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August
MockDrill100
PDF No.2

(PDF in English)



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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

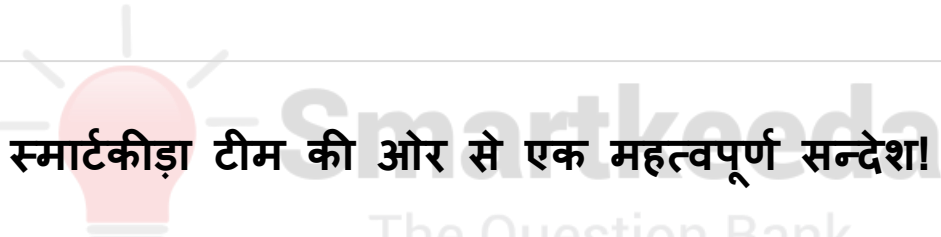
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of August 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda



स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF अगस्त 2021 माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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National & States Affairs

101. On August 4, The Andhra Pradesh government is contemplating merger of the Department of Planning with the Department of Finance. The file in this regard has been prepared recently and it is under circulation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – contemplating merger of the Department of Planning with the Department of Finance
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

102. On August 5, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched a study called “Heath QUEST” to upgrade service quality and ensure zero defect in Indian hospitals. The project was launched by ISRO across 20 private hospitals countrywide. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO – launched a study called “Heath QUEST” to upgrade service quality of Indian hospitals
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed on – August 15, 1969

103. On August 5, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has undertaken installation of agro-automatic weather stations (AWS) at 200 District Agromet Units (DAMUs) at Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) across India. These AWSs will be used for augmenting block level agromet advisory services under Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IMD – to install agro-automatic weather stations (AWS) at 200 District Agromet Units (DAMUs) at KVKs across India
- HQs of IMD – New Delhi | Director General – Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra | Founded in – 1875

104. On August 4, The Supreme Court has held that the Governor of a State can pardon prisoners, including death row ones, even before they have served a minimum 14 years of prison sentence, under ‘Article 161’ of the Indian Constitution. The Bench was considering the feasibility of remission policies in Haryana. The Governor’s power to pardon overrides a provision in the Code of Criminal Procedure - ‘Section 433A’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Governor of a State can pardon prisoners even before they have served a minimum 14 years of prison sentence
- The applicability of powers under: ‘Article 161’ of the Constitution vis-a-vis ‘Section 433A’ of Criminal Procedure Code



105. On August 4, Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed and black-topped the highest road in the world at Umlingla Pass in Eastern Ladakh situated at an altitude of 19,300 feet. The summit of Mount Everest is a little over 29,000 feet. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The BRO constructed the highest road in the world at 'Umlingla Pass' in Eastern Ladakh (at an altitude of 19,300 ft)
- Umlingla Pass – World's Highest Motorable pass
- HQs of BRO – New Delhi | Director General – Major Gen Rajeev Chaudhary | Founded in – 1960

106. On August 4, The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of 1023 Fast Track Special Court (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive POCSO Courts as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) under 'Nirbhaya Fund' for 2 years till March 2023 with an outlay of Rs 1572.86 Cr. The cabinet also approved to increase the stipend under "Rani Laxmibai Atma Raksha Prashikshan" from Rs 3000 to Rs 5000 per month. Besides, the cabinet also approved the extension of the revised "Samagra Shiksha Scheme" for 5 years till 2026. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the continuation of 1023 FTSCs for 2 years till March 2023 (Outlay of Rs 1572.86 Cr)
- It includes 389 exclusive POCSO Courts as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) under 'Nirbhaya Fund'
- Cabinet approved to increase the stipend under "Rani Laxmibai Atma Raksha Prashikshan" to Rs 5000/month
- Cabinet approved the extension of the revised "Samagra Shiksha Scheme" for 5 years (till 2026)

107. On August 4, The government of Telangana has launched more than 3,000 public Wi-Fi hotspots in Hyderabad as part of the 'Hy-Fi' project in collaboration with private internet service provider (ISP) ACT Fibernet. In 2020, the Union Cabinet approved the launch of "PM Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-Wani)" to proliferate public Wi-Fi networks across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Telangana + ACT Fibernet = launched more than 3,000 public Wi-Fi hotspots in Hyderabad under 'Hy-Fi' project
- Cabinet approved the "PM Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI)" in 2020
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- HQs of ACT Fibernet – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Bala Malladi

108. On August 3, INS Khanjar has become the first Indian Navy ship to call at the heritage coastal port of Gopalpur in Odisha. The two-day visit was organised as part of 'Aazadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' as well as 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' celebrations to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Independence and 50th anniversary of the 1971 War. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Khanjar – became the first Indian Navy ship to call at the heritage coastal port of Gopalpur in Odisha
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal



109. The Kerala government has launched the Covid-19 death portal called “Death Information Portal” in order to maintain a proper record of the number of deaths due to coronavirus. The portal would include details like names, age, and gender of the people who succumbed to Covid-19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala – launched Covid-19 death portal called “Death Information Portal”
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

110. On August 5, The Union Territory of Ladakh has launched a month-long campaign - “Pani Maah” (Water Month) to increase the pace of implementation of ‘Jal Jeevan Mission’ in the UT and to inform and engage village communities on the importance of clean water. Ladakh has also announced an award of Rs 5 lakh per village for the first 5 “Har Ghar Jal” villages of each district in UT and Rs 25 lakh to the first ‘Har Ghar Jal’ block in each district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ladakh – launched a month-long campaign - “Pani Maah” (Water Month)
- Ladakh announced an award of:
- Rs 5 lakh per village for the first 5 “Har Ghar Jal” villages of each district
- Rs 25 lakh to the first ‘Har Ghar Jal’ block in each district
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur

