



### Current Affairs - June 2021 to August 2021

Month

Type







- ▶ **723** Current Affairs were found in **Last Three Months** for Type - **All**

(Showing **653** Important Ones)

### Appointments

- ▶ **Henri Marie Dondra** has been named prime minister of Central African Republic.
- ▶ **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).
- ▶ **Deepak Das** has been appointed as new Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
- ▶ **Ebrahim Raisi** has been elected as **Iran's** new president.
- ▶ **Issac Herzog** has been named as new (11th) President of **Israel**, succeeding Reuven Rivlin.
- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **Kalyan Narayan Bhattacharjee** has been appointed as new Lokayukta of Tripura.
- ▶ **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.

9. ▶ **Munishwar Nath Bhandari** is named as Acting Chief Justice of **Allahabad High Court**.  
 He replaces Sanjay Yadav, who retired after short tenure of 13 days.
10. ▶ **Naftali Bennett** has been named new (13th) Prime Minister of **Israel**, replacing Benjamin Netanyahu.
11. ▶ **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. Present name *Assam Rifles* has been used since 1917.
12. ▶ **Robinah Nabbanja** has been named as **Uganda**'s first female Prime Minister.
13. ▶ **Satish Namdeo Ghormade** has been appointed as New Vice Chief of Indian Navy.
14. ▶ **Sher Bahadur Deuba** has been appointed as Nepal's Prime Minister for his 5th term.
15. ▶ **Ukhnaa Khurelsukh** (*Former Mongolian Prime Minister*), has been elected as country's new democratically elected president.
16. ▶ **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.
17. ▶ Ajai Singh has been named as new Commander-in-Chief of Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN), the only tri-service theatre command of Armed Forces.
18. ▶ Australia's Geoff Allardice has been named Interim CEO of International Cricket Council (ICC), after India's Manu Sawhney resigned from post.
19. ▶ BJP's **Basavaraj Bommai** has been named New (23rd) Chief Minister of **Karnataka**, after B. S. Yediyurappa had resigned from post.
20. ▶ Bharatiya Janata Party's **Pushkar Singh Dhami** has been appointed as new (11th) **Chief Minister of Uttarakhand**, replacing Tirath Singh Rawat.
21. ▶ 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.
22. ▶ 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.
23. ▶ Cleopas Dlamini has been named as new Prime Minister of Southern African Nation **Eswatini** (formerly *Swaziland*).
24. ▶ Foreign Minister of Maldives, **Abdulla Shahid** has been elected as President of **76th** session of UN General Assembly (UNGA).  
 He will succeed Turkey's Volkan Bozkir, who was President of 75th session of UNGA.
25. ▶ Former Bombay HC judge V M Kanade has been named as Maharashtra's New Lokayukta.
26. ▶ Former SC judge **Arun Kumar Mishra** has been named as Chairman of **National Human Rights Commission** (NHRC).

27. ▶ 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.
28. ▶ 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.
29. ▶ H K Dwivedi has been named new chief secretary of West Bengal.
30. ▶ IT Giant **Microsoft** named Its Indian-Origin CEO **Satya Nadella** as its new Chairman, to replace John Thompson.
31. ▶ 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.
32. ▶ Industry body IAMAI appointed Google India MD Sanjay Gupta as its chairman for 2021-23.
33. ▶ Ismail Sabri Yaakob has been named new Prime Minister of **Malaysia**, by King Al-Sultan Abdullah.
34. ▶ 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.
35. ▶ 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.
36. ▶ 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.
  - ✎ Kamlesh 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.
- ✍ Iran 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-appointed 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.
- ✍ Abhay Kumar Singh has been appointed as joint secretary in newly formed Ministry of Cooperation.
- ✍ RBI approved re-appointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as MD & CEO of ICICI Bank.
- ✍ RBI 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.
- ✍ Amit Banerjee has been named as CMD of PSU BEML (Bharat Earth Movers Limited).

37. ▶ Misc. Appointments (July 2021) -

- ✍ Govt extended tenure of Amitabh Kant as Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog, by 1 year.
- ✍ Satish Agnihotri has been appointed as MD of PSU National High-Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRCL).
- ✍ Umesh 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.
- ✍ Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven has been reinstated, shortly after he was ousted in a no-confidence vote.
- ✍ RBI Approved re-appointment of Shyam Srinivasan as MD and CEO of Federal Bank.
- ✍ Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed secured his 2nd term, after winning general elections.
- ✍ Lulu Group chairman and Indian Origin Businessman *M A 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.

38. ▶ Misc. Appointments (June 2021) -

- ✍ Dinesh K Tripathi has been named as Indian Navy's Chief of Personnel.
- ✍ Kapil 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).
- ✍ Hongkong 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.
- ✍ India's 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.
  - ✍ However, 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.
- ✍ Govt extended 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.
- ✍ 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.
-  Sanjeev 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.

39. ▶ 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).

40. ▶ Myanmar military leader Min Aung Hlaing declared himself as Prime Minister of Myanmar. He also announced to hold elections in 2023.

41. ▶ Najib Mikati has been named as **Lebanon's** new Prime Minister, to succeed Hassan Diab.


42. ▶ New Chief Justices of Various State High Courts -

-  M. S. Ramachandra Rao - Telangana


-  Satish 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 (Sanctioned Strength 34). New SC Judges -

-  P S Narasimha (From Bar)

-  Abhay Shreeniwas Oka (Earlier CJ of Karnataka HC)

-  Vikram Nath (Earlier CJ of Gujarat HC)

-  Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari (Earlier CJ of Sikkim HC)

-  Kumari Hima Kohli (Earlier CJ of Telangana HC)

-  C T Ravi Kumar

-  M M Sundersh

-  Bela Madhurya Trivedi

-  B V Nagarathn

43. ▶ 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).


44. ▶ Pedro Castillo has been appointed new president of Peru, while Guido Bellido is named as new Prime Minister of **Peru** (South America).

45. ▶ President Appointed New Governors in Several States -

- ✍ P.S. Sreedharan Pillai - **Goa** (Transferred from Mizoram)
- ✍ Satyadev Narayan Arya - **Tripura** (transferred from Haryana)
- ✍ Ramesh Bais - **Jharkhand** (Transferred from Tripura)
- ✍ Thaawarchand Gehlot - **Karnataka**
- ✍ Bandaru Dattatraya - **Haryana** (Transferred from Himachal Pradesh)
- ✍ Hari Babu Kambhampati - **Mizoram**
- ✍ Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel - **Madhya Pradesh**
- ✍ Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar - **Himachal Pradesh**

46. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind nominated Advocate Mahesh Jethmalani and re-nominated former journalist Swapan Dasgupta to Rajya Sabha.
- ✍ Rajya Sabha may have up to 250 members - 238 members representing States / UTs and 12 nominated by President.
47. ▶ President appointed **Ravi Vijaykumar Malimath** as Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court.
48. ▶ Ram Subhag Singh has been Appointed as Chief Secretary of Himachal Pradesh.
49. ▶ 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.
  - ✍ It aims to *help countries accelerate learning by improving teacher professional development.*
50. ▶ 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.
51. ▶ 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.
52. ▶ Shanti Lal Jain has been appointed as MD & CEO of **Indian Bank**, for 3 years.
53. ▶ Sukhbir Singh Sandhu has been Appointed as new Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand.
54. ▶ Suresh N Patel has been appointed as acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) of India in Central Vigilance Commission.
55. ▶ 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.
56. ▶ UN Secretary General **Antonio Guterres** (Portugal) won his 2nd 5 year term.

57. ▶ Under a major Cabinet Re-shuffle, Govt appointed several new Ministers. Updated List of Ministers with Portfolios -



S. No.	Name	Portfolio
<b>Cabinet Ministers</b>		
1.	Raj Nath Singh	Defence
2.	Amit Shah	Home Affairs; Cooperation
3.	Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Road Transport and Highways
4.	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman	Finance; 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; 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; AYUSH



14.	Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Minority Affairs
15.	Dr. Virendra Kumar	Social Justice and Empowerment
16.	Giriraj Singh	Rural Development; Panchayati Raj
17.	Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Civil Aviation
18.	Ramchandra Prasad Singh	Steel
19.	Ashwini Vaishnaw	Railways; 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 New and Renewable Energy
24.	Hardeep Singh Puri	Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Housing and Urban Affairs
25.	Mansukh Mandaviya	Health and Family Welfare; and Chemicals and Fertilizers
26.	Bhupender Yadav	Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Labour and Employment
27.	Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey	Heavy Industries
28.	Parshottam Rupala	Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

29.	G. Kishan Reddy	Culture; Tourism; and Development of North Eastern Region
30.	Anurag Singh Thakur	Information and Broadcasting; and Youth Affairs and Sports
<b>MINISTERS OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)</b>		
1.	Rao Inderjit Singh	Statistics and Programme Implementation; Planning; Corporate Affairs
2.	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Science and Technology; Earth Sciences; Prime Minister's Office; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; State in the Department of Atomic Energy; State in the Department of Space
<b>MINISTERS OF STATE</b>		
1.	Shripad Yesso Naik	Ports, Shipping and Waterways; Tourism
2.	Faggansingh Kulaste	Steel; Rural Development
3.	Prahalad Singh Patel	Jal Shakti; and Food Processing Industries
4.	Ashwini Kumar Choubey	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Environment, Forest and Climate Change
5.	Arjun Ram Meghwal	Parliamentary Affairs; and

		Culture
6.	General (Retd.) V. K. Singh	Road Transport and Highways; and Civil Aviation
7.	Krishan Pal	Power; and Heavy Industries
8.	Danve Raosaheb Dadarao	Railways; Coal; and Mines
9.	Ramdas Athawale	Social Justice and Empowerment
10.	Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and 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
16.	Rajeev Chandrasekhar	Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; and Electronics and Information Technology
17.	Su Shobha Karandlaje	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
18.	Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
19.	Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh	Textiles; and Railways
20.	V. Muraleedharan	External Affairs; and

		Parliamentary Affairs
21.	Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi	External Affairs; and Culture
22.	Som Parkash	Commerce and Industry
23.	Smt. Renuka Singh Saruta	Tribal Affairs
24.	Rameswar Teli	Petroleum and Natural Gas; and 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
29.	Ajay Bhatt	Defence; and Tourism
30.	B. L. Verma	Development of North Eastern Region; and Cooperation
31.	Ajay Kumar	Home Affairs
32.	Devusinh Chauhan	Communications
33.	Bhagwanth Khuba	New and Renewable Energy; and 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

38.	Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh	External Affairs; and Education
39.	Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar	Health and Family Welfare
40.	Bishweswar Tudu	Tribal Affairs; and 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 Youth Affairs and Sports

58. ▶ 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.

**Top**

### **Awards**

1. ▶ AIFF Player of the Year Awards 2020 -

✎ Men's Player of the Year - Sandesh Jhingan

✎ Women's Player of the Year - Bala Devi

✎ Emerging Player of the Year - Suresh Singh Wangjam (Men) AND Manisha Kalyan (Women)

2. ▶ As per 2021 Skytrax World Airport Awards -

✍ Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport is named among world's top 50 airports. Other Indian Airports in List - Hyderabad (64), Mumbai (65), Bengaluru (71)

✍ Top 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

3. ▶ 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.

✍ Asom 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.

✍ Awardees will also be given benefits such as Freemedical treatment and Travel.

✍ Other Announcements -

✍ Assam will also confer a Literary pension in the name of litterateur Homen Borgohain on his birthday (December 7).

✍ Sports pension will be conferred in name of Arjun awardee Bogeswar Barua on his birthday (September 3).

✍ Will also confer the Artiste Award on January 17.

4. ▶ Awardees at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards 2021 (Held Virtually)

✍ Best Feature Film: Soorarai Pottru

✍ Best Performance Male (Feature): Suriya Sivakumar (Soorarai Pottru)

✍ Best Performance Female (Feature): Vidya Balan (Sherni) & Honourable mention to Nimisha Sajayan (The Great Indian Kitchen)

✍ Best Director: Anurag Basu (Ludo) & Honorary Mention Prithvi Konanur (Pinki Elli?)

