Women & Child Development Minister Smriti Irani attended on India's Behalf.
- Bureau of Police Research and Development and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) launched unique Hackathon *MANTHAN 2021*, to address security challenges faced by intelligence agencies and empower them.
- e-Photo exhibition *Making of the Constitution* and Virtual Film Poster Exhibition *Chitranjali@75* were held, as part of *Iconic Week* celebrated by Ministry of I&B, to celebrate *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*.
- Delhi-Chandigarh Highway became India's first EV-friendly highway, after network of solar-based electric vehicle charging stations set up by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) under FAME-1 (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles) scheme.
- Lindian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H).
- 🔪 Ladakh got its first mobile digital movie theatre at an altitude of 11,562 feet (in Paldan area), making it highest theatre in world.

- India's highest altitude herbal park inaugurated at Mana village near Indo-China border in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, at height of 11000 feet.
- 🔪 India contributed 1 million USD to UN World Food Programme (WFP) in Zimbabwe, to help affected people tackle climate shocks.
- Name IIM Ahmedabad partnered with Bank of America to launch a Centre for Digital Transformation (CDT).
- Home Minister Amit Shah launched portal for registration of units for industrial development in UT Jammu & Kashmir, under *New Central Sector Scheme 2021* for Jammu & Kashmir.
- Nerala Assembly passed resolution demanding Central Government to withdraw Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2021.
- 🦠 PM Narendra Modi inaugurated renovated complex of Jallianwala Bagh Smarak at Amritsar, along Museum Galleries at the Smarak.

## 92. General Conferences (Jul 11 - 20, 2021) -

- 1st Field trials for Cultivation of Chinese *monk fruit*, which is known for its properties as a non-caloric natural sweetener, began in Himachal Pradesh by Palampur-based CSIR Industrial Technology Institute of Himalayan Bio-resource Technology (CSIR-IHBT) in Kullu.
- Nannual Asha Bonalu Festival held in Telangana, as traditional folk festival celebrated every year in Telugu month of Ashadham.
- India's first 'Grain ATM' has been set up as a pilot project in Gurugram (Haryana), installed under *World Food Programme* of United Nations, and is called the 'Automated, Multi Commodity, Grain Dispensing Machine'.
- 🥄 National Film Archive of India (NFAI) added original camera negative of Rajkumar Hirani's 2014 film 'PK' in its collection.
- Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated India's first private Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility plant at Nagpur in Maharashtra, set up on Kamptee Road by Baidyanath Group.
- MoU signed between Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Delhi University, to set up *Bangabandhu Chair* at Delhi University, to foster better understanding of developments in Bangladesh.
- Xarnataka Govt announced to develop 46 Kempegowda heritage sites in Bengaluru (Urban & Rural), Ramanagara, Chikballapura, and Tumakuru districts, to promote tourism.
- Annual UN-FAO report *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021* states that between 720 and 811 million people in world faced hunger in 2020, around 161 million more than in 2019.
- N World Food Programme (WFP) and Rajasthan government partnered to improve Targeted Public Distribution System (TDPS) in state.
- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu attended World Universities Summit organized by O.P. Jindal Global University, with theme *Universities of the Future: Building Institutional Resilience, Social Responsibility and Community Impact.*

- 1st Balika Panchayat held at Kunariya village of Kutch district in Gujarat, with first-ever Balika Panchayat elections, aimed at developing leadership qualities in girls for Future Panchayat polls.
- Indian Port Rail and Ropeway Corporation Ltd (IPRCL) will launch India's First driverless pod taxi services between Noida Airport at Jewar and Film City, on a 14 km stretch.
- India's first cryptogamic garden inaugurated in Deoban area of Chakrata town at Dehradun (Uttarakhand), housing nearly 50 species of ferns, fungi, algae, bryophytes, and lichens.
- Successful trial of movement of train between Jaynagar in India and Kurtha in Nepal has been undertaken, on 34.50 km-long section which is first section of rail link which connects Jaynagar in Madhubani district of Bihar to Kurtha in Mahottari district of Nepal.
  - Nuring their rule, British had built a 52-km-long a railway line from Jaynagar to Mahottari in Nepal, mainly to ferry logs of woods from forests. Now, plan is to expand to a 69-km-long railway line from Jaynagar to Bardibas in Nepal.
- To manage hearing loss in new born and young children, Punjab Govt launched *Automated Auditory Brainstem Response system* (AABR) under Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Programme.
- Qatar Airways became first airline in Middle East to join IATA Turbulence Aware platform of International Air Transport Association, which helps airlines mitigate impact of turbulence.
- Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) launched a new campaign called *KALA VISHWA*, in Mumbai, to be held for 6 months to reach out to traditional folk artists, local artistes / artisans and those coming from rural areas.
- 🥄 Rajasthan Govt Launched Mobile App *Raj Kisan Organic*, for quick Sale and Purchase of Organic Produce across state.

# 93. General Conferences (July 1 - 10, 2021) -

- Nations agreed upon STI-led BRICS Innovation Cooperation Action Plan (2021-24) proposed by India, to facilitate sharing of experiences of each other's innovation ecosystem and networking of innovators and entrepreneurs.
- National Horticulture Board opened centre in state of Madhya Pradesh, in Gwalior. to boost horticulture in region and benefit 21 districts of Northern Madhya Pradesh.
- Nerala Govt announced to launc its own over-the-top (OTT) platform, by November 2021.
- 1st edition of Indo-Pacific Business Summit organized virtually, by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs.
- Note that China prohibited construction of super tall skyscrapers, to ensure safety after the mounting concerns over quality of some projects. The ban covers buildings taller than 500 meters.
- Facebook announced a set of publishing and subscription tools named Bulletin, to promote independent writers in US.

- Naryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar launched mobile app *Jan Sahayak-Aapka Sahayak*, to ensure *anywhere-anytime-anybody* delivery of Government to Citizen (G2C) and Business to Citizen (B2C) services through one-access point.
- Ministry of Health, Ministry of External Affairs and National Health Authority Jointly organized *CoWin Global Conclave* Virtually, to extend Co-WIN platform as a digital public good to the world.
- As per NewsOnAir Radio Live-stream Global Rankings, Top 5 countries (Other than India) where All India Radio Live-streams on NewsOnAir App are most popular US, Fiji, Australia, UK and Canada.
- Nrantivira Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station (Bengaluru City Railway Station) became first railway station in India with a movable freshwater tunnel aquarium, jointly opened by Indian Railway Stations Development Cooperation (IRSDC) with HNi Aquatic Kingdom.
- 2 days Hemis festival observed in Leh, also popularly known as Hemis Tses-Chu, to commemorate birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava, also known as second Buddha.
- World's tallest sand castle has been built in Blokhus (Denmark), with 21.6 metres height. It is 3.5 meter taller than one built in Germany in 2019.
- India and UK held inaugural meeting of India-UK Financial Markets Dialogue virtually, which was established at 10th Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) in October 2020, to deepen bilateral ties in financial sector.

## 94. General Conferences (June 1 - 10, 2021) -

- 🔪 IIT Madras' Centre for Memory Studies virtually hosted Asia's first International Memory Studies Workshop.
- Anurag Singh Thakur (*Minister of State (Finance and Corporate Affairs)*) launched 6 modules of short films of Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) titled "Hisaab Ki Kitaab".
- European Union and Breakthrough Energy (energy investment programme founded by Bill Gates) announced raising up to \$1 billion to roll out low-carbon technologies to meet Europe's climate change goals.
- National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed concerned authorities to implement *Vishwamitri River Action Plan*, including demarcation, plantation and maintaining integrity of the river.
- G7 grouping (UK, US, France, Germany, Canada, Japan, Italy) reached a deal on taxing multinational companies, during finance ministers' meet in London. G7 Nations agreed to counter tax avoidance through measures in order to make firms pay in nations where they do business.
- 🔪 Assam government renamed science and technology department as department of science, technology and climate change.
- India and United Kingdom launched new workstream to promote industrial energy efficiency under Clean Energy Ministerial's (CEM) Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI) co-ordinated by UNIDO.

- Note: IDDI is supported by Germany and Canada, to infuse green technologies and stimulate demand for low-carbon industrial material.
- River Devika National Project in Jammu & Kashmir has been initiated with budget 190 crores, under Centrally funded National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), to rejuvenate Spiritually important Devika River.
  - Note that the contract of Devika river originates from hilly Suddha Mahadev temple in Udhampur district of J&K. It flows down towards western Punjab where it merges with Ravi river.
- Novt extended Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY-III) till Deepawali 2021 (Nov 4, 2021). Under it, over 80 crore people will continue to get decided amount of free food grain every month.
- Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched a seed Minikit programme by distributing high-yielding varieties of seeds of oilseeds and pulses to farmers. Mini-kits under are being provided by Central agencies NAFED, National Seeds Corporation (NCS), and Gujarat State Seeds Corporation

#### 95. General Conferences (June 11 - 20, 2021) -

- CBSE collaborated with Microsoft to introduce coding and data science in schools.
- Delhi International Airport has been awarded Platinum Recognition in over 25 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) category, while Hyderabad International Airport received Gold Recognition by ACI in below 25 Million MPPA category.
- Qujarat Govt launched *e-Nirman* portal and mobile application to facilitate online registration of workers from unorganised sector, to enable them to avail various welfare schemes.
- Rajasthan Govt launched Chief Minister Anuprati Coaching Scheme to help underprivileged students prepare for entrance examinations to civil services and professional courses.
- Note that the Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel launched Chief Minister's Tree Plantation Promotion Scheme which aims to protect the environment and increase income of farmers, panchayats and forest management committees.
- Note: A Virtual Conference of BRICS Network Universities on theme *electric mobility* held at IIT Bombay.
- Naja Parba festival has been celebrated in Odisha, as 3-days unique festival in which onset of monsoon and earth's womanhood is celebrated.
- Narendra Modi virtually attended 5th edition of VivaTech, a large scale digital and startup event of Europe, held in Paris every year since 2016.
- Note in Secretary Harsh V Shringla released commemorative postage stamps to mark 70th anniversary of India-Germany diplomatic relation.

- IIT Bombay has set up Koita Centre for Digital Health under aegis of Koita Foundation, to focus on driving academic programmes, research and industry collaboration in Digital Health.
- Nuk and Australia signed a new Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement, to boost bilateral economic ties(FTA).
- Note that Twitter lost its safe harbour immunity in India over its failure of appointing statutory officers, as required by new IT rules of India.

  Twitter will no longer be protected under Section 79 of the IT Act.
- 🥄 1st edition of Arab-India Energy Forum held Virtually under co-chairship of Morocco and India

## 96. General Conferences (June 21 - 30, 2021) -

- Note: India and FIJI signed MoU for cooperation in field of Agriculture and allied sectors.
- Indian Multi Sector Firm Wipro joined *World Economic Forum's Partnership for New Work Standards initiative*, aimed at establishing a healthy, resilient and equitable future of work.
- Nome ministry operationalised national helpline 155260 and reporting platform for preventing financial loss due to cyber frauds.
- Odisha became only state to have all three kinds of crocodile species in its Mahanadi River, including reptile freshwater Ghadials, muggers and saltwater crocodiles.
- NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission concluded its first fintech cohort of *AIM-iLEAP* an initiative to back tech start-ups with access to industry, markets and investors. It was organised in partnership with Startup Réseau and Visa as part of AIM-iLEAP (Innovative leadership for entrepreneurial agility and profitability) initiative.
- Nindia will host 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9), in 2022.
- Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated a Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy at Ahmedabad Management Association premises in Ahmedabad (Gujarat), as part of PM's vision of creating a *Mini-Japan* in Gujarat, showcasing several elements of Japanese art and culture.
- National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) became first energy company in India to declare its Energy Compact Goals as part of UN High-level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE).
  - NTPC aims to install 60 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2032, with 10 % reduction in net energy intensity by 2032.
- North Eastern Region Development Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated mega quintal capacity Seed Processing plant at Kathua District of Jammu and Kashmir, with 16 lakh seed generation and 24 lakh seed processing capacity.
- \sqrt{Sustice Department launched Enforcing Contracts Portal, as a comprehensive source of information pertaining to the legislative and policy reforms being undertaken on Enforcing Contracts parameters, to improve Contract Enforcement Regime in country.
- Nepartment of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation released Glacial Lake Atlas of Ganga Basin, from its origin to foothills of Himalayas covering a catchment area of 247109 sq. km.

- 🔪 NHP Bhuvan (National Hydrology Project) portal of NRSC was also launched, at url https://bhuvan.nrsc.gov.in/nhp
- Now the Govt launched Atmanirbhar Krishi App, to provide farmers with actionable agricultural insights and early weather alerts.
- 🥄 President Ram Nath Kovind Laid foundation stone for Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Cultural Centre in Lucknow (UP).
- Nanjay Dhotre (Minister of State for Education) participated in G20 Education Ministers' Meeting, hosted in blended mode by Italy.

#### 97. General Conferences (May 1 - 10, 2021) -

- Nourism & Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel participated in Virtual G20 Tourism Ministers' Meeting, hosted by Italy.
- Archaeologists discovered oldest known human burial site so far, in Panga ya Saidi (Kenya), that offers insight into 78000 years old burial practices.
- Noads & Transport Minstry has set target of road construction of worth 15 lakh crores in 2 years, Targetting 40 KM/Day highways construction in current fiscal.
- Nealth Minister Harsh Vardhan Represented India at 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3) the global platform for discussing research and cooperation in Arctic region.
- Normunications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad represented India at Virtual G-7 Digital & Technology Ministerial Meeting.
- 🥄 Ethiopia designated Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and OLF-Shene as terrorist organisations, after recent violent incidents.
- No Denmark passed legislation for allowing screening of future foreign investments, order to ensure that they don't pose a threat to national security.

## 98. General Conferences (May 21 - 31, 2021) -

- Agri Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) app and Area officer monitoring App.

  NMMS app will enable taking real time attendance of workers at Mahatma Gandhi NREGS worksites.
- World Health Organization (WHO) along with UN Environment Programme (UNEP), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), has set up an *One Health* High-Level Expert Panel to formulate a global plan for the prevention of spread of diseases from animals to humans (zoonotic diseases)
- As part of Its Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia included Indian epics Ramayana and Mahabharata in its new school curriculum. Notably, Vision 2030 aims to expand students' cultural knowledge and global exposure, also including Indian practises such as yoga and Ayurveda. English language has been made mandatory in Vision 2030.
- Karnataka CM BS Yediyurappa launched platform Akanksha, to streamline Corporate Social Responsibility funding for developmental programmes in State.

- Note that Note
- 🥄 Volcao Mount Nyiragongo (Democratic Republic of Congo) erupted after almost two decades.
- Ninistry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of External Affairs will set up 10 'One-Stop Centres' across nine countries to support Indian women affected by violence in public or private spaces.
- Noting China allowed Parents to have up to 3 children, ending its strict two-child policy.
- 🔪 World's first Nano Urea Liquid for farmers has been introduced by Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO).
- Nest Bengal Govt approach implementation of several programmes promised in election manifesto, including a new credit card scheme for students to pursue higher education, and programme of free doorstep delivery of monthly ration.

## 99. General Conferences (Aug 1-10, 2021) -

- Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar launched *Har Hith store* scheme under which chain of grocery shops will be opened (2000 in Phase 1 and 5000 in Phase 2), to sell best quality daily-needs products at reasonable prices and encourage youth towards self-employment.
- \ UN General Assembly approved a resolution to establish a Permanent Forum of People of African Descent to provide expert advice on addressing challenges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance.
- Nome Minister Amit Shah laid foundation of Several Developmental Works in Uttar Pradesh, which notably includes Maa Vindhyavasini Corridor project at Mirzapur and State Institute of Forensic Sciences in Lucknow.
- Nelhi CM Arvind Kejriwal launched Delhi@2047 initiative, aimed at fostering partnerships with private sector, CSR initiatives and philanthropic organisations to achieve the vision for Delhi by 2047.
- Nupreme Court Stated that state governors can pardon prisoners, including in death sentence cases, and Governor's power to pardon overrides a provision given under Section 433A of Code of Criminal Procedure.
  - Section 433A mandates that sentence of prisoner can be remitted only after 14 years of jail. SC observed that Section 433-A of Code does not affect constitutional power of President or Governor to grant pardon under Articles 72 or 161 of Constitution.
- Karnataka became first state to issue order with regard to implementation of National Education Policy-2020, from current academic year 2021-2022.
- 🔪 IIT Roorkee launched *Uttarakhand Bhookamp alert* app, as India's first Earthquake Early Warning mobile app.
- 🥄 *Krishikarna* project to promote hi-tech farming has been launched in Pallikkal panchayat of Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).
- Note That The Normal Connectivity Scheme → Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik).

- 2nd Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Conference on Range Technology (ICORT-2021) organised

  Virtually by DRDO Unit Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur.
- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu released Commemorative Postage Stamp on renowned social worker and Sangh Pracharak Mananiya Chaman Lal.
- Neth Meeting of Ministers of Justice of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States has been attended by Kiren Rijiju (Minister of Law & Justice), on India's Behalf.
- Central Board for Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) launched Customs *Compliance Information Portal* (CIP) (www.cip.icegate.gov.in/CIP), for free access to information on all Customs procedures and regulatory compliance for approx 12000 Customs Tariff Items.
- National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology(MeitY) Jointly launched India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) 2021 at Electronics Niketan (New Delhi), with theme *Inclusive Internet for Digital India*, to mark Indian chapter of United Nations based forum namely Internet Governance Forum.
- ISRO chief K Sivan inaugurated *Health QUEST study* (Health Quality Upgradation Enabled by Space Technology of ISRO), to will be undertaken by 20 private hospitals across India.

#### 100. General Events / Conferences (Apr 1 - 10, 2021) -

- India announced scholarships to 2000 descendants of Liberation War fighters of Bangladesh under its new Muktijoddha Scholarship scheme. The scheme was launched in 2017, during visit of Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina to India.
- Nagar Nigam listed itself at BSE and raised 150 Crores by issuing Municipal Bond on Private Placement Basis using BSE BOND. This is first-ever green bond issuance by any Municipal Corporation in India.
- Alignment and Awareness Event for Publicity of DSIR Promoting Innovations in Individuals, Startups and MSMEs (DSIR-PRISM) scheme held at IIT Delhi.
- India contributed USD 300000 to UN agency for gender equality and women empowerment. India also contributed additional \$500,000 to UN Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism.
- 🥄 Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED) launched Sankalp Se Siddhi 100-day Village & Digital Connect Drive.
- 🔪 Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurated Gorakhpur zoo, named after Shaheed Ashfaq Ullah Khan.
- \ India Netherlands Virtual Summit attended by Indian PM Narendra Modi and Netherlands PM Mark Rutte. Both Nations agreed on instituting a *Strategic Partnership on Water*, to further deepen water sector cooperation.
- 101. General Events / Conferences (Apr 11 20, 2021) -

- La Soufrière, A Volcano in Carribean Nation Saint Vincent and Grenadines, erupted and covered Saint Vincent in ash. It was lying dormant since last 4 decades.
- Naryana Govt alloted 140 acres land to e-commerce firm Flipkart, for setting up its largest fulfilment centre in Asia, in Manesar. Flipkart also partnered with Adani group, to strengthen its supply chain infrastructure.
- \ India hosted 30th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change, Held virtually. Grouping comprises of Brazil, South Africa, India and China.
- Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank presented AICTE Lilavati Awards 2020, based on the theme "Women Empowerment, in six sub-themes.
- Nindustan Unilever (HUL) and Google, in association with India's citizen engagement program MyGov, announced a hackathon to encourage and find innovative solutions for conserving freshwater usage, and address water scarcity problems in India.
- India's 40th Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (40-ISEA), successfully returned to Cape Town (South Africa) after completing journey of about 12,000 nautical miles in 94 days.
- India's first Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) arrived at H-Energy's Jaigarh Terminal Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra, from Singapore. This will also be first year-round Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal in Maharashtra.
- Nagriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched a 'National Nursery Portal', to connect nursery operators with consumers.
- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu Released a Commemorative Postage Stamp in memory of former chief of the Brahma Kumaris, Rajvogini Dadi Janki.
- J&K's Udhampur district secured top position at National level for successfully implementing the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during 2020-21, by constructing roads of maximum length of 560.49 km in 2020-21.
- Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal chaired first meeting of National Startup Advisory Council (NSAC), which was formed bt Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), to advise Government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing startups in country.
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways approved 50 crores for developing all-weather ROPAX (Roll-on/Roll-off Passenger) Jetty and allied infrastructure connecting Kaninali in Bhadrak district & Talachua in Kendrapara district (Odisha) under Sagarmala initiative.
- India Energy Dashboards Version 2.0 has been launched by NITI Aayog, to provide single-window access to energy data for country.

  NITI Aayog launched the Version 1.0 in May 2017.

- Western Railways introduced *mobile train radio communication (MTRC)* system to facilitate direct and continuous communication between train crew and control centre, to help averting train accidents.
- 🔪 World's first refuge for the platypus will be built in Australia, to promote breeding and rehabilitation of this endangered species.
- TEPC (Telecom Equipment Export Promotion Council) organized India Telecom 2021, under Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI) of Department of Commerce.
- 🔪 Uttarakhand Govt launched *Gharoki Paachan, Chelik Naam* campaign, to promote girl child welfare.
- Narendra Modi and Sweden PM Stefan Löfven held Virtual Summit, to discuss Bilateral issues.
- nd edition of Global Bio-India-2021 held in New Delhi in virtual mode, with theme *Transforming lives*.
- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot launched Sugamya Bharat App, and a handbook Access-The Photo Digest, to enhance accessibility.
- Note that the community of the community policies of the community of the
- 🥄 First Forest Healing centre in India inaugurated at Ranikhet in Kalika (Uttarakhand).
- 🥄 India's first dolphin research centre will be developed in Patna University (Bihar).
- Neresident Ram Nath Kovind laid foundation stone for conservation works of Singorgarh Fort in Singrampur village of Damoh district (Madhya Pradesh). He also inaugurated newly carved Jabalpur Circle of Archaeological Survey of India.
- New Switzerland Residents voted in favour of banning full facial coverings including burqa and niqab in public places.
- 🥄 Tripura Govt. launches 'Jagrut Tripura' Digital platform to boost e-Governance.
- 🔪 PM Narendra Modi inaugurated *Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Institute of Medical Sciences and Research* at IIT Kharagpur.
- 🔪 New Delhi World Book Fair 2021 held Virtually, with theme National Education Policy-2020.

#### 103. General Events / Conferences (Mar 11-20, 2021)

- Narnataka launched Xcelerator Bengaluru Initiative, to provide support to the women-owned micro-businesses.
- 🔪 J&K UT Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha initiated project Awaam Ki Baat Radio program, to be aired every 3rd Sunday of month.
- A Joint Japanese-Australian venture started producing hydrogen from brown coal, under a \$500 million pilot project to show that liquefied hydrogen can be produced commercially and can be safely exported overseas.
- Labour and Employment Ministry converged ESI Scheme with Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) in districts of Chhatisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- 🥄 Swarnim International Shivratri Fair held historic Paddal ground in Himachal Pradesh.

- Govt will launch *Atmanirbhar Niveshak Mitra Portal*, for information dissemination, hand-holding, and facilitation of domestic investors.
- 🥄 Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda Inaugurated First of its Kind "Tribes India GI Mahotsav" at LBSNAA, Mussoorie.
- Nindia opened first-of-its-kind 'Energy Office' in Moscow (Russia), to boost energy ties.
- Transport Ministry announced a new scheme, under which any tourist vehicle operator may apply for an "All India Tourist Authorization/Permit" through online mode, known as *All India Tourist Vehicles Authorization and Permit Rules* 2021.
- World Bank approved USD 200 million Loan to help Bangladesh support its low-income urban youths impacted by COVID 19 pandemic. International Development Association (IDA) over a 30-year term with the grace period of 5 years.
- Italy signed framework agreement with India to join International Solar Alliance (ISA), an alliance of over 121 nations that has been initiated by India.
- 🥄 Samsung inaugurated an Innovation Lab at Delhi Technological University (DTU) to focus on collaborative research and training.
- \ India and Japan agreed to recognize each other's offices to act mutually as competent International Searching and International Preliminary Examining Authority (ISA/IPEA) for any international patent application filed with them.
- No. BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) held its first meeting under India's Chairship. Theme of BRICS this year is -"BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus".