111. For the first time, the Lakshadweep administration has planned to construct Maldives style ‘Water Villas’ on 3 islands - Minicoy, Kadmat and Suheli of the Union Territory with its fragile coral ecosystem. The project is estimated to cost about ₹806 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lakshadweep – to construct Maldives style ‘Water Villas’ on its 3 islands - Minicoy, Kadmat & Suheli | Cost - ₹806 Cr
- Administrator of Lakshadweep – Praful Khoda Patel

112. After being inoperative for long, Tamil Nadu’s Animal Birth Control (ABC) Centre at Konakkarai in Tiruchirapalli has become operational. The unit was opened in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Animal Birth Control (ABC) Centre in Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu – became operational again
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

113. The Arvind Kejriwal government has approved a hike of 66% in the salary and allowances of Delhi MLAs. Legislators in Delhi will now draw Rs 90,000 per month as salary and allowances. This hike is the first in the past 10 years in line with the Centre’s suggestion. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Arvind Kejriwal government approved a hike of 66% in the salary & allowances of Delhi MLAs
- Delhi's MLAs will now get total Rs 90,000 per month (salary + allowances)
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

114. On August 4, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan has inaugurated a “Decentralized Biomedical Waste Incinerator” at Buxar in Bihar. The technology developed by Ganesh Engineering Works was selected through the ‘Biomedical Waste Treatment Innovation Challenge’ launched in June 2020 by the ‘Waste to Wealth Mission’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. Vijay Raghavan (PSA) – inaugurated a “Decentralized Biomedical Waste Incinerator” at Buxar in Bihar
- The technology is developed by – Ganesh Engineering Works
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

115. On August 7, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in partnership with Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK (FCDO UK) has launched “Swavalamban Challenge Fund (SCF)” to lend a helping hand to the Entrepreneurs. Under this fund, applications are invited in two categories: Pilot Category and Scale-up Category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SIDBI + FCDO (UK) = launched “Swavalamban Challenge Fund (SCF)” to promote entrepreneurship
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Sivasubramanian Ramann | Established in – 1990

116. On August 6, The Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy R. K. Singh has launched “Reform and Regulatory Knowledge Base for Power Sector”, an e-certification programme to provide regulatory training to the practitioners from diverse backgrounds. He also launched a ‘Regulatory Data Dashboard’ which is an e-compendium of data containing state-wise details of tariff and power discoms performance, developed by IIT Kanpur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R. K. Singh – launched an e-certification programme “Reform & Regulatory Knowledge Base for Power Sector”
- R. K. Singh – launched a “Regulatory Data Dashboard” – developed by IIT Kanpur
- Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Power: Krishan Pal
- MoS in Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Bhagwanth Khuba

117. On August 7, Union Minister of Piyush Goyal has inaugurated “Design Resource Centre” at Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu and “Building of Weavers’ Service Centre” at Raigarh, Chhatisgarh. National level "My Handloom My Pride Expo" was organized at Dilli Haat, New Delhi from August 1 to 15, 2021 by National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC). [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – inaugurated “Design Resource Centre” – at Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu
- Piyush Goyal – also inaugurated “Building of Weavers’ Service Centre” – at Raigarh, Chhatisgarh
- Ministry of Textile and Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra

118. On August 4, India’s Nuclear Power Capacity is expected to reach 22,480 MegaWatts by 2031 from the current 6,780 MegaWatts, as stated in Lok Sabha by Atomic Energy and Space Minister Dr Jitendra Singh. The share of Nuclear Power in the total electricity generation in India is about 3.1% in 2020-21. There are presently 22 reactors with a total capacity of 6,780 MW in operation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Jitendra Singh: India’s Nuclear Power Capacity is expected to reach 22,480 MW by 2031 [{Flexible data}](#)
- Share of Nuclear Power in the total Electricity Generation in India in 2020-21 – 3.1%
- MoS (I/C) in the Ministry of Science & Technology: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K
- MoS in the Department of Atomic Energy and Space: Dr. Jitendra Singh

119. On August 5, The first Heart Failure Biobank in India was inaugurated at the National Centre for Advanced Research and Excellence in HF (CARE-HF) at the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST). It is set up at the cost of ₹85 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 1st Heart Failure Biobank in India – inaugurated at CARE-HF at Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute | Cost – ₹85 lakh
- HQs of SCTIMST – Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala | President – Vijay Kumar Saraswat

120. On August 5, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has secured Patent registration for its innovative ‘Plastic-mixed Handmade Paper’ which is developed to reduce plastic menace from nature. The patent certificate was issued to KVIC’s Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute (KNHPI), Jaipur. The plastic-mixed handmade paper was developed under the first of its kind project in India named “Project REPLAN (REducing PLAstic from Nature)”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KVIC – secured Patent registration for its innovative ‘Plastic-mixed Handmade Paper’
- This paper was developed under KVIC’s project “REPLAN (REducing PLAstic from Nature)”
- HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Founded in – 1956

121. On August 6, The government aims to increase fisheries exports to ₹1 trillion by FY25 by supporting development of fishing harbour and fish landing centres with modern infrastructure under the “Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)”. The PMMSY is being implemented to bring about Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector in India with highest ever estimated investment of ₹20,050 Cr for a period of 5 years. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Government aims to increase Fisheries Exports to ₹1 trillion by FY 2025
- PMMSY is being implemented with an investment of ₹20,050 Cr for 5 years

122. On August 6, The Rajasthan government has constituted a 3-tier Women Grievance Redressal Committee (WGRC) to monitor women working in fields, farms and work sites. The WGRC would monitor all such cases being reported at existing government agencies i.e. 181 Women Helpline, Garima helpline, Sakhi: One-Stop Center, Rajasthan Sampark, etc. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan constituted 3-tier Women Grievance Redressal Committee (WGRC) to monitor women related complaints
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

