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August
MockDrill100
PDF No. 3

(PDF in English)



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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

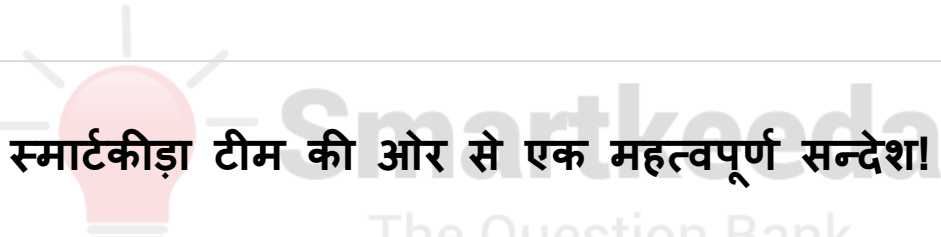
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of August 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial 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

201. On August 7, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India has released a Commemorative Postage Stamp on 'Mananiya Chaman Lal' at a public function in New Delhi. He was a renowned Social Worker and Sangh Pracharak. He was born on 25th March, 1920 in Sialkot (now in Pakistan). The stamp was issued by the Department of Posts as a tribute to Unsung Heroes of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Venkaiah Naidu – released a Commemorative Postage Stamp on 'Mananiya Chaman Lal' - a Social Worker
- [Vice President of India – Venkaiah Naidu | Constituency – Karnataka](#)

202. Assam government has decided not to prosecute any Gurkha member under the "Citizenship Act, 1955" and withdraw all cases against members of the community in the Foreigners' Tribunals (FTs). It will remove the illegal immigrants or foreigners tag called "D-voter tag" on Gurkhas. Besides, Gurkhas & four other indigenous communities - Ahoms, Morons, Motoks and Chutias have been included as 'Protected Classes of Persons' by the Assam government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – not to prosecute any Gurkha member under the "Citizenship Act, 1955"
- FTs – Foreigners' Tribunals | "D-voter tag" – associated with Gurkhas tribe (Doubtful Voters)
- "Ahoms, Morons, Motoks & Chutias" indigenous communities – included as 'Protected Classes of Persons' by Assam
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi](#)

203. PM Narendra Modi has launched a ₹11,000 Cr "National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)" to make India self-reliant in edible oils. India currently depends on imports for nearly two-thirds of edible oil used in the country. And Palm oil accounts for nearly 55% of edible oil imported by India. The Prime Minister also released the 9th installment of "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)" worth ₹19,509 Cr to over 9.75 Cr farmers across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – launched ₹11,000 Cr "National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm" to make India self-reliant in Edible oils
- Narendra Modi – also released the 9th installment of "PM-KISAN" worth ₹19,509 Cr
- Palm Oil accounts for nearly 55% of edible oil imported by India

204. The Standing Committee on Water Resources has recommended renegotiating the "Indus Water Treaty" with Pakistan to address the impact of climate change on water availability in the river basin. As per the Indus Waters Treaty between India and Pakistan in 1960, all the waters of the eastern rivers - Sutlej, Beas and Ravi, are allocated to India for unrestricted use. The waters of western rivers - Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab have been assigned largely to Pakistan. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Standing Committee on Water Resources recommended renegotiating the “Indus Water Treaty” with Pakistan
- As per the treaty: All water of Eastern rivers - Sutlej, Beas & Ravi are allocated to India
- “Indus Waters Treaty” signed between India & Pakistan – on September 19, 1960 | Brokered by – World Bank
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

205. On August 8, Rameswar Teli has launched the 3rd ONGC-supported Assam Handloom project “Ujjwal Abahan” under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The project will support and train 100 artisans of Bhatiapar of Sivasagar, Assam in Hathkharga handicraft. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rameswar Teli – launched Assam Handloom project “Ujjwal Abahan” (3rd ONGC-supported project)
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- HQs of ONGC – New Delhi | CMD – Subhash Kumar (additional charge)
- Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas: Rameswar Teli

206. On August 7, In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has flagged off Cyclothon event “Pedal for Dal” from the shores of the Dal Lake in the run-up to the Independence Day celebrations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manoj Sinha flagged off a Cyclothon event “Pedal for Dal” from the shores of the Dal Lake in J & K
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

207. On August 9, Over 65% of tuberculosis (TB) cases in India are found in the age group 15-45, which is the most economically productive segment of population, as stated by Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya during an event chaired by Venkaiah Naidu. Indian government targets to eliminate TB by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Over 65% of TB cases in India are found in the age group 15-45
- Indian government’ target to eliminate TB – by 2025