## 104. General Events / Conferences (Mar 21 - 31, 2021) -

- 🔪 Odisha Govt released a Commemorative Postage Stamp on 100 Years of First Visit of M K Gandhi to Odisha.
- Ninister of State (IC) for Civil Aviation, Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated Kurnool Airport in Andhra Pradesh, developed under Regional Connectivity Scheme, Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN).
- Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal inaugurated Anandam: The Center for Happiness at Indian Institute of Management (IIM)
  Jammu.
- 🔪 Uttar Pradesh government organised *Banana Festival* in Kushinagar, to promote Banana Farming.
- Narunachal Government launched Dekho Apna Pradesh campaign, to encourage people of state to visit tourist places within it.
  - Nema Khandu also inaugurated state's first formal indigenous language and knowledge system school in East Kameng district, called 'Nyubu Nyvgam Yerko'.
- A giant container ship named 'Ever Given' ran aground in Suez Canal in Egypt, blocking off one of the world's busiest maritime trade routes that's vital for movement of everything from oil to consumer goods.
- No Sri Lanka signed a 10 billion-yuan (about USD 1,5 billion) currency swap deal with China for a three-year period to be used for promoting bilateral trade and investment.

- NHuman Rights Council adopted a resolution against Sri Lanka's human rights record, titled *Promotion of Reconciliation Accountability and Human Rights in Sri Lanka*. India was among 14 countries which abstained from voting.
- \ Uttar Pradesh government approved Affordable Rental Housing and Complexes (ARHC) scheme, as affordable rental housing scheme for students, migrants and poor people in cities.
- NITI Aayog released report outlining range of investment opportunities in various segments of India's healthcare sector. India's healthcare industry has been growing at a Compound Annual Growth Rate of around 22% since 2016, expected to reach USD 372 billion in 2022.
- New Zealand's parliament passed legislation giving mothers and their partners the right to paid leave following a miscarriage or stillbirth, becoming only second country in world to do so, after India.
- Telecom Minsiter of State Sanjay Dhotre Represented India at Virtually held World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2021.
- Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman virtually launched Central Scrutiny Centre (CSC) and Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority's (IEPFA) Mobile App, two tech-enabled initiatives by Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- No Bihar will become country's first state to have two green energy efficient towns in Rajgir and Bodh Gaya, with these cities projected to start getting solar energy through first of its kind renewable energy project from 2023.
- 🔪 Asia's largest Tulip Garden in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, has been opened for general public and tourists.
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands became 3rd State/UT in country to achieve 100% coverage of rural households with tap water supply under Jal Jeevan Mission, after Goa and Telangana.
- Maithri Aquatech has set up World's First Mobile Water from Air Kiosk and Water Knowledge Centre in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).

#### 105. General News / Events (July 21 - 31, 2021) -

- 1st ever resolution on vision has been approved UN general assembly, calling upon its 193 member countries so that they ensure access to eye care for each citizen. Titled *Vision for Everyone*, it has been sponsored by Antigua, Bangladesh and Ireland.
- Nerala Police launched initiative called *Pink Protection project* for protection of women.
- 🔪 Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma laid foundation stone of a Bamboo Industrial Park at Manderdisa in Dima Hasao district.
- Nodisha's Puri became first Indian city to have a Drink from Tap project that will dispense safe hygienic drinking water directly from a tap 24x7, named *Sujal: Drink from Tap* project.
- 🔪 Gujarat High Court became first court in country to formally start live streaming of proceedings.

- Nome Minister Amit Shah launched Green Sohra Afforestation Campaign at Sohra (Cherrapunji), along with Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme.
- A Consignment of Raja Mircha (king chilli) from Nagaland has been exported to London, which is considered as world's hottest Chilli, based on Scoville Heat Units (SHUs). It got GI certification in 2008.
- To improve women safety, Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated National Commission for Women's 24/7 helpline number 7827170170.
- Atal Innovation Mission completed two-month long, one of its kind 'ATL Tinkerpreneur Bootcamp' across country.
- 106. ▶ General News / Events (May 11 20, 2021) -
  - 🥄 Tripura government launched an App to enable people to avail Central and state government schemes, called Jagrut Tripura.
  - \ Iran unveiled its fastest supercomputer yet, named 'Simorgh', developed by Tehran's Amirkabir University of Technology. Simorgh has performance capacity of 0.56 petaflops,
  - 🥄 China became first country to ban all synthetic cannabinoid substances, to curb manufacturing & trafficking of the drug.
  - Nanipur Govt Launched *Moma Market* Mobile App For Vegetable Delivery.
  - 🥄 Environment Ministry notifiesd area around Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary in Maharashtra as Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).
  - Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) launched mobile app Dost for Life, for psychological counselling of students and parents.
  - National Gallery of Modern Art (New Delhi) created a virtual museum space through its online summer programme NAIMISHA 2021, to b held till 13th June 2021.
  - Note that Indian Railways commissioned Wi-Fi at 6000th Railway station, with commissioning of the same at Hazaribagh (Jharkhand), to connect passengers and general public with digital systems.
- 107. ▶ Goa govt approved constitution of **Goa Institution for Future Transformation (GIFT)**, in line with *Niti Aayog* at Centre, to assist in policy making and formulation under chairmanship of chief minister.
  - \ It will guide government towards achieving sustainable development goals and Vision 2030, and will also work at doubling per capita income by 2025.
- 108. Goa reportedly Became first rabies-free state in India, after not reporting a single rabies case in last three years.
  - Nabies is caused by Iyssaviruses, spread by infected animal scratches or bites. Globally, dogs are most common animal involved in spreading this disease.
- 109. Govt Announced to issue 14-digit identification number called Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN), to every plot of land in India, by March 2022.

- 110. Govt announced to develop a portal called *Atmanirbhar Niveshak Mitra Portal*, for information dissemination, hand-holding, and facilitation of domestic investors.
- 111. Govt approved forming *Capacity Building Commission*, under National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB), also known as 'Mission Karmayogi', to train civil servants.
  - Normer Quality Council of India (QCI) chief **Adil Zainulbhai** has been appointed as chairperson of this new Commission.
- 112. Govt brought forward target date for achieving 20 % ethanol-blending with petrol by 2 years to 2023 (from 2025 earlier), to help reduce India's dependence on costly oil imports.
- 113. Govt extended 2nd phase of FAME India (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles) scheme by two years, till March 31, 2024.
  - 🥄 To promote eco-friendly vehicles, Govt launched FAME India scheme in 2015.
  - Nase 2 of the Scheme, started in 2019 for promoting sales of electric vehicles, was supposed to end by 2022. It has now been extuded by 2 years.
- 114. Govt extended Project duration for Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM) by 5 years until 2026. I-STEM aims to strengthen R&D ecosystem of country by connecting researchers with resources. It was launched in January 2020.
- 115. Govt introduced a new registration mark for new vehicles **Bharat series (BH-series)**, to facilitate seamless transfer of vehicles across various states.
  - This will revoke need of re-registration of a vehicle while moving to another state, as section 47 of Motor Vehicles Act 1988 mandates re-registration in new state within 12 months of transfer.
  - Motor vehicle tax will be levied for two years or in multiple of two. After 14 yearSmotor vehicle tax shall be levied annually which shall be half of amount charged earlier. This will facilitate free movement of personal vehicles across States/UTs of India upon relocation to a new State/UT.
- 116. Govt issued orders for giving fresh impetus to training in handicraft sector in J&K UT, by unveiling *KARKHANDAR* scheme, as a unique concept for upliftment of artisans and weavers, through transfer of skill set of master craftsmen to younger generation.
  - \ Under It, meritorious trainees will be given 2000 per month as honorarium and trainer will get 2000 per month for each trainee and 25000 for logistics, raw materials etc.
- 117. Govt launched *Mera Ration* Mobile App, to facilitate *One Nation-One Ration Card* system related services among National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries.
- 118. Govt launched *Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship* under *Waste to Wealth* Mission, with objective of recognizing students, self-help groups, community workers, sanitary workers and municipal workers who are engaged in tackling enormous challenge of waste management.

- 119. Govt officially renamed **Jammu and Kashmir High Court** as *High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh*, with President signing *J & K Reorganisation (Removal of Difficulties) Order 2021*, by powers under Section 103 (1) of J & K Reorganisation Act 2019.
- 120. Govt. launched *Secured Logistics Document Exchange* and Calculator for Green House Gas Emissions, To improve ease of doing business by improving logistics efficiency, reduce logistics cost, and promote multi-modality and sustainability.
  - SLDE aims to replace present manual process of generation, exchange and compliance of logistics documents with a digitized, secure and seamless document exchange system.
- 121. Gram Ujala programme has been launched by Power & New and Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh in Bihar. It will be admnistered by EESL subsidiary Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL).
  - Nunder it, high quality energy efficient LED bulbs will be given for Rs 10 per piece in certain villages of five states in first phase.
  - In first phase, 15 million LED bulbs will be distributed across villages of Aarah (Bihar), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Vijaywada (Andhra Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra), and villages in western Gujarat.
- 122. Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani Launched *Agricultural Diversification Scheme 2021*, to benefit Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana farmers in tribal areas while making agriculture sustainable and profitable in tribal areas in Gujarat.
  - Nanbandhu Kalyan Yojana was launched in 2007, to improve quality of life of tribal people in state.
- 123. Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani launched eNagar mobile application and Portal, which covers 10 modules with 52 State Govt services.
- 124. Gujarat Govt announced *Electric Vehicle Policy 2021*, as a 4 year plan with budget 870 crores, to accelerate adoption of electric vehicles and reduce CO2 emissions by 6 lakh tonnes.
  - Natate Govt will provide subsidies up to 20000 on electric two-wheelers, 50,000 on three-wheelers, and 1.50 lakh on four-wheelers.
  - 🔪 Incentive of 10000 per kWh of battery capacity will be offered, as highest in country, getting past Delhi's subsidy of 5000 per kWh.
- 125. Gujarat Maritime Board will set up India's first international maritime services cluster at GIFT City in Ahmedabad, as a dedicated ecosystem comprising of ports, shipping, logistics services providers and pertinent government regulators.
- 126. ▶ Gujarat Maritime University signed MoU with International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) in GIFT City, to set up Gujarat International Maritime Arbitration Centre (GIMAC).
  - 🥄 GIMAC will be first of its kind centre in India to manage arbitration proceedings for disputes related to maritime and shipping sector.
- 127. Gwalior and Orchha cities in Madhya Pradesh have been selected by UNESCO under its 'Historic Urban Landscape Project', that began in 2011.
  - 🥄 It aims at inclusive and well-planned development of fast-growing historical cities while preserving their cultural and heritage value.
  - 🥄 Indian cities Varanasi and Ajmer, were already included in the project.

- 128. Harappan city of Dholavira (Gujarat) and Rudreswara Temple (also known as Ramappa Temple) at Palampet (Telangana), are newest Indian sites on UNESCO's World Heritage list, taking number of Indian sites in UNESCO Heritage list up to 40.
  - Also, UNESCO removed site of *Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City* from list of world heritage sites, making it third site to be removed from list. Liverpool has been removed from list due to concerns over new buildings that are being planned in the city, which may undermine its Victorian heritage.
- 129. ▶ Haryana Assembly passed *Haryana Recovery of damages to property during disturbance to public Bill 2021*, to recover compensation from protesters if they cause damage to property.
  - 🦠 State Assembly also passed Haryana Yog Aayog Bill 2021, to establish State Yog Aayog for the promotion and management of Yoga.
- 130. Haryana Govt announced to introduce *One Block, One Product* scheme, to encourage and promote small industries in rural areas, by connecting every block a specific industrial vision.
- 131. Haryana Govt renamed **Hisar** Airport as *Maharaja Agrasen International Airport*, which is first DGCA licensed Public Aerodrome of the State. It is to be transformed into an international airport by March 2024.
- 132. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda launched **Anamaya** Tribal Health Collaborative, supported by Piramal Foundation and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). It will converge efforts of various Government agencies to enhance health and nutrition status of tribal communities of India.
- 133. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan launched *CSIR Floriculture Mission*, for implementation in 21 states / UTs wherein available knowledge base in CSIR Institutes will be utilised to help farmers and industry re-position themselves to meet import requirements.
- 134. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan launched *Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP)*, the revised next generation Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) digital platform.
  - Also, Health Minister approved *National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021*, aimed at reduceing high cost of treatment for rare diseases and increase focus on domestic research. Financial support of up to 20 lakh under Rastriya Arogya Nidhi Scheme has been proposed for treatment of those rare diseases that require only one-time treatment.
- 135. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan launched **Aahaar Kranti** mission, aimed at spreading awareness about a nutritionally balanced diet and understand importance of accessibility to all local fruits and vegetables, with motto *Good Diet-Good Cognition*.
- 136. Himachal Pradesh Govt began implementing *Parvat Dhara Scheme*, aimed at enhancing ground water levels. It Includes building 'Forest Ponds', to check depletion of groundwater and harvest rainwater.

- 137. Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri released final rankings of Ease of Living Index (EoLI)2020 and Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020 -
  - 🔪 In Ease of Living Index -
    - 🔪 Over 10 Lakhs Bengaluru, Pune and Ahmedabad.
    - Nunder 10 Lakhs Shimla, Bhubaneshwar and Silvassa.
  - Nunicipal Performance Index -
    - Nover 10 Lakhs Indore, Surat, Bhopal
    - 🥄 Under 10 Lakhs New Delhi MC, Tirupati, Gandhinagar
- 138. ▶ IBM collaborated with *Samagra Sikhsha Uttarakhand* Mission of Uttarakhand govt, to introduce *STEM for Girls* program in 130 schools across 5 districts.
- 139. ▶ IT & Communication Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched **itat e-dwar**, e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), to enable electronic filing of Appeals, Miscellaneous Applications and related documents.
- 140. India and Asia's first Dolphin Research Centre will be set up on the banks of the River Ganges in Patna University campus in Bihar.
- 141. India's Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and German development agency *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)* signed agreement on Technical Cooperation titled *Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment*.
- 142. India's biggest floating solar power plant, with capacity of 100 MW, will be set up by NTPC at Ramagundam in Telangana. It will be opened by May 2021, at Ramagundam thermal power plant reservoir. The solar panels will cover 450-acre area of reservoir, and can be expanded.
  - Notably, World's largest floating solar power plant with 600 MW capacity is being set up on Omkareshwar Dam on Narmada river in Madhya Pradesh. It will start power generation by 2022-23, with cost 3000 crore rupees.
- 143. ▶ Indian Agro Firm LT Foods became first globally to be certified with highest level of Rice Quality verification **L3**, by UN-backed Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) ecolabel. LT Foods produces Rice under Brand Name *Daawat*.
  - $ilde{lack}$  L3 SRP certification is the highest level of verification for sustainable cultivation of rice.
- 144. Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) annouced renaming itself as Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF), expanding its purview to cover digital platforms to bring all digital (OTT) players under one roof.
- 145. ▶ Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) launched *LITTLE GURU* application, which specializes in Sanskrit learning. It has been developed in association with Gamapp Sportswizz Tech Private Limited.
  - 🔪 It was launched in Bangladesh by Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) of High Commission of India.

- 146. Indian Railways Incudted 100th 12000 HP WAG 12 B Electric Engine, manufactured at Bihar's Madhepura Electric Locomotive Pvt Ltd.

  These 12000 horsepower (HP) engines are India's most powerful indigenous locomotives.
  - Nadhepura Electric Locomotive Factory is joint venture of Alstom SA of France with Indian Railways, for production of 800 high-power locomotives over 11 years, designed to run on Indian tracks at 120 km per hour.
- 147. Indian Railways launched an integrated one-stop solution *Rail Madad* with helpline number 139, unifying several existing helplines that were used for various purposes so far.
- 148. ▶ India's First Grade Separated Urban Expressway, the 29 KM long Dwarka Expressway is being built under Bharatmala Project with cost 8662 crores.
  - It will be named Northern Peripheral Road or NH 248-BB, commonly known as Dwarka Expressway, connecting Dwarka in Delhi to Gurugram in Haryana. It will have longest (3.6 kilometre) and widest (8 lane) Urban Road Tunnel in India.
- 149. India's first World Skill Centre inaugurated in Bhubaneswar by Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik, modelled around leading Global Institutes.
- 150. Indore (Madhya Pradesh) become only Indian city to be selected for International Clean Air Catalyst Programme.
  - \ Under the project, USAID and partners will work with local communities to better understand local pollution sources and identify, test, accelerate, and scale solutions for cleaner air.
- 151. Indore (Madhya Pradesh) has been declared as first Water Plus certified city of India under Swachh Survekshan 2021.
  - 🔪 Also, Indore has been named cleanest city in India, for 4 times in a row.
- 152. J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched **HAUSLA- inspiring her growth** programme for Catalysing Women Entrepreneurship in UT.
  - \ J&K Administration also formally ended 149-year-old *Darbar Move* biannual tradition, of shifting offices between summer capital Srinagar and winter capital Jammu.
- 153. J&K government Launched *Special Assistance Scheme for COVID Mortalities (SASCM)*, by creating a special cell in the social welfare department to identify and support families affected by COVID-19.
  - 🥄 Under this, cash assistance of Rs 1000 per month shall be provided.
  - 🔪 Scheme also provides scholarship of 20000 per annum for school education and 40000 per annum for higher education.
- 154. J&K topped the country under National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) programme, with 80600 Elementary Teachers Trained through online mode using DIKSHA portal.
- 155. Jammu and Kashmir Administration launched application Named ANMOL, for identification and tracking of beneficiaries of scheme for distribution of tablets to Frontline health workers, under under national health mission.

- J & K Administration also approved Housing and Urban development department to provide interest-free loans up to Rs 2 lakh, under Construction- BLC component of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban (PMAY-U) scheme.
- 156. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched mobile application named PROOF (*Photographic Record of On-site Facility*), to bring more transparency and accountability in administration. It aims to monitor progress of all projects allocated to different departments.
- 157. Jammu and Kashmir UT administration approved incorporation of a joint venture company (JVC) under name *Ratle Hydro-electric Power Corporation*, To implement 850 MW Ratle Hydro-Electric Project (HEP) on river Chenab in Kishtwar district.
  - Notes Note Notes Notes
  - 850 MW Ratle HEP will be developed at estimated cost of 5282 crores.
- 158. In Jharkhand cabinet approved mandating private sector units to reserve 75 % of jobs, with salary up to Rs 30,000 per month, for local people. Before Jharkhand, Haryana government had also approved a similar policy.
- 159. Jharkhand government launched SAAMAR (Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anaemia Reduction) Campaign, to tackle malnutrition, by identifying anaemic women and malnourished children.
- 160. ▶ Jharkhand ranked at top in ranking released by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, based on progress of the implementation of Smart City Mission's schemes. Rajasthan Ranks 2nd in list.
  - Also, Karnataka ranked number one in establishing health and wellness centres (HWC) under Ayushman Bharat Program, to provide comprehensive primary healthcare in rural areas.
- 161. Karnataka Govt launched *Engineering Research & Development (Engineering R&D) Policy 2021*, as a measure to leverage sector's potential, create jobs and improve state's contribution by bridging gap between academia and industry.
- 162. Karnataka Govt unveiled Karnataka Electric Bike Taxi scheme-2021, to serve as a bridge between public transport and daily commuters.
  - 🥄 It aims to reduce travel time and inconvenience in reaching public transport.
  - Nehicles registered under this scheme will be in transport category, with several exemptions.
- 163. Karnataka became first state to provide 1 % reservation for *transgender* community in all government services, amending Karnataka Civil Service (General Recruitment) Rules, 1977.
- 164. ▶ Kempegowda International Airport (Bengaluru) launched India's first ever dedicated Express Cargo Terminal, exclusively for export and import of international couriers.
- 165. Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan announced that an Educational Empowerment Fund as a part of the Vidyakiranam initiative will be set up to offer digital services and tools such as laptops / tablets to ensure digital education for all students.

- Nidyakiranam project has been developed to aid children who cannot afford digital services.
- 166. ▶ Kerala government launched *Knowledge Economy Mission*, to bring ongoing efforts to provide employment to educated and support 'knowledge workers' under a single programme.
  - Considered a sub-mission of the Kudumbasree Mission, the project entailed training its workers as well as executives of K-DISC and Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP).
- 167. ▶ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) initiated project named *Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought (BOLD)*, from tribal village Nichla Mandwa in Udaipur (Rajasthan), seeking to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones.
  - Under this, 5000 saplings of special bamboo species (BambusaTulda and BambusaPolymorpha), brought from Assam, have been planted over 25 bigha land. KVIC has thus created a world record of planting highest number of bamboo saplings on a single day at one location.
- 168. ▶ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched a unique project of creating "bee-fences" to mitigate human elephant conflicts in the country, titled Project RE-HAB (Reducing Elephant Human Attacks using Bees).
- 169. ▶ Labour Bureau Launched two all-India surveys Survey of Migrant Workers and Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey (AQEES).
  - 🔪 Labour Bureau has been tasked with five major All India Surveys by Government -
    - Nurvey of Migrant Workers
    - Nurvey on Domestic Workers
    - Nurvey on Employment generated in Transport Sector
    - Nurvey of Employment Generated by Professionals
    - 🔪 Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey (AQEES).
  - Note that These surveys have been developed by Labour Bureau under technical guidance of an expert group chaired by S. P. Mukherjee and co-chaired by Amitabh Kundu.
- 170. Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched *e-Shram* portal National Database on Unorganized Workers (NDUW), to enable better targeted identification of unorganized workers.
- 171. Ladakh Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur launched **YounTab** Scheme for students, distributing 12300 tablets to students in remote areas.
- 172. Ladakh UT administration signed MoU with Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency (SOCCA) and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, for implementation of Prampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana and Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI), to convert Ladakh into organic by 2025.

- 173. ▶ MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated *Chhatrasal Convention Centre* at Khajuraho, developed under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism.
- 174. Madhya Pradesh Government prepared Ayush-based economic upgradation scheme *Devaranya Yojana*, with twin objectives of improving people's health and livelihood of tribals.
- 175. Madhya Pradesh Govt launched *Ankur* scheme, under which citizens will be awarded for planting trees during monsoon, and participating persons will be given Pranvayu Award.
- 176. Madhya Pradesh has been ranked first in Anemia Mukt Bharat Index 2020-21, followed by Odisha and Himachal Pradesh.
- 177. Maharashtra Became first Indian state to issue educational documents using blockchain technology, with distribution of 1 million diploma certificates using this technology. This also made India 4th nation to use Blockchain technology for this purpose.
- 178. ▶ Maharashtra Cabinet approved an amendment to *Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act 1975*, to bring in concept of *heritage trees*.
  - 🔪 A tree with estimated age over 50 years will be defined as a heritage tree. The heritage trees will get special protection.
  - 🦠 It also approved formation of Maharashtra Tree Authority, which will take all decisions regarding protection of trees.
- 179. Maharashtra Govt introduced three bills to amend Centre's farm laws, to be discussed during winter session in December 2021. Bills are -
  - Name 
    Essential Commodities (Amendment), Farmers (Empowerment and Protection), Guarantee Price
  - Napriculture related Agreements (Maharashtra Amendment)
  - Name of Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation)
- 180. Maharashtra Govt launched *Electric Vehicle Policy 2021* (valid up to 31st March 2025), to accelerate adoption of Electric Vehicles, by revising the 2018 policy.
  - 🔪 It aims at making Maharashtra topmost producer of battery-powered electric vehicles in India.
  - \ It also aims for electric vehicles to make up 10 % of all new vehicle registrations, by 2025. EVs will be exempted from road tax and registration charges.
- 181. Maharashtra government Launched *Mahasamruddhi Mahila Sashaktikaran scheme*, aimed at empowering women in rural Maharashtra.
  - \ Under this, self-help groups will organise exhibitions to display rural women's work and encourage greater participation across fields.
- 182. ▶ Maharashtra government declared area at Amboli in Western ghats in Sindhudurg district as a biodiversity heritage site, where a rare freshwater fish species named *Schistura Hiranyakeshi* was discovered recently.
- 183. Manduadih railway station has been renamed as **Banaras**, by Northeastern railways.

