



### Current Affairs - June 2021 to August 2021

Month

Type



- ▶ **156** Current Affairs were found in **Last Three Months** for Type - **National**

(Showing **154** Important Ones)

#### National

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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 -

 Original list	Proposed changes under the Bill
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.





 Acts	Appellate Body	Proposed entity
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	 Central government, for disputes arising from the disposal of

	Appellate Tribunal	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 Tribunal	Civil Court#
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, Mamit, 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/ septage 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 Samridhi*.

✍ 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 pROduct Innovation, Development and growth (SAMRIDH)** programme, aimed at creating a conducive platform to Indian Software Product start-ups to enhance their products and securing investments for scaling their business. It is being implemented by MeitY Start-up Hub (MSH).
- ✎ 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 Wadhwana 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 launc its own over-the-top (OTT) platform, by November 2021.
- ✎ 1st edition of Indo-Pacific Business Summit organized virtually, by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs.
- ✎ 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.

61. ▶ General News / Events (July 21 - 31, 2021) -

- ✍ 1st ever resolution on vision has been approved UN general assembly, calling upon its 193 member countries so that they ensure access to eye care for each citizen. Titled *Vision for Everyone*, it has been sponsored by Antigua, Bangladesh and Ireland.
- ✍ 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 yearSmotor vehicle tax shall be levied annually which shall be half of amount charged earlier. This will facilitate free movement of personal vehicles across States/UTs of India upon relocation to a new State/UT.
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 (BambusaTulda and BambusaPolymorpha), brought from Assam, have been planted over 25 bigha land. KVIC has thus created a world record of planting highest number of bamboo saplings on a single day at one location.
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 Mukta 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 CO2 emissions.

 2000 MW coal-based Simhadri Station is first power project to implement an open sea intake from Bay of Bengal which has been functional for over 20 years. NTPC will also set up a hydrogen-based micro-grid system on a pilot basis at Simhadri.

 About NTPC -


 With installed capacity of 66900 MW, NTPC Group has 71 Power stations (29 Renewable). NTPC aims to install 60 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy (RE) capacity by 2032. NTPC is also India's first energy company to declare its energy compact goals as part of the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE).



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 Niryatak 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.

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