✍ Best Series: Mirzapur Season 2

✍ Best Indie Film: Fire in the Mountains

✍ Best Documentary Film: Shut Up Sona

5. ▶ 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.
  - ✎ Olympic 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.
6. ▶ 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.
7. ▶ 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:
    - ✎ Ahed's Knee by Nadav Lapid
    - ✎ Memoria by Apichatpong Weerasethakul
  - ✎ Best Director: Leos Carax for Annette
  - ✎ Best Actress: Renate Reinsve for The Worst Person in the World
  - ✎ Best Actor: Caleb Landry Jones for Nitram
  - ✎ Honorary 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)
8. ▶ 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.
  - ✎ Badhwar 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.
9. ▶ 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.
  - ✎ EIL later secured contract for providing Project Management Consultancy (PMC) services for 1.5 MMTPA Grassroot refinery project.




10. ▶ European Patent Office (EPO) honoured Indian-American chemist **Sumita Mitra** with European Inventor Award 2021, in *Non-EPO countries* category.
  - ✎ Mitra was first to successfully integrate nanotechnology into dental materials to produce stronger and more aesthetically pleasing fillings, now used globally.
11. ▶ 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 -
  - ✎ Mohun 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.
12. ▶ 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.
13. ▶ 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*.
  - ✎ He 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.
14. ▶ Govt renamed **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** as **Major Dhyan Chand** Khel Ratna Award, changing nomenclature of Highest Sporting Honour in India.
15. ▶ 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*.
16. ▶ 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).



17. ▶ 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.
18. ▶ 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.
19. ▶ 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*.
20. ▶ 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.
    - ✎ *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.
  - ✎ India's *Invest India* has been awarded world's most innovative Investment Promotion Agency Award 2021 by OCO Global.
  - ✎ Freelance 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.
  - ✎ Delhi 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.
  - ✎ 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.
  - ✎ Govt 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.
  - ✎ *Pushti 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.
21. ▶ Journalist *Omchery N N Pillai* has been selected for Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS)'s Literary Award for 2021.
22. ▶ Karnataka Govt named Sri Basavalinga Pattaddevaru (senior seer of Bhalki Hiremath) for *Sri Basava International Award*.

23. ▶ Legendary playback singer **Asha Bhosle** has been named for Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2021, sponsored by Maharashtra Govt.
- ▶ Maharashtra 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.
  - ▶ Award carries cash prize of 10 lakh.
24. ▶ 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).
25. ▶ Misc / Industrial Awards (August 2021) -
- ▶ Madhya Pradesh's Satpura Tiger Reserve has been awarded the NatWest Group Earth Heroes award in Earth Guardian category, for best management.
  - ▶ Telangana 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.
26. ▶ Misc. / Industrial Awards (June 2021) -
- ▶ Kerala-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.
27. ▶ 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.



28. ▶ 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).
  - ✎ Fukuoka 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.
29. ▶ 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.
30. ▶ Pulitzer Prize 2021 -
- ✎ Winners -
    - ✎ 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 -
      - ✎ Public Service - The New York Times
      - ✎ Breaking News Reporting - Staff of The Star Tribune
      - ✎ Investigative Reporting - Matt Rocheleau, Vernal Coleman, Laura Crimaldi, Evan Allen and Brendan McCarthy of The Boston Globe
      - ✎ Local 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

-  Criticism - Wesley Morris of The New York Times,
-  Editorial Writing - Robert Greene of the Los Angeles Times,
-  Feature 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*.

#### 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.

31. ▶ UN 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 .

32. ▶ 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.

33. ▶ 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.

34. ▶ 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.

[Top](#)

## **Books**

1. ▶ *Growing Up Biden*, A Memoir by US President Joe Biden's Sister Valerie Biden Owen, has been released.
2. ▶ *Riding Free: My Olympic Journey*, memoir by Indian Olympian equestrian rider Imtiaz Anees has been released.
3. ▶ *The Kapil Sharma Story*, a Biography of Noted Stand-up Comedian Kapil Sharma, written by Ajitabha Bose has been released.
4. ▶ **Ashok Chakravarti's** New Book Titled *The Struggle Within: A Memoir of the Emergency*, has been released.

5. ▶ Actress Kareena Kapoor announced her new book *Pregnancy Bible*, to be released soon.
6. ▶ Actress Shabana Azmi launched book *The Year That Wasn't – The Diary of a 14-Year-Old*, written by Kolkata girl Brisha Jain.
7. ▶ Amartya Sen's new book *Home in the World* will be released in July 2021.
8. ▶ 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*.
9. ▶ Book *A Kashmiri Century – Portrait Of A Society In Flux* by Khem Lata Wakhlu, has been released.
10. ▶ Book *Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government*, edited by Rajya Sabha MP *KJ Alphons* has been released, by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.
11. ▶ Book *Address Book: A Publishing Memoir in the time of COVID*, by *Ritu Menon*, has been released.
12. ▶ Book *Battlefield*, authored by *Vishram Bedekar*, has been released.
13. ▶ 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.
14. ▶ Book *How the Earth Got Its Beauty*, authored by **Sudha Murty** has been released.
15. ▶ Book *India Versus China : Why they are Not Friends*, by **Kanti Bajpai** has been released.
16. ▶ Book *Kamala Harris and the Rise of Indian Americans*, edited by Tarun Basu has been released.
17. ▶ Book *Kashmiri Century: Portrait of a Society in Flux*, authored by **Khemlata Wakhlu** has been released.
18. ▶ Book *Lady Doctors: The Untold Stories of India's First Women in Medicine*, authored by **Kavitha Rao** Has been released.
19. ▶ Book *Mission Domination: An Unfinished Quest*, authored by *Boria Majumdar & Kushan Sarkar* has been released.
20. ▶ Book *Nathuram Godse: The True Story of Gandhi's Assassin*, written by journalist **Dhaval Kulkarni** will be published by Pan Macmillan India in 2022.
21. ▶ Book *Operation Khukri*, Authored by Major General Rajpal Punia & Damini Punia has been released.
22. ▶ Book *Operation Trojan Horse*, by *Abhishek Sharan and D.P. Sinha*, has been released.
23. ▶ Book *Policymaker's Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, DC*, authored by **Kaushik Basu** has been released.
24. ▶ Book *Renegades: Born in the USA*, written by former US Prez Barack Obama and Bruce Springsteen, has been released.
25. ▶ Book *Space. Life. Matter* by science journalist **Hari Pulakkat** has been released.
26. ▶ Book *The Art of Conjuring Alternate Realities*, authored by Shivam Shankar Singh and Anand Venkatanarayanan has been released.
27. ▶ Book *The Biography of a Failed Venture*, Authored by *Prashant Desai*, has been released.
28. ▶ Book *The Earthspinner*, authored by **Anuradha Roy** has been released.
29. ▶ Book *The Fourth Lion: Essays for Gopalkrishna Gandhi*, authored by Venu Madhav Govindu and Srinath Raghavan, has been released.

30. ▶ 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.
31. ▶ Book *The Great Hindu Civilisation*, by **Pavan K. Varma**, has been released.
32. ▶ Book *The Long Game: How the Chinese Negotiate with India*, by **Vijay Gokhale** has been released.
33. ▶ Book *The Most Incredible Olympic Stories*, by noted Argentinian Author Luciano Wernicke, has been released.
34. ▶ Book *The Ramayana of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji*, written by Late Baljit Kaur Tulsi Ji, has been released.
35. ▶ Book *The Startup Wife*, by **Tahmima Anam**, has been released.
36. ▶ Book *Transformation in Times of Crisis*, authored by **Nitin Rakesh** and **Jerry Wind**, won UK's *International Business Book of Year Award 2021*.
37. ▶ Book **Habba Khatoon** written by Kajal Suri has been released.  
 Habba 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.
38. ▶ Book **The Light of Asia**, authored by **Jairam Ramesh** has been released.
39. ▶ Book **Why We Kneel How We Rise** by Noted Jamaican cricketer **Michael Holding**, has been released.
40. ▶ Book on *OPERATION KHUKRI*, written by Rajpal Punia & Damini Punia, has been released.
41. ▶ Book on life of Veer Savarkar titled *Savarkar: A contested Legacy (1924-1966)*, written by **Vikram Sampath** has been released.
42. ▶ Book, *A Begum and A Rani*, authored by **Rudrangshu Mukherjee**, has been released.
43. ▶ Chief Justice of India NV Ramana released former Supreme Court judge **RV Raveendran's** book *Anomalies in Law and Justice*.
44. ▶ Film Historian Rochona Majumdar's New Book *Art Cinema And India's Forgotten Futures*, will be released in September 2021.
45. ▶ Film producer Ronnie Screwvala Authored Book *Skill It, Kill It* has been released.
46. ▶ Filmmaker-writer Tahira Kashyap Khurrana's new book *The 7 Sins of Being A Mother*, will be released soon.
47. ▶ Former Cricketer and Coach **Ravi Shastri's** First Book *Stargazing: The Players in My Life* will be released soon.
48. ▶ 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.
49. ▶ 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*.
50. ▶ Former Union Minister **K J Alphons's** new book *Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government*, has been released.
51. ▶ Former election commissioner **Ashok Lavasa's** book *An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation*, has been released.
52. ▶ Health Minister Harsh Vardhan unveiled **Krishna Saksena's** book *My Joys and Sorrows – as a Mother of a Special Child*.

53. ▶ Journalist **Sundeeep Mishra**'s book *Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story* has been released.
54. ▶ Last book of Noted Children's author *Subhadra Sen Gupta*, titled *Let's Go Time Travelling Again*, has been released.
55. ▶ MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan Released **Gauri Shankar Sharma's** new book *Janaksuta Sut Shaurya*.
56. ▶ New Book *All Roads Lead North: Nepal's Turn To China*, written by Amish Raj Mulmi has been released.
57. ▶ New Children's Book *India To The Rescue*, by Sushant Singh & Shruthi Rao has been released.
58. ▶ New book *An Invitation to Die: A Colonel Acharya Mystery*, Authored by *Tanushree Podder*, has been released.
59. ▶ New book *Balakot Air Strike: How India Avenged Pulwama*, written by Navy veteran **Manan Bhatt** has been released.
60. ▶ New book *My Own Mazagon*, authored by Captain Ramesh Babu has been released.
61. ▶ 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.
62. ▶ Noted American Actor **Will Smith** announced his autobiography titled **Will**.
63. ▶ Noted Filmmaker **Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra** announced his autobiography **The Stranger In The Mirror**, co-written with Reeta Ramamurthy Gupta.
64. ▶ Noted Indian British author **Ruskin Bond's** new book **It's a Wonderful Life** has been launched.
65. ▶ Noted Jnanpith Awardee author **Amitav Ghosh**'s new book *The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis*, has been released.
66. ▶ Noted neurologist Ashok Panagariya's memoir *Monk in a Merc*, will be released soon. He passed away recently due to COVID-19.
67. ▶ Noted novelist Kunal Basu's new Book *In An Ideal World* will be released in 2022.
68. ▶ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik released Poetry book *Beyond Here and Other Poems* written by **Bishnupada Sethi**.
69. ▶ Ramesh Narayan's new Book *A Different Route to Success: It Could Be Yours*, has been released.
70. ▶ Rural Journalist Jaideep Hardikar's new book *Ramrao: The Story of India's Farm Crisis*, has been released.
71. ▶ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu released book *Palleku Pattabhishekam*, authored by former MP Yalamanchili Sivaji, based on rural India and agriculture.
  - ✍️ He also released *Terrace Garden: Midde Thota*, by Thummeti Raghothama Reddy.
72. ▶ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu Released book *Urdu Poets and Writers - Gems of Deccan*, authored by journalist **J.S. Ifthekhar**.
  - ✍️ He also received books on former PM P.V. Narasimha Rao - *Manavottama Rama* authored by Satyakasi Bhargava and *Nallagonda Kathalu* authored by Shri Mallikarjun.
73. ▶ Vijay Gokhale Authored Book *Tiananmen Square: The Making of a Protest*, has been released.
74. ▶ Wildlife Biologist Sanjay Gubbi's book *Leopard Diaries – the Rosette in India*, has been released.