123. On August 7, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) Dr. Virendra Kumar launched “PM-DAKSH” portal and “PM-DAKSH” mobile app developed by the ministry in collaboration with National eGovernance Division (NeGD). Through ‘PM-DAKSH’ Portal, all information related to skill development is available at one place for Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Safai Karamcharis. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoSJE – launched “PM-DAKSH” portal & “PM-DAKSH” mobile app – developed by MoSJE + NeGD
- PM-DAKSH – Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi
- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Virendra Kumar | Constituency – Sagar, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Ramdas Athawale

124. On August 9, Karnataka has become the first state in India to issue the order with regard to the implementation of “National Education Policy-2020” with effect from the current academic year 2021-2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – 1st state in India to issue an order for the implementation of “NEP 2020” from 2021-2022
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot

125. On August 9, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has launched “eNagar” mobile application and portal. The ‘eNagar’ covers 10 modules with 52 services. Total 170 locations including 162 municipalities and 8 Municipal Corporations are covered under the eNagar project. Gujarat Urban Development Mission has been appointed as a nodal agency for ‘eNagar’ project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat – launched “eNagar” mobile application & portal – covering 10 modules with 52 services
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat



International Affairs

126. On August 4, Germany has become the 5th country to sign “International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement” after amendments to it entered into force on 8th January, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Germany – became the 5th country to sign “ISA Framework Agreement”
- Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier

127. Canada and Bangladesh have joined the Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), an initiative that was launched by India in 2019. Now, CDRI has 25 countries and 7 international organisations as members. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Canada & Bangladesh – joined the Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
- CDRI – an initiative launched by India in 2019 | HQs – New Delhi | DG – Sandeep Poudrik
- CDRI Members – 25 countries & 7 International Organisations
- Canada – Ottawa – Canadian Dollar | PM – Justin Trudeau
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

128. On August 6, India has gifted 30 ambulances to Bangladesh as a part of the shared effort to contain the COVID 19 pandemic in Bangladesh and help in enhancing health care facilities in the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India gifted 30 ambulances to Bangladesh
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

129. On August 6, The government of Thailand recently banned the use of sunscreens containing chemicals that damage coral in all marine national parks in the country. India has four coral reef areas: The Gulf of Mannar, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and the Gulf of Kutch. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Thailand – banned the use of sunscreens containing chemicals that damage coral in all Marine National Parks
- Thailand – Bangkok – Thai Baht | PM – Prayut Chan-o-cha



Banking & Economic Affairs

130. On August 5, The Central Board for Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) has launched the “Indian Customs Compliance Information Portal (CIP)”. The portal provides free access to information on all Customs procedures and regulatory compliance for nearly 12,000 Customs Tariff Items. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBIC – launched the “Indian Customs Compliance Information Portal (CIP)”
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar | Founded in – 1964

131. On August 5, SBI Payments has partnered with Hitachi Payment Services to develop the capability to acquire “e-RUPI” transactions on the Yono SBI Merchant app. The merchants can now use the ‘UPI Voucher’ feature on the Yono SBI Merchant App to accept prepaid UPI e-vouchers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI Payments + Hitachi Payment Services = to develop the capability to acquire “e-RUPI” transactions
- HQs of SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Rama Mohan Rao Amara
- HQs of Hitachi Payment Services – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rustom Irani

132. On August 5, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given banks time till October 31, 2021 to comply with its guidelines on current account and overdraft facilities. This extended timeline shall be utilised by banks to engage with their borrowers to arrive at mutually satisfactory resolutions within the ambit of the circular. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI gave banks time to comply with its guidelines on current account and overdraft facilities – till October 31, 2021
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

133. The RBI has conducted the 3rd Bi-monthly Monetary Policy of FY22. The Policy rates were kept unchanged. Currently, the repo rate is 4% and reverse repo rate is 3.35%. CPI inflation is projected at 5.7% during FY22. The projection for India’s real GDP is maintained at 9.5% for FY22. The RBI extended the Targeted Long Term Repo Operations (TLTRO) on Tap Scheme till December 31, 2021. The RBI also decided to conduct 2 auctions of Rs 25,000 Cr each in August 2021 under “G-SAP 2.0”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI’s 3rd Bi-monthly Monetary Policy of FY22: All policy rates were kept unchanged
- Projections for FY22: Indian’s GDP – 9.5% | CPI inflation – 5.7% [{Flexible news}](#)
- “TLTRO” on Tap Scheme – extended till December 31, 2021 | TLTRO – Targeted Long Term Repo Operations
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935



134. National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has signed an MoU with Punjab National Bank to extend financial assistance. Punjab National Bank has launched “PNB@Ease Outlet” (EASE Banking Outlet) near Ameerpet Metro Station in Hyderabad. PNB’s Zonal Office in Hyderabad will be the nodal office for all the technically approved proposals received by NFDB across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NFDB + PNB = an MoU to extend financial assistance
- PNB – launched “PNB@Ease Outlet” (EASE Banking Outlet) in Hyderabad, Telangana
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao | Tagline – “The Name You Can Bank Upon”
- Location of NFDB – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chief Executive – Suvarna Chandrappagari

135. On August 7, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has empanelled Mangaluru-headquartered private lender Karnataka Bank to act as an “Agency Bank” to facilitate transactions related to government businesses. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka Bank – empanelled by the RBI to act as an ‘Agency Bank’
- HQs of Karnataka Bank – Mangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Mahabaleshwara M. S

136. On August 7, Indian Bank has signed an MoU with the NSRCEL - an incubation arm of IIM Bangalore for extending exclusive credits to start-ups. The bank will extend loans of up to Rs 50 Cr to these start-ups under its “Ind Spring Board” scheme. The Indian Bank also has a business mentoring programme, MSME Prerana, to empower such entrepreneurs through skill development and capacity building workshops in local languages. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Bank + NSRCEL (IIM Bangalore) = an MoU to disburse exclusive loans to start-ups
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Padmaja Chunduru | Tagline – “Your Own Bank”