- 184. Manipur emerged as top state in implementation of *Van Dhan programme*, making it a major source of employment for local tribals.
  - Since its launch in October 2019, 100 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras have been established, constituting 1500 SHGs and are benefitting 30000 tribal entrepreneurs.
  - \ Van Dhan Vikas Yojana aims at branding & marketing of Minor Forest Produces by establishing Van Dhan Kendras to facilitate creation of sustainable livelihoods for forest-based tribes.
- 185. ▶ Manipur entered National Railways Map, with Rajdhani Express from Assam's Silchar railway station reaching Vaingaichunpao station in Manipur for a trial run.
- 186. ▶ Meghalaya CM Conrad K Sangma launched *Chief Minister's Mobilisation Support for Producers' program*, to ensure that farmer and producer groups get timely availability of better marketing infrastructure and transportation facilities. It has been given allocation of 200 crores for 2 years.
- 187. ▶ Meghalaya Govt approved *Meghalaya Youth Policy 2021*, to enable youth to achieve their fullest potential & become engaged, skilled, creative, responsible & empowered members of community.
- 188. Minister of Ayush (IC) Kiran Rijiju launched 5 Portals to boost Ayush Sector, including CTRI, AMAR, RMIS, SAHI and e-Medha portals.
  - After inclusion of dataset pertinent to Ayurveda in CTRI portal (*Clinical Trial Registry of India*), Ayurveda Clinical Trials would have worldwide visibility.
  - NALI (Showcase of Ayurveda Historical Imprints) portal incorporates authentic resources and will be of immense help in showcasing historical veracity of Ayurveda.
  - AMAR (Ayush Manuscripts Advanced Repository) digitizes information on rare and hard to find Manuscripts and catalogues of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa.
  - E-Medha (electronic Medical Heritage Accession) is Online public access catalog for over 12000 Indian medical heritage books through NIC's e-granthalaya platform.
- 189. Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Prakash Javadekar inaugurated **NATRAX** the High Speed Track(HST) in Indore, longest such track in Asia (and world's fifth longest).
  - NATRAX is developed in area of 1000 acres and 11.3 km long, as one stop solution for all sorts of high speed performance tests for widest categories of vehicles from 2 wheelers to heavy tractor trailers.
- 190. ▶ Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, launched **QSim Quantum Computer**Simulator Toolkit, to enable Researchers and Students to carryout research in Quantum Computing in a cost effective manner.
  - Note No. 1 No. 1 No. 1 No. 2 No. 2

- 🔪 QSim allows researchers and students to write and debug Quantum Code that is essential for developing Quantum Algorithms.
- 191. Ministry of Agriculture and Microsoft India signed MoU for a pilot project in 100 villages of 6 states (Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh), to develop farmer interface for well-organized agricultural activities.
- 192. ▶ Ministry of Education launched YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors)- Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors, an Author Mentorship programme to train young authors (below 30 years age), to promote reading, writing and book culture.

  Terms -
  - 🥄 75 authors will be selected through All India Contest in June-July 2021. winners will be announced on 15 August 2021.
  - 🥄 Published books will be launched on 12 January 2022 on occasion of National Youth Day (Yuva Diwas).
  - Scholarship of 50000 per month for a 6 months will be paid.
- 193. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) issued operational guidelines and an online portal for *Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)*.
  - It was approved as a Central Sector Scheme, with outlay of 10900 crores during 2021-22 to 2026-27, for boosting food prosessing industry.
- 194. ▶ Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Announced hosting 52nd edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa, during 20th -28th November 2021.
- 195. Ministry of Jal Shakti began **SUJALAM**, a 100 days campaign as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, to create more ODF Plus villages by undertaking waste water management at village level particularly through creation of 1 million Soak-pits and also other Grey water management activities.
  - Note: Campaign started from 25th August, 2021 and will continue to run for 100 days.
- 196. ▶ Ministry of Science & Technology will set up a first-of-its-kind *Centre for Bio-Resources and Sustainable Development as a Centre of Excellence* in Northeast, at Kimin, district Papum Pare in Arunachal Pradesh.
  - \ It will help North Eastern Region to use its fruit and organic food potential to maximum extent, and explore lesser known species including diverse habitats and diverse flora.
- 197. Ministry of Tribal Affairs signed MOU with Microsoft, to support digital transformation of schools such as Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) and Ashram Schools.
  - 🔪 Microsoft will make AI curriculum available to tribal students in both English and Hindi at EMRS schools.
- 198. Misc. MOUs (July 2021) -
  - Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM) and Microsoft signed MoU, to build an AI and emerging technologies Centre of Excellence at AJNIFM. It seeks to explore role of cloud, AI and emerging technologies for transforming and

- shaping the future of public finance management in India.
- Nourism Ministry signed MOU with Travel aggregator Yatra, to strengthen the Hospitality & Tourism Industry.
- Naharashtra Govt signed MoU with British government, under their 'ACT4Green' programme, to enable Indian and UK start-ups to expand internationally through market entry support in their respective cross-border markets of interest.
- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) signed MoU with National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), For harnessing exports potential of agricultural and processed food products of cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).
- Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) signed Agreement with University of New South Wales (Australia), for setting up a Centre for Advanced Transportation Technology and Systems (CATTS) at IAHE Noida.
- MoU signed between Jamnagar based Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) under Ministry of Ayush and Gujarat Govt, to bring all institutions in Ayurveda campus in Jamnagar under ITRA, the only institution under Ministry of Ayush with status of Institute of National Importance (INI).
- Andhra Pradesh Govt signed MoU with 14 companies under YSR Cheyuta scheme, to improve livelihoods for 600000 women by enabling them to get business opportunities with these companies. Target of this scheme is that beneficiaries will get an income of at least 10000 per month.
- Naharashtra signed MoU with National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), to boost developments linked to priority sector lending in Maharashtra.
- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) signed MoU with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing C-DAC, to train its manpower in advanced technologies and undertake joint projects.

# 199. Misc. MOUs (April 2021) -

- Spices Board (Under Ministry of Commerce and Industry) and UNDP India's Accelerator Lab signed MoU, to build a blockchain based traceability interface for Indian spices to enhance transparency in supply chain and trade.
- Tourism Ministry signed MoU with Travel Firms Cleartrip and Ease My Trip, to provide extensive visibility to accommodation units which have self-certified themselves on SAATHI (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for the Hospitality Industry) on OTA platform.
- Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) and IIT-Kanpur partnered to boost tech-based startups and boost entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- Tribals empowerement agency TRIFED began project *Sustainable Livelihoods For Tribal Households in India*, with LINK Fund, a philanthropic foundation which is mandated to eradicate extreme poverty and mitigate effects of climate change.

Army signed MoU for *Ladakh Ignited Minds project*, with HPCL and National Integrity and Educational Development Organisation (NIEDO), aimed at securing better future for youth of Ladakh.

## 200. Misc. MOUs (August 2021) -

- Indian Bank signed MOU with IIT Bombay's Initiative Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), for extending exclusive credit facility to Start-ups and MSMEs.
- Haryana Govt signed MoU with 'Walmart Vriddhi' and 'Haqdarshak' to create a pathway for Indian MSMEs' products to move to the international markets.
- Indian Navy signed MoU with Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) FIRST Bank to initiate 'Honour FIRST', a premium banking solution for serving personnel and veterans of Indian Navy.
- Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) signed Agreement with BSNL, for hiring of 10 Gbps International Bandwidth for Internet Connectivity to Agartala from Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company (BSCCL) Bangladesh via Cox Bazar/Kuakata, For enabling high speed internet access in North Eastern Region.

#### 201. Misc. MOUs (June 2021) -

- Note that EESL Subsidiary Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) signed MoU with Administration of UT of Ladakh, to Promote clean and green energy.
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Digital India Corporation signed MoU to facilitate farmers by providing location specific 'Demand Based Tele Agriculture Advisories'.
- Ninistry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ministry of Culture signed MoU for *Cooperation in Development of National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)* at Lothal (Gujarat).
- Ninistry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ministry of Civil Aviation signed MoU for Development of Sea Plane Services in India.
- MoU signed between NHPC and Bihar State Hydroelectric Power Corporation, for Implementation of 130 MW Dagmara HE Project in Supaul District, as largest hydropower project of Bihar.
- India and Kuwait signed MoU to bring Indian domestic workers in Gulf nation within a legal framework, to provide them with protection of law and streamlines their recruitment.
- 🥄 India and Bhutan signed MoU for developing cooperation in area of environment.
- Assam Govt signed MoU with Survey of India, for implementing Svamitva Scheme in state, aimed at providing an integrated property validation solution for rural areas.

NOU signed between Indian Navy and Bharat Electronics Limited for creation of a joint Technology Incubation Forum (TIF), for boosting innovation and fostering development of Emerging Technologies.

## 202. Misc. MOUs (March 2021) -

- 🔪 Govt signed MOU with IIT Bombay, to establish a Centre of Excellence in gaming ad other related areas.
- Goa State Govt collaborated with IBM to provide free skills training to youth, to upskill 10000 learners across 10 institutions in an year.
- Notisha Govt signed MOU with International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) to strengthen management of natural resources that benefits Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups(PVTGs) in 12 districts.
- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare signed MoU with Central Silk Board under Ministry of Textiles, for implementation of Agroforestry in silk sector under Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) Scheme.
- 🔪 Indian Oil Corporation and Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation signed MOU to developParadip Plastic Park.
- National Health Authority (NHA) signed MOU with UTI Infrastructure Technology and Services Limited (UTIITSL) to issue free PVC Ayushman cards to beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana in 11 states / UTs.
- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) signed MoU with National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) for cooperation in harnessing exports potential of agricultural and processed food products manufactured by MSMEs.
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog and Amazon Web Services (AWS) collaborated to promote ed-tech entrepreneurship through incubation centres and build ed-tech solutions using cloud computing.
- TRIFED and Government of Arunachal Pradesh signed MoU, for implementation of the MSP for MFP Scheme and the Van Dhan Yojana in state, to improve livelihoods of tribals.
- NOU signed Between India and Japan for 3rd phase of Indian beamline project, a facility for materials research set up under India-Japan Scientific and Technological Cooperation, with special focus on industrial application research.

#### 203. Misc. MOUs (May 2021) -

- Nindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Automaker Rolls-Royce signed MoU to establish installation and services support for Rolls-Royce MT30 marine engines in India.
- 204. ▶ NHPC limited formed joint venture company with Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC), called *Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited* for implementation of 850 MW **Ratle Hydroelectric Project**, holding equity of 51% and 49% respectively.
  - 🔪 5284 Crores Budget Ratle Hydoelectric Project is a Run of River Scheme on River Chenab in Kishtwar district (J&K).

- 🥄 A tripartite MoU was signed In Feb 2019 amongst JKSPDC, NHPC and erstwhile Government of Jammu & Kashmir, for the same.
- 205. ▶ NITI Aayog (in partnership with *Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation* and *Ashoka University*) launched **Poshan Gyan**, a national digital repository on health and nutrition.
  - It introduces a unique crowdsourcing feature that allows anyone to submit communication material for inclusion on website, followed by a review by a designated committee.
- 206. ► NITI Aayog and Cisco launched new phase of Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), Titled WEP Nxt, leveraging Cisco's technology and experience working with India's startup ecosystem to enable more women-owned businesses across country.
  - Nomen Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is NITI Aayog's flagship initiative, as unified information portal for women entrepreneurs, launched in 2017.
- 207. NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) released report *Mobilising Electric Vehicle Financing in India*, which states that capital investment of USD 266 billion will be required in EVs, charging infrastructure, and batteries, by 2030.
  - Neport also identifies a market size of USD 50 billion for financing of EVs in 2030, about 80% of current size of India's retail vehicle finance industry, worth USD 60 billion.
- 208. NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute (WRI) jointly launched *Forum for Decarbonizing Transport* in India, aiming to bring down peak level of GHG emissions (transport sector) in Asia (in line with a well below 2-degree pathway), resulting congestion and air pollution.
  - Norum has been launched under NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) project, a joint programme of seven organizations that will engage China, India, and Vietnam in promoting a comprehensive approach to decarbonizing transport.
- 209. NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Embassy of Denmark partnered to support various initiatives of NITI Aayog and develop global innovation Green economy partnerships addressing SDG goals, as part of Indo-Danish bilateral Green strategic partnership.
  - AIM's Other collaborations -
    - Nith Bayer, a global enterprise with core competencies in the fields of healthcare and nutrition, to work towards mission's innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives across country.
    - Nith Dassault Systemes Foundation, to work towards providing a digitally rich ecosystem of Innovation in India.
    - Nith Centre for Innovations in Public Systems (CIPS), to reinforce innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem, by developing a database of innovations in public systems for improving public services.
    - With All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), to empower Atal Tinkering Lab school students for world class future ready innovation skills across country. It will begin with connecting 7200+ Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) in schools with 2500+ Institution's Innovation Councils (IICs) in higher educational institutions across India.

- 210. NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) launched AIM-PRIME (Program for Researchers on Innovations, Market-Readiness & Entrepreneurship), an initiative to promote and support science-based deep-tech startups & ventures across India, in association with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).
- 211. NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)s flagship 295 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) have been adopted sby Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) across country, for inculcating scientific research and innovation culture among students.
- 212. NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission partnered with mathematical computing software developer *MathWorks*, to strengthen Deep-tech startup ecosystem of India.
  - 🥄 Under this, startups supported by AIM, will get access to various MathWorks tools (including MATLAB and Simulink).
  - NathWorks supports over 3,000 startups and 300 Accelerators worldwide.
- 213. ▶ NTPC Renewable Energy (NTPC REL) won Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Limited (RUMSL) auction for 450 MW of solar projects at Shajapur Solar Park in Madhya Pradesh.
  - 🔪 As a part of its green energy portfolio augmentation, NTPC aims to build 60 GW Renewable Energy Capacity by 2032.
- 214. NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (REL) received approval from Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to set up 4750 MW renewable energy park at Rann of Kutch in Khavada (Gujarat), as India's largest solar park.
  - NTPC aims to build 60 GW Renewable Energy Capacity by 2032.
  - NTPC has total installed capacity of 66 GW across 70 power projects, with additional 18 GW under construction.
- 215. NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (REL) signed MoU with UT of Ladakh and LAHDC, to setup India's first Green Hydrogen Mobility project.
- 216. NTPC commissioned largest floating solar PV project of 25MW on reservoir of its Simhadri thermal station in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), also first solar project to be set up under Flexibilisation Scheme, notified by Govt in 2018.
  - This floating solar project has the potential to generate electricity from more than 1 lakh solar PV modules, to help light 7000 households and reduce 46000 tons of annual CO2 emissions.
  - 2000 MW coal-based Simhadri Station is first power project to implement an open sea intake from Bay of Bengal which has been functional for over 20 years. NTPC will also set up a hydrogen-based micro-grid system on a pilot basis at Simhadri.
  - 🔪 About NTPC -
    - With installed capacity of 66900 MW, NTPC Group has 71 Power stations (29 Renewable). NTPC aims to install 60 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy (RE) capacity by 2032. NTPC is also India's first energy company to declare its energy compact goals as part of the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE).
- 217. ▶ Nagaland Govt launched *i-Learn*, a capacity building and performance tracking application for Community Health Officers (CHOs) in state, in partnership with USAID-NISHTHA/Jgpiego.

- 218. National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) launched **AI Gamechangers** program, to promote AI led innovation in India, with Microsoft as *Innovation Partner* for program.
- 219. ▶ National Health Authority (NHA) signed MoU with Telangana government,to implement Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
  - Telangana has integrated Ayushman Bharat scheme with its state scheme 'Aarogyasri' and the new name for the converged scheme is Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY Aarogyasri.
  - Nunder converged scheme, beneficiaries will be entitled to avail free healthcare coverage of up to 5 lakhs per family per year.
- 220. National High-Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRCL) collaborated with Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for formulation of the world's first exclusive green rating system for high-speed rail, to enable new high-speed rail stations to apply energy-efficient concepts during construction.
- 221. National Skill Development Corporation and WhatsApp partnered to launch *Digital Skill Champions Program*, that aims to train India's youth on digital skills.
- 222. New Delhi based Central Revenues Control Laboratory (CRCL) under Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, has been recognized as a Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) of World Customs Organisation (WCO) for Asia-Pacific Region.
- 223. Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission partnered with *Aster DM Health care* to support proactively the mission's innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives across country, to change and improve health care innovations and outcomes.
- 224. Odisha Govt and UN World Food Programme (WFP) partnered, to improve household food and nutritional security by strengthening livelihood initiatives, reaching thousands of state-supported Women's Self-Help Groups (WSHGs).
- 225. ▶ Odisha Govt announced expansion of its flagship health assurance scheme *Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojan*, which that it had implemented instead of Centre's Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).
  - Around 3.5 crore people in 96 lakh families, who are getting benefits under national and state food security schemes, will get cashless health coverage under BSKY from September 2021 onwards. For the first time, State Govt also introduced smart health cards for beneficiaries.
- 226. Odisha Govt. approved 5 major industrial projects worth 146172 crores in metal and metal downstream sectors. It includes Capacity and Operational expansions in Bhushan Power and Steel, Tata Steel, Jindal Steel and Power, Rungta Mines (Jharbandh) and Rungta Mines (Karakhendra).
- 227. Odisha government proposed 2nd biosphere reserve in state at Mahendragiri, a hill ecosystem having rich biodiversity.
  - Nimilipal Biosphere Reserve is Odisha's first such reserve, notified in 1996.
- 228. Odisha will set up dedicated District Investment Promotion Agencies (DIPA) in 30 districts, to help promote investment.

- 229. On Occasion of 1st anniversary of National Education Policy 2020, PM Narendra Modi launched several initiatives, including -
  - Nacademic Bank of Credit, that will provide multiple entry and exit options for students in Higher education.
  - 🔪 Vidya Pravesh, a three month play based school preparation module for Grade 1 students.
  - Night Indian Sign Language as a Subject at secondary level.
  - NISHTHA 2.0, an integrated programme of teacher training designed by NCERT.
  - SAFAL (Structured Assessment For Analyzing Learning Levels), a competency based assessment framework for Grades 3, 5 and 8 in CBSE schools.
  - 🦠 National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) and National Education Technology Forum (NETF).
- 230. On occasion of its 15th Foundation Day, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) Launched MoES-ESSDP (Earth System Science Data Portal), an integrated digital web portal of MoES institutes, which makes availabledata on various themes of earth system science for public use.
  - Nuly 27 is also Raising Day of CRPF, Formed on July 27, 1939.
- 231. PM Narendra Modi Govt Launched *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (India@75)* from Ahmedabad (Gujarat), to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence, which falls on 15th August 2022, as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
  - 🥄 PM flagged off 91st anniversary of Dandi March, which took place from March to April in 1930, led by M K Gandhi.
  - Also, Govt had earlier formed a 259 member Implementation Committee under chairmanship of Home Minister Amit Shah, to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence.
- 232. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stones for multiple projects in Somnath (Gujarat) -
  - No Projects to be inaugurated include the Somnath Promenade, Somnath Exhibition Centre and reconstructed temple precinct of Old (Juna) Somnath.
    - Somnath Promenade is developed under PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive)
      Scheme at cost 47 crores.
    - Reconstructed temple precinct of Old (Juna) Somnath is also known as Ahilyabai Temple, since it was built by Queen Ahilyabai of Indore.
  - Ne also laid foundation stone of Shree Parvati Temple (Cost 30 crores).
- 233. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated several projects in Gujarat -
  - 🔪 Upgraded Gandhinagar Capital Railway station, done with cost 71 crores.
    - As a part of this mission, work on redevelopment of 125 stations is in progress. IRSDC is working on 63 stations, RLDA on 60 stations and 2 stations by zonal railways. Investment for redevelopment of 123 stations is over 50000 crores.
  - Nalso inaugrated state-of-the-art public Aquatics Gallery and a Robotics Gallery.

- 234. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated various development projects in Varanasi (UP). Notably -
  - 🔪 Inaugurated International Cooperation and Convention Centre **Rudraksh**, in Varanasi, constructed with Japanese assistance.
  - National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive).
- 235. Parliament merged two of the TV channels namely Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV into an integrated channel "Sansad TV".
- 236. President promulgated *The Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and conditions of Service) Ordinance 2021*, which dissolved appellate authorities under nine acts and transferred their functions to high courts. Acts are -
  - 🔪 Cinematograph Act 1952
  - Copyrights Act 1957
  - 🔪 Trade Marks Act 1999
  - Customs Act 1962
  - 🥄 Airports Authority of India Act 1994
  - Seographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act 1999
  - 🥄 Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act 2002
  - Notection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act 2001
  - Natents Act 1970
- 237. Principal Scientific Adviser K VijayRaghavan launched **Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System (MANAS)** App, to promote wellbeing across age groups. MANAS is a comprehensive and scalable wellbeing platform, to augment mental well-being of Indians.
- 238. Puducherry became *Har Ghar Jal* UT by ensuring that every rural home gets a household tap connection. Puducherry became 4th State/UT after Goa, Telangana and Andaman & Nicobar Islands to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home, under Govt's Jal Jeevan Mission.
- 239. Punjab Cabinet Approved a new scheme *Mera Kaam Mera Maan*, to help unemployed youth to hone their skills and increase chances of getting jobs.
  - 🥄 These youngsters will be given free of cost short-term skill training, tagetting 30000 beneficiaries.
  - Note: It also includes employment assistance allowance of 2500 per month for 12 months.
- 240. Punjab Govt approved hike in assistance under Ashirwad scheme, from 21000 to 51000 per beneficiary.
  - 🥄 Earlier in 2017, assiatance was enhanced from 15000 to 21000, and scheme was renamed from *Shagun* to *Ashirward* scheme.
  - \ Under this, state Govt provides financial assistance for girl's marriage, belonging to low income groups.

- 241. Punjab Govt named Malerkotla as new (23rd) district of State, carving out state's only Muslim-majority town from Sangrur district.
- 242. Punjab ranked at tp in National performance grading index of school education for 2019-20 improving from 13th position in 2018-19. It was followed by Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- 243. RDSO (Research Design & Standards Organization) of Indian Railways became First Institution to be declared Standard Developing Organization (SDO) under *One Nation One Standard* mission on BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards).
  - 🔪 To attain, One Nation One Standard " vision of Govt, BIS had launched a scheme which provides for Recognition of SDO.
- 244. Railways Completed arch bottom of World's highest Bridge, The Chenab Bridge in J&K.
  - Note that the contract of the contract of the contract of Jammu and Kashmir, will span Chenab River at a height of 359 metres, making it world's highest rail bridge. Bridge length will be 1315 metres.
- 245. Railways Launched Integrated Rail Madad Helpline at Number 139, for quick grievance redressal and enquiry during the journey. It will take over all existing helpline numbers.
- 246. Rajasthan Govt and Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO) launched *Mission Niryatak Bano* campaign, to promote aspiring exporters in state.
- 247. ▶ Rajasthan Govt announced State's 4th tiger Sanctuary, as Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary (Bundi), which will link Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Northeast & Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve on southern side.
  - Earlier 3 Tiger Reserves in state are Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (Sawai Madhopur), Sariska Tiger Reserve (Alwar) and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (Kota).
  - State govt will also develop a tiger corridor, connecting 3 Tiger Reserves passing through districts including Sawai Madhopur, Kota, and Bundi.
- 248. Rajasthan Govt approved draft of *Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Urja Yojana*, under which agriculture power consumers will get Rs 1000 every month, with annual cost 1450 crores per annum.
- 249. Rajasthan Govt will launch Universal Health Scheme called *Mukhya Mantri Chiranjeevi Yojana*, on May 1, 2021, as announced in State budget 2021-22.
  - 🥄 It will have budget outlay of 3500 crores, to provide cashless health services to all families in Rajasthan, up to 5 lakh.
- 250. Rajasthan Govt will set up a Vedic Education and Sanskar Board to revive the knowledge of Sanskrit scriptures and Vedas.
- 251. Rajasthan Govt. approved *Forestry and Bio Development Project*, planned with support of Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD), targeting eastern districts of state.
- 252. Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation (RRECL) commissioned India's first farm-based solar power project under **Kusum** scheme in Kotputli, having 1 megawatt capacity.

- Nantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evem Utthan Mahabhiyan (Kusum) scheme.
- 🥄 Kusum scheme was launched by Centre to help farmers generate solar energy.
- 253. ▶ Rajasthan launched Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme, for providing health insurance worth Rs 5 lakh for each family of state. With this, Rajasthan became first state to provide health insurance to all its residents.
- 254. ▶ Road Transport and Highways Ministry Notified Formal Registration Process for Vintage Motor Vehicles, to preserve and promote heritage of vintage vehicles. Features -
  - All 2/4 wheelers, 50+ years old, maintained in their original form and which have not undergone any substantial overhaul, shall be defined as Vintage Motor Vehicles.
  - Vehicles already registered can retain their original Registration Mark. For fresh registration, registration mark will be assigned as *XX VA YY\**, where VA is for vintage, XX for State Code and YY will be a two-letter series.
  - 🥄 Fees for new registration 20000 and subsequent re-registration 5000.
  - Nintage motor vehicles shall not be driven on roads for regular/commercial purposes.
- 255. Severe Cyclonic Storm Yaas made landfall in Odisha and West Bengal, causing large scale losses.
- 256. Social Justice Minister Virendra Kumar launched **PM-DAKSH** (*Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi*) Portal and Mobile App, developed by Ministry in collaboration with NeGD, to make skill development schemes accessible to target groups.
  - NH-DAKSH Yojana is being implemented by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment from 2020-21. Under this, eligible target group are being provided skill development training programmes on Up-skilling/Re-skilling, Short Term Training, Long Term Training and Entrepreneurship Development.
- 257. ▶ Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar launched online portal TAPAS (Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services), developed by National Institute of Social Defence.
  - \ It aims to provide access to lectures by subject experts, study material and more, in a manner that supplements the physical classroom without compromising on quality of teaching.
- 258. State Assembly Election Results (May 2021) -
  - 🔪 Assam (126 Seats) -
    - 🔪 BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) retained power with 75 seats. BJP Largest party with 60 seats.
    - 🔪 BJP's **Himanta Biswa Sarma** named as 15th Chief Minister of Assam.
  - 🔪 Kerala (140 Seats) -

- CPI (M)-Led Allaince Left Democratic Front (LDF) retained power with 99 seats. Communist Party of India (Marxist) became single largest party (62 seats).
- CPI (M)'s **Pinarayi Vijayan** became first Chief minister of Kerala to be re-elected after completing a full term, for **his 2nd** term.
- 🔪 Puducherry (30 Seats) -
  - NAINRC-BJP Alliance NDA Won 16 Seats. AINRC came largest party with 10 seats.
  - Named as New Chief Minister of UT of Puducherry, for his 4th term.
- 🔪 Tamil Nadu (234 Seats) -
  - Naravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) won clear majority with 133 seats.
  - 🔪 DMK's **M. K. Stalin** named as New CM of Tamil Nadu, replacing Edappadi K. Palaniswami (AIADMK).
- 🔪 West Bengal (292 Seats) -
  - Nall India Trinamool Congress (TMC) won clear majority, with 213 seats. BJP second with 77 seats.
  - TMC's **Mamta Bannerjee** re-appointed as CM of West Bengal, for **her 3rd** Term.
- 259. State of India's National Super Computing Mission (NSM) -
  - Completion of Phase II of NSM in September 2021 will take India's computing power to 16 Petaflops (PF). MoUs are signed with a 14 premier institutions, for establishing Supercomputing Infrastructure.
  - Note That Phase III, initiated this year, will take computing speed to around 45 Petaflops. It will include 3 systems of 3 PF each and one system of 20PF as a national facility.
  - NARAM Shivay, first supercomputer assembled indigenously, was installed in IIT (BHU), followed by PARAM Shakti, PARAM Brahma, PARAM Yukti, PARAM Sanganak at IIT-Kharagpur IISER, Pune, JNCASR, Bengaluru and IIT Kanpur respectively.
  - A 200 AI PF Artificial Intelligence supercomputing system has been installed in C-DAC, to handle large-scale AI workloads. PARAM Siddhi HPC-AI supercomputer has achieved global ranking of 62 in TOP 500 most powerful supercomputer systems in world.
  - NSM was launched to enhance research capabilities by connecting them to form a Supercomputing grid, with National Knowledge Network (NKN) as backbone.
- 260. Supreme Court asked Govt to consider scrapping or limiting applicability of sedition law, a colonial law that was used by the British to silence Freedom Activists.
  - Note: SC responded to a petition that challenges constitutional validity of sedition law, calling its usage *curb on free speech*.
  - Sedition law under Section124A of IPC states Whoever attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the Government established by law in India, shall be punished with imprisonment for life. It was inserted into

- Section 124A of IPC in 1870, by the British. It was first used to prosecute Bal Gangadhar Tilak in 1897.
- Earlier, Supreme Court upheld constitutionality of sedition law in 1962, when it was hearing Kedar Nath Singh v State of Bihar case. SC limited application of sedition law acts involving intention or tendency to create disorder, or disturbance of law and order, or incitement to violence.
- 261. Supreme Court unveiled Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered **Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency** (SUPACE), designed to make research easier for judges.
- 262. TRIFED partnered with NITI Aayog to implement Van Dhan Yojana in 39 Tribal aspirational districts, as identified by NITI Aayog.
- 263. Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin announced Rs 317.40 crores welfare package for welfare of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees living in special camps in State, for ensure housing and basic infrastructure for them.
- 264. Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin launched **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam** (healthcare services at people's doorstep) scheme in Krishnagiri, aimed at eliminating need for patients to visit hospitals for treatment of non-communicable diseases.
- 265. Telangana Govt announced launching new *Dalit empowerment scheme*, now *Dalita Bandhu*, from Huzurabad assembly constituency. Under this, eligible Dalit families would be given 10 lakh in cash directly to their accounts.
- 266. ▶ Telangana government launched *Telangana Artificial Intelligence Mission (T-AIM)* accelerator programme *Revv Up*, exclusively designed for growth-stage artificial intelligence (AI) startups.
- 267. Telecom operator Reliance Jio announced constructing largest international submarine IAX and IEX subsea systems centred on India, to cater to increased data demand in India.
  - 1 2 submarine cable systems to be deployed will connect India with Asia Pacific markets through Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia and other one with Italy, middle and north Africa.
- 268. Thaawarchand Gehlot (Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment) launched **SAGE (Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine)** initiative and SAGE portal for elderly persons, as a *one-stop access* of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups.
- 269. ▶ To address air pollution due to farm stubble burning and to reduce carbon footprints of thermal power generation, Ministry of Power will set up a *National Mission on use of Biomass in coal based thermal power plants*.
  - 🥄 It will support energy transition and moving towards cleaner energy sources.
- 270. To promote traditional medicinal practices in North East Raegion, Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced several initiatives -
  - 1000 new Health & Wellness Centres (HWC), as part of the National Ayush Mission (NAM) Scheme, will be opened in North East.

    100 Ayush dispensaries under NAM will also be set up in northeast region.
    - Total 12,500 HWC are to be operationalised in country by Ministry of Ayush.

- NAM support. Ministry of Ayush will also upgrade Government Ayurvedic College in Guwahati and develop it as a Centre of Excellence.
- 271. Tourism and Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated *Maharaja Chhatrasal Convention Centre* at Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh), developed under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
- 272. Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda launched *ADI PRASHIKSHAN* portal, to act as a Central Repository of all training programs conducted related Agencies, which Includes Tribal Research Institutes, National Society for Education of Tribal Students, Centre of Excellences funded by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
  - 🥄 Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda also launched tribal livelihoods initiative Sankalp Se Siddhi Mission Van Dhan.
- 273. Tripura Govt launched *Auro Scholarship Programme* of Sri Aurobindo Society, for all students in state. It provides monthly microscholarship to students, to motivate them towards achieving better learning outcomes.
- 274. UNESCO teamed up with USO India and Toonz Media Group for a creative water conservation awareness programme for students, to be unveiled on March 22, 2021 (World Water Day), as part of *H2Ooooh! Waterwise Program* for school students.
- 275. Udaipur Science Centre, at Udaipur (Tripura) has been launched by Tripura Governor Ramesh Bais, as 22nd Science Centre developed by National Council of Science Museums of Ministry of Culture under Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science.
- 276. Under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G), 92% target of completion has been achieved in 1st phase of the scheme (from 2016-17 to 2018-19).
  - As against existing Permanent Wait List (PWL) identified using SECC database of 2011, 2.14 crore beneficiaries have been found to be eligible (Trimmed down from 2.95 crore households initially).
  - 1.92 crores (90%) houses have been sanctioned and 1.36 crore houses are completed. Target of 1 crore houses was set for completion in 1st phase, against which 92% has been achieved. PMAY-G aims at *Housing for All* by 2022.
- 277. Vunion Minister Jitendra Singh launched *Yuktdhara* Geospatial Planning Portal under *Bhuvan*, which will facilitate planning of new MGNREGA assets using Remote Sensing and GIS based information.
  - It will serve as a repository of assets (Geotags) created under various national rural development programmes i.e. MGNREGA, Integrated Watershed Management Programme, Per Drop More Crop and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana etc., along with field photographs.
- 278. Union Minister Jitendra Singh released *Biotech-PRIDE* (*Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange*) Guidelines developed by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), aimed at enabling exchange of information to promote research and innovation in different research groups across country.

- 279. ▶ United Nations Development Program (UNDP) launched campaign named **Sahi Disha**, to celebrate women's livelihoods and entrepreneurship in rural India.
- 280. Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurated Rasin Dam and Chillimal Dam in Chitrakoot, to resolve water shortage issues.
- 281. Uttar Pradesh Govt Announced to soon Launch *Arjuna Sahayak Irrigation Project* worth 2600 crores, aimed to help farmers of Hamirpur, Mahoba, and Banda in the Bundelkhand region.
- 282. Uttar Pradesh government renamed landmark freedom movement event *Kakori Train Conspiracy* as *Kakori Train Action*, as a tribute to revolutionaries who were hanged for robbing a train at Kakori to buy weapons in 1925.
  - 🥄 Kakori Train Action was a train robbery that took place on August 9 in 1925, in Kakori, near Lucknow.
  - 🥄 Robbery was planned by Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqullah Khan, who belonged to Hindustan Republican Association (HRA).
  - Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan and Roshan Singh were hanged to death for their involvement in robbery on December 19, 1927.
- 283. Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami launched first-of-its-kind earthquake early warning mobile application, named 'Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert', developed by IIT Roorkee.
- 284. WE Hub, India's first and only state-led (*Telangana*) incubator to promote women entrepreneurship, announced a collaboration named *UPSurg*, with Australian government.
  - 🔪 UPSurge aims to be a pre-incubation programme to aid women entrepreneurs from across India to achieve financial independence.
- 285. West Bengal Assembly passed resolution for creation of a legislative council in state.
  - 🥄 Presently, 6 states have a Legislative Council Maharashtra, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Bihar.
  - 🔪 West Bengal earlier had a Legislative Council, which was formed in 1952. It was later abolished in 1969.
  - State Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad) is upper house of state assembly, analogous to Rajya Sabha in Parliament. Its establishment is defined in Article 169 of Constitution of India.
- $\textbf{286.} \blacktriangleright \textbf{West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee} \ \textbf{re-launched} \ \textit{Krishak Bandhu scheme}, \ \textbf{doubling assistance to farmer-beneficiaries to 10000 a year.}$ 
  - Nalso, farm labourers having at least one katha (0.0165 acre) will now receive 4000 a year, instead of 2000 earlier.
- 287. West Central Railway became Indian Railways' First Zone to get fully electrified, with 3012 Route Km electrified network.
- 288. World's fastest land animal, Cheetah which was declared extinct in India in 1952, will be re-introduced in India in November 2021 at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.
  - 🥄 Under this, 14 Cheetah will be brought in from South Africa.
  - 🔪 India's last spotted Cheetah had died in Chhattisgarh in 1947 and was declared extinct in India in 1952.

#### **Persons**

1. Adani Group Chairman **Gautam Adani** overtook China's Zhong Shanshan as second richest Asian. He now ranks 14th spot Globally on Bloomberg Billionaires Index, with net worth of \$67 Billion. Top 5 -

| Rank | Name            | Net Worth | Country |
|------|-----------------|-----------|---------|
| 1    | Jeff Bezos      | \$189B    | US      |
| 2    | Elon Musk       | \$163B    | US      |
| 3    | Bernard Arnault | \$162B    | France  |
| 4    | Bill Gates      | \$142B    | US      |
| 5    | Mark Zuckerberg | \$119B    | US      |

- 2. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos topped Forbes' annual world's billionaires list for fourth consecutive year.
  - Nop 5 -
    - Value of the Jeff Bezos (177 billion)
    - New York (151 billion)
    - Nernard Arnault (150 billion)
    - Name of the second seco
    - Nark Zuckerberg (97 billion)
  - Nukesh Ambani ranked 10th globally, with net worth USD 84.5 billion.
- 3. Mountaineer **Priyanka Mohite** became first Indian woman to scale 10th highest mountain in world, Mt Annapurna (8091 Metres).
  - 🥄 She also holds record of being first Indian woman to scale Mt Makalu, 5th highest mountain in world (8485 meters).
- 4. ▶ Nepal's Mingma Tenji Sherpa created world record by scaling world's highest peak Mt. Everest, twice in shortest span of time (4 days). He climbed everest on May 7 and again on May 11, 2021.
- 5. Diituaries (April 2021) -
  - 🔪 Digvijaysinh Jhala Former Deputy Union Environment Minister in Indira Gandhi Govt (1982-84).
  - 🥄 Shashikala Saigal Noted Indian actress.
  - 🥄 P. Balachandran Noted Malayalam screenwriter and actor.
  - Noted Japanese Physicist and a co-winner of 2014 Nobel Prize in Physics. He was recognized for invention which contributed to bright and energy-saving white light sources, known as LED lamps.
  - Nember of British royal family, as husband of Elizabeth II (UK Queen).

- 🥄 Fatima Rafiq Zakaria Padma Shri awardee Noted journalist.
- 🔪 Chandra Naidu India's first female cricket commentator. She was daughter of India's first Test captain CK Naidu.
- 🥄 Satish Kaul Noted Hindi and Punjabi actor, best known for his role in Mahabharat.
- Sanjay Chakravarty Noted shooting coach, who trained some of finest Indian shooters including Abhinav Bindra, Gagan Narang and many others.
- Nakarla Subba Rao Noted Radiologist and Padma Shri Awardee. He served as first director of Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (Hyderabad).
- NGVG Krishnamurty Former election commissioner.
- 🥄 Balbir Singh Junior Former Indian hockey Player.
- 🥄 Yogesh Praveen Noted historian and Padma Shri Awardee.
- 🥄 Ibn Abdur Rehman Noted Pakistani peace and human rights Activist.
- 🥄 Ganjam Venkatasubbiah Noted Kannada writer and awardee of Padma Shri and Sahitya Akademi Award.
- 🔪 Vivek Noted Tamil Actor.
- 🥄 Narendra Kohli Noted Hindi Writer. He was winner of Vyas Samman and Padma Shri.
- Noted National award-winning film director, known for her work in Marathi cinema.
- Nachi Singh Rawat BJP leader from Uttarakhand and former Union Minister. He had served as Minister of State for Science and Technology in Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.
- 🔪 Ahmed Hussain Former Indian Footballer.
- Charles Geschke American Computer Scientist, co-founder of Adobe and co-developer of Portable Document Format (PDF) technology.
- 🥄 Ranjit Sinha Former CBI Chief.
- Name of the Barman Former Assam Chief Minister.
- Naulana Wahiduddin Khan Noted Indian Islamic scholar and peace activist. In 1993, he asked Muslims to relinquish claims over Babri Masjid site.
- Shankha Ghosh Noted poet and critic from West Bengal, and awardee of Padma Bhushan, Jnanpith Award and Sahitya Akademi Award.
- 🥄 Kishore Nandlaskar Noted Hindi and Marathi actor.
- Maidavolu Narasimham Former (13th) RBI Governor. He is Considered father of Indian banking reforms, as he headed two committees in 1991 and 1998, that had critical influence on country's banking reforms.

- Nalter Frederick Mondale Former (42nd) vice president of USA.
- 🥄 Suhas Kulkarni Former Indian international Table Tennis player.
- 🥄 Rajan Mishra Noted singer of khyal style of Indian classical music, belonging to Brother duo Rajan and Sajan Misra.
- 🔪 Amit Mistry Gujarati and Hindi film actor.
- 🥄 Mohan M Shantanagoudar Supreme Court judge.
- 🔪 Shravan Rathod Noted music composer and part of duo Nadeem-Shravan.
- 🔪 Manoj Das Noted writer, who wrote in Odia and English. He was an awarde of Saraswati Samman, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan.
- 🔪 Dadudan Gadhvi (also known as Kavi Dad) Noted Gujarati poet and folk singer, and an awardee of Padma Shri (2021).
- 🥄 Rohit Sardana Noted Journalist.
- 🦠 Soli Sorabjee Noted Indian jurist, who served as Attorney-General for India. He was an Awardee of Padma Vibhushan.
- 🥄 Jagdish Khattar Noted businessman, credited for steering Maruti Udyog as a leader in Automobile sector.
- 🥄 Krishnamurthy Santhanam Noted Nuclear Scientist, and Padma Bhushan awardee.
- Nichael Collins Noted American astronaut, who was part of Apollo 11 Program to Moon in 1969, while his crewmates Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin made first landing on Moon surface.
- 🔪 John Konrads Noted Australian Olympian swimmer.
- 🥄 Manzoor Ahtesham Noted Hindi writer and Padma Shri Awardee.
- 6. Obituaries (August 2021) -
  - Noted American physicist and Nobel laureate in physics (1979).
  - 🥄 Kalyani Menon Noted playback singer from Kerala.
  - 🔪 Man Kaur Noted track-and-field athlete. She held world records in Over-100 years old categories for a variety of events.
  - 🦠 Padma Sachdev Noted author and Padma Shri awardee. She was first modern woman poet of Dogri language.
  - 🔪 Anupam Shyam Ojha Noted film and television actor.
  - Nasargod Patnashetti Gopal Rao Noted 1971 war hero and recipient of Mahavir Chakra. He played key role in 1971 war with Pakistan to liberate East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).
  - 🥄 SS 'Babu' Nayaran Olympian Indian footballer. He represented India as a goalkeeper at 1956 and 1960 Olympic Games.
  - 🥄 P.S. Banarji -Noted Kerala Cartoonist and sculptor.
  - 🥄 Balaji Tambe Noted Ayurveda practitioner and proponent of Yoga.
  - 🔪 Chinmoy Chatterjee Noted Indian footballer.
  - 🥄 Gerd Müller Noted German footballer (Played for West Germany).

- 🥄 Saranya Sasi Noted Malayalam Actress.
- 🥄 Gopal Bhengra Former Indian Hockey Player.
- 🔪 Maki Kaji -Noted Japanese businessman and president of puzzle manufacturer Nikoli, known father of Sudoku.
- 🔪 Mian Bashir Ahmed Larvi Padma Bhushan Awardee Gujjar leader and founder of Gujjar-Jat Conference (1932).
- Nalyan Singh Noted BJP politician, who served as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh twice and also served as Governor of Rajasthan and Governor of Himachal Pradesh (Addl. Charge).
- 🔪 O.M. Nambiar -Noted Athletics Coach, who coached P.T. Usha.
- 🦠 Syed Shahid Hakim Former Indian footballer, played as member of Indian football team in 1960 Rome Olympics.
- Noted English comedian and actor.
- 🔪 Chinmoy Chatterjee Former India footballer.
- 🥄 Buddhadeb Guha Noted writer in Bengali language.
- 🥄 Vasoo Paranjape Former India cricketer and noted coach.
- 🔪 Ted Dexter Former England Cricketer.
- 🔪 O Chandrasekharan Former Indian footballer.
- 🥄 B V Nimbkar Noted Padma Shri Awardee Agriculture Scientist.

## 7. Diituaries (July 2021) -

- 🔪 Donald Rumsfeld -Former two-time US defense secretary.
- 🔪 M Prasannan Former Indian footballer.
- 🥄 Raj Kaushal Noted Bollywood director and producer.
- 🥄 Mir Hazar Khan Khoso Former Pakistani Caretaker Prime Minister.
- Noted Carnatic musician from Kerala. She was honored with many awadds Including Padma Shri and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards.
- Dilip Kumar Noted Actor. He was born in Pakistan, as Mohammed Yusuf Khan, better known by his stage name Dilip Kumar. He received several prestigious awards, including Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan and Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Pakistan).
- 🔪 Virbhadra Singh Former Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh.
- 🔪 Jovenel Moïse Incumbent President of Haiti, till his assassination.
- 🥄 Keshav Datt Two Time Olympic gold-winning Indian hockey Player.
- 🥄 Richard Donner Noted American filmmaker, most known for Superman (1978).

- 🥄 Yashpal Sharma Former Indian cricketer and a member of 1983 World Cup-winning squad.
- 🔪 P K Warrier Noted Ayurveda practitioner and receiver of Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri and Dhanvantari Award.
- Nanish Siddiqui Pulitzer-winning Indian photojournalist. He was killed while covering clashes between Afghan Special Forces and Taliban insurgents in Spin Buldak, Kandahar.
- Noted National Award Winning Bollywood actress.
- 🥄 Mamnoon Hussain Former Pakistan president.
- Noted American Female Tennis Player. She had won singles title at all four Grand Slam events, and was ranked world No. 1 in 1956.
- Sautam Benegal National Award Winning Filmmaker and Cartoonist. He won National Award for best animation film The Prince and the Crown of Stone in 2010.
- Noted folk singer.
- Name Oldest woman in India to take equivalency exams, passed away at age of 107-years. She decided to continue her education at age of 105.
- 🥄 Sikkil R Bhaskaran Noted Carnatic Classical Violinist from Tamil Nadu.
- 🥄 Gira Sarabhai Pioneer in Design Education and co-founder of National Institute of Design.
- 🔪 Urmil Kumar Thapliyal Noted theatre personality from Uttar Pradesh.
- Natish Kalsekar Marathi poet and essayist, and Sahitya Akademi Awardee.
- Nandu M. Natekar Noted Badminton Player. He won over 100 national and international titles.
- Nike Hendrick Former England Cricketer.
- 🥄 Jayanthi Noted actress, who acted in films in 5 languages Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi.

## 8. Diituaries (June 2021) -

- Anerood Jugnauth Former President and Prime Minister of Mauritius. He was conferred Second Highest Civilian Award Padma Vibhushan by Indiam Government in 2020.
- 🥄 Poul Schlueter Former Denmark prime minister.
- ▼ T.M. Kalliannan Gounder the last surviving former member of Indian Constituent Assembly. He was reportedly youngest member in Constituent Assembly then and also a member of India's first provisional parliament.
- 🥄 Lakshmi Nandan Bora Noted Assamese Litterateur and Padma Shri Awardee.
- 🥄 Prof Radhamohan Noted Economist, Environmentalist and Organic Agriculture Proponent.

- Ashok Panagariya Noted Indian Neurologist and Recepient of several notable awards including Padma Shri, Dr. B. C. Roy Award and UNESCO Award.
- 🥄 Siddalingaia Noted Kannada writer.
- 🥄 Dingko Singh Noted Indian boxer, who won gold medal at 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok, and was a Padma Shri Awardee.
- 🥄 Buddhadeb Dasgupta Noted Bengali poet and filmmaker.
- 🥄 Surat Mathur Indian long-distance runner. He competed in marathon at 1952 Summer Olympics.
- 🥄 Sanchari Vijay National Award-winning Kannada actor.
- Note: The Countries of the Countries of
- 🦠 Nirmal Milkha Kaur Former Indian volleyball Player and wife of sprint legend Milkha Singh (Flying Sikh).
- 🥄 Kenneth David Kaunda First president of Zambia, who was at forefront of struggle for independence from British rule.
- 🔪 Guruprasad Mohapatra Incumbent secretary in Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- Milkha Singh Noted Athlete, also known as The Flying Sikh. He is the only athlete to win gold at 400 metres at Asian Games as well as Commonwealth Games. He was awarded Padma Shri.
- 🥄 Markis Kido Noted Indonesian badminton player and Olympic gold medallist.
- NV Sampath Kumar Noted Journalist and editor for Sanskrit newspaper "Sudharma" from Mysuru. He was also a Padma Shri Awardee.
- 🦠 Sivan Noted Malayalam cinematographer and director, and National Film Awardee.

# 9. Diituaries (March 2021) -

- Vernon Jordan Jr. Noted American civil rights activist.
- 🥄 Anshuman Singh- former Governor of Rajasthan & Gujarat.
- 🥄 Ishar Singh Deol Dhyan Chand National Sports Award winning Noted Athlete.
- 🥄 NS Lakshminarayana Bhatta Noted Kannada poet and translator.
- 🔪 Dadi Hriday Mohini Noted Social Worker and Brahma Kumaris' chief.
- 🥄 Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair Noted Kathakali actor and Padma Shri Awardee.
- 🔪 Laxman Pai Noted Padma Bhushan awardee artist and Painter from Goa.
- Narvelous Marvin Hagler Noted American professional boxer and actor.
- 🦠 Shrikant Moghe Noted Marathi Actor.
- 🔪 Moudud Ahmed Former Bangladesh Prime Minister and Vice President.