## 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 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).
7. ▶ 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.
8. ▶ 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.
  - ✎ The expert committee is being co-chaired by **Kaku Nakhate** (Bank of America) and **Gopalan Srinivasan** (Ex-CMD of NIACL).
9. ▶ 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).
10. ▶ 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)
- ✎ Tier-3 (deposits between Rs 1,000 crore to Rs 10,000 crores)
- ✎ Tier-4 (deposits over Rs 10,000 crores)

11. ▶ 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).
  - ✎ Other Members - N Venkatram (MD and CEO, Deloitte India), Darius Khambata (former advocate general, Maharashtra) and Thomas Mathew T (former chairman of LIC).
12. ▶ 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 -
  - ✎ Esther Duflo (French economist and Nobel laureate)
  - ✎ 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).

**Top**

## **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*.
    - ✎ Announced 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'.
- ✍️ Hindustan 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.
- ✍️ An All Women Tri-Services Mountaineering Team scaled Mt Manirang (21,625 ft) in Himachal Pradesh.
- ✍️ Gallantry Awards 2021 Announced -
  - ✍️ President 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 Chakra - Babu Ram (ASI in Jammu and Kashmir Police).
  - ✍️ Kirti Chakra - Altaf Hussain Bhat (Constable in Jammu and Kashmir police) (posthumous).
  - ✍️ Shaurya Chakra -
    - ✍️ Arun Kumar Pandey (Army)
    - ✍️ Ravi Kumar Chaudhary (Army)
    - ✍️ Ashutosh Kumar (Army)
    - ✍️ Vikas Khatri (Army)
    - ✍️ Li. Kumar (Army)
    - ✍️ Neeraj Ahlawat (Army)
    - ✍️ Sachin Reuben Sequeira (Navy)
    - ✍️ Perminder Antil (Air Force)
    - ✍️ Varun Singh (Air Force)
    - ✍️ Chitesh Kumar (CRPF)
    - ✍️ Manjinder Singh (CRPF)
    - ✍️ Sunil Choudhary (CRPF)

- ✍ Debasis Sethy (Odisha Police)
- ✍ Sudhir Kumar Tudu (Odisha Police)
- ✍ Shahbaz Ahmad (J&k Police)
- ✍ Nao Sena Medal -
  - ✍ Prashant Handu
  - ✍ Sunil S Korti
  - ✍ Bipin Panikar
  - ✍ Raj Krishna Manu
  - ✍ Prahlad, MCA
- ✍ Vayu Sena Medal - Uttar Kumar, Deepak Mohanan
- ✍ Additionally, 1380 Police personnel been awarded Medals on Independence Day 2021.
- ✍ Ministry 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.
- ✍ Govt also announced Prime Minister's Shram 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 Mahotsav. 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](http://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).

- ✎ Other 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
  - ✎ On 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. ▶ 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.
- 5. ▶ **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.
- 6. ▶ 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.
- 7. ▶ 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 -
    - ✎ PM 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.
    - ✎ Also, India's national Policy on Biofuels 2018 aims 5% blending of Biodiesel in HSD by 2030.
  - ✎ Aug 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.
- 8. ▶ 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 conferred 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).

9. ▶ Aug 12 is Observed as World **Elephant Day**, being observed since 2012.

✍ On this occasion, 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, known as father of India's Space Programme. It is observed as National Remote Sensing Day.

10. ▶ 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 Kangleipak soldiers that lost their lives during Anglo-Manipur War.

11. ▶ 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*.

✍ Aug 19 is also observed as World Photography Day.

✍ Aug 19 is also birth anniversary of 9th president of India - Shanker Dayal Sharma.

12. ▶ 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.

13. ▶ Aug 24 is observed as World Gujarati Day, Marking Poet Narmad's birth anniversary.

14. ▶ 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 Occasion -

- ✎ 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.
- ✎ President Ram Nath Kovind laid foundation stone for Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath AYUSH Vishwavidyalaya at Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh).
- ✎ Aug 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.
- 15. ▶ 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.
- 16. ▶ 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.
- 17. ▶ 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.
- 18. ▶ 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.
  - ✎ Aug 9 is also observed as National Traders' Day.
- 19. ▶ 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.


 Also, 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.

20. ▶ 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.

21. ▶ 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.

22. ▶ 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.


23. ▶ 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.


 Also, 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.

24. ▶ 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.

25. ▶ 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.

26. ▶ July 20 - International Chess Day, marks founding of International Chess Federation in 1924.

27. ▶ 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.


 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.


28. ▶ 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.
29. ▶ 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.
30. ▶ July 26 is Observed as International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, adopted by UNESCO in 2015.
31. ▶ July 26 marks **Kargil Vijay Diwas**. On this date in 1999, India took command of high outposts which were captured by Intruding Pakistanis.
32. ▶ 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.
33. ▶ 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.
  - 🖋 As 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.
    - 🖋 Count 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.
34. ▶ 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.
35. ▶ 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*.
- 🖋 July 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.
36. ▶ July 31 is observed as World Ranger Day, to mark founding day of International Ranger Federation (IRF) on this day in 1992.



37. ▶ July 4 marks US Independence Day, commemorating Declaration of Independence of United States on July 4, 1776.
38. ▶ 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.
39. ▶ June 11 is observed as Green Mizoram Day in Mizoram State.
40. ▶ June 12 - **World Day against Child Labour**. 2021 theme *Act now: end child labour*. It was established by International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2002.
41. ▶ June 13 is observed as International **Albinism Awareness Day** (IAAD). 2021 Theme is *Strength Beyond All Odds*.
42. ▶ June 14 is observed as **World Blood Donor Day**.
43. ▶ June 15 is observed as UN *World Elder Abuse Awareness Day*.
- ✎ June 15 is also observed as Global Wind Day.
44. ▶ June 16 - International Day of **Family Remittances** (IDFR).
45. ▶ 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*.
  - ✎ UN 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.
46. ▶ June 18 is observed by UN as Sustainable Gastronomy Day.
- ✎ June 18 is also observed as Autistic Pride Day.
47. ▶ 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.


 June 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.

48. ▶ June 2 is Statehood Day of **Telangana**, which was formed in 2014 as India's 29th State.

49. ▶ June 20 - UN **World Refugee Day**, Proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly in Dec 2000. 2021 Theme is *Together we can achieve anything*.

50. ▶ June 21 - UN **International Yoga Day**, being Observed Since 2015. 2021 Theme is ***Yoga for well-being***.

 On 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.

 Health 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.

 For this Observance, French integrated content, media and communications group Vivendi partnered with Grammy winner Ricky Kej for “My Earth Concert for Kids”.

 Summer Solstice day. Summer Solstice is longest day of year which marks official start of summer season in Northern hemisphere.

 International Day of Celebration of the Solstice was proclaimed by UN General Assembly in 2019.

 World Hydrography Day, Proclaimed by International Hydrographic Organization in 2005.

51. ▶ June 23 - United Nations Public Service Day, proclaimed in 2003.

 June 23 is also observed as International Olympics Day and UN International Widows' Day.


 June 23 is Death Anniversary of Noted politician Syama Prasad Mukherjee, who founded Bharatiya Jana Sangh (the predecessor to Bharatiya Janata Party).

52. ▶ June 25 is observed as International Day of Seafarer (DotS).


 June 25 is also observed as World Vitoligo Day.


53. ▶ 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.
- ✎ June 26 is also observed as International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.
54. ▶ June 27 - International **MSME Day**, being observed since 2017. 2021 theme is MSME 2021: key to an inclusive and sustainable recovery.
- ✎ On this occasion, MSME and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari called for creation of Ratings system for MSMEs and Dashboard for effective monitoring of schemes.
55. ▶ June 28, 2021, is 100th Birth Anniversary of P. V. Narasimha Rao, 9th Prime Minister of India.
56. ▶ June 29 is observed as **National Statistics Day** in India.
- ✎ 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.
  - ✎ 2021 Awardees -
    - ✎ 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).
  - ✎ June 29 is also observed by UN as International **Day of the Tropics**, proclaimed by UN in 2016.
57. ▶ 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.
58. ▶ 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.
- ✎ June 30 is also observed as UN International **Day of Parliamentarism**, proclaimed in 2018.
  - ✎ June 30 is also observed as World Social Media Day.
59. ▶ 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.
  - ✎ On 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.

 PM Narendra Modi released *Report 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.

 Haryana 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.

60. ▶ 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).

61. ▶ June 8 - **World Oceans Day**. 2021 theme is 'The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods'.

62. ▶ Observations 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.

63. ▶ UT of Puducherry Observed its *De-Jure* day on 16th August, meaning *The Legal Merger of the UT with the Indian Union*.

 Puducherry 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.

 Also, Google paid a tribute to Indian activist and poet Subhadra Kumari Chauhan on her 117th birth anniversary, on Aug 16, 2021.












64. ▶ 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. ▶ 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.
3. ▶ 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.
4. ▶ 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).
5. ▶ 2nd edition of exercise **Zair-Al-Bahr** between Indian Navy and Qatar Navy conducted in Persian Gulf.
6. ▶ 5th edition of Indo- Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise **KAZIND-21** began at Aisha Bibi (Kazakhstan), to last till 11 September 2021.
7. ▶ 7th edition of biennial event *Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)*, hosted by **French** Navy at *La Réunion*.
  - ✎ 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.
8. ▶ 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 -
    - ✎ US - 5550
    - ✎ Russia - 6255

-  UK - 225
-  France - 290
-  China - 350
-  India - 156
-  Pakistan - 165
-  Israel - 90

9. ▶ 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.
10. ▶ 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.
  -  DAC also approved proposals concerning Capital Acquisitions of various equipment, amounting approx 6000 crores.
11. ▶ 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 -
  -  Ammunition and Explosives group
  -  Vehicles Group
  -  Weapons and Equipment group
  -  Troop Comfort Items group
  -  Ancillary group
  -  Opto-Electronics group
  -  Parachute group
12. ▶ 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.
13. ▶ 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.


14. ▶ Indian Coast Guard inducted **Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Mk-III** in its fleet, which are indigenously manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

 The helicopters are capable of undertaking embarked operations from ships which will enhance Coast Guard capabilities.

15. ▶ 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.

16. ▶ 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.

17. ▶ Indian Naval Ship Trikanth participated in First ever India-European Union Joint Naval Exercise, **IN – EUNAVFOR**, in Gulf of Aden. European Nations Participating in Exercise are Italy, Spain and France.

18. ▶ 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.

19. ▶ Indian Navy participated in bilateral exercise with UAE Navy off the coast of Abu Dhabi, named **Zayed Talwar 2021**.


20. ▶ Indian Navy participated in sea phase of Exercise **Malabar 2021**, along with Navies from US, Japan and Australia.

 Malabar series of maritime exercise commenced in 1992 as an India - US Exercise, Joined by Japan in 2015 and Australia in 2020.


21. ▶ Indian Navy's oldest hydrographic survey ship **INS Sandhayak** has been decommissioned, after serving for 40 years.

22. ▶ Indo-UK Joint Naval Exercise **Konkan 2021** held in the English Channel, attended by INS Tabar on Indian Navy's Behalf.

23. ▶ 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.

 Ministry 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.
- ✍ 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.
- ✍ DRDO 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).
- ✍ Russia successfully test-fired its new advanced S-500 air defence missile systems.
- ✍ Indian Navy received 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.
- ✍ Indian Naval Ship Saryu participated in coordinated patrol (CORPAT) with Indonesian Navy, in its 36th edition.

24. ▶ Misc. Defence News (June 2021) -







- ✍ Indian 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.
- ✍ Defence 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 Atatürk 2021* in Baku.




25. ▶ Misc. Defence News / Events (August 2021)-

- ✍ Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli launched new 7.62 X 39mm portable weapon called *TriCa (Trichy Carbine)*, a mini version of the Trichy Assault Rifle (TAR).
- ✍ INS 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).
- ✍ 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 anti-ship missile.
- ✍ Indigenous Aircraft 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.
- ✍ DRDO 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.
- ✍ 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.
- ✍ First batch of 1 lakh privately *made in India* modern hand grenades handed over to Indian Army by Economic Explosives Ltd, a Nagpur based private company. This is first instance of ammunition being manufactured by private industry in India.
  - ✍ These new multi-mode hand grenades will replace *Grenade No 36* of World War I vintage design.
- ✍ Pakistan 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.
  -  Ministry 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.
26. ▶ 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.
27. ▶ 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.
  -  Project 20386 is Russia's newest class of corvettes being constructed by *Severnaya Verf* for the Russian Navy.