137. On August 6, The SEBI has amended the “SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996” and directed Asset Management Companies (AMCs) to make an investment of 1% of the amount raised in a New Fund Offer (NFO) or an amount of Rs 50 lakh, whichever is less. Besides, the lock-in period for promoters’ shareholding of minimum promoters’ contribution was reduced to 18 months from 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI amended the “SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996”
- SEBI directed AMCs to invest 1% of the amount raised in a New Fund Offer (NFO) or Rs 50 lakh (whichever is less)
- Minimum lock-in period for promoters’ investment post an IPO reduced to 18 months (from 3 years)
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992



138. On August 6, The SEBI has introduced the concept of “Accredited Investors” in the Indian securities market, a move expected to open up a new channel for raising funds. An individual, HUF, family trust or sole proprietorship, can be an Accredited Investor (AI) if their annual income is at least ₹2 Cr or net worth is at least ₹7.50 Cr. Accreditation Agencies need to have a minimum 20 years of presence in the Indian securities market in at least 20 cities and a minimum net worth of Rs 200 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI introduced the concept of “Accredited Investors” in the Indian securities market
- Criteria for individual, HUF, Family Trust or Sole Proprietorship: Annual income - ₹2 Cr or Net worth - ₹7.50 Cr
- Criteria for Accreditation Agencies: 20 years of presence in the Indian securities market & Net worth - ₹200 Cr
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

Defence Affairs

139. On August 4, The sea trials of India’s maiden indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-1) “INS Vikrant” has been launched. This 40,000-tonne carrier is built by the public sector Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL). It is the biggest warship made indigenously. Like Vikramaditya, IAC-1 has a ‘STOBAR’ (Short Take Off But Arrested Recovery) system of aircraft launch and recovery on the flight deck. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The sea trials of India’s maiden indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-1) “INS Vikrant” is launched
- It is built by Cochin Shipyard Ltd
- HQs of Cochin Shipyard – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman & MD – Shri Madhu S Nair

140. On August 6, Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) have signed an MoU for setting up a unit in the UP Defence Corridor. BDL is Hyderabad-based state-owned, mini-ratna Category-1 company. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BDL + UPEIDA = an MoU for setting up a unit in the UP Defence Corridor
- HQs of BDL – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Siddharth Mishra | Founded in – 1970
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

141. On August 6, Vice Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Satish Namdeo Ghormade has laid the keels of the first warship of the “Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASWSWC)” project and the third warship of Survey Vessel Large (SVL) project for the Indian Navy. The ships are being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) at L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli as part of the ‘Indigenous Shipbuilding Program’ for construction of 8 ASWSWC and 4 SVL for the Indian Navy. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- S. N. Ghormade laid the keels of:
- 1st warship of “Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASWSWC)” project
- 3rd warship of “Survey Vessel Large (SVL)” project
- The ships are being built by GRSE at L&T Shipyard (Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu)
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral Karambir Singh | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950

Schemes & Initiatives

142. On August 2, The government has set the Loans Disbursement Target under the “PM Mudra Yojana (PMMY)” at Rs 3 trillion for the current financial year (FY22) as compared to Rs 3.21 trillion sanctioned in FY21. Rs 3.12 trillion were disbursed to Entrepreneurs out of Rs 3.21 trillion sanctioned in FY21. Under PMMY, credit up to Rs 10 lakh is provided by banks and non-banking financial companies for entrepreneurial activities to small business units. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government set the Loans Disbursement Target under the “PM Mudra Yojana (PMMY)” at Rs 3 trillion for FY22
- Government sanctioned Rs 3.21 trillion in FY21 (of which Rs 3.12 trillion were disbursed to Entrepreneurs)
- Under PMMY: Credit up to Rs 10 lakh is provided by banks & NBFCs

143. On August 5, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister (CM) M K Stalin has launched “Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam” scheme to deliver essential healthcare at the doorstep of the people. Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam will screen those above 45 years of age and others with infirmities through routine door-to-door check-ups. Rs 250 Cr has been allocated for the scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – launched “Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam” scheme (Outlay - Rs 250 Cr)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

144. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) implements a scheme titled “Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)” under Digital India programme to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 Cr rural households by March, 2022. As on August 2, approximately 5.01 Cr beneficiaries have been enrolled and 4.21 Cr have been trained under the PMGDISHA Scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MeitY – implements a scheme titled “Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)”
- As on August 2, 2021: approx 5.01 Cr beneficiaries have been enrolled under the PMGDISHA scheme
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar



145. On August 9, Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC) has announced a comprehensive funding scheme titled “KFC Startup Kerala” for startups worth nearly Rs 10 Cr. The assistance will be Rs 25 lakh for productization, Rs 50 lakh for commercialization and Rs 100 lakh for scaling up. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala Financial Corp – launched a comprehensive funding scheme titled “KFC Startup Kerala”
- The scheme provides with Loans up to Rs 10 Cr for startups
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

Sports & Games

146. On August 2, The USA has beaten Mexico with 1-0 to win its 7th “CONCACAF Gold Cup”. The U.S. lineup included 9 players from Major League Soccer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USA – won its 7th “CONCACAF Gold Cup”
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

147. On August 2, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Anurag Thakur has launched the theme song “Kar De Kamaal Tu” for the Indian Paralympic contingent in New Delhi. The song is composed and sung by a Divyang cricket player Sanjeev Singh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anurag Thakur – launched the theme song “Kar De Kamaal Tu” for the Indian Paralympic contingent
- The song is composed & sung by – Sanjeev Singh (a Divyang Cricket Player)