- \ Lou Ottens Dutch inventor, known for his invention of audio cassette tapes. In 1963, he presented first cassette tape at Berlin Radio Show electronics fair.
- 🥄 Sagar Sarhadi Noted Indian writer and director.
- G.V. Ramakrishna Former SEBI Chairman. He was first chairman of SEBI, after it became a statutorily empowered markets regulator.
- Nawal Saadawi Noted Egyptian feminist and novelist, who has been a fierce advocate of women rights in Egypt and Arab world.
- 🥄 Adam Zagajewski Noted Polish poet.
- 🥄 Laxmipriya Mohapatra Noted Odissi dancer, and wife of Noted classical dancer Kelucharan Mohapatra.
- Noted American children's author.
- 🥄 KC Chakrabarty Former RBI Deputy Governor.
- 🥄 Anil Dharker Noted journalist and author.

## 10. Dituaries (May 2021) -

- 🦠 Bikramjeet Kanwarpal Hindi Film and television actor.
- 🥄 Pandit Debu Chaudhuri Noted Sitar maestro, and an awardee of Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri.
- 🥄 K V Anand Noted cinematographer and Tamil film director.
- Noted Farmers' leader and Former Union Minister. He was founder and chief of Rashtriya Lok Dal, and son of former PM Chaudhary Charan Singh.
- 🥄 Jagmohan Malhotra Former Lieutenant Governor of Delhi and Goa and Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Noted Indian sharpshooter from Bagpat (Uttar Pradesh), also known as Shooter Daadi. She won over 30 national championships.
- 🥄 Parul Debi Das Assam's first female IAS officer.
- N. Kalyanam Freedom fighter and M K Gandhi's personal secretary during last his few years.
- 🦠 Manas Bihari Verma Noted aeronautical scientist, who was instrumental in development of light combat aircraft Tejas.
- 🥄 Olympia Dukakis Noted American actress.
- 🥄 G.M. Khan Indian equestrian (Horse Rider) and Asian gold medalist (1982).
- 🔪 Shesh Narayan Singh Noted Journalist.
- 🔪 Abhilasha Patil Marathi and Hindi Actress.
- 🥄 Vanraj Bhatia Noted Music Composer and Padma Shri Awardee.
- 🥄 Raghunath Mohapatra Noted sculptor, former MP and Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan Awardee.

- 🔪 Ravinder Pal Singh Former National hockey player.
- 🥄 Gutta Muniratnam Noted social worker, founder of Rashtriya Seva Samithi and Padma Shri Awardee.
- Noted Assamese author and journalist. He won 1978 Sahitya Akademi Award in Assamese language for his novel *Pita Putra*.
- 🔪 Indu Jain Noted media executive (Times Group chairperson).
- 🔪 KR Gouri Amma first Revenue Minister of Kerala.
- 🥄 V. Chandrasekar Former Noted table tennis player and Arjuna Award winner.
- 🥄 Anup Bhattacharya Freedom fighter and Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra musician.
- 🔪 Fortunato Franco Former Indian footballer.
- 🥄 MK Kaushik Former Indian Hockey Player and coach.
- N S Narasimhan Noted mathematician and recipient of Padma Bhushan, Ordre national du Mérite (France), Fellowship of Royal Society, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize and only Indian to receive King Faisal International Prize in field of science.
- 🥄 Sunil Jain Noted financial journalist.
- 🔪 Jagannath Pahadia Former Governor of Haryana, Bihar and former CM of his home state Rajasthan.
- Naman Lal Gupta Former union minister of state of defence (2002 to 2004), hailing from Jammu and Kashmir.
- K K Aggarwal Noted cardiologist, and former President of Confederation of Medical Association of Asia and Oceania (CMAAO) and Indian Medical Association. He was also a Padma Shri Awardee.
- 🔪 Ki. Rajanarayanan -Noted Tamil writer.
- 🥄 Rajendrasinh Jadeja Former Indian cricketer and former BCCI referee.
- 🥄 R L Bhatia Former Governor of Kerala, Bihar.
- 🥄 Rewa Prasad Dwivedi Noted Sanskrit scholar, poet and writer.
- 🥄 Sunderlal Bahuguna Noted environmentalist and Chipko movement leader.
- 🦠 Srikumar Banerjee Noted Indian Atomic Scientist and Former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission of India.
- 🥄 Vijay Patil Noted Music Composer, better known as Raamlaxman.
  - Naamlaxman is *Laxman* of duo composers Raam-Laxman. "Raam" (his partner Surendra) passed away after signing film Agent Vinod (1977).
  - Narathi as well as Hindi films.
- 🥄 Om Prakash Bhardwaj Noted boxing coach and India's first Dronacharya awardee coach for boxing.

- Yuan Longping Noted Chinese scientist, also called *father of hybrid rice*. He developed a hybrid rice strain that vastly improved Rice output in China.
- Lee Evans Noted American sprinter. He won two gold medals in the 1968 Summer Olympics, setting world records in the 400 meters and the 4 × 400 meters relay, both of which stood for 20 and 24 years respectively.
- \ H S Doreswamy Noted Freedom fighter, known for his participation in the Quit India movement and Vinoba Bhave's Bhoodan movement.
- Alka Raghuvanshi Noted Author And Art Curator. She was India's first trained art curator, having trained at Goldsmiths College London.
- 🥄 Sakti Mazumdar Indian Boxer. He competed in men's flyweight event at 1952 Summer Olympics.
- 🦠 Babagouda Patil Former union minister. He was Minister of state for Rural Areas & Employment, under PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- 11. Persons Resigned / Retired (April 2021) -
  - RBI deputy governor B.P. Kanungo retired after completing his term. Other in-service RBI Deputy Governors T. Rabi Sankar, M. Rajeshwar Rao and M. D. Patra.
- 12. Persons Resigned / Retired (Mar 2021) -
  - NESINDA RESIGNED AS Principal Advisor in Prime Minister's Office (PMO).
- 13. TATA Group Founder **Jamsetji Tata** has been named biggest philanthropist globally in last century, who donated \$102 billion, as per Report by *Hurun* and *EdelGive Foundation*.
  - Nipro Founder Azim Premji is only other Indian among top 50 (at 12th position).
  - Nothers in Top 5 Bill & Melinda Gates (\$74.6 billion), Henry Wellcome (\$56.7 Billion), Howard Hughes (\$38.6 Billion), Warren Buffett (\$37.4 Billion)
- 14. Visits from India (April 2021) -
  - Nair Force Chief RKS Bhadauria Visited France.
  - Naravane Visited Bangladesh.
- 15. Visits from India (July 2021) -
  - Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh visited Dushanbe (Tajikistan), to attend annual meeting of Defence Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states (China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan).
  - 🥄 External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Visited European Nations Georgia, Greece and Italy.
    - 🔪 During his Visit, Greece become an official signatory to International Solar Alliance (ISA) that is led by India.
    - Ne Visited Italy to Partcipate in G20 Ministerial Meetings.

- Nair Force Chief RKS Bhadauria visited UAE.
- 🥄 External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Visited Central Asian Nations Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
  - 🦠 In Uzbekistan, he participated in *Central-South Asia conference* hosted in Tashkent.
- 🥄 Indian Army chief General MM Naravane visited UK and Italy.
  - Notably, He inaugurated Indian Army Memorial in Cassino (Italy). In Battle of Monte Cassino during World War II, over 5000 Indian soldiers laid down their lives while fighting to save Italy from fascist forces.
- 16. Visits from India (June 2021) -
  - 🥄 External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited Kuwait and Kenya.
    - \ India and Kuwait signed MoU to bring Indian domestic workers in Kuwait within ambit of a legal framework that streamlines their recruitment and provides them with legal protection.
    - 🥄 He inaugurated renovated M K Gandhi Library at Nairobi University (Kenya).
- 17. Visits from India (March 2021) -
  - 🥄 PM Narendra Modi Visited Bangladesh -
    - Ne attened twin celebrations of Bangladeshi Founding Father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary and golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence in 1971. He attended National Day programme of Bangladesh (March 26), as guest of honour.
    - 🥄 He also inaugurated Digital exhibition on Bapu and Bangabandhu, two exemplary personalities from South Asia.
    - 🦠 PM Narendra Modi and Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina virtually inaugurated -
      - Nitali Express passenger train between Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri (Wert Bengal).
      - Note: Construction of five transmission lines at a cost of \$442.11 million.
        - Notably, Indian companies Larsen and Toubro (L&T) and Transrail Lighting are among those awarded contracts for construction of power infrastructure related to Rooppur nuclear power project in Bangladesh.
        - 🔪 1200 MW Rooppur power plant is being constructed by Russia and Bangladesh, with help from India.
    - 🔪 India and Bangladesh signed 5 MoUs -
      - 🥄 Co-operatoion in Disaster Management, Resilience and Mitigation
      - NOU Between National Cadet Corps Organizations in India and Bangladesh.
      - 🦠 Suppy of ICT Equipment and Courseware for Bangladesh-Bharat Digital Service and Employment Training Centre.
      - 🦠 Establishment of Sports Facilities at Rajshahi College Field and Surroundign Areas (Bangladesh).
      - 🥄 Cooperation in Trade Remedial Measures.

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Visited Bahgladesh. He inaugurated new Cultural Centre of High Commission of India in Dhaka.
- 🔪 Air Force Chief RKS Bhadauria Visited Sri Lanka.
- 🦠 External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited Tajikistan, to attend Heart of Asia Conference.
- 18. Visits from India (May 2021) -
  - External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar Visited London (UK), to attend a meeting of foreign ministers of G7 countries, in which India was invited as a guest.
- 19. Visits to India (April 2021) -
  - 🥄 John Kerry, US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, visited India.
  - 🥄 Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov Visited India.
  - 🥄 Kazakhstan Defence Minister Nurlan Yermekbayev visited India.
  - 🥄 Foreign Minister of Bahrain, Abdullatif bin Rashid AlZayani visited India.
  - 🥄 French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian visited India -
    - To assist India in its First human spaceflight mission Called *Gaganyaan*, French space agency CNES signed agreement with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). ISRO will also be using French expertise in setting up its own space station.
- 20. Visits to India (August 2021) -
  - 🔪 Abdulla Shahid, President-elect of 76th session of the UN General Assembly and foreign minister of Maldives, Visited India.
  - Normer Australian PM Tony Abbott Visited India.
  - 🔪 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) president Alok Sharma Visited India.
    - November 2021, under presidency of United Kingdom.
    - Alok Sharma is India-Born British politician serving as President for COP26 and Minister of State at Cabinet Office.
- 21. Visits to India (July 2021) -
  - 🔪 US Secretary of State Antony Blinken Visited India. During his visit -
    - 🔪 US announced additional \$25 million aid to India, through USAID, to support India's COVID-19 vaccination prpgramme.
    - India and US renewed a global development partnership agreement to work together in African and Asian countries on key issues, for 5 years.
- 22. Visits to India (March 2021) -
  - 🥄 Mohammad Haneef Atmar, Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Visited India.

- 🔪 South Korean Defence Minister **Suh Wook** Visited India.
  - India's First Indo-Korean Friendship Park jointly inaugurated by Indian Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and Visiting South Korean Defence Minister Suh Wook, at Delhi Cantonment. It commemorates India's contributions as part of 21 countries which participated in Korean War of 1950-53.
- National Security Adviser of Nigeria Babagana Monguno visited India for First Strategic and Counter-Terrorism Dialogue between India and Nigeria.
- Nuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Sabah Visited India.
  - Notes India and Kuwait will establish a Joint Ministerial Commission, to formulate framework for strengthening ties in Various sectors.
- 🔪 US Secretary of Defence Lloyd J. Austin Visited India.
- 🥄 Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) President Duarte Pacheco visited India.

**Top** 

#### **Science**

- 1. Russian Space agency Roscosmos launched its first ever Arctic-monitoring satellite, to monitor Arctic's climate and environment, named **Arktika-M**.
  - Arktika-M satellite is one among series of planned Russian remote-sensing and emergency communications satellites. Constellation of 2 Arktika-M satellites has also been designed to monitor high-latitude areas of Earth.
- 2. A New new species of wetā a giant flightless cricket that is endemic to New Zealand, has been named Hemiandrus jacinda, in name of New Zealand's prime minister Jacinda Ardern.
- 3. American spacecraft launch service provider *United Launch Alliance* launched *SBRIS (Space-Based Infrared System) Geo-5* Missile Warning Satellite, onboard Atlas V rocket. It is designed for missile warning, missile battlespace and defence characterization.
- 4. Andhra Pradesh-born astronaut **Sirisha Bandla** became 2nd Indian-born woman astronaut to fly to space (Kalpana Chawla was first), to take care of researcher's experience on Unity22 mission, aboard 'VSS Unity' of Virgin Galactic, a company founded by British billionaire Richard Branson.
- 5. Bengaluru based Jawaharlal Nehru Centre For Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) has been placed in top 50 institutions worldwide for advances in materials science by *Nature Index*.
  - Nhe list places JNCASR at 23rd position globally in 50 Rising Institutions list. It includes 18 institutes from China and 12 from US.

- 🔪 JNCASR is only Indian institute on list.
- 6. China announced building first-of-its-kind *molten-salt nuclear reactor*, that will not require water for cooling. It will run on liquid thorium rather than uranium.
  - It will be expected to be safer than traditional reactors, as molten salt cools and solidifies quickly when exposed to air, insulating thorium.
  - Nence, any potential leak would spill much less radiation into the surrounding environment in comparison to leaks from traditional reactors.
- 7. China launched 8th group of 3 Yaogan-30 satellites into orbit, onboard a Long March 2C rocket.
  - Naogan are earth-observing and remote-sensing satellites, also including Jianbing sub-family reconnaissance satellites.
- 8. China officially begun construction of world's first commercial modular small reactor **Linglong One**, at Changjiang Nuclear Power Plant in Hainan Province.
  - Multipurpose small modular reactor (SMR) Linglong One (also called ACP100), was first such SMR which was approved by International Atomic Energy Agency in 2016.
  - NACP100 has generation capacity of 125000 kilowatt hours, extendable up to 1 billion kilowatt hours.
- 9. Chinese Mars Mission *Tianwen-1's* Lander successfully landed on surface of Mars, making China 2nd Country (After US), to land a rover on Mars.
  - $^{\ }$  The rover part has been named Zhurong, after a traditional fire god.
  - Tianwen-1 mission was 2nd of 3 Martian missions launched during July 2020, after UAE's Hope orbiter, and before NASA's Mars 2020 mission, which landed *Perseverance* rover with attached *Ingenuity* helicopter.
- 10. Chinese Researchers produced lightest version of a uranium atom ever. It has 122 neutron, compared with 146 neutrons found in most of naturally occurring uranium, known as uranium-238.
  - \ Isotopes of an element have same number of protons (92 in uranium's case), but differing numbers of neutrons. New Uranium isotope has lowest number of Neutons and Protons ever at 214, making it uranium-214.
- 11. Elon Musk led Space X won \$2.89 billion contract by NASA to build a spacecraft that would carry astronauts to the moon by 2024.
  - 🥄 Lander would be used as a part of NASA's Artemis Programme, which would safely land two astronauts on lunar surface.
  - Also, NASA will land first person of color (term used for non-whites) in addition to the first woman on the moon with Artemis program.
- 12. European Space Agency (ESA) announced new Venus Mission, named *EnVision*, to be launched in 2030. EnVision probe will determine how and why Venus and Earth evolved so differently, even while being in habitable zone to the Sun.

- 13. European Space Agency (ESA) reported breaking off of world's largest iceberg from Antarctica, Named *A-67*, which measures 4320 square kilometres (half the size of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands).
  - The finger-shaped iceberg broke off from the Ronne Ice shelf, a massive ice shelf that encompasses an area of more than 400,000 square kilometres located in the Weddell sea in Antarctica.
  - Another iceberg A-74, sized 1270 square kilometres which is smaller than one-third of A-76, broke off the Brunt Ice shelf in Antarctica.
- 14. European Space Agency (ESA)'s **Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE)** interplanetary spacecraft entered crucial testing phase.
  - \ It will study Jupiter's Galilean moons Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa. These are thought to have significant liquid water beneath their surfaces, making them potentially habitable environments.
  - 🥄 It is set for launch in June 2022 and will reach Jupiter in October 2029 after five gravity assists and 88 months of travel.
- 15. European Space Agency launched world's first commercial fully re-programmable satellite, named *Eutelsat Quantum*. It has been launched from French Guiana, on board an Ariane 5 rocket.
  - Eutelsat Quantum has been developed as world's first reprogrammable commercial satellite under an ESA Partnership Project with satellite operator Eutelsat and manufacturer Airbus.
  - Eutelsat Quantum, unlike convention satellite models that cannot be repurposed once in orbit, works on software-defined technology that offers flexible communications so that it can adapt to the demands of customers and markets in real-time.
- 16. Finnish Space Exploration Firm Arctic Astronautics will Launch world's first wooden satellite into space by end of 2021, named WISA Woodsat. This wooden satellite will help scientists monitor how does wood reacts in the cold, heat, radiation, and the vacuum of space.
- 17. First-of-its-kind research initiative called **Fund for Industrial Research Engagement (FIRE)** has been launched by Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), in collaboration with **Intel India.** 
  - 🔪 It will increase research opportunities in space of AI/ML, platform systems, circuits & architecture, Internet of Things (IoT) etc.
  - SERB-FIRE aims at bringing together industry and academia on a common platform to exchange ground-breaking ideas and copromote innovative research.
- 18. ▶ France launched its first military exercises in space, amid growing competition between world powers in Earth's orbit. The exercise codenamed *AsterX*, was organized by France's newly created Space Command.
  - 🔪 It commenorates Astérix or A-1, the first French satellite, which was launched in 1965.
- 19. IIT Bombay researchers come up with an innovative hydrogen manufacture route which increases its production three times and lowers energy required, which could pave path towards environment-friendly hydrogen fuel at a lower cost.

- \ Hydrogen can play critical role in shift towards green economy, as combustion of hydrogen to release energy produces water, making it non-polluting. However, higher costs and time taken to produce it has been main barrier in its large scale commercial production.
- New IIT Bombay research involves electrolysis of water in presence of an external magnetic field. In this, the same system that produces 1 ml of hydrogen gas required 19% lower energy to produce 3 ml of hydrogen in same time, by synergistically coupling electric and magnetic fields at catalytic site.
- 20. ISRO successfully demonstrated its free-space Quantum Communication for a distance of 300 metres for the first time in India. It was demonstrated at the Space Applications Centre (SAC) in Ahmedabad.
  - This space quantum communication includes use of indigenously developed NAVIC receiver for the time synchronisation in between the transmitter and receiver modules.
  - \square It included live video conferencing using quantum-key-encrypted signals, as a major milestone to achieve unconditionally secured satellite data communication using quantum technologies.
- 21. ISRO's second lunar mission Chandrayaan-2 detected presence of water molecules on moon, as per Data from Chandrayaan-2 payload *imaging infrared spectrometre (IIRS)*, which is placed in a 100 km polar orbit.
  - Noon.
- 22. India's Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) is leading *Polar-Areas Stellar-Imaging in Polarisation High- Accuracy Experiment (PASIPHAE)* international collaborative sky surveying project, to study polarisation in light coming from millions of stars.
  - Name is inspired from Pasiphae, the daughter of Greek Sun God Helios.
  - Nurvey will use two high-tech optical polarimeters to observe the northern and southern skies, simultaneously, with focus on capturing starlight polarisation of very faint stars.
  - No By combining data, astronomers will perform magnetic field tomography mapping of interstellar medium of very large areas of sky using WALOP (Wide Area Linear Optical Polarimeter).
- 23. Indian Oil Corporation will build India's first *green hydrogen* plant at its Mathura refinery, to prepare for growing demand for cleaner forms of energy.
- 24. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) completed development of a **Synthetic Aperture Radar** (SAR) capable of producing extremely high-resolution images for a joint earth observation satellite mission with U.S. space agency NASA.
  - 🔪 NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) is a joint collaboration for a dual-frequency L and S-band SAR for earth observation.

- NISAR is first satellite mission to use two different radar frequencies (L-band and S-band) to measure changes in Earth's surface less than a centimetre across. It is targeted to be launched in early 2022.
- 25. Indigenously developed optical spectrograph **Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Spectrograph & Camera (ADFOSC)**, developed by Nainital based Aryabhatta Research Institute of observational sciences (ARIES) has been commissioned.
  - Name The spectroscope has been commissioned on 3.6-m Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT), as largest reflecting telescope in Asia.
  - \tag{\text{\tin}\text{\t
- 26. JP Morgan successfully tested a blockchain transaction in space using Danish space firm GomSpace's satellites, as world's first bank-led tokenised value transfer in space, executed via smart contracts on a blockchain network, established between two GOMX-4 satellites.
  - This opens door to a potential peer-to-peer satellite marketplace in the long term, allowing data transfers between satellites against payment, as private companies prepare to launch their own constellations.
- 27. Japanese Supercomputer *Fugaku*, developed by scientific research institute RIKEN and Fujitsu, is ready for deployment.
  - 🥄 It is said to be world's most powerful supercomputer, named after an alternative name for Mount Fuji.
- 28. Marine research organization ProMare (US) in collaboration with IBM built world's first AI ship, Mayflower 400.
- 29. Misc. Science News / Events (August 2021) -
  - Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) lost earth observation satellite EOS-03 (Geo-Imaging Satellite (GISAT-1), due to a launch Failure, after GSLV-F10 rocket carrying it malfunctioned about five minutes after lift-off.
  - Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated world's second-largest refurbished National Gene Bank at National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, Pusa in New Delhi.
  - Needish green steel venture HYBRIT (Hydrogen Breakthrough Ironmaking Technology), began delivery of world's first steel that was manufactured without using coal, to its client Volvo.
  - IIT Madras developed India's first indigenous motorized wheelchair vehicle named 'NeoBolt', which can be used not only on roads but on uneven terrains also, with maximum speed 25 kmph.
  - Researchers from Indian Institute of Astrophysics discovered three supermassive black holes from three galaxies merging together to form a triple active galactic nucleus, a compact region at the center of a newly discovered galaxy that has a much-higher-than-normal luminosity.
    - 🥄 This indicates that small merging groups are ideal laboratories to detect multiple accreting supermassive black holes.
    - Supermassive black holes are difficult to detect because they do not emit any light. But they can reveal their presence by interacting with their surroundings.

#### 30. Misc. Science News (July 2021) -

- UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) confirmed a new record high temperature of 18.3 degrees Celsius in Antarctica, getting past earlier record of 17.5 degrees Celsius. Antarctica has registered rise of almost 3 degrees Celsius in average temparature, in last 50 years.
- \ Jacobabad city in Pakistan's Sindh province recorded world's highest temperature at 52°C. It is located on the Tropic of Cancer, which means that the sun is in close proximity during summers.
- Nyderabad-based *Grene Robotics* developed India's first indigenous drone defence dome called *Indrajaal*, with capability to protect an area of 1000-2000 sq km against aerial threats by assessing and acting threats such as UAVs and Low- Radar Cross Section (RCS) targets.
- A rare species of snake, *black-bellied coral snake* (*Sinomicrurus nigriventer*), has been discovered by Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in Benog Wildlife Sanctuary of Mussoorie. This is an extremely rarely-found and venomous snake.
- Notanists from Central University of Punjab discovered a new native plant species of moss from Eastern Antarctica, on rocks near Bharati station at Larsemann Hills. Botanists named it *Bryum Bharatiensis*.
- DBT-National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG) created world's first database of genomic variations in oral cancer, named dbGENVOC.
- Mizoram University researchers discovered a new snake species in a dried-up area of Tuinghaleng river bed, as a new species of Stoliczkia genus and third species of Stoliczkia from India. It has been named *Stoliczkia vanhnuailianai*, in honour of Vanhnuailiana, a famous Mizo warrior.
- Central University of Punjab Researchers discovered a new native species of moss from continental Antarctica, named *Bryum bharatiensis*, as a tribute to India's Antarctic station Bharati.
- \ June 19, 2021 marked 40 years of launch of India's First Communication Satellite *Ariane Passenger PayLoad Experiment (APPLE)*, as an experimental communication satellite launched by Ariane-1, from French Guiana.
- ISRO conducted 3rd long-duration hot test (240 seconds) of liquid propellant Vikas Engine for core L110 liquid stage of human-rated GSLV Mk III vehicle, at engine test facility of ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) at Mahendragiri (Tamil Nadu). It was done as part of engine qualification requirements for Gaganyaan Programme.
- Note: IIT Ropar Researcers developed a first-of-its-kind Oxygen Rationing Device AMLEX, aimed at increasing life of medical oxygen cylinders by 3 fold.
  - It supplies a required volume of oxygen to patient during inhalation and trips when patient exhales CO2, saving oxygen which otherwise unnecessarily gets wasted.