[Top](#)

## Economy

1. ▶ 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.
2. ▶ *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.
3. ▶ *United 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.

4. ▶ 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)*.

✍ It has been formed on recommendation of RBI's Task Force on Development of Secondary Market for Corporate Loans.

5. ▶ 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).

✍ Balance of Agri. Trade (Exports -Imports), improved from USD 14.51 billion in 2019-20 to USD 20.58 billion in 2020-21.

6. ▶ As per RBI -

✍ India's external debt at end-March 2021 stood at US\$ 570 billion, with increase of US\$ 11.5 billion over end-March 2020.

✍ External debt to GDP ratio increased to 21.1 %, compared to 20.6 % at end-March 2020.

7. ▶ 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.

✍ Balance 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.

8. ▶ As per RBI's Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Review -

✍ RBI retained real GDP growth prediction at 9.5% for FY 21-22.

✍ Key Monetary Policy Rates also kept unchanged -

✍ Repo 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 %

9. ▶ As per UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2021 -

✍ FDI in India -

✍ FDI In India stood at US\$ 64 billion in 2020, increase of 27 % over 2019. It makes Making India 5th largest FDI inflow receiver globally.

✍ The hike is attributed 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 -
    -  Global FDI flows stood at US\$ 1 trillion in 2020, down from US\$ 1.5 trillion in 2019.
    -  Top FDI Inflow Nations - US, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, India
    -  Top FDI Outflow Nations - China, Luxembourg, Japan, Hong Kong, US
- 10. ▶ As per data by Ministry of Commerce and Industry -
  -  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.
  -  India 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.
- 11. ▶ Bank of Maharashtra emerged at top among public sector lenders in terms of loan and deposit growth during FY 2020-21.
  -  It recorded 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.
- 12. ▶ 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.
  -  Under this, Govt will provide maximum Grant of 19041 Crores, as Viability Gap Funding.
  -  It shall cover estimated 3.61 lakh Villages across Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
- 13. ▶ 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.
- 14. ▶ Competition Commission of India Approvals (July 2021) -
  -  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.
- 15. ▶ 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).
  - ✎ Approved acquisition of Zuarinagar plant of Zuari Agro Chemicals by Paradeep Phosphates Limited.
- 16. ▶ Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) elected **T V Narendran** (CEO & MD of Tata Steel) as its new President for 2021-22.
- 17. ▶ 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.
  - ✎ Govt has also set up a 9 member panel for development of an Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), designed to curb digital monopolies.
- 18. ▶ 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.
- 19. ▶ 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.
- 20. ▶ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Lyonpo Namgay Tshering (Finance Minister of Bhutan) jointly launched BHIM–UPI in Bhutan.
  - ✎ Bhutan is first country to adopt UPI standards for its QR deployment, and first neighbouring country to accept mobile based payments through BHIM App.
  - ✎ This launch also made Bhutan second country after Singapore to have BHIM-UPI acceptance at merchant locations.
- 21. ▶ 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.

**Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) -**

Govt 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.

Overall cap of admissible guarantee is thus raised from Rs. 3 lakh crore to Rs. 4.5 lakh crores.

**Credit Guarantee Scheme** for Micro Finance Institutions -

This new scheme aims to benefit small borrowers who are served by network of Micro Finance Institutions.

Guarantee 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.

It focuses on new lending, and not on repayment of old loans.

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.

Guarantee will be provided upto 75% of default amount for upto 3 years through National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC).

**Scheme for Tourists Guides/ Stakeholders -**

This new scheme aims at providing relief to people working in tourism sector.

Working 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 -

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 -

 ANBRY, which was launched on 1st Oct, 2020, incentivizes employers for creation of new employment, restoration of loss of employment through EPFO.


 Under 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.


 Govt has now extended date of registration under the scheme from 30-6-2021 to 31-03-2022.

### **Additional 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) -


 Govt 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 agriculture 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 -
  - ✎ 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 -
  - ✎ Out 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.
  - ✎ Total 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.
  - ✎ Outlay for the scheme is 303058 crores, out of which Central Government’s share will be 97631 crores.
- ✎ Extension 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.

22. ▶ 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.

23. ▶ 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%).

24. ▶ 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.
  - ✎ PSBs 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.
  - ✎ Gross 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.
  - ✎ 72% of financial transactions happening at PSBs is now through digital channels.
  - ✎ Overall 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 facilitation, 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%.


25. ▶ 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.

26. ▶ Fintech firm PayU acquired India's First payment gateway **BillDesk**, for **\$4.7 billion**, as largest acquisition in India's digital payments space.

27. ▶ 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.

28. ▶ 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.

29. ▶ 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%


30. ▶ Govt hiked foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in pension fund management to 74% from 49%, under national pension system (NPS).
31. ▶ 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.
- ✎ *Swaption* 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.
32. ▶ 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.
33. ▶ 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.
34. ▶ India overtook US to become 2nd most sought-after manufacturing destination globally, according to real estate consultant Cushman & Wakefield.

 China remains at Top, followed by India, US, Canada and Czech Republic.

35. ▶ 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**.
36. ▶ 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*.
37. ▶ 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.

38. ▶ 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.
39. ▶ 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.

40. ▶ 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.

 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.

41. ▶ 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**.
42. ▶ Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) became second most-valued listed public sector bank, with market capitalisation of over 50000 crores, surpassing PNB and BOB.
43. ▶ 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.

44. ▶ 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.
  - ✎ 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.
45. ▶ Japan announced USD 9.3 million worth of cold chain equipment and related assistance to India to help fight against COVID-19 pandemic.
46. ▶ Kandla SEZ has been awarded IGBC Platinum Rating, making it First Green SEZ to achieve IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating for Existing Cities.
47. ▶ 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.
48. ▶ 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).
  - ✎ State 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.
  - ✎ State announced a moratorium of 1 year for loans that will be taken by the small-scale enterprises from KFC.
49. ▶ 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.
50. ▶ 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.

51. ▶ 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.
52. ▶ Manila (Philippines) 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*.
53. ▶ Misc. Corporate News (July 2021) -
  - ✍ ICICI Bank launched customized solutions for Doctors, titled *Salute Doctors*.
  - ✍ HDFC Bank launched *SalaamDilSey* initiative to show gratitude to doctors for their tireless service during pandemic.
  - ✍ Axis 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.
  - ✍ Vman 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.
- ✎ 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.
- ✎ Paisalo Digital has been selected by State Bank of India as its National Corporate Business Correspondent for financial inclusion by providing banking services through kiosks.
- ✎ Bangalore International Airport signed 10 year partnership with IBM, to set up *Airport in a Box* platform, to help Bangalore Airport improve its productivity.
- ✎ Google-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.
- ✎ RBI imposed penalty of 5 crore on Axis Bank, for non-compliance with certain RBI directions.

54. ▶ 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.
- ✎ Singapore 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.
- ✎ Secure 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.
- ✎ 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.
- ✎ HCL 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 crossed \$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.
- ✎ Equitas 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.
- ✎ HDFC Bank introduced *Green & Sustainable Deposits*, directed towards financing green and sustainable housing credit solutions, aimed at promoting environment conservation. It offers interest rates up to 6.55% p.a, for deposit period 36-120 months.
- ✎ 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.
- ✎ Kotak 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.
- ✎ Karnatak 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.
- ✎ 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.
- ✎ Bajaj 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.
- ✎ Flipkart-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.
- ✎ Payments 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.

55. ▶ 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.
- ✎ DBS Bank has been named by Forbes at top, out of 30 domestic and international banks in India for 2nd consecutive year.
- ✎ HDFC 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.

- ✎ Payments services provider BharatPe acquired multi-brand loyalty platform *PAYBACK India*.
  - ✎ IndusInd Bank 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 co-branded contactless credit card.
  - ✎ Paisabazaar.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.
  - ✎ Bharti 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 Asociativismo y Economia Social (INAES)* and *Cooperative Confederation of Argentina 'Cooperar'*.
56. ▶ 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.
57. ▶ National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) launched India's first sectoral indices in agri-commodities space namely **GAUREX** and **SOYDEX**.
- ✎ GUAREX 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 %.
58. ▶ 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-
- ✎ GDP at 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 %
    - ✎ Q3 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

✎ GDP at **Current Prices** in Q1 of 2021-22 also shown growth **31.7 %**.

59. ▶ 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.
- ✎ Tax 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.
  - ✎ Introduced a scheme with a total outlay of 1245 crores, named after former CM of Tamil Nadu M Karunanidhi (Kalaigharin Anaithu Grama Orunginaintha Velaan Valarchi Thittam).
  - ✎ To promote organic farming, State government will implement 'Organic Farming Development Scheme' at a cost of 33 crores.

60. ▶ 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.

61. ▶ 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.


62. ▶ 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 -
  - ✎ Repo Rate : 4.00%

- ✍ Reverse Repo Rate : 3.35%
- ✍ Marginal Standing Facility Rate : 4.25%
- ✍ Bank Rate : 4.25%
- ✍ CRR : 4.00%
- ✍ SLR : 18.00%

63. ▶ 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.
64. ▶ 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.
65. ▶ 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.
66. ▶ 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.
- ✍ Recently, 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.
67. ▶ RBI barred **Mastercard** from issuing new credit, debit and prepaid cards in India, for its failure to comply with its data storage norms.
- ✍ This action 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.
68. ▶ 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.
69. ▶ 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.

70. ▶ RBI cancelled licence of Margao (Goa) based Madgaum Urban Co-operative Bank, ceasing it from carrying on banking business.  
✎ Depositors get their money as per DICGC Act 1961, with ceiling 5 lakh per depositor.
71. ▶ 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.
72. ▶ 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.  
✎ Street vendors in tier-3 to tier-6 centres will continue to be covered under the Scheme.  
✎ 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.
73. ▶ 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.  
✎ However, 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.
74. ▶ 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.
75. ▶ 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.
76. ▶ 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.
77. ▶ 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).


 DAY-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.

78. ▶ RBI ranked 2nd in terms of reserves transferred to government as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) for FY 2020-21, after Turkey.

 RBI transferred 99122-crore surplus to government for FY21, 73% higher than 57128 crores paid in 2019-20.

79. ▶ 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).

80. ▶ 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).


 This is aimed at helping supervised entities to strengthen their internal defences and resilience and bringing focus on root cause analysis.

81. ▶ 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.

82. ▶ 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.

83. ▶ 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.

84. ▶ 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.

85. ▶ 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.

86. ▶ 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.

 Due 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.

87. ▶ 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.

✎ Ganga Expressway Phase-1 will connect Bijauli village on NH-334 in Meerut district with Judapur Dandu village on NH-19 in Prayagraj District.

✎ It will pass through 12 districts of Uttar Pradesh - Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Budaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Raebareli, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj.

88. ▶ 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.

89. ▶ 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.

90. ▶ 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.

91. ▶ 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](#)

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.

✍ India is ranked **122nd** across 181 countries.

✍ Top 5 - Germany, Denmark, Australia, Switzerland, United Kingdom (UK).

✍ Bottom 3 - Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Mali.

2. ▶ 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.

3. ▶ 7 Indian companies Named in 2021 Fortune's Global 500 list of top 500 enterprises globally, measured by revenues.

✍ Indian Companies in List with Global Ranks -

✍ Reliance Industries (155)

✍ State Bank of India (205)

✍ Indian Oil (212)

✍ Oil & Natural Gas (243)

✍ Rajesh Exports (348)

✍ Tata Motors (357)

✍ Bharat Petroleum (394)

✍ Top 5 Overall -

✍ Walmart (US)

✍ State Grid (China)

✍ Amazon (US)

✍ China National Petroleum (China)

✍ Sinopec (China)


4. ▶ **Auckland** (New Zealand) topped EIU Global Liveability Ranking 2021.