208. On August 8, a meeting of a delegation of TRIFED led by Pravir Krishna was held with Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma in New Delhi. The objective of the meeting was to identify the possibilities of establishing a network of Van Dhan Vikas Kendra Clusters (VDVKCs) and 5 TRIFOOD Tribal Food Parks in Assam. Currently in Assam the total procurements achieved is Rs 34.79 lakhs under the MSP for MFP scheme. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- TRIFED + Assam = to establish a network of VDVCKs & 5 TRIFOOD Tribal Food Parks in Assam
- Assam received Rs 34.79 lakhs under the MSP for MFP scheme
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna | Chairman – Ramesh Chand Meena | Founded in – 1987

209. On August 10, Punjab has announced to introduce an online billing and revenue monitoring system (RMS) for water supply bills in all villages across the state in a phased manner. This system has been implemented in collaboration with HDFC bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab – to introduce an online billing & revenue monitoring system (RMS) for water supply bills in all its villages
- Partner bank for this initiative – HDFC Bank
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”

210. On August 9, Chief Justice of India N. V. Ramana has launched a mobile app created by the “National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)”, which is aimed to help poor and needy people in applying for legal aid and seek victim compensation. NALSA was established in November 1995 under the “Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987” to provide free legal services to the weaker sections of the society and to organise Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- N. V. Ramana – launched a mobile app created by “National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)” to help poor
- HQs of NALSA – New Delhi | Executive Chairman – Uday U. Lalit | Founded in – 1995
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana (48th)

211. On August 10, Government of India has accorded sanction to “Team CLAW” to lead a team of people with disabilities to scale World's highest battlefield Siachen Glacier and create a new world record as part of “Operation Blue Freedom”. C.L.A.W (Conquer. Land. Air. Water) is a global initiative by Indian Special Forces veterans led by Major Vivek Jacob. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – accorded sanction to “Team CLAW” to lead a team of people with disabilities to scale ‘Siachen Glacier’
- It is done as part of “Operation Blue Freedom”
- C.L.A.W. – Conquer. Land. Air. Water (a global initiative by Indian Special Forces veterans led by Major Vivek Jacob)



212. On August 11, The Indian Air Force (IAF) has built one of the world's highest Mobile Air Traffic Control (ATC) towers at the Advanced Landing Ground in the Nyoma area of Ladakh. India has been considering multiple options of developing airfields in eastern Ladakh including areas like Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO), Fukche and Nyoma. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAF built one of the world's highest Mobile Air Traffic Control towers – in Nyoma, Ladakh
- India plans to develop airfields in DBO, Fukche & Nyoma areas of Ladakh
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria | Vice Chief – Vivek Ram Chaudhari
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur

213. In Kargil city of Ladakh, “Project Vijayak” of Border Roads Organization has restored the road communication between Kargil and remote Zaskar valley by launching a 100 feet Class 40R Bailey Bridge at Sangrah on ‘NH 301’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The BRO's “Project Vijayak” – restored the road communication between Kargil & remote Zaskar valley in Ladakh
- HQs of BRO – New Delhi | Director General – Major Gen Rajeev Chaudhary | Founded on – May 7, 1960

214. On August 10, The world's first Bio-Bank in Ayurveda will be established at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) located in New Delhi. Union Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal visited the AIIA and all kind of help in establishing it. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World's first Bio-Bank in Ayurveda – to be established at All India Institute of Ayurveda (New Delhi)
- Ministry of AYUSH: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of AYUSH: Munjapara Mahendrabhai

International Affairs

215. On August 9, South Africa has become the 1st Country in the World to grant Patent relating to a food container based on fractal geometry. The inventor is not a human being, it is an artificial intelligence (AI) system called “DABUS” (Device for the Autonomous Bootstrapping of Unified Sentience). ‘DABUS’ is an AI system created by Stephen Thaler, a pioneer in the field of AI and programming. This patent was published in the South African Patent Journal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- South Africa – became the 1st Country in the World to grant Patent to an AI system called “DABUS” for inventing food container based on Fractal Geometry
- ‘DABUS’ an AI system – created by Stephen Thaler
- South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa



216. On August 11, China has set an ambitious goal of becoming Carbon-Neutral by 2060. China is the biggest emitter of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas driving climate change. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – set an ambitious goal of becoming Carbon-Neutral by 2060
- China – the biggest emitter of carbon dioxide (CO₂)
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

217. On August 10, The World Health Organization has announced that Guinea, a West African country, has confirmed that one patient has died of the Marburg virus disease. The case fatality ratio of the Marburg virus disease is up to 88%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The first case of Marburg virus disease – reported in Guinea (1st in a West African country)
- Guinea – Conakry – Guinean franc | President – Alpha Conde