- NBDriver' to identify cancer-causing alterations in cells, to help identify most appropriate treatment strategy for a patient in an approach known as 'precision oncology'.
- Science and Engineering Research Board (DST-SERB) and GE's John F Welch Technology Centre (JFWTC) collaborated to promote synergy between academic institutes, labs and industries for research across energy, healthcare and aviation sectors.
- Argentine Museum of Natural Sciences stated that 150-million years old fossilized skeleton of species named *Burkesuchus mallingrandensis*, which was discovered in Southern Chile in 2014, has been determined to be ancestor of modern crocodile.
- Indian researchers from IISER Kolkata and IIT Kharagpur developed piezoelectric molecular crystals that repair themselves from mechanical damages without need for any external intervention.
  - Niezoelectric crystals are a class of materials that generate electricity when it undergoes a mechanical impact.
  - ₹ This may soon make it possible for damaged electronic components, such as in space crafts, to mend themselves.
- Note that IT Kanpur launched first technology innovation hub to find cyber security solutions for anti-drones technologies, intrusion detection system, block-chain and cyber physical system.
- World's largest star sapphire cluster has been found in Ratnapura (Sri Lanka), and has been named *Serendipity Sapphire*, valued approx 100 Million USD.
- Nasa's Hubble Space Telescope, researchers found first evidence of water vapour in atmosphere of Ganymede, Jupiter's largest moon.
- NASA Awarded Elon Musk led SpaceX a \$178 million Launch services contract for NASA's first mission focusing on Jupiter's icy moon Europa. The Europa Clipper mission is due for launch in October 2024 on a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket.

# 31. Misc. Science News (May 2021) -

- Scientists discovered smallest known black hole in Milky Way galaxy, which is closest to our solar system (approx 1500 light years from Earth), nicknaming it as *Unicorn*. It is considered three times mass of our sun.
- Researchers identified fossil bone fragments of long-necked dinosaurs, known as Sauropods, around West Khasi Hill Districts in Meghalaya, dating back to 100-million years.
- NASA and aerospace Firm *Axiom Space* partnered to send four people in a first private astronaut mission to International Space Station (ISS) by 2022, known as AX-1 mission.
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- IIT Ropar Researchers and Monash University (Australia) developed a detector named 'FakeBuster' to identify imposters attending virtual conferences.

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- 32. Misc. Science News / Events (April 2021) -
  - New novel bacterial strain discovered aboard International Space Station (ISS) has been named *Methylobacterium ajmalii*, in honour of renowned Indian biodiversity scientist Ajmal Khan.
  - Researchers discovered a new species of butterflies namely *sinhala ramaswamii sadasivan 2021*, as new taxon of Lycaenid butterfly belonging to Nacaduba genus. It is first time a butterfly species was discovered by an all-Indian research team from Western Ghats.
  - Leducation Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched NanoSniffer, world's first Microsensor based Explosive Trace Detector (ETD) developed by NanoSniff Technologies, an IIT Bombay incubated startup.
  - A New species of flowering plants belonging to genus `Argyreia', recently discovered in south Maharashtra's Kolhapur district, has been named after NCP chief Sharad Pawar, as *Argyreia sharadchandrajii*.
  - Scientists from Nainital based Aryabhatta Research Institute of observational sciencES (ARIES) discovered farthest gamma-ray emitting Narrow-Line Seyfert 1 (NSL1) galaxy known so far.
    - Researchers studied around 25000 Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN) from Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) and devised a method to find high-z NLS1 galaxies, that were unknown till now.
    - Vipon observation, researchers confirmed that they have found a genuine NLS1 galaxy at a high redshift of 1.34, which is about 31 billion light-years away from us.
    - Researchers confirmed that newly found farthest gamma-ray emitting NLS1 galaxy was formed when Universe was 4.7 billion years old, which is currently 13.8 billion years old.
  - 🔪 UAE named Noura al-Matroushi as its first female astronaut.
  - Toundation stone for an Integrated Solar Dryer and Pyrolysis pilot plant has been installed at CSIR- Central Leather Research
    Institute (CLRI) Chennai, to offer an innovative approach for smart cities to transform urban organic waste into biochar and energy.
    - Pilot is part of Indo-German project 'Pyrasol', which was awarded to CSIR-CLRI by Indo-German Science & Technology Centre.
- 33. Misc. Science News / Events (June 2021) -

  - Germany-based HeidelbergCement (world's second-largest cement maker), will turn its Swedish factory in Slite into world's first CO2-neutral cement plant by 2030, via carbon capture technology.

- IIT Ropar developed a device 'Jivan Vayu' which can be used as a substitute of CPAP machine. It is India's first such device which functions even without electricity and is adapted to both kinds of oxygen generation units O2 cylinders and oxygen pipelines in hospitals.
- China's Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) generated a plasma temperature of 126 million Fahrenheit (120 million C) for 101 seconds, also cranking up device to achieve 160 million Celcius for 20 seconds. The previous record for a maintained plasma temperature was 180 million F (100 million C) for 100 seconds.
- Researchers from Telomere-to-Telomere (T2T) consortium sequenced first truly complete human reference genome, which can possibly be largest improvement to human reference genome, since its initial release approx 20 years ago.
  - Celera Genomics and International Human Genome Sequencing, in 2001, published first drafts of human genome and revolutionized genomics.
- Name of Parali researchers discovered remains belonging to a *new type of early human* who was previously unknown, near city of Ramla.
- A newly discovered spider species from Thane-Kalyan region has been named *Icius Tukarami*, after Tukaram Omble, Mumbai Cop who laid down his life to help capture terrorist Ajmal Kasab during 26/11 terror attacks.
- 34. Misc. Science News /Events (March 2021) -
  - Note that includes Dinosaur fossils been found in Argentina belonging to oldest-known member of dinosaur group known as titanosaurs, that includes largest land animals in Earth's history.
  - Nussia and China signed agreement to develop a joint lunar space station.
  - 🔪 ISRO launched sounding rocket (RH-560) to study attitudinal variations in the neutral winds and plasma dynamics.
  - Indian and Japanese space agencies reviewed cooperation in earth observation, lunar cooperation and satellite navigation, which includes ongoing Joint *Lunar Polar exploration (LUPEX)* mission, which aims to send a lander and rover to Moon's south pole around 2024.
  - Nussian scientists launched one of world's biggest underwater space telescopes, named *Baikal-GVD*, to peer deep into universe from pristine waters of Lake Baikal. The deep underwater telescope is designed to observe neutrinos, the smallest particles currently known.
    - Naikal telescope will rival Ice Cube which is a giant neutrino observatory under Antarctic ice at US research station at South Pole.
  - National Institute of Technology (NIT) at Nagpur, Bhopal and Rourkela, to encourage students to explore their entrepreneurship skills in space domain.

- Notanists discovered new rattlepod species in Sadasivakona grove area of Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh, Named as Crotalaria lamelliformis.
- Nussia launched 38 foreign satellites onboard Soyuz-2.1a launch vehicle, as First fully commercial launch of Soyuz-2 launch vehicle.
- Astrome, a women-led IISC Incubated startup, developed an innovative wireless product that gives fibre like bandwidth at fraction of cost of fibre to help telecom operators deliver reliable low-cost internet services to suburban and rural areas.
- 35. ▶ NASA announced designing an Earth System Observatory, to provide key information related to climate change, fighting forest fires, and improving real-time agricultural processes.
  - Among its first integrated parts is NASA's partnership with ISRO, which brings together 2 different kinds of radar systems that can measure changes in Earth's surface less than a half-inch.
  - This capability will be utilized in one of observatory's first missions intended as a pathfinder, called NISAR (NASA-ISRO synthetic aperture radar). It will measure some of most complex processes such as ice-sheet collapse and natural hazards.
- 36. ► NASA announced its first mobile robot to moon in late 2023, Titled VIPER (Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover).
  - It will be tasked with prospecting for lunar resources in permanently shadowed areas in lunar south pole region, by mapping distribution and concentration of water ice.
  - \ It builds on a previous NASA rover concept called Resource Prospector, which was cancelled in 2018, to search for ice and other resources on and below lunar surface.
- 37. NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft began its 2-year mission back to Earth after collecting samples from asteroid Bennu, as NASA's first asteroid sample return mission. Bennu is 4.5 billion-year-old asteroid is around 320 million km from Earth.
- 38. NASA's new spacecraft NEA Scout (Near-Earth Asteroid Scout) has reportedly undergone all required tests and has been placed inside Space Launch System (SLS) rocket.
  - NEA Scout will be flying to space on Artemis I, which will be the first uncrewed test flight of SLS rocket and Orion spacecraft. Artemis I is scheduled to be launched in November 2021.
  - NEA Scout is size of a shoebox, that will be propelled by a solar sail measuring 925 sq ft. The camera fitted on the spacecraft will take pictures to help in determining the physical properties of a near-Earth asteroid.
- 39. NASA's **Perseverance** Rover successfully generated oxygen from thin atmosphere of Mars for first time ever.
  - Nars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment (MOXIE) instrument aboard NASA's Perseverance Rover, generated about 5 grams (equivalent to 10 minutes of breathable oxygen).
  - National States in the state of Nasa's Ingenuity helicopter on Mars.
  - 🔪 It is part of NASA's Mars 2020 mission, that includes rover Perseverance and small robotic helicopter Ingenuity.

- 40. NASA's Mars helicopter *Ingenuity* became first aircraft to take a flight on Mars, when it hovered in Mars air up to 10 feet, for around 39 seconds.
  - 🔪 It is part of NASA's Mars 2020 mission, that includes rover Perseverance and small robotic helicopter Ingenuity.
- 41. National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) announced 2 new scientific missions to Venus between 2028 and 2030, named DAVINCI+ (Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry, and Imaging) and VERITAS (Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography, and Spectroscopy).
  - DAVINCI+ will measure composition of dense Venusian atmosphere and will seek to improve understanding of how it evolved. It will also consist of a fly-by spacecraft and an atmospheric descent probe. It will return high-resolution images of unique geological characteristics on Venus called 'tesserae'.
  - VERITAS will map surface of Venus from orbit to help determine its geological history and why it was developed so differently from Earth.
- 42. Nepalese Sherpa **Kami Rita** scaled Mount Everest for record 25th time, breaking his own record for most ascents of Everest.
- 43. Russian Space Agency *Roscosmos* will launch *Luna 25* Moon Mission on 1 October, 2021, towards icy South pole of Moon.
  - 🔪 This comes After 45 years since Russia's landing on Moon, when Luna 24 Landed on moon in August 1976.
  - Noscomos also plans to Launch its Own Space Station in 2025.
- 44. Scientists from **Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research** designed an integrated catalytic system based on a metal-organic framework (MOF-808) comprising of a photosensitizer, that can harness solar power and a catalytic centre that can reduce CO<sub>2</sub>.
  - Nis can mimic nature's own process of reducing CO2 in atmosphere, namely photosynthesis.
  - This artificial photosynthesis (AP) harnesses solar energy and converts captured CO2 to carbon monoxide (CO), which can be used as a fuel for internal combustion engines.
- 45. VIN endorsed a multinational project called *Committee on Earth Observation Satellites Coastal Observations, Applications, Services, and Tools (CEOS COAST)*, co-led by ISRO (India) and NOAA (US).
  - $ilde{\hspace{0.1cm}}$  It aims to improve accuracy of coastal data on the basis of satellite and land-based observations.
- 46. World's first 3D-printed steel pedestrian bridge has been opened on the Oudezijds Achterburgwal canal in Amsterdam (The Netherlands).
  - The bridge has been created by Dutch company MX3D using a 3D printing technique called wire and arc additive manufacturing. The technique combines robotics with welding.
- 47. World's largest aeroplane, designed to transport hypersonic vehicles and facilitate easy access to space, completed Test Flight. It has been Built by Stratolaunch.

- Named 'Roc', It has twin-fuselage design and longest wingspan ever flown, at 385 feet (117 metres), surpassing the Hughes H-4 Hercules flying boat of 321 feet (98 m).
- 🥄 It can carry 550,000-pound payload, and can launch rockets from high altitude.

**Top** 

### **Sports**

- 1. Miami Open 2021 Tennis (US) -
  - Nen's Singles Hubert Hurkacz (Poland), Defeating Jannik Sinner (Italy)
  - 🔪 Women's Singles Ashleigh Barty (Australia), Bianca Andreescu (Canada)
  - 🔪 Men's Doubles Croatia's Nikola Mektić AND Mate Pavić
  - 🥄 Women's Doubles Japan's Shuko Aoyama AND Ena Shibahara
- 2. 2020 Asian Weightlifting Championships (Tashkent (Uzbekistan)) -
  - Nanking, with 1 Gold and 1 Bronze. China remained at top.
  - \ India ranked at 5th place in all medals Big (Total result) and Small (Snatch and Clean & Jerk), with 4 Gold and 1 Bronze. China remained at top.
  - 🥄 Jhilli Dalabehera won gold for India in Women's 45 kg Category.
- 3. 2021 Barcelona Open Men's Tennis -
  - 🥄 Singles Rafael Nadal (Spain). He defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece).
  - 🔪 Doubles Colombia's Juan Sebastián Cabal AND Robert Farah
- 4. 2021 French Open Tennis Title (Paris) -
  - 🥄 Men's Singles Novak Djokovic (Serbia). He defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece).
    - 🥄 This is 19th Grand Slam win for Novak Djokovic, and 2nd French Open.
  - 🔪 Women's Singles Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic). She defeated Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (Russia).
    - 🥄 This is Barbora Krejčíková's 1st Grand Slam win.
  - Nen's Doubles Pierre-Hugues Herbert (France) AND Nicolas Mahut (France)
  - 🔪 Women's Doubles Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic) AND Kateřina Siniaková (Czech Republic)
  - Nixed Doubles Desirae Krawczyk (US) AND Joe Salisbury (UK)
  - 🔪 Boys' Singles Luca Van Assche (France)

- 🔪 Girls' Singles Linda Nosková (Czech Republic)
- Nout -
  - 🔪 2021 was 125th edition of French Open.
  - Nother 3 Grand Slam Tournaments are Australian Open, US Open and Wimbeldon.
- 5. 2021 Italian Open Tennis -
  - Nen's Singles Rafael Nadal (Spain). He defeated Novak Djokovic (Serbia).
  - 🥄 Women's Singles Iga Świątek (Poland). She defeated Karolína Plíšková (Czech Republic)
  - Nen's Doubles Croatia's Nikola Mektić AND Mate Pavić
  - Nomen's Doubles Sharon Fichman (Canada) AND Giuliana Olmos (Mexico)
- 6. 2021 World Athletics U20 Championships (also known as World Junior Championships) held in Nairobi (Kenya).
  - Nedal Table -

| Rank | Nation   | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|----------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1    | Kenya    | 8    | 1      | 7      | 16    |
| 2    | Finland  | 4    | 1      | О      | 5     |
| 3    | Nigeria  | 4    | О      | 3      | 7     |
| 4    | Ethiopia | 3    | 7      | 2      | 12    |
| 5    | Jamaica  | 3    | 6      | 2      | 11    |

## 🔪 India Performance -

- Nanked 21st (Jointly with Greece) in Medal Table, with 3 Medals (2 Silver and 1 Bronze).
- Nanked 12th in Placing Table with 45 Points. Placing table was topped by Kenya.
- Nation Medalists -
  - Namit (Silver in Men's 10000 Metre Walk)
  - Naili Singh (Silver in Women's Long Jump)
  - Nazak Cherankulangara Rasheed)
- 7. 2021 World Junior Wrestling Championships (44th edition, held in Ufa (Russia)) -
  - Nedal Table -

| Rank | Nation               | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|----------------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1    | Russia               | 9    | 2      | 8      | 19    |
| 2    | <b>United States</b> | 7    | О      | 4      | 11    |
| 3    | Iran                 | 6    | 2      | 6      | 14    |
| 4    | Belarus              | 2    | 1      | 1      | 4     |
| 5    | Azerbaijan           | 1    | 4      | 6      | 11    |

## 🔪 India Performance -

- Note: India ranked 11th in medal table, with 11 Medals (4 Silver, 7 Bronze).
- Name of the Indian Silver Medalists -
  - Navinder Dahiya Men's freestyle 61 kg
  - Nanju Devi Women's freestyle 62 kg
  - Nateri Bhateri Women's freestyle 65 kg
  - Nipasha Women's freestyle 76 kg
- 8. 2021 AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships (Kielce, Poland) -
  - Nedal Table -

| Rank | Nation     | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1    | India      | 8    | О      | 3      | 11    |
| 2    | Russia     | 3    | 5      | 3      | 11    |
| 3    | Uzbekistan | 3    | 1      | 6      | 10    |
| 4    | Kazakhstan | 2    | 4      | 4      | 10    |
| 5    | Ukraine    | 1    | 3      | 2      | 6     |

- Number of the state of the stat
- 9. 2021 Asian Amateur Boxing Championships (DUBAI, UAE) -
  - Nedal Table -

| Rank | Nation | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|--------|------|--------|--------|-------|
|      |        |      |        |        |       |

| Rank | Nation     | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1    | Kazakhstan | 8    | 6      | 2      | 16    |
| 2    | Uzbekistan | 7    | 6      | 5      | 18    |
| 3    | Mongolia   | 3    | О      | 5      | 8     |
| 4    | India      | 2    | 5      | 8      | 15    |
| 5    | Iran       | 0    | 2      | 2      | 4     |

- Nindia's 2 Gold Medals -
  - 🥄 Sanjeet Kumar Men's Heavyweight (91 kg)
  - Nooja Rani Women's Middleweight (75 kg)
- 10. 2021 Belgrade Open Men' Tennis (Serbia) -
  - Novak Djokovic (Serbia). He Defeated Alex Molčan (Slovakia)
  - 🔪 Doubles Jonathan Erlich (Israel) AND Andrei Vasilevski (Belarus)
- 11. > 2021 Emilia-Romagna Open Tennis (Italy) -
  - Nen's Singles Sebastian Korda (US). He defeated Marco Cecchinato (Italy)
  - Women's Singles Coco Gauff (US). She defeated Wang Qiang (China)
  - Nen's Doubles Simone Bolelli (Italy) AND Máximo González (Argentina)
  - Nomen's Doubles Coco Gauff (US) AND Caty McNally (US)
- 12. 2021 Junior World Weightlifting Championships (Tashkent, Uzbekistan)-
  - Nedal Table -

| Rank | Nation     | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1    | Kazakhstan | 3    | 2      | 1      | 6     |
| 2    | Turkey     | 2    | 3      | 1      | 6     |
| 3    | Uzbekistan | 2    | 2      | 1      | 5     |
| 4    | Armenia    | 2    | 1      | 0      | 3     |
| 5    | Indonesia  | 2    | О      | О      | 2     |

🥄 India ranked 17th (Jointly with Belgium), by winning 1 Silver Medal (won by Achinta Sheuli (Men's 73 KG)).

- 13. 2021 Monte-Carlo Masters Men's Tennis Title (France) -
  - No Singles Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece) →
  - Noubles Croatia's Nikola Mektić AND Mate Pavić
- 14. 2021 Senior Asian Wrestling Championships held in Almaty (Kazakhstan) -
  - Note: India won 14 medals and stood 3rd in medal table, Including 5 Gold, 3 Silver & 6 Bronze.
    - **N** Gold Winners -
      - Navi Kumar Dahiya 57 kg Men's freestyle
      - Ninesh Phogat 53 kg Women's freestyle
      - Nalik 57 kg Women's freestyle
      - 🔪 Sarita Mor 59 kg Women's freestyle
      - 🔪 Divya Kakran 72 kg Women's freestyle
  - Nan and Kazakhstan topped medal tally with 17 medals each.
- 15. 2021 Swiss Open Badminton -
  - Nen's singles Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
  - 🔪 Women's singles Carolina Marín (Spain). She defeated **P. V. Sindhu** of India.
  - 🔪 Men's doubles Denmark's Kim Astrup AND Anders Skaarup Rasmussen
  - Nomen's doubles Malaysia's Pearly Tan Koong Le AND Thinaah Muralitharan
- 16. ▶ 2021 Yonex All England Badminton Championships (Birmingham) -
  - Nen's singles Lee Zii Jia (Malaysia). He defeated Viktor Axelsen (Denmark).
  - Nomen's singles Nozomi Okuhara (Japan). She defeated Pornpawee Chochuwong (Thailand).
  - 🥄 Men's doubles Japan's Hiroyuki Endo AND Yuta Watanabe
  - 🥄 Women's doubles Japan's Mayu Matsumoto AND Wakana Nagahara
  - Nixed doubles Japan's Yuta Watanabe AND Arisa Higashino
- 17. 2021 World Archery Youth Championships (17th edition), hosted in Wrocław (Poland) -
  - Nation, with 15 Medals.

| Rank | Nation | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|--------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1    | India  | 8    | 2      | 5      | 15    |
| 2    | France | 3    | 2      | 1      | 6     |

| Rank | Nation  | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|---------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 3    | Mexico  | 3    | 1      | 0      | 4     |
| 4    | Japan   | 2    | 1      | 0      | 3     |
| 5    | Estonia | 2    | О      | 1      | 3     |

- 18. **Brisbane** (Australia) won rights to host 2032 Olympics, during 138th Session of International Olympic Committee in Tokyo.
  - Australia has earlier hosted Olympics earlier in 2000 (Sydney) and Melbourne (1956).
  - Next (2024) Olympics will be hosted in Paris (France), Followed by 2028 Olympics in Los Angles (USA).
- 19. COPA America 2021 (47th Edition of South American Football Championship) -
  - Argentina won the title, defeating Brazil. It was 15th COPA America title win for Argentina.
  - Nop scorers were Lionel Messi (Argentina) and Luis Díaz (Colombia), with 4 goals each.
  - Nest player Lionel Messi (Argentina)
  - 🥄 Best goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez (Argentina)
- 20. Geneva Open Men's Tennis 2021 -
  - 🥄 Singles Casper Ruud (Norway). He defeated Denis Shapovalov (Canada)
  - Noubles John Peers (Australia) AND Michael Venus (New Zealand)
- 21. Italy won EURO 2020 (European Football Championship), Defeating England in Finals played in Wembley Stadium (London).
  - Note: 15 It is 2nd EURO Title for Italy, after their 1st in 1968.
  - 🥄 Italian goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma has been named Player of the Tournament.
  - Nop scorers were Patrik Schick (Czech Republic) and Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal), scoring 5 goals each.
- 22. Madrid Open Tennis 2021 (Spain) -
  - Nen's Singles Alexander Zverev (Germany). He defeated Matteo Berrettini (Italy)
  - 🥄 Women's Singles Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus). She defeated Ashleigh Barty (Australia)
  - 🥄 Men's Doubles Marcel Granollers (Spain) AND Horacio Zeballos (Argentina)
  - 🥄 Women's Doubles Czech Republic's Barbora Krejčíková AND Kateřina Siniaková
- 23. Tokyo (Japan) Summer Olympic Games 2020 (23 July to 8 August 2021, postponed from 2020 due to Covid-19 Pandemic) -
  - Nats -
    - Nature 1896. It was 32nd edition of Olympic Games, continuing since 1896.
    - Notto of Tokyo Olympics 2020 United by Emotion.

- Niraitowa is official mascot of 2020 Summer Olympics, and Someity is official mascot of 2020 Summer Paralympics (to be held in Tokyo in August September 2021).
- 🥄 11656 Athletes participated in 339 Events of 33 sports with 205 Nations participating.
- New Sports included in Olympics in Tokyo 2020 Edition Karate, Skateboarding, Sport climbing, Surfing. Also, Baseball and softball returned after being excluded for 2 Olympics.