✍ Top 5 - Auckland (New Zealand), Osaka (Japan), Adelaide (Australia), Wellington (New Zealand), Tokyo (Japan)


5. ▶ **Global Peace Index 2021** by Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) -

✍ India ranked **135th**, compared to 139th rank last year.



 Top 5 - Iceland (1), New Zealand (2), Denmark (3), Portugal (4), Slovenia (5)


 Bottom 5 -Afghanistan (163), Yemen (162), Syria (161)

 Neighbors - China (100), Pakistan (150), Sri Lanka (95), Bangladesh (91)

6. ▶ **United States, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan** will establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform to enhance regional connectivity.

7. ▶ **World Competitiveness Index 2021** report by *Institute for Management Development (IMD)* -

 India ranked 43rd, same as last year.


 Top 3 - Switzerland (1), Sweden (2), Denmark (3).

8. ▶ 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.

 Also -

 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.

9. ▶ Africa become first continent to complete collection of comprehensive digital use data and land-use change data under **Open DEAL Initiative**.

 DEAL stands for *Data for the Environment, Agriculture, and Land Initiative*.


10. ▶ African Union suspended membership of Republic of **Mali**, after second military coup detention of a president and prime minister in nine months.

 Military coup leader Colonel Goita had ordered arrest of country's interim President N'Daw and Prime Minister Ouane recently, causing global outrage.

11. ▶ As per 6th edition of UN Sustainable Development Report (2021) -

 India ranked 120th.

 Top 3 - Finland, Sweden, Denmark

 Neighbors - China (57), Pakistan (129), Bangladesh (109), Sri Lanka (87)

12. ▶ As per *Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2021* by *Shanghai Ranking* -

✍ Top 5 Universities Globally -

✍ Harvard University (US)

✍ Stanford University (US)

✍ University of Cambridge (UK)

✍ Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US)

✍ University of California (US)

✍ Indian Universities in List -

✍ None of the Indian universities could make it to the top 100 spots.

✍ Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore is only Indian institute to have scored a rank in the top 500.

✍ India has 14 entries in global 1000.

13. ▶ As per *Global Skills Report 2021* by Coursera -

✍ India is ranked 67th globally.

✍ Top 3 - Switzerland, Luxembourg, Austria

14. ▶ 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 -

✍ Copenhagen (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).

15. ▶ 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).

16. ▶ 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.

17. ▶ 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).

18. ▶ 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.
19. ▶ 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.
20. ▶ 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.
21. ▶ Central American Nation **El Salvador** became first country to grant legal tender status to **Bitcoin**, the world's largest cryptocurrency.
22. ▶ 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).
23. ▶ 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.
24. ▶ 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.
25. ▶ 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.
  - ✎ Bhubaneswar (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).
- Maharashtra 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.

26. ▶ Covid-19 Pandemic Updates (July 2021) -

- World 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.
- 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 which are deemed as areas of high COVID-19 infections.
- Researchers from IIT Hyderabad developed India's first Rapid Covid-19 RNA Test kit that allows self-testing at home, called 'COVIHOME'.

27. ▶ 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 be 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.
  - ✎ Govt 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.
  - ✎ 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.
  - ✎ World 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.
28. ▶ 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.
29. ▶ Denmark Parliament approved building a 20 billion-kroner (\$3.3 billion) artificial island in Copenhagen, to house over 35000 people.
30. ▶ 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.

31. ▶ Financial Action Task Force (FATF) added four countries - Haiti, Malta, Philippines and South Sudan, to list of *jurisdiction under increased monitoring* for strategic deficiencies.
  - ✍ FATF had earlier identified 17 countries as having strategic deficiencies, taking the number now up to 21.
32. ▶ 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.
33. ▶ 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).
34. ▶ 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.
  - ✍ 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.
35. ▶ 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.
  - ✍ Also, Action Plan for 2021-24 for agricultural cooperation of BRICS countries was also adopted.
36. ▶ India assumed rotational presidency of 15 member UN Security Council (UNSC) for month of August 2021, from France.
  - ✍ Presidency of UN Security Council is held by each of members in turn for one month.
37. ▶ India has been elected to UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of six main organs of United Nations, for 2022-24 term.
38. ▶ 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.
  - ✍ World Giving Index offers glimpse of global trends in generosity, and people from which country are most likely to engage in social activities.

39. ▶ 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).
- ✍ India 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.
40. ▶ India ranked 10th in **Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2020**, released by International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- ✍ Top 3 -
    - ✍ US (1), UK and Saudi Arabia (2nd), Estonia (3rd).
41. ▶ 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.
42. ▶ India retained its position as 2nd largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in UK, after US, in 2020.
- ✍ Indian companies invested in 99 projects and created 4,830 jobs in Britain.
  - ✍ US companies in 389 projects and created 19301 new jobs in 2020-21 in UK.
43. ▶ 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 -
- ✍ Formalities: 95.83% in 2021 (from 87.5% in 2019)
  - ✍ Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 88.89% in 2021 (from 66.67% in 2019)
  - ✍ Paperless Trade: 96.3% in 2021 (from 81.48% in 2019)
  - ✍ Cross-Border Paperless Trade: 66.67% in 2021 (from 55.56% in 2019)
44. ▶ India, Italy and Japan launched a trilateral partnership to create stability around Indo-Pacific region, and counter threats from china.
45. ▶ 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.
46. ▶ 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.
47. ▶ 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.

48. ▶ 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.
49. ▶ 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.
50. ▶ Microsoft officially launched its new Windows operating system **Windows 11**, to succeed Windows 10, which was launched in 2015.
- ✎ Windows 11 has new user interface, a new Windows Store, and improvements to performance. It will also support Android apps via Amazon's app store.
51. ▶ 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 Arun 3 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.
52. ▶ 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.
  - ✎ Artemis Accords is a US led effort to return humans to Moon by 2024, and to expand and deepen space exploration.
53. ▶ 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.
- ✎ On 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.
54. ▶ 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.
- ✎ Golden rice has been developed by Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute (DA-PhilRice) in partnership with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).
55. ▶ QS World University Rankings 2022 -



 Top 5 -

 Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US)

 University of Oxford (UK)

 Stanford University (US)

 University of Cambridge (UK)


 Harvard University (US)

 Indian Universities in List -

 IIT Bombay (177), IIT Delhi (185) and IISC Bangalore (186) are top 3 Indian Universities.


 Total 35 Indian Indian Universities have been included in List.

56. ▶ 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.

 This will allow market forces to come up in rail freight segment in Nepal, and will increase efficiency of Nepal Railways.

57. ▶ 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.

58. ▶ 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.

59. ▶ 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).

60. ▶ 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.

61. ▶ 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.

 India has been chosen as Partner Jurisdiction and has provided the Tax Expert for 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.


62. ▶ Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2021 -

 Top 5 -

 Tsinghua University (China)

 Peking University (China)

 National University of Singapore (Singapore)

 University of Hong Kong

 Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)

 Indian Universities in List -

 Total 63 Universities named in List.

 Top 3 Indian Universities -

 IISc Bangalore (37)

 IIT Ropar (55)

 IIT Indore (78)

63. ▶ 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.


64. ▶ UAE, Brazil, Albania, Gabon and Ghana have been elected to 15 Member UN Security Council (UNSC), for 2 year term starting January 2022.

 The newly elected nations will replace Vietnam, Estonia, Niger, Tunisia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

 UNSC has 5 Members (5 Permanent and 10 Non Permanent).


 Permanent - China, France, Russia, US, and US.

 Non Permanent -

 India , Ireland, Kenya , Mexico, Norway, UAE, Brazil, Albania, Gabon and Ghana.

65. ▶ 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.

 UNDP'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.

66. ▶ 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).

67. ▶ 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.

68. ▶ 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.

69. ▶ 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.

 It aims to enhance cyber and digital security capability and capacity in World Bank member countries.

70. ▶ 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).

71. ▶ 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.

 Germany aims at generating two-thirds of its electricity needs from solar and wind by 2030.

**Top**

## **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.
  - ✎ PM Narendra Modi Attended the Summit Virtually.
4. ▶ 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.
  - ✎ 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. ▶ 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.
3. ▶ 1st 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)-
    - ✎ East Sikkim (Sikkim)
    - ✎ Gomati (Tripura)
    - ✎ North Tripura (Tripura)
    - ✎ West Tripura (Tripura)
    - ✎ Serchhip (Mizoram)
  - ✎ Kiphire district of Nagaland ranked last.

4. ▶ 3rd edition of **SDG India Index** and **Dashboard** 2020–21 released by NITI Aayog, as comprehensive 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 -
    - ✎ Aspirant: 0–49
    - ✎ Performer: 50–64
    - ✎ Front-Runner: 65–99
    - ✎ Achiever: 100
  - ✎ Top Performing -
    - ✎ **Kerala (75), Best Performing State**
    - ✎ Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu (74)
    - ✎ Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Uttarakhand (72)
    - ✎ Sikkim (71)
    - ✎ Maharashtra (70)
  - ✎ Bottom States -
    - ✎ Chhattisgarh, Nagaland, Odisha (61)
    - ✎ Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh (60)
    - ✎ Assam (57)
    - ✎ Jharkhand (56)
    - ✎ **Bihar (52), Worst Performing State**
  - ✎ Mizoram, 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.
  - ✎ All States / UTs -
    - ✎ Aspirant (0-49) - NIL
    - ✎ Performer (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

5. ▶ **Monsoon Session of Parliament 2021** (Jul 19 - Aug 11, 2021) -

- ✍ Notable Info Disseminated During Monsoon Session 2021 -
  - ✍ Govt 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.
  - ✍ Govt 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).
  - ✍ Govt 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.
  - ✍ India joined Community of Portuguese Language Countries, CPLP as Associate Observer in July 2021.

✎ During 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 institutions of national importance, calling them *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.

✎ Bill provides that Govt will appoint a Director General, Deputy Director Generals, and Directors for districts.

✎ Govt may appoint a Central Advisory Committee (CAC) for consultation on related matters.

✎ Govt will be responsible for development, maintenance, and management of all general aids to navigation and vessel traffic services.

✎ Bill provides 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.

✎ 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.

✎ **Juvenile 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.

 Bill provides 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.*


#### **Factoring 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.

 Bill empowers RBI to make regulations for manner of granting registration certificates to a factor, filing of transaction details 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 -

 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, a vessel 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.

 Govt 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.

 Bill provides for a development fund which 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.

- ✎ 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).
- ✎ Bill introduces an alternate 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.
- ✎ For applying for PIRP, debtor must obtain approval of at least 66% of its financial creditors (in value of debt) who are not related parties of debtor. proposed RP must be approved by at least 66% of financial creditors.
- ✎ Resolution 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.
- ✎ During 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.
- ✎ **Bill** Allows Board to recommend measures for improving marketing of coconut 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.


- ✎ Under **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.
- ✎ Under **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 Pradesh, will also be included in Board.
- ✎ Under **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.

#### ✎ **Airports 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.

 **Bill** also dissolves Environment Pollution Prevention and Control Authority established in the NCR in 1998. An Ordinance establishing a similar Commission was promulgated in October 2020. Bill repeals the Ordinance.


#### **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.


 Employers violating 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 -**


 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.


 **Bill** converts certain offences into civil defaults and changes the nature of punishment for these offences. It also defines small LLP, provides for appointment of certain adjudicating officers, and establishment of special courts.


 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.

 Under **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.

### ✎ **Deposit 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).

✎ Within first 45 days, insured bank must furnish details of all outstanding deposits to the Corporation.


✎ Within 30 days of receipt of details, Corporation will verify authenticity of the claims.

✎ Within 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 -**




 **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.

 Proposed changes in list of STs in Arunachal Pradesh under the Bill -

 <b>Original list</b>	<b>Proposed changes under the Bill</b>
Abor	<b>Deleted</b> from the list
Khampti	Tai Khamti
Mishmi, Idu, and Taroan	Mishmi-Kaman (Miju Mishmi), Idu (Mishmi), and Taroan (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.