148. On August 1, World No. 5 Alexander Zverev has won the biggest title of his career when he beat Russian Karen Khachanov to win the men’s singles Gold medal at the “2020 Tokyo Olympics”. In women’s singles, Belinda Bencic has won gold medal in Tennis at the Tokyo Olympics. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Alexander Zverev ([Germany - Tennis](#)) – won the men’s singles Gold medal at the “2020 Tokyo Olympics”
- Belinda Bencic ([Switzerland - Tennis](#)) – won the women’s singles Gold medal at the “2020 Tokyo Olympics”

149. On August 5, Indian Men’s Hockey Team has defeated Germany to win their first-ever Olympic medal in 41 years. Indian Men’s Hockey Team won the Bronze medal beating Germany with 5-4. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Men’s Hockey Team – won Bronze medal at “2020 Tokyo Olympics” (after defeating - Germany)
- It is team’s first-ever Olympic medal in 41 years
- [Germany – Berlin – Euro](#) | [President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier](#)



150. On August 4, Indian wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya has won the silver medal in the final of men's 57kg freestyle category after losing to Russian Olympic Committee's (ROC) Zaur Uguev. This is India's 5th medal at "2020 Tokyo Olympics" and the second Silver of the campaign. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravi Kumar Dahiya – won silver medal in men's 57kg freestyle category at "2020 Tokyo Olympics"
- This is India's 5th medal at "2020 Tokyo Olympics" (2nd silver)

151. On August 6, Jan-Krzysztof Duda of Poland has won the 9th edition of "FIDE World Cup 2021", beating GM Sergey Karjakin of Russia. It was held at Sochi, Russia. While Russia's Alexandra Kosteniuk has won the 1st edition of "FIDE Women's World Cup 2021". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jan-Krzysztof Duda ([Poland](#)) – won the 9th edition of "FIDE World Cup 2021"
- Alexandra Kosteniuk ([Russia](#)) – won the 1st edition of "FIDE Women's World Cup 2021"

152. On August 4, Lovlina Borgohain has won India's third medal - a Bronze - at the Tokyo Olympics after losing to Turkish world champion Busenaz Surmeneli in their 69kg semifinal. She becomes only the second Indian woman boxer and third overall, after Vijender Singh (bronze in 2008) and Mary Kom (bronze in 2012). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lovlina Borgohain – 3rd Indian boxer to win a medal at Olympics (Bronze at 2020 Tokyo Olympics in 69kg)
- Lovlina Borgohain + Vijender Singh + Mary Kom = Indian Boxers

153. On August 7, 23-year-old from Haryana, Neeraj Chopra has won India's 1st Gold medal at the "2020 Tokyo Olympics" with a throw of 87.58m. With this, he became the first Indian javelin thrower in the history of India to qualify for the final. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neeraj Chopra ([Haryana - Javelin throw](#)) – won India's 1st Gold medal at the "2020 Tokyo Olympics" (87.58m)

154. On August 6, James Anderson has become the third highest wicket taker in Test cricket to equal Anil Kumble's tally of 619 wickets. Spin legends Muttiah Muralitharan (800 wickets) and Shane Warne (708) are the only bowlers ahead of Anderson in the record books. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UK's James Anderson (619) – become the 3rd highest wicket taker in Test cricket (equal to India's Anil Kumble)
- 1st - Muttiah Muralitharan (800 wickets) | 2nd - Shane Warne (708)

Important Days & Dates

155. Hiroshima Day is observed every year on August 6 to promote peace politics and raise awareness of the effects of the bomb attack on Hiroshima. Hiroshima city was attacked by an atomic weapon that killed thousands of lives instantly on August 6, 1945. This year, it is the 76th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the Japanese city. The US had created 2 atomic bombs named “Little Boy” dropped in the city of Hiroshima and “Fat Man” in the city of Nagasaki on August 6 and 9 respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- August 6 – 76th anniversary of “Hiroshima Day”
- An atomic bomb named “Little Boy” dropped by the US on Hiroshima city of Japan – on August 6, 1945
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

156. TRIFED was founded on August 6, 1987 and has celebrated its 34th Foundation Day on August 6, 2021. The proposed event also recognized the achievements and contributions that the tribes and people working for them have made in this regard. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- August 6 – 34th Foundation Day of TRIFED
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna | Chairman – Ramesh Chand Meena | Founded in – 1987

157. On August 7, the Ministry of Textiles celebrated 7th National Handloom Day. On this occasion, Flipkart and Himachal Pradesh State Handicrafts and Handloom Corporation Ltd (HPSHHCL) signed an MoU to bring local artisans, weavers, handicrafts and handloom makers into the e-commerce. The partnership will provide them with market access training and support under the ‘Flipkart Samarth’ programme. Besides, Flipkart has also signed an MoU with IIM Sambalpur for the same purpose. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- August 7 – 7th “National Handloom Day” by Ministry of Textiles
- Flipkart + Himachal Pradesh = an MoU to bring local artisans & handloom makers into the e-commerce
- Flipkart + IIM Sambalpur = an MoU to support & promote small businesses, artisans & weavers
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- HP: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar



Meetings, Conferences and Summits

158. The G20 ministers adopted a declaration for “Leveraging Digitalization for a Resilient, Strong, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery” at the “G20 Digital Ministers’ Meeting” hosted by Italy on August 5, 2020. Minister of Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw led the Indian delegation virtually. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashwini Vaishnaw – represented India at the “G20 Digital Ministers’ Meeting” hosted by Italy
- [Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar](#)

159. On August 6, The 1st Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA) level meeting of ‘Colombo Security Conclave’ was recently hosted virtually by Sri Lanka. India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives have agreed to work on “Four Pillars” of security cooperation, covering areas of marine security, human trafficking, counter-terrorism, and cyber security. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sri Lanka – hosted the 1st Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA) level meeting of ‘Colombo Security Conclave’
- The meeting was held among India, Sri Lanka & Maldives | India was represented by – Ajit Doval (NSA)
- They agreed to work on 4 Pillars:
 - Cyber Security
 - Marine Security
 - Human Trafficking
 - Counter-Terrorism
- [Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee](#)
- [PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa](#)