## 🔪 India at 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games -

- India sent its largest ever delegation (126 athletes) at Tokyo Olympics, compared to 117 athletes in last (Rio) Olympics 2016. Mary Kom (Boxing) & Manpreet Singh (Hockey) were Indian flag bearer in Opening Ceremony and Wrestler Bajrang Punia was flag bearer in Closing Ceremony.
- India won Total **7 Medals** at 2020 Summer Olympics, as India's Best Olympic Tally Ever, with **1 Gold, 2 Silver, 4 Bronze**. India's earlier best was 2012 London Olympics (6 Medals).
- 🥄 India ranked **48th** in Medal Tally.
- 🔪 Indian Medalists -
  - **№** Gold -
    - Neeraj Chopra (Men's javelin throw). He is First Indian to win an Athletics Olympic Gold Medal. He won gold with throw of 87.58 Metres in Final. He also achieved number 2 rank in World Athletics ranking, after securing Gold Medal at Tokyo Olympics, now ranked only behind German athlete Johannes Vetter.
  - 🔪 Silver -
    - 🥄 **Saikhom Mirabai Chanu** (Weightlifting Women's 49 kg)
    - Navi Kumar Dahiya (Wrestling Men's freestyle 57)
  - Name -
    - **P. V. Sindhu** (Badminton Women's singles)
      - It is 2nd consecutive Olympic medal for PV Sindhu, after Silver in 2016 Rio Olympics. She defeated He Bingjiao (China) to win bronze at 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
    - 🔪 Lovlina Borgohain (Boxing Women's welterweight)
    - 🔪 India men's hockey team.
      - India defeated Germany 5-4 to win bronze. This is First Hockey Olympics medal for India in 41 years (Gold in 1980 Olympics).
    - Najrang Punia (Wrestling Men's freestyle 65 kg)

- 🔪 Other Notable Indian Performers -
  - Indian women's hockey team reached semi-finals at Olympics for first time ever. They suffered loss in bronze medal match against Britain.
  - \ Indian golfer Aditi Ashok narrowly missed out on becoming first Indian golfer to win an Olympic medal, after She stood 4th.
- Nother India related Facts -
  - \ Indian Olympic Association named B K Sinha to perform dual role of Security as well as Press Attache of Indian contingent at Tokyo Games.
  - Noted composer A.R. Rahman composed official song of Indian contingent for the Tokyo Olympics, titled *Cheer4India: Hindustani Way*, sung by Ananya Birla.
  - 🔪 Deepak Kabra became first Indian to be selected for judging gymnastics competition of Olympic Games.
  - Joint-Secretary General of National Rifle Association of India, Pawan Singh, became first Indian juror for shooting, at Tokyo Olympics 2020.
  - Athletics Federation of India named 7th August to be observed annually as javelin throw day, in honour of Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra.
- Nedal Tally (Top 10 Nations) -

| Rank | Team                 | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|----------------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1    | USA                  | 39   | 41     | 33     | 113   |
| 2    | China                | 38   | 32     | 18     | 88    |
| 3    | Japan                | 27   | 14     | 17     | 58    |
| 4    | <b>Great Britain</b> | 22   | 21     | 22     | 65    |
| 5    | ROC *                | 20   | 28     | 23     | 71    |
| 6    | Australia            | 17   | 7      | 22     | 46    |
| 7    | Netherlands          | 10   | 12     | 14     | 36    |
| 8    | France               | 10   | 12     | 11     | 33    |

| Rank | Team    | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|---------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 9    | Germany | 10   | 11     | 16     | 37    |
| 10   | Italy   | 10   | 10     | 20     | 40    |

\* For 2nd consecutive Olympic Games, Russia competed under a different name, known as ROC (Russian Olympics Committee) in 2020 Summer Olympics. Earlier in 2018 Winter Olympics, Russian atheletes competed under name Olympic Athletes from Russia (OAR).

### Notable Facts / New Records at Tokyo Summer Olympics -

- Nobel Peace Prize winner **Muhammad Yunus** received **Olympic Laurel** at Tokyo Olympic Games 2020, the second time the trophy has been awarded. Yunus founded the *Grameen Bank* in 1983 and was awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.
- $ilde{lack}$  Gold winners in Sports included for the first time in Olympics, during 2020 Games -
  - 🥄 Skateboarding Japan's Yuto Horigome.
  - 🥄 Karate (Okinawa) Japan's Ryo Kiyuna.
  - 🥄 Sport Climing Spain's Alberto Ginés López.
  - 🥄 Surfing Brazil's Italo Ferreira.

## 🔪 Winners in Notable Events at Tokyo Olympics 2020 -

- Nield Hockey -
  - Nale Gold Belgium, Silver Australia, Bronze India
  - 🥄 Female Gold Netherlands, Silver Argentina, Bronze Great Britain
- New York Football -
  - Nale Gold Brazil, Silver Spain, Bronze Mexico
  - 🥄 Female Gold Canada, Silver Sweden, Bronze US
- Nandball
  - 🔪 Male Gold France, Silver Denmark, Bronze Spain
  - 🥄 Female Gold France, Silver ROC, Bronze Norway
- 🔪 Basketball
  - Nale Gold USA, Silver France, Bronze Australia
  - 🔪 Female Gold USA, Silver Japan, Bronze France

- Nadminton 🆠
  - Nale Singles Gold Viktor Axelsen (Denmark), Silver Chen Long (China), Bronze Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Indonesia)
  - Female Singles Gold Chen Yufei (China), Silver Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei), Bronze P V Sindhu (India)
- **N** Tennis
  - Nale Singles Gold Alexander Zverev (Germany), Silver Karen Khachanov (ROC), Bronze Pablo Carreño Busta (Spain)
  - Female Singles Gold Belinda Bencic (Switzerland), Silver Markéta Vondroušová (Czech Republic), Bronze Elina Svitolina (Ukraine)
- 🦠 Rugby Sevens
  - Nale Gold Fiji, Silver New zealand, Bronze Argentina
  - 🥄 Female Gold New zealand, Silver France, Bronze Fiji
- Nable Tennis
  - Nale Singles Gold Ma Long (China), Silver Fan Zhendong (China), Bronze Dimitrij Ovtcharov (Germany)
  - 🥄 Female Singles Gold Chen Meng (China), Silver Sun Yingsha (China), Bronze Mima Ito (Japan)
- 🔪 Volleyball
  - Nale Gold France, Silver ROC, Bronze Argentina
  - 🦠 Female Gold USA, Silver Brazil, Bronze Serbia
- Athletics -
  - Nen's
    - 🔪 100 metres Marcell Jacobs (Italy)
    - 🔪 200 metres Andre De Grasse (Canada)
    - Nigh jump Gianmarco Tamberi (Italy) AND Mutaz Essa Barshim (Qatar) tied for Gold with 2.37 m Jump.
    - 🔪 Long jump Miltiadis Tentoglou (Greece)
    - 🥄 Pole vault Armand Duplantis (Sweden)
    - 🔪 Shot put Ryan Crouser (US)
    - 🔪 Discus throw Daniel Ståhl (Sweden)
    - Nammer throw Wojciech Nowicki (Poland)
    - Vavelin throw Neeraj Chopra (India)

- **♦** Women's
  - 🔪 100 metres Elaine Thompson-Herah (Jamaica)
  - 🥄 200 metres Elaine Thompson-Herah (Jamaica)
  - Nigh jump Mariya Lasitskene (ROC)
  - 🔪 Long jump Malaika Mihambo (Germany)
  - Nole vault Katie Nageotte (US)
  - Nhot put Gong Lijiao (China)
  - Note: The state of the control of th
  - 🔪 Hammer throw Anita Włodarczyk (Polando
  - 🔪 Javelin throw Liu Shiying (China)
- 24. Wimbeldon 2021 Tennis Championships (London) -
  - 🦠 Men's Singles Novak Djokovic (Serbia). He defeated Matteo Berrettini (Italy).
    - This is Novak's record-equalling 20th Grand Slam win and 6th Wimbledon Title. He now equals Roger Federer (Switzerland) and Rafael Nadal (Spain), in terms of most Grand Slam Titles.
  - 🥄 Women's Singles Ashleigh Barty (Australia). She defeated Karolína Plíšková (Czech Republic).
    - 🔪 It is Ashleigh Barty's 1st Wimbledon and 2nd Grand Slam Title.
  - Nen's Doubles Croatia's Nikola Mektić AND Mate Pavić
  - Nomen's Doubles Hsieh Su-wei (Chinese Taipei) AND Elise Mertens (Belgium)
  - Nixed Doubles Neal Skupski (UK) AND Desirae Krawczyk (US)
  - Novs' Singles Samir Banerjee (Indian American)
  - Night of the Control of the Control
- 25. Alpine's French F1 Racer Esteban Ocon won Hungarian Grand Prix 2021 -
  - 🔪 F1 Season 2021 -

| Grand Prix                | Winner                         | Race date |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Bahrain Grand Prix        | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 28 March  |
| Emilia Romagna Grand Prix | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 18 April  |
| Portuguese Grand Prix     | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 2 May     |
| Spanish Grand Prix        | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 9 May     |
| Monaco Grand Prix         | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 23 May    |

| Grand Prix               | Winner                         | Race date    |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Azerbaijan Grand Prix    | Sergio Pérez (Mexico)          | 6 June       |
| French Grand Prix        | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 20 June      |
| Styrian Grand Prix       | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 27 June      |
| Austrian Grand Prix      | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 4 July       |
| British Grand Prix       | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 18 July      |
| Hungarian Grand Prix     | Esteban Ocon (France)          | 1 August     |
| Belgian Grand Prix       |                                | 29 August    |
| Dutch Grand Prix         |                                | 5 September  |
| Italian Grand Prix       |                                | 12 September |
| Russian Grand Prix       |                                | 26 September |
| Japanese Grand Prix      |                                | 10 October   |
| United States Grand Prix |                                | 24 October   |
| Mexico City Grand Prix   |                                | 31 October   |
| São Paulo Grand Prix     |                                | 7 November   |
| Australian Grand Prix    |                                | 21 November  |
| Saudi Arabian Grand Prix |                                | 5 December   |
| Abu Dhabi Grand Prix     |                                | 12 December  |

- 26. American Basketball League *National Basketball Association (NBA)* announced creation of a new award **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar**Social Justice Champion Award, to recognise players who are making strides in fight for social justice. Winner will receive \$100000 for charity of his choice.
  - Also, American professional basketball player Kobe Bryant has been posthumously inducted into Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, as a part of Class of 2020.
- 27. Archery World Cup 2021 (Leg 1 Guatemala) -
  - Nindia won 3 Gold Medals -
    - Atanu Das (Men's individual)
    - 🥄 Deepika Kumari (Women's individual)
    - 🥄 Komalika Bari, Ankita Bhakat, Deepika Kumari (Women's Team)
  - Nalso, India won 1 Bronze in Mixed Team event (Ankita Bhakat, Atanu Das).
- 28. Archery World Cup 2021 (Leg 3 Paris (France)) -
  - Nedal Tally -

| Rank | Nation               | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|----------------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1    | India                | 7    | О      | 1      | 8     |
| 2    | <b>United States</b> | 5    | 5      | 5      | 15    |
| 3    | Netherlands          | 3    | 3      | 3      | 9     |
| 4    | Colombia             | 3    | 3      | 1      | 7     |
| 5    | Denmark              | 3    | 2      | 0      | 5     |

- 🔪 India won 4 Gold Medals -
  - 🔪 Deepika Kumari Gold in Women's Individual. With this, She completed her hat-trick of Gold at Archery World Cup.
  - 🥄 Komalika Bari, Ankita Bhakat, Deepika Kumari Gold in Women's Team
  - 🔪 Deepika Kumari Atanu Das Gold in Mixed Team
  - 🔪 Abhishek Verma Gold in Men's Individual
- Nation -
  - 🔪 In Leg 2 in Lausanne (Switzerland), India Did not win any Medal.
  - 🥄 In Leg 1 in Guatemala City, India won 3 Gold Medals and 1 Bronze.
- 29. Barcelona FC (Spain) won UEFA Women's Champions League for the first time, defeating Chelsa FC (UK).
- 30. English Football Club Chelsea defeated Manchester City to win 2020-21 UEFA Champions League title.
- 31. English player Mark Selby won World Snooker Championship for fourth time, defeating Shaun Murphy in Sheffield (England)
- 32. FIFA suspended Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) and Chadian Football Association (FTFA), amid claims of mis-administration.
- 33. Forbes' Highest Paid Athletes 2021 -

# 🔪 Top 5 -

| Rank | Name                         | Sports     | Earning         |
|------|------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1    | Conor McGregor (Ireland)     | MMA        | \$180 million   |
| 2    | Lionel Messi (Argentina)     | Soccer     | \$130 million   |
| 3    | Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) | Soccer     | \$120 million   |
| 4    | Dak Prescott (United States) | Football   | \$107.5 million |
| 5    | Lebron James (United States) | Basketball | \$96.5 million  |

🔪 Women -

- 🔪 Japanese Tennis Player Naomi Osaka is highest Paid Female Athlete for 2nd consecutive year, with 60 Million USD earnings. She is ranked 12th in overall list. 34. ICC (International Cricket Council) announced Format Changes for upcoming global events -Nen's ODI World Cup in 2027 and 2031 will be a 14-team event. Nen's T20 World Cup will now be expanded to include 20 teams from 2024 onwards. 35. ICC confirmed Men's T20 World Cup 2021 to be hosted by UAE and Oman, shifted away from India due to COVID-19 situation. Nackground -Noriginally, It was to be held in Australia in 2020, but was postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic.
  - - Note: 102 ICC later confirmed India would host the 2020 tournament (shifted to 2021), with Australia named as host for 2022. tournament.
    - 🥄 Now, UAE and Oman have been named as hosts of 2021 Edition, due to Covid Situation in India.
- 36. ICC inducted 10 new cricketers into ICC Hall of Fame, including 4 special inductees.
  - Ninoo Mankad (India) He was first Indian to score 1000 test runs and take 100 test wickets.
  - Nubrey Faulkner (South Africa)
  - National Learie Constantine (West Indies)
  - Name of the Ted Dexter (England)
  - 🔪 Desmond Haynes (West Indies)
  - 🔪 Andy Flower (Zimbabwe)
  - Necial Inductees -
    - 🔪 Monty Noble (Australia)
    - 🦠 Stan McCabe (Australia)
    - Nob Willis (England)
    - 🔪 Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka)
- 37. ISSF World Cup 2021 (New Delhi) -
  - 🔪 Indian Gold Medalists -
    - 🥄 50 metre rifle three positions Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar
    - 🔪 25 Metre Pistol Chinki Yadav
    - 🔪 10 Metre Air Pistol Yashaswini Singh Deswal
  - 🔪 Medal Table (As of Now) -

| Rank | Nation               | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|----------------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1    | India                | 15   | 9      | 7      | 31    |
| 2    | USA                  | 6    | 6      | 3      | 15    |
| 3    | Russia               | 5    | 5      | 1      | 11    |
| 4    | Italy                | 4    | 2      | 3      | 9     |
| 5    | Spain                | 2    | 2      | 4      | 8     |
| 6    | Slovakia             | 2    | 2      | 2      | 6     |
| 7    | Denmark              | 2    | 2      | 1      | 5     |
| 8    | <b>Great Britain</b> | 2    | 1      | О      | 3     |
| 9    | Croatia              | 2    | О      | 1      | 3     |
| 10   | Poland               | 1    | 4      | 3      | 8     |

## 38. ISSF World Cup 2021 (Osijek (Croatia)) -

- India won 1 Gold (Rahi Sarnobat (25 Metre Women's Pistol)), 1 Silver (Manu Bhaker/Saurabh Chaudhary (Mized Team 10 Metre Air Pistol)) and 1 Bronze (Saurabh Chaudhary (10 metre air Men's pistol)).
- 🔪 Earlier in New Delhi, India had won 31 Medals (15 Gold, 9 Silver, 7 Bronze).
- Name of Medal Tally -

| Rank | Nation               | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|----------------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1    | India                | 16   | 10     | 8      | 34    |
| 2    | <b>United States</b> | 7    | 6      | 3      | 16    |
| 3    | Russia               | 6    | 7      | 1      | 14    |
| 4    | Italy                | 6    | 2      | 3      | 11    |
| 5    | Spain                | 2    | 2      | 4      | 8     |

- 39. India won 13 medals at World Cadet Championship 2021 in Budapest (Hungary), including 5 Gold, 1 Silver and 7 Bronze. Gold Winners -
  - New Priya Malik Women's 73 kg
  - Nannu Women's 43 kg

- 🥄 Komal Panchal Women's 46 kg
- Naman Gulia Men's 48 kg
- 🥄 Sagar Jaglan Men's 80 kg
- 40. India's 2nd largest Cricket stadium will be Built in Jaipur (Rajasthan), with 75000 capacity and cost 290 Crores. For this purpose, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has given grant of 100 crores to Rajasthan Cricket Association.
- 41. India's Varun Kapur and Malvika Bansod won men's and women's singles titles at 2021 Uganda International Badminton tournament.
- 42. International Cricket Council (ICC) inducted Mongolia, Switzerland, and Tajikistan as its new member countries, at ICC's 78th AGM.

  There are now 106 ICC member countries, including 94 associates.
- 43. ▶ International Olympic Committee (IOC) proposed Brisbane (Australia) as host of 2032 Summer Olympics.
  - Note that 2024 Olympics will be held in Paris (France) and 2028 Olympics will be hosted in Los Angles (US).
- 44. Jamaican sprinter Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce became second-fastest woman, after she completed 100 meters in 10.63 seconds at JOA/JAAA's Destiny Olympic meet in Kingston. She got fastest time in 33 years and fourth-best in history.
  - Note: The content of the content of the content of 10.49, 10.61, and 10.62 seconds made in 1988 in Indianapolis.
- 45. Mercedes' British F1 Racer Lewis Hamilton won Spanish Grand Prix 2021 -
  - This is Fifth Consecutive Spanish GP Win for Lewis Hamilton.
  - **F**1 Season 2021 -

| Grand Prix                | Winner                         | Race date    |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Bahrain Grand Prix        | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 28 March     |
| Emilia Romagna Grand Prix | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 18 April     |
| Portuguese Grand Prix     | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 2 May        |
| Spanish Grand Prix        | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 9 May        |
| Monaco Grand Prix         |                                | 23 May       |
| Azerbaijan Grand Prix     |                                | 6 June       |
| French Grand Prix         |                                | 20 June      |
| Styrian Grand Prix        |                                | 27 June      |
| Austrian Grand Prix       |                                | 4 July       |
| British Grand Prix        |                                | 18 July      |
| Hungarian Grand Prix      |                                | 1 August     |
| Belgian Grand Prix        |                                | 29 August    |
| Dutch Grand Prix          |                                | 5 September  |
| Italian Grand Prix        |                                | 12 September |

| Grand Prix               | Winner | Race date    |
|--------------------------|--------|--------------|
| Russian Grand Prix       |        | 26 September |
| Japanese Grand Prix      |        | 10 October   |
| United States Grand Prix |        | 24 October   |
| Mexico City Grand Prix   |        | 31 October   |
| São Paulo Grand Prix     |        | 7 November   |
| Australian Grand Prix    |        | 21 November  |
| Saudi Arabian Grand Prix |        | 5 December   |
| Abu Dhabi Grand Prix     |        | 12 December  |

46. ▶ Mercedes' British F1 Racer Lewis Hamilton won Portugese Grand Prix -



| Grand Prix                | Winner                         | Race date    |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Bahrain Grand Prix        | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 28 March     |
| Emilia Romagna Grand Prix | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 18 April     |
| Portuguese Grand Prix     | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 2 May        |
| Spanish Grand Prix        |                                | 9 May        |
| Monaco Grand Prix         |                                | 23 May       |
| Azerbaijan Grand Prix     |                                | 6 June       |
| French Grand Prix         |                                | 20 June      |
| Styrian Grand Prix        |                                | 27 June      |
| Austrian Grand Prix       |                                | 4 July       |
| British Grand Prix        |                                | 18 July      |
| Hungarian Grand Prix      |                                | 1 August     |
| Belgian Grand Prix        |                                | 29 August    |
| Dutch Grand Prix          |                                | 5 September  |
| Italian Grand Prix        |                                | 12 September |
| Russian Grand Prix        |                                | 26 September |
| Japanese Grand Prix       |                                | 10 October   |
| United States Grand Prix  |                                | 24 October   |
| Mexico City Grand Prix    |                                | 31 October   |
| São Paulo Grand Prix      |                                | 7 November   |
| Australian Grand Prix     |                                | 21 November  |
| Saudi Arabian Grand Prix  |                                | 5 December   |

| Grand Prix           | Winner | Race date   |
|----------------------|--------|-------------|
| Abu Dhabi Grand Prix |        | 12 December |

47. Mercedes' British F1 Racer Lewis Hamilton won Season Opening Bahrain Grand Prix.

**№** F1 Season 2021 -

| Grand Prix                | Winner              | Race date    |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Bahrain Grand Prix        | Lewis Hamilton (UK) | 28 March     |
| Emilia Romagna Grand Prix |                     | 18 April     |
| Portuguese Grand Prix     |                     | 2 May        |
| Spanish Grand Prix        |                     | 9 May        |
| Monaco Grand Prix         |                     | 23 May       |
| Azerbaijan Grand Prix     |                     | 6 June       |
| French Grand Prix         |                     | 20 June      |
| Styrian Grand Prix        |                     | 27 June      |
| Austrian Grand Prix       |                     | 4 July       |
| British Grand Prix        |                     | 18 July      |
| Hungarian Grand Prix      |                     | 1 August     |
| Belgian Grand Prix        |                     | 29 August    |
| Dutch Grand Prix          |                     | 5 September  |
| Italian Grand Prix        |                     | 12 September |
| Russian Grand Prix        |                     | 26 September |
| Japanese Grand Prix       |                     | 10 October   |
| United States Grand Prix  |                     | 24 October   |
| Mexico City Grand Prix    |                     | 31 October   |
| São Paulo Grand Prix      |                     | 7 November   |
| Australian Grand Prix     |                     | 21 November  |
| Saudi Arabian Grand Prix  |                     | 5 December   |
| Abu Dhabi Grand Prix      |                     | 12 December  |

48. Mercedes' British F1 Racer **Lewis Hamilton** won British Grand Prix 2021 -

**№** F1 Season 2021 -

| Grand Prix                | Winner                         | Race date |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Bahrain Grand Prix        | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 28 March  |
| Emilia Romagna Grand Prix | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 18 April  |

| Grand Prix               | Winner                         | Race date    |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Portuguese Grand Prix    | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 2 May        |
| Spanish Grand Prix       | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 9 May        |
| Monaco Grand Prix        | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 23 May       |
| Azerbaijan Grand Prix    | Sergio Pérez (Mexico)          | 6 June       |
| French Grand Prix        | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 20 June      |
| Styrian Grand Prix       | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 27 June      |
| Austrian Grand Prix      | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 4 July       |
| British Grand Prix       | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 18 July      |
| Hungarian Grand Prix     |                                | 1 August     |
| Belgian Grand Prix       |                                | 29 August    |
| Dutch Grand Prix         |                                | 5 September  |
| Italian Grand Prix       |                                | 12 September |
| Russian Grand Prix       |                                | 26 September |
| Japanese Grand Prix      |                                | 10 October   |
| United States Grand Prix |                                | 24 October   |
| Mexico City Grand Prix   |                                | 31 October   |
| São Paulo Grand Prix     |                                | 7 November   |
| Australian Grand Prix    |                                | 21 November  |
| Saudi Arabian Grand Prix |                                | 5 December   |
| Abu Dhabi Grand Prix     |                                | 12 December  |

- 49. Ministry of Youth affairs & Sports granted recognition to *WAKO India Kickboxing Federation* as National Sports Federation (NSF), for promotion and development of **Kickboxing** sport in India.
- 50. Misc. Sports News (April 2021) -
  - 🔪 India won Road Safety world T20 Cricket series, by beating Sri Lanka. It was hosted in Raipur (Chhattisgarh).
  - 🥄 India's Aniyan Midhun won gold at South Asian Wushu Championships in Nepal, in 70-kg category.
  - 🔪 AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships 2023 will be held in Tashkent (Uzbekistan Capital).
  - Norts Minister Kiren Rijiju inaugurated Khelo India State Centre of Excellence for Rowing discipline at J & K Sports Council Water Sports Academy in Srinagar.
  - 4 Indian sailors qualified for upcoming Tokyo Olympics 2021, Including pair of Ganapathy Chengappa, Varun Thakkar, and Vishnu Saravanan. Earlier, Nethra Kumanan became first Indian woman sailor for qualifying for Olympics.
  - Indian WWE Wrestler *Great Khali* has been inducted into WWE Hall of Fame Class of 2021.