 <b>Acts</b>	<b>Appellate Body</b>	<b>Proposed entity</b>
The Cinematograph Act, 1952	Appellate 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 Court*
The Customs Act, 1962	Authority for Advance Rulings	High Court
The Patents Act, 1970	Appellate Board	High Court
The Airports Authority of India Act, 1994	Airport Appellate 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 Appellate	Civil Court#

	Tribunal	
The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999	Appellate Board	High Court

#### Other 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.
-  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 -**

-  It amends **Income Tax Act 1961** and **Finance Act 2012**.
-  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.


 Bill provides 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.

 **Bill** provides for establishment of the Sindhu Central University in UT of Ladakh.

#### **General Insurance Business (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.

 Under 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.



✎ Board of directors of insurer may change these schemes or frame new policies. Powers of government under such schemes (framed under 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.

✎ Before 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.

## **Constitution (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.

6. ▶ 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).
7. ▶ 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.
  -  State 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.
8. ▶ 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.
9. ▶ 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.
10. ▶ 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.

11. ▶ 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.
  - ✍ Because of this, Kapus are neither categorised as BCs, nor are able to avail reservations under EWS category. Therefore, state govt now replicated guidelines for EWS quota in educational institutions and employment, to benefit Kapus and other OC sections eligible for EWS reservation.
12. ▶ 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.
13. ▶ 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.
14. ▶ 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.
  - ✍ India's renewable energy capacity is the 4th largest in the world.
15. ▶ 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.
  - ✍ India plans to install 450 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 from its existing target of 175 GW by 2022.

16. ▶ 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.
17. ▶ 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.
18. ▶ 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.
  - ▶ Enrolment of girls from primary to higher secondary 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).
19. ▶ 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.
20. ▶ 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.

21. ▶ 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.
22. ▶ 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)
  - ✎ Zurich (Switzerland)
23. ▶ Assam Cabinet announced creation of an independent department to protect and preserve *faith, culture and traditions of tribes and indigenous communities* of the state.
24. ▶ 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.
  - ✎ Mizoram'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, Maitam, and Kolasib share a border with three Assam districts namely Karimganj, Hailakandi, Cachar.
25. ▶ 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 -
- ✎ *AMRUT* -
    - ✎ 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.
    - ✎ Overall Mission allocation is 1 lakh crore including central share of 50000 crores.

✎ So far, 105 lakh household water tap connections and 78 lakh sewer/ sepatage connections have been provided under Mission and in convergence with other schemes.

✎ Smart 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)

✎ Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework 2.0 -

✎ It was launched to provide an overarching roadmap to formulate, implement and monitor urban climate actions.

✎ Top 9 cities that have been awarded 4 star rating - Surat, Indore, Ahmedabad, Pune, Vijayawada, Rajkot, Visakhapatnam, Pimpri-Chinchwad and Vadodara.

✎ 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.

✎ PMAY-U's Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) -

✎ For first time, interest subsidy on home loans have been given to Middle-Income Group having annual income of upto 18 Lakh.

✎ 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.

26. ► 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*.

27. ▶ 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.
  - ✎ Of Rs 10 lakh, 5 lakh would be subsidy while 5 lakh would be loan.
28. ▶ 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.
29. ▶ 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.
  - ✎ MOUs -
    - ✎ 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 pre-primary 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).
30. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Aug 18, 2021) -
- ✎ General -
    - ✎ Approved ratification of Kigali Amendment to Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete Ozone Layer for phase down of Hydrofluorocarbons (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.
- ✎ Kigali 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.
  - ✎ 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.
- ✎ MOUs -
  - ✎ MOU between Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Florida International University (FIU), for cooperation in field of Geology.
  - ✎ MoU between Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Switzerland).
  - ✎ MoU between India's National Disaster Management Authority and Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief of Bangladesh, for Cooperation in Disaster Management, Resilience and Mitigation.
  - ✎ MOU 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.
  - ✎ MOU 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).



- ✎ With 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.

31. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Aug 25, 2021) -

✎ MOUs -

- ✎ 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** -

- ✎ Basic recovery rate of 10%, providing premium of 2.90/qtl for each 0.1% increase in recovery over and above 10%, & 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 Ontario Inc*, a subsidiary of OAC which is the administrator of OMERS', one of Canada's largest defined benefit pension plans.

32. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Jul 22, 2021) -

✎ General -

- ✎ Approved 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.

- ✎ 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, only 18 million tonnes value added steel/speciality steel was produced in country.
- ✎ It 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.

### 33. ▶ 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.
    - ✎ For APMCs, interest subvention for loans upto 2 crore will be provided for each project of different infrastructure types, within the same market yard.
  - ✎ Power 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.
  - ✎ Phase-II of the Package has Central Sector (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) components.

 MOUs -

 MoU between Institute of Cost Accountants of India and Association of Chartered Certified Accountants of UK

 Memorandum on Cooperation (MoC) between Competition Commission of India (CCI) and Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC)


34. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (July 14, 2021) -


 MOUs -

 Denmark - Cooperation in field of Health and Medicine


 Russia - 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 -

 Development - 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.

 Disease Control - Renamed as Livestock Health and 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 Sub-categorization 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.

35. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (June 09, 2021) -

✍ General -

- ✍ Approved 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.
  - ✍ RFCL 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.
- ✍ Approved increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all mandated Kharif crops for marketing season 2021-22.
  - ✍ Highest increase in MSP over previous year has been recommended for sesamum (452 per quintal) followed by tur and urad (300 per quintal each).

- ✎ Increase in MSP for Kharif Crops for marketing season 2021-22 is in line with Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing MSPs at a level of at least 1.5 times of the All-India weighted average Cost of Production (CoP).
- ✎ Expected returns to farmers are estimated to be highest in case of Bajra (85%) followed by urad (65%) and tur (62%).

36. ▶ 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.
  - ✎ 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.
  - ✎ Estimated cost is 4077 crores for 5 years. Cost for first phase for 3 years (2021-2024) is 2823.4 crores.
  - ✎ Deep Ocean Mission will 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)	P(Phosphorus)	K(Potash)	S(Sulphur)
18.789	45.323	10.116	2.374

37. ▶ 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.
  - ✎ Model 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 -

- ✎ Argentina - 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.

38. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (June 23, 2021)

- ✎ General -

- ✎ Approved merger of **Central Railside Warehouse Company Limited** with its holding enterprise **Central Warehousing Corporation**, to unify similar functions of both the companies.

- ✎ MOUs -

- ✎ With Saint Vincent and The Grenadines - for Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to Taxes.

39. ▶ 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.

- ✎ Outlay for the scheme is 303058 crores, out of which Central Government's share will be 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.

 MOUs -

 Gambia - Cooperation in Refurbishing Personnel Administration and Governance Reforms.

 Myanmar - Cooperation in health research.

 Nepal - Cooperation in health research.

40. ▶ 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.
41. ▶ 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*.
-  Also, 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.
-  *Ministry 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).
42. ▶ 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.
43. ▶ 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.
44. ▶ 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.
45. ▶ 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.
46. ▶ 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.
47. ▶ 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.
48. ▶ 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.

49. ▶ Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched **Start-up Accelerators of MeitY for pProduct 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).
- ▶ SAMRIDH 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.
50. ▶ 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.
51. ▶ 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.
52. ▶ Four more wetland sites from India get recognition from Ramsar Secretariat as **Ramsar sites** - Thol and Wadhvana from Gujarat and Sultanpur and Bhindawas from Haryana.
- ▶ With 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.*
53. ▶ 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.
  - ▶ UP CM Yogi Adityanath launched the Rashtriya Swasthaya Sevak Abhiyan, by launching Health Warrior Portal, to train health workers.
  - ▶ PM 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.
- ✍️ UNICEF 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.
- ✍️ Union 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.
- ✍️ Ministry 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 created 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.
- ✍️ Maharashtra 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.

54. ▶ 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.
- ✍ Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated Centre for Research and Innovation in Artificial Intelligence set up at the Indian 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.
- ✍ 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.
- ✍ Kerala 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.

55. ▶ 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.
- ✎ Annual 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.
- ✎ Karnataka 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.
- ✎ UN 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.
  - ✎ During 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.

56. ▶ General Conferences (July 1 - 10, 2021) -

- ✍ BRICS 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.
- ✍ Kerala Govt announced to launch 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.
- ✍ 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.
- ✍ Haryana 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.
- ✍ Krantivira 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.

57. ▶ 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.

✍ 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.

✍ 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.

✍ Govt 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

58. ▶ 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.
- ✍ Gujarat 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.
- ✍ 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.
- ✍ A Virtual Conference of BRICS Network Universities on theme *electric mobility* held at IIT Bombay.
- ✍ *Raja Parba* festival has been celebrated in Odisha, as 3-days unique festival in which onset of monsoon and earth's womanhood is celebrated.
- ✍ PM Narendra Modi virtually attended 5th edition of VivaTech, a large scale digital and startup event of Europe, held in Paris every year since 2016.
- ✍ Foreign 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.
- ✍ UK and Australia signed a new Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement, to boost bilateral economic ties(FTA).
- ✍ 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

59. ▶ General Conferences (June 21 - 30, 2021) -

- ✍ 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.
- ✍ Home 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.
  - 🖋️ India will host 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9), in 2022.
  - 🖋️ PM 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.
  - 🖋️ Justice 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.
  - 🖋️ Department 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>
  - 🖋️ 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).
  - 🖋️ Sanjay Dhotre (Minister of State for Education) participated in G20 Education Ministers' Meeting, hosted in blended mode by Italy.
60. ▶ 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.

- ✍ Home 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.
- ✍ Delhi 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.
- ✍ Supreme 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).
- ✍ First direct flight operations between Imphal (Capital of Manipur) & Shillong (Capital of Meghalaya) has been flagged off under RCS-UDAN (Regional 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*.
- ✍ 8th 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](http://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.








- ✎ 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.
  - ✎ Kerala 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.
  - ✎ Odisha'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.
  - ✎ Home 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.
62. ▶ 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.
63. ▶ Goa reportedly Became first rabies-free state in India, after not reporting a single rabies case in last three years.
- ✎ Rabies is caused by Iyssaviruses, spread by infected animal scratches or bites. Globally, dogs are most common animal involved in spreading this disease.
64. ▶ 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.
65. ▶ 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.
  - ✎ Phase 2 of the Scheme, started in 2019 for promoting sales of electric vehicles, was supposed to end by 2022. It has now been extnded by 2 years.


66. ▶ 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.
67. ▶ 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 year Smotor 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.
68. ▶ 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.
69. ▶ 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.
70. ▶ 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.
71. ▶ 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.
- ✎ Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana was launched in 2007, to improve quality of life of tribal people in state.
72. ▶ Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani launched **eNagar** mobile application and Portal, which covers 10 modules with 52 State Govt services.
73. ▶ 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.
- ✎ State 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.
74. ▶ 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.

75. ▶ 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.
76. ▶ 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.
77. ▶ 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.
78. ▶ 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.
79. ▶ 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.
80. ▶ 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.
81. ▶ 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.
82. ▶ 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.
83. ▶ 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.
84. ▶ 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.
85. ▶ 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.

86. ▶ 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.
87. ▶ 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.
88. ▶ 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.
  -  Vehicles registered under this scheme will be in transport category, with several exemptions.
89. ▶ Karnataka became first state to provide 1 % reservation for *transgender* community in all government services, amending Karnataka Civil Service (General Recruitment) Rules, 1977.
90. ▶ 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.
  -  Vidyakiranam project has been developed to aid children who cannot afford digital services.
91. ▶ 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).
92. ▶ 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 (*Bambusa Tulda* and *Bambusa Polymorpha*), 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.
93. ▶ Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched *e-Shram* portal – National Database on Unorganized Workers (NDUW), to enable better targeted identification of unorganized workers.
94. ▶ Ladakh Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur launched **YounTab** Scheme for students, distributing 12300 tablets to students in remote areas.