160. On August 6, Minister for Law and Justice, Kiren Rijiju has represented India in the 8th “Justice Ministers Meeting 2021” of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The meeting was hosted by Tajikistan. During the meeting, Kiren Rijiju also informed launching of “E-Lok Adalat”, an effective tool to settle disputes, combining technology and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kiren Rijiju – represented India in the 8th “Justice Ministers Meeting 2021” of the SCO – hosted by Tajikistan
- India proposed to launch “E-Lok Adalat” - an effective tool to settle disputes
- [Ministry for Law & Justice: Kiren Rijiju | Constituency – Arunachal West](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Law & Justice – S. P. Singh Baghel](#)



161. The Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh led India's delegation to the 28th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Foreign Ministers Meeting held virtually on August 6, 2021 under the Chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam. Besides, the 11th East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers Meeting was also chaired by Brunei Darussalam and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar participated in it. In the EAS, S. Jaishankar proposed to celebrate 2022 as the "ASEAN-India Friendship Year". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajkumar Ranjan Singh – represented India in the 28th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Foreign Ministers Meeting
- S. Jaishankar – represented India in the 11th East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers Meeting
- Both of the above meetings were held under the Chairmanship of Brunei
- S. Jaishankar proposed to celebrate 2022 as the "ASEAN-India Friendship Year"
- [Ministry of External Affairs: S. Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of External Affairs: Rajkumar Ranjan Singh](#)
- [Chairmanship of ASEAN 2021 – Brunei | Secretariat of ASEAN – Jakarta, Indonesia | Members – 10](#)
- [Brunei – Bandar Seri Begawan – Brunei dollar \(BND\) | Prime Minister – Hassanal Bolkiah](#)

162. On August 6, DRDO chairman Dr G. Satheesh Reddy has inaugurated the 2nd Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Conference on Range Technology (ICORT-2021). The conference was organized by DRDO's lab Integrated Test Range, Chandipur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2nd Institute of IEEE "International Conference on Range Technology (ICORT-2021)" – organized by DRDO-Integrated Test Range ([Chandipur](#))
- [HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958](#)

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

163. Chitkara University, Patiala, has been recognised as the "District Green Champion" for the academic year 2020-21 by the Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education (MGNCRE), under the Ministry of Education (MoE). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chitkara University ([Patiala](#)) – recognised as the "District Green Champion" for 2020-21 – by MGNCRE, MoE
- [Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore](#)

164. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award has been renamed as the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award. The Khel Ratna award is the highest sporting honour in the nation. The Khel Ratna award was instituted in 1991-1992 and the first recipient was Chess legend Viswanathan Anand. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award” – renamed as the “Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award”
- ‘Khel Ratna’ award was instituted in 1991-1992 | 1st recipient of Khel Ratna award – Viswanathan Anand (Chess)

165. On August 7, The Telangana government has won the “AI Gamechanger Award” in the ‘Xperience-AI Summit’ organised by NASSCOM. The Telangana government’s ‘Crowd Monitoring using AI’ scheme was selected out of over 300 applications from multiple stakeholders. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Telangana – won the “AI Gamechanger Award” for ‘Crowd Monitoring using AI’ scheme – from NASSCOM
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

166. On August 5, Bhutan’s India assisted Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project was conferred with the “Brunel Medal” awarded by the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), London. The award is given as a mark of excellence in civil engineering within the industry and was handed over by the Indian envoy to Bhutan Ruchira Kamboj. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project (Bhutan) – awarded the “Brunel Medal” by Institution of Civil Engineers (London)
- Indian Ambassador to Bhutan – Ruchira Kamboj
- Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum | PM – Lotay Tshering

Appointments & Resignations

167. On August 4, The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Prakash Chandra as Non-Executive (Part Time) Chairman of RBL Bank with effect from for a 3-year period. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prakash Chandra – appointed as Non-Executive (Part Time) Chairman of RBL Bank – for 3 years
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Vishwavir Ahuja | Chairman – Prakash Chandra

168. Dhriti Banerjee has taken over as the first woman Director of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), one of the premier organisations involved in taxonomic studies of fauna. She is the 18th Director of the ZSI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dhriti Banerjee – took over as the first woman Director of the ZSI (overall 18th Director)
- HQs of ZSI – Kolkata, West Bengal | Director – Dhriti Banerjee | Founded on – July 1, 1916



169. Akhilesh Mishra, presently Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Ireland. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Akhilesh Mishra – appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Ireland
- Ireland – Dublin – Euro | PM – Micheal Martin

170. Chandel district in Manipur has topped the list of Aspirational Districts ranked by government think tank NITI Aayog for the month of June. Sahibganj (Jharkhand) and Firozpur (Punjab) have been ranked at the second and third positions, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chandel ([Manipur](#)) – topped the list of “Aspirational Districts for June 2021” ranked by NITI Aayog
- 2nd - Sahibganj ([Jharkhand](#)) | 3rd - Firozpur ([Punjab](#))
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

171. On August 6, The Himachal Pradesh government has appointed senior IAS officer Ram Subhag Singh as the Chief Secretary replacing Anil Kumar Khachi who was made the state election commissioner. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Subhag Singh – appointed as Chief Secretary of Himachal Pradesh
- HP: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

172. On August 5, Eurosport India, the sports channel from broadcast network Discovery, has appointed Bollywood actor John Abraham as the brand ambassador for their flagship motorsport property - “MotoGP”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- John Abraham – appointed as brand ambassador of ‘Eurosport India’ – for “MotoGP”

173. On August 2, Armenia's acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has been officially appointed to the post by Armenia's President Armen Sarkissian. Mr. Nikol is associated with Civil Contract party. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nikol Pashinyan – officially appointed as the PM of Armenia
- Armenia – Yerevan – Dram | President – Armen Sarkissian | PM – Nikol Pashinyan