- 🥄 18 year old Sonam Malik became India's youngest woman wrestler to qualify for Tokyo Olympic Games.
- Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu created world record in Clean and Jerk Category, after she lifted 119 kg at Asian Weightlifting Championships in Tashkent.
- Normer Zimbabwe Cricketer Heath Streak And Sri lanka's Dilhara Lokuhettige have been banned by ICC for 8 years from cricket, amid charges of corrupt approaches.
- Nater Sports and Adventure Institute (WSAI), established by Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) at Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand, has been inaugurated.
- 🥄 Tamil Nadu's Arjun Kalyan became India's 68th Chess Grandmaster. Viswanathan Anand became India's first Grandmaster, in 1988.
- 🥄 2021 Khelo India Youth Games will be held in Nov Dec 2021, on venues in Haryana and Delhi.

### 51. Misc. Sports News / Events (August 2021) -

- 🥄 Sri Lankan Cricketer Isuru Udana announced retirement from international cricket.
- Nepal Cricketer Paras Khadka announced retirement from international cricket.
- \ Indian women's hockey team chief coach Sjoerd Marijne (Netherlands) stepped down from his post, after India's bronze medal win against Great Britain at Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- 🔪 Wrestler Labhanshu Sharma from Uttarakhand won Bharat Kesari Wrestling Dangal 2021, organised in Tamil Nadu.
  - Name Thank No. 1 Bharat Kesri Dangal is freestyle wrestling competition organised by Haryana Govt, to commemorate martyrdom of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev.
- England's James Anderson Became 3rd highest wicket-taker in Test cricket, overtaking India's Anil Kumble's tally of 619 Test wickets.
- 🔪 Poland's Jan-Krzysztof Duda won FIDE World Cup 2021 Chess Title.
- Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat has been temporarily banned by Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on disciplininary grounds, during her Tokyo Olympics campaign.
- 🥄 World Cup-winning U19 India captain Unmukt Chand announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- 🔪 International Cricket Council announced campaign for bidding for inclusion of Cricket at 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.
- Nune's 20 year old Chess player Harshit Raja became 69th Chess Grandmaster of India, at Biel Masters Open 2021 where he drew against Dennis Wagner (Germany).
- 🥄 Indian Chess Grandmaster Raunak Sadhwani won 19th Spilimbergo Open chess tournament in Italy.
- Nodisha Govt extended tenure of its sponsorship of Indian Hockey team, for 10 more years, after current sponsorship ends in 2023.

- Indian Table Tennis Players G Sathiyan and Manika Batra won mixed doubles title at World Table Tennis Tour Contender Budapest 2021.
- 🔪 South African Cricketer and Fast Bowling Legend Dale Steyn announced retirement from all forms of cricket.
- Number of cricket Indian cricketer Stuart Binny retirement from all forms of cricket.
- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh named Army Sports Institute in Pune Cantt after Olympic Gold Medalist Javelin Thrower *Neeraj*Chopra
- Indian Chess player S P Sethuraman won 2021 Barcelona Open chess tournament, remaining unbeaten by winning six matches and drawing three.
- Indian Table Tennis Player G Sathiyan won men's singles title at ITTF Czech International Open 2021, defeating Yevhen Pryshchepa of Ukraine.

#### 52. Misc. Sports News / Events (July 2021)-

- \ India's Abhimanyu Mishra became youngest ever Grandmaster in Chess, at 12 years age, getting past earlier record of 12 years and 7 months set by GM Sergey Karjakin in 2002.
- India Female Cricketer Mithali Raj became highest run-getter in women's cricket across all formats, overtaking England's Charlotte Edwards's 10273 Runs.
- Norway's Karsten Warholm broke long-standing world record in 400m hurdles during Bislett Games, breaking Kevin Young's mark of 46.78 seconds with new record of 46.70 seconds.
- 🔪 Indian wrestler Sumit Malik has been banned for two years by world governing body UWW, for doping Violations.
- 🔪 Women's Asia Cup Football 2022 will be Hosted by India, in Mumbai and Pune.
- Nihal Sarin won Silver Lake Open chess tournament in Serbia.
- Nindies' Cricketer Chris Gayle became first batsman to score 14000 runs in T20 Cricket.
- 🥄 Badminton World Federation announced India as host of World Badminton Championships 2026.
- Naryana Govt postponed organizing *Khelo India Youth Games 2021* to February 2022, amid possibility of 3rd wave of Covid-19 pandemic.
- 🥄 Bangladesh cricketer Mahmudullah Riyad announced retirement from Test cricket.
- Nation Indian Cricketer Pankaj Singh announced his retirement from all forms of Cricket.
- 🔪 German Footballer Toni Kroos announced his retirement from Football.
- 🥄 2nd edition of 'Khelo India' University-level sports will be held at Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru (Karnataka), in March 2022.
- 🔪 All India Football Federation (AIFF) nominated Gokulam Kerala FC to represent India in the AFC Club Championship 2020-21.

- 🔪 Indian Chess Player Viswanathan Anand defeated Vladimir Kramnik to win Sparkassen Trophy at Dortmund (Germany).
- Assam Govt announced assured jobs for all National Games medalists from state. Also, those who won medals in National Games so far, would be given Sports Pension.
- Madhya Pradesh shooter Rubina Francis has set a world record at Para Sport Cup in Peru, in 10-metre air pistol para-event for women. She Scored 238.1 points, to get past world record of Aysegul Pehlivanlar of Turkey.
- Name of England Cricketer Ben Stokes announced to go on an indefinite break from all forms cricket.

### 53. Misc. Sports News / Events (March 2021) -

- All-India Football Federation announced Odisha as host of Indian Women's League (IWL) Football, for which dates to be announced later.
- Mumbai City FC defeated ATK Mohun Bagan in Goa, to win ISL League Winners Shield and AFC Champions League spot that comes with it.
- Indian Boxers won 2 medals at Strandja Memorial tournament in Sofia (Bulgaria) Deepak Kumar (Silver in 52kg) and Naveen Boora (Bronze in 69kg).
- Windies Cricketer Kieron Pollard became 3rd Player to hit six sixes in an over in International Cricket, doing the same against Sri Lanka. Earlier Batsmen are Yuvraj Singh (India) and Herschelle Gibbs (South Africa).
- 🔪 Koneru Humpy (Chess player from Andhra Pradesh) won BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award for 2020.
- Natural Newi became first Indian fencer to qualify for Olympics in Women's individual Sabre.
- 🔪 Indian Female cricketer Mithali Raj became first Indian to complete 10000 international runs in all formats.
- 🥄 Haryana men and Kerala women won 69th National volleyball championships in Bhubaneswar.
- Note: Delhi Govt Announced that Delhi will bid to host 2048 Olympics.
- 🔪 Hashmatullah Shahidi became first batsman from Afghanistan to score double hundred in Test cricket, scoring it against Zimbabwe.
- 🔪 International Cricket Council imposed eight years ban on former UAE players Mohammad Naveed and Shaiman Anwar Butt.
- National Cricketer Virat Kohli became first batsman to make 3000 runs in men's T20I cricket.
- 🥄 In 2021 Federation Cup Senior Athletics Championships in Patiala (Punjab) -
  - Avinash Sable has set new national record in men's 3000m steeplechase event, with timing of 8:20.20. He broke his own record of 8:21.37.
- India won 7 medals (2 Gold, 1 Silver & 4 Bronze) and finished at 3rd Position in 2021 World Shooting Para Sport World Cup at Al Ain, UAE. Ukraine topped with 11 Medals. For India, Gold were won by Singhraj and Manish Narwal.

- India defeated Sri Lanka to win Road Safety World Cricket Series, hosted at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur (Chhattisgarh).
- Girl Gang track by New Zealand singer Gin Wigmore has been announced as official song of 2022 ICC Women's World Cup, to be hosted in New Zealand.
- Noting Finished 3rd with 7 medals (Including 1 gold) at Al Ain 2021 Para Shooting World Cup (UAE). Manish Narwal and Singhraj were gold winners for India.

### 54. Misc. Sports News / Events (May 2021) -

- 🥄 Indian boxer Amit Panghal (52kg) won bronze at Governor's Cup in St. Petersburg (Russia).
- Nanchester City FC won English Football league 2020–21 EFL Cup and Premier League 2020-21 season.
- Note: BCCI Announced Suspension of Indian Premier League 2021 (14th Edition), amid worsening COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Badminton World Federation named India's PV Sindhu and Canada's Michelle Li as athlete ambassadors for International Olympic Committee's (IOC) *Believe in Sport* campaign, aimed at preventing competition manipulation.
- No. Sri Lankan Cricketer Thisara Perera announced retirement from international cricket.
- Arzan Nagwaswalla (Gujarat) became first Parsi cricketer to break into Indian Cricket team since 1975, after he was named as a reserve player in Test squad named for World Test Championship final.
- New Zealand Cricketer BJ Watling announced his retirement from international cricket, after playing World Test Championship final against India.
- Nazakhstan tennis player Roman Khassanov has been banned for 10 years, amid charges of corruption.
- New Zealand will host 2021 Women's Rugby World Cup, in Oct Nov 2022.
- Arjan 'Singh' Bhullar became first Indian fighter to win ONE Heavyweight World Title at top-level (Mixed Martial Arts) MMA Championship in Singapore, defeating longtime heavyweight king Brandon 'The Truth' Vera.
- Name of the England Cricketer Harry Gurney retired from International Cricket.
- V-17 FIFA women's World Cup will be held in India in October 2022.
- Nadminton Association of India President Himanta Biswa Sarma has been elected as Member of BWF Council for period 2021-25.
- Indian hockey team goalkeeper PR Sreejesh has been re-appointed as a member of the International Hockey Federation (FIH)

  Athletes' Committee.
- 🔪 Atletico Madrid won Spanish Soccer League La Liga title, defeating Real Madrid.
- 🥄 Ireland and England Cricketer Boyd Rankin Retired from International Cricket.
- 🔪 England's Richard Bland won British Masters golf tournament 2021, with India's Shubhankar Sharma finishing Tied-34th.

- 🔪 Czech Republic Tennis Player Barbora Strýcová (Former top-ranked doubles player) Announced her Retirement from Tennis.
- Neighbor Phil Mickelson (US) won PGA Golf Championship 2021, becoming oldest winner of this major golf championship.
- 🔪 Ashok Kumar is named as only Indian referee to officiate in wrestling in Tokyo Olympics.
- Noted German footballer Sami Khedira announced retirement from Football.
- 55. Misc. Sports News /Events (June 2021) -
  - 🥄 Atletico Madrid won Spanish Soccer Lealgue La Liga 2020-21 Season.
  - Indian Footballer Sunil Chhetri became second-highest active international goal scorer, overtaking Argentina's Lionel Messi, in preliminary round match for FIFA World Cup 2022 and AFC Asian Cup 2023 Joint Qualifiers.
  - Noman has been named as host of inaugural International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey5s World Cup, to be held in 2024.
  - 🥄 Former Cricketer Virender Sehwag launched AI-Based Cricket learning portal CRICURU.
  - Indian Female Wrestler Vinesh Phogat won Gold in 53 kg Women's Freestyle, in Poland Open Wrestling 2021. Also, India's Ravi Kumar Dahiya won Silver in 61 kg.
  - Nocial Justice and Empowerment ministry will establish 5 Divyangta Khel Kendras across country.
  - 🥄 Ireland Cricketer Kevin O'Brien announced his retirement from one-day internationals.
  - 🥄 Filipino Female Golfer Yuka Saso won U.S. Women's Open Golf 2021.
  - 🥄 Indian Female Cricketer Shafali Verma became youngest Indian cricketer to make debut across all formats, at 17 years age.
  - Narkhand State Cricket Association signed MoU with SAIL Bokaro Steel Plant, for construction of an International Cricket Stadium in Bokaro city.
- 56. New Zealand won First ICC World Test Championship 2019-2021, defeating India in finals at Southampton (England).
- 57. Poland's Robert Lewandowski won **European Golden Boot** for 2020-21 Saeason, for his 41 goals in 29 Bundesliga appearances for Bayern Munich (Germany), to claim top scorer spot in Europe.
- 58. Portugese Footballer Cristiano Ronaldo became joint-top scoring men's international player of all time, with 109 goals in 176 matches. He is currently tied with Iran's Ali Daei, who scored 109 times in 149 matches.
- 59. ▶ Punjab Govt renamed Mohali International Hockey Stadium after triple Olympian and Padma Shri Awardee Hockey Player *Balbir Singh Sr*.
- 60. Recommendations by Sports federations for National Sports Awards -
  - Noard of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) nominated names R Ashwin and Mithali Raj for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award. It also recommended KL Rahul, Jasprit Bumrah and Shikhar Dhawan for Arjuna Award.

- Nockey India nominated men's hockey team goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and former India women's hockey team player Deepika for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.
- 61. ▶ Red Bull's Belgian-Dutch F1 racer **Max Verstappen** won Belgian Grand Prix 2021 -
  - **№** F1 Season 2021 -

| Grand Prix                | Winner                         | Race date    |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Bahrain Grand Prix        | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 28 March     |
| Emilia Romagna Grand Prix | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 18 April     |
| Portuguese Grand Prix     | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 2 May        |
| Spanish Grand Prix        | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 9 May        |
| Monaco Grand Prix         | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 23 May       |
| Azerbaijan Grand Prix     | Sergio Pérez (Mexico)          | 6 June       |
| French Grand Prix         | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 20 June      |
| Styrian Grand Prix        | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 27 June      |
| Austrian Grand Prix       | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 4 July       |
| British Grand Prix        | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 18 July      |
| Hungarian Grand Prix      | Esteban Ocon (France)          | 1 August     |
| Belgian Grand Prix        | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 29 August    |
| Dutch Grand Prix          |                                | 5 September  |
| Italian Grand Prix        |                                | 12 September |
| Russian Grand Prix        |                                | 26 September |
| Japanese Grand Prix       |                                | 10 October   |
| United States Grand Prix  |                                | 24 October   |
| Mexico City Grand Prix    |                                | 31 October   |
| São Paulo Grand Prix      |                                | 7 November   |
| Australian Grand Prix     |                                | 21 November  |
| Saudi Arabian Grand Prix  |                                | 5 December   |
| Abu Dhabi Grand Prix      |                                | 12 December  |

62. Red Bull's Belgian-Dutch F1 racer Max Verstappen won Austrian Grand Prix 2021 -

N F1 Season 2021 -

| Grand Prix                | Winner                         | Race date |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Bahrain Grand Prix        | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 28 March  |
| Emilia Romagna Grand Prix | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 18 April  |

| Grand Prix               | Winner                         | Race date    |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Portuguese Grand Prix    | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 2 May        |
| Spanish Grand Prix       | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 9 May        |
| Monaco Grand Prix        | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 23 May       |
| Azerbaijan Grand Prix    | Sergio Pérez (Mexico)          | 6 June       |
| French Grand Prix        | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 20 June      |
| Styrian Grand Prix       | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 27 June      |
| Austrian Grand Prix      | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 4 July       |
| British Grand Prix       |                                | 18 July      |
| Hungarian Grand Prix     |                                | 1 August     |
| Belgian Grand Prix       |                                | 29 August    |
| Dutch Grand Prix         |                                | 5 September  |
| Italian Grand Prix       |                                | 12 September |
| Russian Grand Prix       |                                | 26 September |
| Japanese Grand Prix      |                                | 10 October   |
| United States Grand Prix |                                | 24 October   |
| Mexico City Grand Prix   |                                | 31 October   |
| São Paulo Grand Prix     |                                | 7 November   |
| Australian Grand Prix    |                                | 21 November  |
| Saudi Arabian Grand Prix |                                | 5 December   |
| Abu Dhabi Grand Prix     |                                | 12 December  |

63. Red Bull's Belgian-Dutch F1 racer Max Verstappen won Emilia Romagna Grand Prix -

**\** F1 Season 2021 -

| Grand Prix                | Winner                         | Race date |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Bahrain Grand Prix        | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 28 March  |
| Emilia Romagna Grand Prix | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 18 April  |
| Portuguese Grand Prix     |                                | 2 May     |
| Spanish Grand Prix        |                                | 9 May     |
| Monaco Grand Prix         |                                | 23 May    |
| Azerbaijan Grand Prix     |                                | 6 June    |
| French Grand Prix         |                                | 20 June   |
| Styrian Grand Prix        |                                | 27 June   |
| Austrian Grand Prix       |                                | 4 July    |

| Grand Prix               | Winner | Race date    |
|--------------------------|--------|--------------|
| British Grand Prix       |        | 18 July      |
| Hungarian Grand Prix     |        | 1 August     |
| Belgian Grand Prix       |        | 29 August    |
| Dutch Grand Prix         |        | 5 September  |
| Italian Grand Prix       |        | 12 September |
| Russian Grand Prix       |        | 26 September |
| Japanese Grand Prix      |        | 10 October   |
| United States Grand Prix |        | 24 October   |
| Mexico City Grand Prix   |        | 31 October   |
| São Paulo Grand Prix     |        | 7 November   |
| Australian Grand Prix    |        | 21 November  |
| Saudi Arabian Grand Prix |        | 5 December   |
| Abu Dhabi Grand Prix     |        | 12 December  |

64. Red Bull's Belgian-Dutch F1 racer Max Verstappen won French Grand Prix 2021 -

**\** F1 Season 2021 -

| Grand Prix                | Winner                         | Race date    |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Bahrain Grand Prix        | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 28 March     |
| Emilia Romagna Grand Prix | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 18 April     |
| Portuguese Grand Prix     | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 2 May        |
| Spanish Grand Prix        | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 9 May        |
| Monaco Grand Prix         | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 23 May       |
| Azerbaijan Grand Prix     | Sergio Pérez (Mexico)          | 6 June       |
| French Grand Prix         | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 20 June      |
| Styrian Grand Prix        |                                | 27 June      |
| Austrian Grand Prix       |                                | 4 July       |
| British Grand Prix        |                                | 18 July      |
| Hungarian Grand Prix      |                                | 1 August     |
| Belgian Grand Prix        |                                | 29 August    |
| Dutch Grand Prix          |                                | 5 September  |
| Italian Grand Prix        |                                | 12 September |
| Russian Grand Prix        |                                | 26 September |
| Japanese Grand Prix       |                                | 10 October   |

| Grand Prix               | Winner | Race date   |
|--------------------------|--------|-------------|
| United States Grand Prix |        | 24 October  |
| Mexico City Grand Prix   |        | 31 October  |
| São Paulo Grand Prix     |        | 7 November  |
| Australian Grand Prix    |        | 21 November |
| Saudi Arabian Grand Prix |        | 5 December  |
| Abu Dhabi Grand Prix     |        | 12 December |

65. Red Bull's Belgian-Dutch F1 racer Max Verstappen won Monaco Grand Prix 2021 -

**№** F1 Season 2021 -

| Grand Prix                | Winner                         | Race date    |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Bahrain Grand Prix        | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 28 March     |
| Emilia Romagna Grand Prix | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 18 April     |
| Portuguese Grand Prix     | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 2 May        |
| Spanish Grand Prix        | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 9 May        |
| Monaco Grand Prix         | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 23 May       |
| Azerbaijan Grand Prix     |                                | 6 June       |
| French Grand Prix         |                                | 20 June      |
| Styrian Grand Prix        |                                | 27 June      |
| Austrian Grand Prix       |                                | 4 July       |
| British Grand Prix        |                                | 18 July      |
| Hungarian Grand Prix      |                                | 1 August     |
| Belgian Grand Prix        |                                | 29 August    |
| Dutch Grand Prix          |                                | 5 September  |
| Italian Grand Prix        |                                | 12 September |
| Russian Grand Prix        |                                | 26 September |
| Japanese Grand Prix       |                                | 10 October   |
| United States Grand Prix  |                                | 24 October   |
| Mexico City Grand Prix    |                                | 31 October   |
| São Paulo Grand Prix      |                                | 7 November   |
| Australian Grand Prix     |                                | 21 November  |
| Saudi Arabian Grand Prix  |                                | 5 December   |
| Abu Dhabi Grand Prix      |                                | 12 December  |

66. ▶ Red Bull's Belgian-Dutch F1 racer Max Verstappen won Styrian Grand Prix 2021 -

**F**1 Season 2021 -

| Grand Prix                | Winner                         | Race date    |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Bahrain Grand Prix        | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 28 March     |
| Emilia Romagna Grand Prix | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 18 April     |
| Portuguese Grand Prix     | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 2 May        |
| Spanish Grand Prix        | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 9 May        |
| Monaco Grand Prix         | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 23 May       |
| Azerbaijan Grand Prix     | Sergio Pérez (Mexico)          | 6 June       |
| French Grand Prix         | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 20 June      |
| Styrian Grand Prix        | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 27 June      |
| Austrian Grand Prix       |                                | 4 July       |
| British Grand Prix        |                                | 18 July      |
| Hungarian Grand Prix      |                                | 1 August     |
| Belgian Grand Prix        |                                | 29 August    |
| Dutch Grand Prix          |                                | 5 September  |
| Italian Grand Prix        |                                | 12 September |
| Russian Grand Prix        |                                | 26 September |
| Japanese Grand Prix       |                                | 10 October   |
| United States Grand Prix  |                                | 24 October   |
| Mexico City Grand Prix    |                                | 31 October   |
| São Paulo Grand Prix      |                                | 7 November   |
| Australian Grand Prix     |                                | 21 November  |
| Saudi Arabian Grand Prix  |                                | 5 December   |
| Abu Dhabi Grand Prix      |                                | 12 December  |

67. Red Bull's Mexican F1 racer Sergio Pérez won Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2021 -

**F**1 Season 2021 -

| Grand Prix                | Winner                         | Race date |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Bahrain Grand Prix        | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 28 March  |
| Emilia Romagna Grand Prix | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 18 April  |
| Portuguese Grand Prix     | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 2 May     |
| Spanish Grand Prix        | Lewis Hamilton (UK)            | 9 May     |

| Grand Prix               | Winner                         | Race date    |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Monaco Grand Prix        | Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) | 23 May       |
| Azerbaijan Grand Prix    | Sergio Pérez (Mexico)          | 6 June       |
| French Grand Prix        |                                | 20 June      |
| Styrian Grand Prix       |                                | 27 June      |
| Austrian Grand Prix      |                                | 4 July       |
| British Grand Prix       |                                | 18 July      |
| Hungarian Grand Prix     |                                | 1 August     |
| Belgian Grand Prix       |                                | 29 August    |
| Dutch Grand Prix         |                                | 5 September  |
| Italian Grand Prix       |                                | 12 September |
| Russian Grand Prix       |                                | 26 September |
| Japanese Grand Prix      |                                | 10 October   |
| United States Grand Prix |                                | 24 October   |
| Mexico City Grand Prix   |                                | 31 October   |
| São Paulo Grand Prix     |                                | 7 November   |
| Australian Grand Prix    |                                | 21 November  |
| Saudi Arabian Grand Prix |                                | 5 December   |
| Abu Dhabi Grand Prix     |                                | 12 December  |

- 68. Sports Ministry approved 143 opening Khelo India Centres across 7 States, with budget 14.30 Crores, to be entrusted with one sports discipline each. States include Maharashtra (36), Mizoram (2), Goa (52), Karnataka (4), Madhya Pradesh (31), Arunachal Pradesh (16) and Manipur (2).
- 69. To commemorate 50th anniversary of first One-Day International, five ODI cricketers of the decade have been named in 2021 edition of the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack.
  - 🔪 2011 to 2020 Virat Kohli (India).
  - 🔪 2001 to 2010 Muttiah Muralitharan (Sri Lanka)
  - 1991 to 2000 Sachin Tendulkar(India)
  - 1981 to 1990 Kapil Dev (India)
  - 1971 to 1980 Viv Richards (West Indies)
  - Nout First ODI -

- Test Match were washed out, officials decided to play a one-off one day game consisting of 40 eight-ball overs per side.
- Nalso, in 2021 Edition of Awards -
  - Note: England all-rounder Ben Stokes named *Cricketer of the Year* for 2nd successive time.
  - Nom Sibley (Eng), Zak Crawley (Eng), Jason Holder(WI), Mohammed Rizwan (Pakistan) and Darren Stevens (ENG) are named Wisden Cricketers of Year in 2021 edition of Wisden Almanack.
  - Nastralia's Beth Mooney named as Leading Women's Cricketer in the World.
  - 🥄 West Indian all-rounder Kieron Pollard named Leading T20 Cricketer in World.
- 70. US defeated Mexico to win its 7th CONCACAF Gold Cup 2021 Football Title.
  - CONCACAF Gold Cup is biennial men's football championship of North, Central American, and Caribbean region organized by CONCACAF.
- 71. UT of Jammu and Kashmir topped medal tally in 2nd edition of Khelo India Winter National Games, winning 11 gold, 18 silver and 5 bronze medals. The five-day event held at Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

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