95. ▶ 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.
96. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Government prepared Ayush-based economic upgradation scheme *Devaranya Yojana*, with twin objectives of improving people's health and livelihood of tribals.
97. ▶ Madhya Pradesh has been ranked first in Anemia Mukht Bharat Index 2020-21, followed by Odisha and Himachal Pradesh.
98. ▶ 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.
99. ▶ 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.
100. ▶ Maharashtra Govt introduced three bills to amend Centre's farm laws, to be discussed during winter session in December 2021. Bills are -
- ✎ Essential Commodities (Amendment), Farmers (Empowerment and Protection), Guarantee Price
  - ✎ Agriculture related Agreements (Maharashtra Amendment)
  - ✎ Farmer Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation)
101. ▶ 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.
102. ▶ Manduadih railway station has been renamed as **Banaras**, by Northeastern railways.
103. ▶ Manipur entered National Railways Map, with Rajdhani Express from Assam's Silchar railway station reaching Vaingaichunpao station in Manipur for a trial run.
104. ▶ Meghalaya Govt approved *Meghalaya Youth Policy 2021*, to enable youth to achieve their fullest potential & become engaged, skilled, creative, responsible & empowered members of community.
105. ▶ 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.

 *SHAI (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.

106. ▶ 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.

107. ▶ 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.

 QSim project is being executed collaboratively by IISc Bangalore, IIT Roorkee and C-DAC with the support of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

 QSim allows researchers and students to write and debug Quantum Code that is essential for developing Quantum Algorithms.

108. ▶ Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Announced hosting 52nd edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa, during 20th -28th November 2021.


109. ▶ 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.

 Campaign started from 25th August, 2021 and will continue to run for 100 days.

110. ▶ 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.

111. ▶ 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.

- ✍️ Tourism Ministry signed MOU with Travel aggregator *Yatra*, to strengthen the Hospitality & Tourism Industry.
- ✍️ Maharashtra 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.
- ✍️ Bank of Maharashtra 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.


112. ▶ 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.

113. ▶ Misc. MOUs (June 2021) -

- ✎ 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'.
  - ✎ Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ministry of Culture signed MoU for *Cooperation in Development of National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)* at Lothal (Gujarat).
  - ✎ Ministry 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.
  - ✎ MOU 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.
114. ▶ 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 Hydroelectric 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.
115. ▶ 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.
- ✎ Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is NITI Aayog's flagship initiative, as unified information portal for women entrepreneurs, launched in 2017.
116. ▶ 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.



 Forum 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.

117. ▶ 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.


118. ▶ 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.

 Currently, NTPC has total installed capacity of 66 GW across 70 power projects, with additional 18 GW under construction.


119. ▶ NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (REL) signed MoU with UT of Ladakh and LAHDC, to setup India's first Green Hydrogen Mobility project.

120. ▶ 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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).

121. ▶ 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.

122. ▶ National Skill Development Corporation and WhatsApp partnered to launch *Digital Skill Champions Program*, that aims to train India's youth on digital skills.

123. ▶ 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).

124. ▶ 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.

125. ▶ 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).

126. ▶ On Occasion of 1st anniversary of National Education Policy 2020, PM Narendra Modi launched several initiatives, including -

✍️ Academic 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.

✍️ 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).

127. ▶ 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 available data on various themes of earth system science for public use.

✍️ July 27 is also Raising Day of CRPF, Formed on July 27, 1939.

128. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stones for multiple projects in Somnath (Gujarat) -

✍️ 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.

✍️ He also laid foundation stone of Shree Parvati Temple (Cost 30 crores).

129. ▶ 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.

 Also inaugurated state-of-the-art public Aquatics Gallery and a Robotics Gallery.

130. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated various development projects in Varanasi (UP). Notably -

 Inaugurated International Cooperation and Convention Centre **Rudraksh**, in Varanasi, constructed with Japanese assistance.

 Inaugurated *Tourist Facilitation Centre* and operation of *Cruise Boat from Assi Ghat to RajGhat* under Project PRASHAD Scheme (National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive).

131. ▶ 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, targeting 30000 beneficiaries.

 It also includes employment assistance allowance of 2500 per month for 12 months.

132. ▶ Punjab ranked at top 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.

133. ▶ 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*.

134. ▶ Rajasthan Govt and Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO) launched *Mission Nirayatak Bano* campaign, to promote aspiring exporters in state.

135. ▶ 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.

136. ▶ 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.

137. ▶ Rajasthan Govt will set up a Vedic Education and Sanskar Board to revive the knowledge of Sanskrit scriptures and Vedas.

138. ▶ Rajasthan Govt. approved *Forestry and Bio Development Project*, planned with support of Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD), targeting eastern districts of state.

139. ▶ 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.
- ✎ Vintage motor vehicles shall not be driven on roads for regular/commercial purposes.

140. ▶ 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.

- ✎ PM-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.

141. ▶ 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.

142. ▶ 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.

- ✎ SC responded to a petition that challenges constitutional validity of sedition law, calling its usage *curb on free speech*.
- ✎ Sedition law under Section 124A 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*.

143. ▶ 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.

144. ▶ 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.

145. ▶ 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.
146. ▶ Telangana government launched *Telangana Artificial Intelligence Mission (T-AIM)* accelerator programme *Revv Up*, exclusively designed for growth-stage artificial intelligence (AI) startups.
147. ▶ 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.
148. ▶ 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.
  - ✍ To boost Ayush education, 70 crores have been allotted for establishment of a new Ayurvedic College at Dudhnoi in Goalpara, under NAM support. Ministry of Ayush will also upgrade Government Ayurvedic College in Guwahati and develop it as a Centre of Excellence.
149. ▶ 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*.
150. ▶ Union 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.
151. ▶ 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.
152. ▶ 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.

153. ▶ Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami launched first-of-its-kind earthquake early warning mobile application, named 'Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert', developed by IIT Roorkee.

154. ▶ West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee re-launched *Krishak Bandhu scheme*, doubling assistance to farmer- beneficiaries to 10000 a year.  
✍ Also, farm labourers having at least one katha (0.0165 acre) will now receive 4000 a year, instead of 2000 earlier.

**Top**

## **Persons**

1. ▶ Obituaries (August 2021) -

✍ Steven Weinberg - 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.

✍ Kasargod 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).

✍ Kalyan 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.
- ✍️ Sean Lock - 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.

2. ▶ Obituaries (July 2021) -

- ✍️ Donald Rumsfeld -Former two-time US defense secretary.
- ✍️ M Prasanna - Former Indian footballer.
- ✍️ Raj Kaushal - Noted Bollywood director and producer.
- ✍️ Mir Hazar Khan Khoso - Former Pakistani Caretaker Prime Minister.
- ✍️ Parassala B. Ponnammal - Noted Carnatic musician from Kerala. She was honored with many awards 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 Warriar - Noted Ayurveda practitioner and receiver of Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri and Dhanvantari Award.
- ✍️ Danish Siddiqui - Pulitzer-winning Indian photojournalist. He was killed while covering clashes between Afghan Special Forces and Taliban insurgents in Spin Buldak, Kandahar.
- ✍️ Surekha Sikri - Noted National Award Winning Bollywood actress.
- ✍️ Mamnoon Hussain - Former Pakistan president.

- 🖋 Shirley Fry Irvin - Noted American Female Tennis Player. She had won singles title at all four Grand Slam events, and was ranked world No. 1 in 1956.
- 🖋 Gautam Benegal - National Award Winning Filmmaker and Cartoonist. He won National Award for best animation film *The Prince and the Crown of Stone* in 2010.
- 🖋 Fakir Alamgir - Bangladesh's Noted folk singer.
- 🖋 Bhageerathi Amma - 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.
- 🖋 Satish Kalsekar - Marathi poet and essayist, and Sahitya Akademi Awardee.
- 🖋 Nandu M. Natekar - Noted Badminton Player. He won over 100 national and international titles.
- 🖋 Mike Hendrick - Former England Cricketer.
- 🖋 Jayanthi - Noted actress, who acted in films in 5 languages - Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi.

### 3. ▶ Obituaries (June 2021) -

- 🖋 Anerood Jugnauth - Former President and Prime Minister of Mauritius. He was conferred Second Highest Civilian Award Padma Vibhushan by Indian Government in 2020.
- 🖋 Poul Schlüter - 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 Receptient 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.



- ✎ Gottfried Bohm - First German architect to be awarded Pritzker Prize.
  - ✎ 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.
  - ✎ KV 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.
4. ▶ 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*.
- ✎ Wipro Founder Azim Premji is only other Indian among top 50 (at 12th position).
  - ✎ Others in Top 5 - Bill & Melinda Gates (\$74.6 billion), Henry Wellcome (\$56.7 Billion), Howard Hughes (\$38.6 Billion), Warren Buffett (\$37.4 Billion)
5. ▶ 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.
    - ✎ He Visited Italy to Participate in G20 Ministerial Meetings.
  - ✎ Air 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.
6. ▶ 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).

7. ▶ Visits to India (August 2021) -

✍ Abdulla Shahid, President-elect of 76th session of the UN General Assembly and foreign minister of Maldives, Visited India.

✍ Former Australian PM Tony Abbott Visited India.

✍ UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) president Alok Sharma Visited India.

✍ COP26 (26th United Nations Climate Change conference) will be held in Glasgow (Scotland) between 31 October and 12 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.

8. ▶ 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 programme.

✍ India and US renewed a global development partnership agreement to work together in African and Asian countries on key issues, for 5 years.

**Top**

## **Science**

1. ▶ 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.

2. ▶ 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*.

✍ The 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.

3. ▶ 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.
  - ✎ Hence, any potential leak would spill much less radiation into the surrounding environment in comparison to leaks from traditional reactors.
4. ▶ 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.
    - ✎ ACP100 has generation capacity of 125000 kilowatt hours, extendable up to 1 billion kilowatt hours.
  5. ▶ 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.
  6. ▶ 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.
  7. ▶ 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.
  8. ▶ 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 co-promote innovative research.
  9. ▶ 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.
10. ▶ 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.
    - ✎ Data from IIRS demonstrates presence of widespread lunar hydration and unambiguous detection of OH and H<sub>2</sub>O signatures on Moon.
  11. ▶ 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.
    - ✎ Survey 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.
    - ✎ 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).
  12. ▶ 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.
  13. ▶ 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.
    - ✎ Swedish 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.

14. ▶ 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 temperature, 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.
- ✍ Hyderabad-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.
- ✍ Botanists 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 *Stoliczka* genus and third species of *Stoliczka* from India. It has been named *Stoliczka 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.

- ✍ IIT Ropar Researchers 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 CO<sub>2</sub>, saving oxygen which otherwise unnecessarily gets wasted.
- ✍ IIT Madras Researchers developed an AI based Mathematical Model called '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.
  - ✍ Piezoelectric 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.
- ✍ IIT 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.
- ✍ By analysing data from 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.

15. ▶ Misc. Science News / Events (June 2021) -

- ✍ *Jayanti* became 12th subgenus of cricket identified under genus *Arachnomimus* Saussure, 1897. It was Found in Kurra caves of Chhattisgarh, and was named after Noted Cave Explorer Jayant Biswas.
- ✍ Germany-based HeidelbergCement (world's second-largest cement maker), will turn its Swedish factory in Slite into world's first CO<sub>2</sub>-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 - O<sub>2</sub> 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.

✍️ Israeli 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.

16. ▶ 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.

17. ▶ 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.

18. ▶ UN 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).

✍️ It aims to improve accuracy of coastal data on the basis of satellite and land-based observations.


19. ▶ 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.

[Top](#)

## Sports

### 1. ▶ 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.

 Men's Doubles - Pierre-Hugues Herbert (France) AND Nicolas Mahut (France)

 Women's Doubles - Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic) AND Kateřina Siniaková (Czech Republic)

 Mixed Doubles - Desirae Krawczyk (US) AND Joe Salisbury (UK)

 Boys' Singles - Luca Van Assche (France)

 Girls' Singles Linda Nosková (Czech Republic)

 About -

 2021 was 125th edition of French Open.

 Other 3 Grand Slam Tournaments are Australian Open, US Open and Wimbledon.

### 2. ▶ 2021 World Athletics U20 Championships (also known as World Junior Championships) held in **Nairobi** (Kenya).

 Medal Table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	<b>Kenya</b>	8	1	7	16
2	<b>Finland</b>	4	1	0	5
3	<b>Nigeria</b>	4	0	3	7
4	<b>Ethiopia</b>	3	7	2	12
5	<b>Jamaica</b>	3	6	2	11

 **India Performance -**



 Ranked 21st (Jointly with Greece) in Medal Table, with 3 Medals (2 Silver and 1 Bronze).