174. Anthony Heredia has been announced as the Chief Executive Officer of “BOI AXA Investment Managers Private Limited” (BOI AXA Mutual Fund) with effect from August 5, 2021. He will succeed Sandeep Dasgupta. Anthony has also served as a Director on the Board of the Association of Mutual Funds of India (AMFI). BOI AXA Mutual Fund is formed by a joint venture between Bank of India and AXA Investment Managers. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Anthony Heredia – appointed as the CEO of BOI AXA Mutual Fund (replacing - Sandeep Dasgupta)
- HQs of BOI AXA Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Anthony Heredia

175. On August 7, In pursuance of 'Section 3' of the 'National Commission for Women Act 1990', Central Government has nominated Rekha Sharma as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) for another term of 3 years or till the age of 65 years or until further orders, whichever is the earliest. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rekha Sharma – nominated as the Chairperson of the NCW for another term of 3 years
- HQs of NCW – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rekha Sharma | Founded in – 1992

176. On August 9, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has appointed Team India's hockey player Vandana Katariya as the brand ambassador of the state's Department of Women Empowerment and Child Development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vandana Katariya – appointed as the brand ambassador of Uttarakhand's Department of WECD
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya



Amount & Agreements

177. On August 5, The World Bank has signed a \$250million loan project called the "Second Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP-2)" with the central government, the Central Water Commission (CWC), and 10 States, to support schemes to improve the safety and performance of existing dams across these States. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank + India = a \$250 million loan project called "DRIP-2"
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

178. On August 7, Asian Development Bank has approved a \$300 million loan as additional financing for the ongoing Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project that is upgrading rural roads and connecting remote areas with markets. The Maharashtra government is aiming to increase the average growth rate of agriculture and allied activities to more than 5% per year by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – approved \$300 million additional loan for rural roads in Maharashtra
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

179. On August 5, Merchandise Exports from India has hit a record high of \$35.2 billion in July 2021 - the highest-ever monthly figure in India's history. It is an increase of 47.91% over the \$23.78 billion in July 2020. [{Read more}](#)

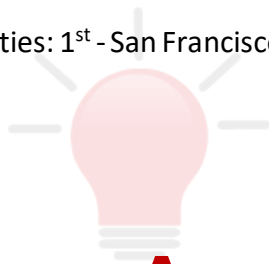
Key Points:

- Merchandise Exports from India increased by 47.91% – to reach \$35.2 billion in July 2021 (compared to July 2020)

180. On August 6, India fell 6 spots to the 32nd place in the 2nd edition of “Global Coronavirus Innovation Rankings” for countries, as per a report prepared by StartupBlink in association with Health Innovation Exchange, UNAIDS. The report features the top-ranked 40 countries and 100 cities in the world. India has two cities featured - Bengaluru at 49th rank & New Delhi at 55th rank, among the top 100 and has 15 Covid-related innovations mapped this year. The US topped the rankings, followed by Israel & Canada. In cities, top three were San Francisco Bay (US), New York (US) & Moscow (Russia). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2nd edition of “Global Coronavirus Innovation Rankings” – released by StartupBlink + UNAIDS
- Among top 40 countries: 1st - US, 2nd - Israel, 3rd – Canada | India – 32nd
- Among top 100 cities: 1st - San Francisco Bay, 2nd - New York, 3rd – Moscow | Bengaluru - 49th & New Delhi - 55th



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The Question Bank

Acquisitions & Mergers

181. On August 4, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of PNB Housing Finance Ltd by Carlyle Group and other investors. The transaction has been approved by the CCI under the ‘Green Channel’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved the acquisition of PNB Housing Finance Ltd – by Carlyle Group
- HQs of PNBHF – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Hardayal Prasad | Tagline – “Ghar Ki Baat”
- HQs of Carlyle Group – Washington, D.C., USA | Co-Chief Executive Officers – Kewsong Lee, Glenn Youngkin

182. On August 4, US private equity fund CA Emerald Investments has decided to sell its entire 1.9% stake in SBI Life Insurance Company. In 2019, Carlyle had bought total 9% stake in SBI Life from BNP Paribas for about Rs 5,500 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CA Emerald Investments (US) – to sell its entire 1.9% stake in SBI Life Insurance
- HQs of SBI Life Insurance – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Mahesh Kumar Sharma



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

183. On August 4, The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has signed an MoU with University of Agricultural Science (UAS) Bangalore to give boost agricultural and processed food products exports from Karnataka. APEDA functions under Ministry of Commerce. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- APEDA + UAS (Bangalore) = an MoU to boost agricultural & processed food products exports – from Karnataka
- HQs of APEDA – New Delhi | Chairman – Paban K. Borthakur | Established in – 1986
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot

184. On August 4, Walmart-owned Flipkart and Haqdarshak have signed an MoU with the government of Haryana to support MSMEs under Walmart’s supplier development programme called “Walmart Vriddhi”. The first Walmart Vriddhi e-Institute was launched in Haryana in October, 2021. Walmart aims to triple its exports from India to \$10 billion annually by 2027. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Flipkart + Haqdarshak + Haryana = an MoU to support MSMEs under “Walmart Vriddhi” programme
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- HQs of Haqdarshak – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Founder & CEO – Aniket Doegar
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

185. On August 5, Government of Assam, NABARD and AIFA (Assam Infrastructure Financing Authority) have signed an MoU to give a boost to execute development projects in the state. The MoU involves Rs 13,200 Cr which will essentially be used for infrastructural development for NABARD Infrastructure Development Assistance (NIDA) and Rural Infrastructure Assistance to State Government (RIAS) in rural and semi urban areas across the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam + NABARD + AIFA = to execute development projects in Assam
- Rs 13,200 Cr – to be used for “NIDA” & “RIAS” in rural and semi urban areas across Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Govinda Rajulu Chintala | Founded in – 1982