 Ranked 12th in Placing Table with 45 Points. Placing table was topped by Kenya.

 Indian Medalists -

 Amit (Silver in Men's 10000 Metre Walk)

 Shaili Singh (Silver in Women's Long Jump)

 Bronze in 4×400 metre Mixed relay (Team Comprised of Barath Sridhar, Priya Mohan, Summy, Kapil, \*Abdul Razak Cherankulangara Rasheed)

3. ▶ **2021 World Junior Wrestling Championships** (44th edition, held in **Ufa** (Russia)) -

 Medal Table -

 Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	<b>Russia</b>	9	2	8	19
2	<b>United States</b>	7	0	4	11
3	<b>Iran</b>	6	2	6	14
4	<b>Belarus</b>	2	1	1	4
5	<b>Azerbaijan</b>	1	4	6	11

 **India Performance -**

 India ranked **11th** in medal table, with 11 Medals (4 Silver, 7 Bronze).

 Indian Silver Medalists -


 Ravinder Dahiya - Men's freestyle 61 kg

 Sanju Devi - Women's freestyle 62 kg

 Bhateri Bhateri - Women's freestyle 65 kg

 Bipasha - Women's freestyle 76 kg



4. ▶ **2021 Belgrade Open Men' Tennis** (Serbia) -

 Singles - Novak Djokovic (Serbia). He Defeated Alex Molčan (Slovakia)

 Doubles - Jonathan Erlich (Israel) AND Andrei Vasilevski (Belarus)

5. ▶ **2021 Emilia-Romagna Open Tennis** (Italy) -

 Men's Singles - Sebastian Korda (US). He defeated Marco Cecchinato (Italy)

-  Women's Singles - Coco Gauff (US). She defeated Wang Qiang (China)
-  Men's Doubles - Simone Bolelli (Italy) AND Máximo González (Argentina)
-  Women's Doubles - Coco Gauff (US) AND Caty McNally (US)

6. ▶ 2021 Junior World Weightlifting Championships (Tashkent, Uzbekistan)-

 Medal Table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	<b>Kazakhstan</b>	3	2	1	6
2	<b>Turkey</b>	2	3	1	6
3	<b>Uzbekistan</b>	2	2	1	5
4	<b>Armenia</b>	2	1	0	3
5	<b>Indonesia</b>	2	0	0	2

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

7. ▶ **2021 World Archery Youth Championships** (17th edition), hosted in Wrocław (Poland) -

 India Remained Best Performing Nation, with 15 Medals.

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	<b>India</b>	8	2	5	15
2	<b>France</b>	3	2	1	6
3	<b>Mexico</b>	3	1	0	4
4	<b>Japan</b>	2	1	0	3
5	<b>Estonia</b>	2	0	1	3


8. ▶ **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 Angeles (USA).

9. ▶ **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.

 Top scorers were Lionel Messi (Argentina) and Luis Díaz (Colombia), with 4 goals each.

 Best player - Lionel Messi (Argentina)

 Best goalkeeper - Emiliano Martínez (Argentina)

10. ▶ **Italy** won EURO 2020 (European Football Championship), Defeating **England** in Finals played in Wembley Stadium (London).

 It is 2nd EURO Title for Italy, after their 1st in 1968.

 Italian goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma has been named Player of the Tournament.

 Top scorers were Patrik Schick (Czech Republic) and Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal), scoring 5 goals each.

11. ▶ **Tokyo (Japan) Summer Olympic Games 2020** (23 July to 8 August 2021, postponed from 2020 due to Covid-19 Pandemic) -


 **Stats -**

 It was 32nd edition of Olympic Games, continuing since 1896.


 Motto of Tokyo Olympics 2020 - United by Emotion.

 Miraitowa 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)

 **Ravi Kumar Dahiya** (Wrestling Men's freestyle 57)

 Bronze -

 **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).


 **Bajrang 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.


 Other 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.

 **Medal Tally** (Top 10 Nations) -




Rank	Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total





Rank	Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	<b>USA</b>	39	41	33	113
2	<b>China</b>	38	32	18	88
3	<b>Japan</b>	27	14	17	58
4	<b>Great Britain</b>	22	21	22	65
5	<b>ROC *</b>	20	28	23	71
6	<b>Australia</b>	17	7	22	46
7	<b>Netherlands</b>	10	12	14	36
8	<b>France</b>	10	12	11	33
9	<b>Germany</b>	10	11	16	37
10	<b>Italy</b>	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 athletes competed under name Olympic Athletes from Russia (OAR).

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

 Bangladeshi 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.

 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 Climbing - Spain's Alberto Ginés López.
-  Surfing - Brazil's Italo Ferreira.

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

 Field Hockey -

-  Male - Gold - Belgium, Silver - Australia, Bronze - **India**

- 🏆 Female - Gold - Netherlands, Silver - Argentina, Bronze - Great Britain
- 🏆 Football -
  - 🏆 Male - Gold - Brazil, Silver - Spain, Bronze - Mexico
  - 🏆 Female - Gold - Canada, Silver - Sweden, Bronze - US
- 🏆 Handball
  - 🏆 Male - Gold - France, Silver - Denmark, Bronze - Spain
  - 🏆 Female - Gold - France, Silver - ROC, Bronze - Norway
- 🏆 Basketball
  - 🏆 Male - Gold - USA, Silver - France, Bronze - Australia
  - 🏆 Female - Gold - USA, Silver - Japan, Bronze - France
- 🏆 Badminton
  - 🏆 Male 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)**
- 🏆 Tennis
  - 🏆 Male 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
  - 🏆 Male - Gold - Fiji, Silver - New zealand, Bronze - Argentina
  - 🏆 Female - Gold - New zealand, Silver - France, Bronze - Fiji
- 🏆 Table Tennis
  - 🏆 Male 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
  - 🏆 Male - Gold - France, Silver - ROC, Bronze - Argentina
  - 🏆 Female - Gold - USA, Silver - Brazil, Bronze - Serbia
- 🏆 Athletics -

### Men's

-  100 metres - Marcell Jacobs (Italy)
-  200 metres - Andre De Grasse (Canada)
-  High 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)
-  Hammer throw - Wojciech Nowicki (Poland)
-  Javelin throw - **Neeraj Chopra (India)**

### Women's

-  100 metres - Elaine Thompson-Herah (Jamaica)
-  200 metres - Elaine Thompson-Herah (Jamaica)
-  High jump - Mariya Lasitskene (ROC)
-  Long jump - Malaika Mihambo (Germany)
-  Pole vault - Katie Nageotte (US)
-  Shot put - Gong Lijiao (China)
-  Discus throw - Valarie Allman (US)
-  Hammer throw - Anita Włodarczyk (Poland)
-  Javelin throw - Liu Shiying (China)

## 12. ▶ **Wimbledon 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.
-  Men's Doubles - Croatia's Nikola Mektić AND Mate Pavić
-  Women's Doubles - Hsieh Su-wei (Chinese Taipei) AND Elise Mertens (Belgium)
-  Mixed Doubles - Neal Skupski (UK) AND Desirae Krawczyk (US)

 Boys' Singles - **Samir Banerjee (Indian American)**

 Girls' Singles - Ane Mintegi del Olmo (Spain)


13. ▶ 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
Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	6 June
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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
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Japanese Grand Prix		10 October
United States Grand Prix		24 October
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São Paulo Grand Prix		7 November
Australian Grand Prix		21 November
Saudi Arabian Grand Prix		5 December
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		12 December


14. ▶ Archery World Cup 2021 (Leg 3 - Paris (France)) -

 Medal Tally -

 Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	<b>India</b>	7	0	1	8



Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
2	<b>United States</b>	5	5	5	15
3	<b>Netherlands</b>	3	3	3	9
4	<b>Colombia</b>	3	3	1	7
5	<b>Denmark</b>	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

 Earlier -

 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.


15. ▶ ICC (International Cricket Council) announced Format Changes for upcoming global events -

 Men's ODI World Cup in 2027 and 2031 will be a 14-team event.

 Men's T20 World Cup will now be expanded to include 20 teams from 2024 onwards.

16. ▶ ICC confirmed Men's T20 World Cup 2021 to be hosted by UAE and Oman, shifted away from India due to COVID-19 situation.

 Background -

 Originally, It was to be held in Australia in 2020, but was postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic.

 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.

17. ▶ ICC inducted 10 new cricketers into ICC Hall of Fame, including 4 special inductees.

 **Vinoo Mankad (India)** - He was first Indian to score 1000 test runs and take 100 test wickets.

 Aubrey Faulkner (South Africa)

 Learie Constantine (West Indies)

 Ted Dexter (England)

 Desmond Haynes (West Indies)

 Andy Flower (Zimbabwe)

 Special Inductees -


 Monty Noble (Australia)

 Stan McCabe (Australia)

 Bob Willis (England)

 Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka)

18. ▶ ISSF World Cup 2021 (Osijek (Croatia)) -

 India won 1 Gold (Rahi Sarnobat (25 Metre Women's Pistol)), 1 Silver (Manu Bhaker/Saurabh Chaudhary (Mixed 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).

 India is currently at top of Medal Tally -

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

19. ▶ India won 13 medals at World Cadet Championship 2021 in Budapest (Hungary), including 5 Gold, 1 Silver and 7 Bronze. Gold Winners -

 Priya Malik - Women's 73 kg

 Tannu - Women's 43 kg

 Komal Panchal - Women's 46 kg

 Aman Gulia - Men's 48 kg

 Sagar Jaglan - Men's 80 kg

20. ▶ 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.

21. ▶ 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.

22. ▶ 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 Angeles (US).

23. ▶ 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.

 Griffith-Joyner holds women's 100 meters world record of 10.49, 10.61, and 10.62 seconds made in 1988 in Indianapolis.

24. ▶ 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
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
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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

25. ▶ 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.

26. ▶ 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.
  - 🏪 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 disciplinary 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.
- ♟️ Pune'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.
- 🏒 Odisha 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.
- 🏏 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.

27. ▶ 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.
- 🏏 India's Nihal Sarin won Silver Lake Open chess tournament in Serbia.
- 🏏 Windies' 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.
- 🏏 Haryana 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.
- 🏏 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.
- 🏏 England Cricketer Ben Stokes announced to go on an indefinite break from all forms cricket.

28. ▶ Misc. Sports News /Events (June 2021) -

- 🏏 Atletico Madrid won Spanish Soccer League 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.

-  Oman 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.
-  Social 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.
-  Jharkhand State Cricket Association signed MoU with SAIL Bokaro Steel Plant, for construction of an International Cricket Stadium in Bokaro city.

29. ▶ New Zealand won First ICC World Test Championship 2019-2021, defeating India in finals at Southampton (England).

30. ▶ 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.


31. ▶ Recommendations by Sports federations for National Sports Awards -

-  Board 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.

-  Hockey India nominated men's hockey team goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and former India women's hockey team player Deepika for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.

32. ▶ 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

<b>Grand Prix</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Race date</b>
British Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	18 July
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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

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

 F1 Season 2021 -



<b>Grand Prix</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Race date</b>
Bahrain Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	28 March
Emilia Romagna Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch)	18 April
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Spanish Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	9 May
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Italian Grand Prix		12 September
Russian Grand Prix		26 September
Japanese Grand Prix		10 October

<b>Grand Prix</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Race date</b>
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

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

 F1 Season 2021 -

<b>Grand Prix</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Race date</b>
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
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São Paulo Grand Prix		7 November
Australian Grand Prix		21 November
Saudi Arabian Grand Prix		5 December
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		12 December



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

 F1 Season 2021 -

<b>Grand Prix</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Race date</b>
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
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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

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

 F1 Season 2021 -

<b>Grand Prix</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Race date</b>
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

<b>Grand Prix</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Race date</b>
Monaco Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch)	23 May
Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Sergio Pérez (Mexico)	6 June
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Hungarian Grand Prix		1 August
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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

37. ▶ 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.

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