186. On August 5, The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has partnered with the State-owned Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) to provide better storage facilities for the Farmers Producer Organisation (FPOs) for next 5 years. The scheme will be launched as a pilot in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- NABARD + CWC (New Delhi) = to provide better storage facilities for FPOs for 5 years
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Govinda Rajulu Chintala | Founded in – 1982

187. On August 4, The Union Cabinet has approved an MoU between the Indian Institute of Space science & Technology (IIST) and The Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), Netherlands for carrying out the Academic programmes and Research activities in Science and Technology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved an MoU between the IIST & Delft University of Technology ([Netherlands](#))
- Location of IIST – Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro | PM – Mark Rutte

188. On August 7, MeitY Startup Hub (MSH) has partnered with India Accelerator to support deep-tech startups under its flagship program 'SOMA'. The MSH is an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) aimed to promote technology innovation, start-ups, and creation of intellectual properties. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MeitY Startup Hub + India Accelerator = to support deep-tech startups under the flagship program 'SOMA'
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha

189. On August 6, National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has partnered with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) for research collaboration. The objective of the collaboration is to create a research ecosystem in the area of insolvency and bankruptcy in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSE + IBBI = for joint research collaboration
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi | MD & CEO – Vikram Limaye
- HQs of IBBI – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. S. Sahoo | Established in – 2016

190. On August 5, Food delivery platform Swiggy in partnership with Hero Lectro Cargo (HLC) is launching a pilot project in Hyderabad under which Hero Lectro WINN cargo e-cycles are to be used for food deliveries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Swiggy + Hero Lectro Cargo = launching a pilot project in Hyderabad to use E-cycles for food delivery
- HQs of Swiggy – Bangalore, Karnataka | Founder & CEO – Sriharsha Majety | Founded in – 2014



Books & Authors

191. On August 5, Rudrangshu Mukherjee has authored a latest Non-fiction book “A Begum & A Rani - Hazrat Mahal and Lakshmibai in 1857”. This is his 6th book on the subject. This book is published by Penguin. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “A Begum & A Rani - Hazrat Mahal and Lakshmibai in 1857” book – authored by Rudrangshu Mukherjee

192. On August 3, “Balakot Air Strike: How India Avenged Pulwama”, published by Garuda Prakashan, is written by Navy veteran Manan Bhatt. The book revisits the chain of real-life events surrounding February 2019 Pulwama suicide bombing attack, and India's strong hit-back in the form of Balakot airstrikes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Balakot Air Strike: How India Avenged Pulwama” book – authored by Manan Bhatt
- Publisher – Garuda Prakashan

193. On August 5, Former Indian cricketer Virender Sehwag has made announcement of a new book called “The Biography of a Failed Venture: Decoding success secrets from the Black box of a Dead Start-up”, written by Prashant Desai, a senior director at Everstone Group. The book is published by HarperCollins India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Biography of a Failed Venture: Decoding success secrets from the Black box of a Dead Start-up” – authored by Prashant Desai
- Publisher – HarperCollins India

Obituaries

194. On August 5, India’s goalkeeper during the 1956 and 1960 Olympic, Shankar Subramaniam Narayan also known as S. S. ‘Babu’ Narayan passed away. He was 86. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shankar Subramaniam Narayan (S. S. ‘Babu’ Narayan) – an Olympian Footballer – passed away

195. On August 6, Cartoonist, sculptor and folk singer P. S. Banarji passed away. He was 41. He was a recipient of the Lalithakala Akademi Fellowship. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- P. S. Banarji – Cartoonist, Sculptor & Folk Singer – passed away
- Awards: “Lalithakala Akademi Fellowship”

Science & Technology

196. On August 4, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has launched India's first earthquake early warning mobile application "Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert". The app is developed by IIT Roorkee. The programme was initially launched as a pilot project by the Ministry of Earth Sciences for the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand – launched India's first earthquake early warning mobile application "Bhookamp Alert"
- The app is developed by – IIT Roorkee
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

197. The world's largest star sapphire cluster has recently been found in a backyard in Sri Lanka. The sapphire cluster weighs around 510 kilograms or 2.5 million carats. The rock has been named "Serendipity Sapphire". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World's largest star sapphire cluster named "Serendipity Sapphire" found in Sri Lanka (weight - 510 kg)
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa



Ordinance, Bills and Acts

198. On August 5, The Rajya Sabha has passed the "Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021" allowing inclusion of Mishmi-Kaman (Miju Mishmi), Idu (Mishmi), Taraon (Digaru Mishmi) & Monpa, Memba, Sartang and Sajolang (Miji) in the list of identified Scheduled Tribes in Arunachal Pradesh. The bill provides for the deletion of Abor tribe from Serial No. 1 as it is the same as Adi in serial no. 16. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajya Sabha – passed the "Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021" related to AP's Tribes
- Inclusion of tribes: Mishmi-Kaman, Idu, Taraon & Monpa, Memba, Sartang & Sajolang
- Deletion of tribes: Abor
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra

199. The Union Cabinet has approved the "Constitution (127th) Amendment Bill" to restore powers to states and Union Territories to make their own OBC lists. This power was removed in the 102nd Constitutional Amendment in 2018 and was bestowed to the President of India. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Cabinet approved “127th Constitutional Amendment Bill” to restore powers to states/UTs to make their own OBC lists
- It was removed in the 102nd Constitutional Amendment in 2018

200. On August 9, The Parliament has passed the “Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2021” which seeks to establish a Central university named “Sindhu Central University” in Ladakh. It aims to facilitate and promote avenues of higher education and research for the people of the Union Territory. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Parliament passed a bill to set up “Sindhu Central University” in Ladakh
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur





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