Banking & Economic Affairs

218. On August 8, Central Bank of India (CBoI) has entered into a strategic co-lending partnership with Dhanvarsha Finvest Ltd (DFL) to offer loans against Gold ornaments under priority sector lending (PSL) to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) borrowers at competitive rates. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBoI + Dhanvarsha Finvest = partnership to offer loans against Gold ornaments to MSME borrowers
- HQs of CBoI – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Matam Venkata Rao | Tagline – “Central to You Since 1911”

219. On August 9, RBL Bank has selected Amazon Web Services (AWS) as its preferred Cloud Provider to strengthen its AI powered banking solutions and drive digital transformation at the Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBL Bank – selected Amazon Web Services (AWS) as its preferred Cloud Provider
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Vishwavir Ahuja | Chairman – Prakash Chandra
- HQs of AWS – Seattle, Washington, US | CEO – Adam N. Selipsky

220. On August 10, NSE International Exchange (NSE IFSC) Ltd has appointed Business Services Organisation (BSO) as its first official international approved Connectivity Partner. The partnership will provide Asian, European and American trading firms with added infrastructure solutions. BSO is headquartered in Ireland, but has 11 offices around the world. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- NSE IFSC Ltd – appointed “BSO” as its first official international approved Connectivity Partner
- HQs of BSO – Ireland

221. On August 12, IDFC FIRST Bank has announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Navy to offer “Honour FIRST”, a premium banking solution, to serving personnel and veterans of the Indian Navy. Account-holders are also eligible for a ‘Free for Life Credit Card’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IDFC FIRST Bank + Indian Navy = an MoU to offer “Honour FIRST” a special defence savings account
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral Karambir Singh | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950
- HQs of IDFC First Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – V. Vaidyanathan | Established in – 2018
- IDFC Bank + Capital First = IDFC First Bank (merged in 2018)

222. On August 12, Asian Development Bank has signed an MoU with IIFL Home Finance for Technical Assistance (TA) to support Green Housing initiative in India aiming to reduce carbon emissions and conserve water and energy. The cost of the activities to be exercised under this TA agreement is approximately \$1 million (over Rs 7.4 Cr). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB + IIFL Home Finance = to support Green Housing initiative in India to reduce carbon emissions
- The cost of the activities to be exercised under this TA agreement – approx \$1 million (over Rs 7.4 Cr)
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68
- HQs of IIFL Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Nirmal jain | MD – Venkataraman Rajamani

223. On August 12, India Insurtech Association (IIA) has signed an MoU with International Financial Services Centre at GIFT City, (GIFT-IFSC) to collaborate on building thought leadership in the field of insurance and promoting GIFT City for Indian and foreign insurance companies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIA + GIFT-IFSC = an MoU to promote GIFT City for Indian & foreign insurance companies
- HQs of IIA – New Delhi
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas

224. On August 12, Equitas Small Finance Bank has launched “Equitech” - a Fintech Accelerator aimed at the start-up ecosystem. It is a unique program designed to scale -up and help Fintechs curate their products and define a go-to-market strategy. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Equitas SFB – launched “Equitech” - a Fintech Accelerator
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, TN | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan

225. The RBI has notified the enhancement of collateral free loans to self-help groups (SHGs) from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh under “Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)”. The National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) was launched by Ministry of Rural Development in April 2011. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI enhanced collateral free loans to SHGs under “DAY-NRLM” to Rs 20 lakh (from Rs 10 lakh)
- NRLM was launched by Ministry of Rural Development – in April, 2011
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- Ministry of Rural Development: Giriraj Singh | Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Rural Development: Faggansingh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti

226. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched “Digital Prayaas”, an App based end to end digital lending platform to sanction loans to aspiring Entrepreneurs. SIDBI tied up with BigBasket to provide loans at an affordable interest rate for purchase of environment friendly ‘e-Bikes’ and ‘e-Vans’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SIDBI – launched an app “Digital Prayaas” to sanction loans to aspiring Entrepreneurs
- SIDBI + BigBasket = to provide loans at an affordable interest rate for purchase of e-vehicles
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Sivasubramanian Ramann | Established in – 1990

227. On August 10, To finance 1000 Joint Liability Groups as well as to enhance the flow of credit to tenant farmers, NABARD has signed an MoU with State Bank of India (SBI) and Jammu & Kashmir Gramin Bank (JKGB) in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NABARD + SBI + J&K Gramin Bank = an MoU to finance 1000 Joint Liability Groups in J&K and Ladakh
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Govinda Rajulu Chintala | Founded in – 1982
- HQs of JKGB – Jammu, J&K | Chairman – Sudhir Gupta
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

228. On August 11, Union Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad has stated that nearly 72% of financial transactions of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are now done through digital channels, with customers active on digital channels having doubled from 3.4 Cr in FY2019-20 to 7.6 Cr in FY2020-21. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- 72% of financial transactions of PSBs are now done through digital channels
- Customers active on Digital Channels doubled to – 7.6 Cr in FY2020-21 (from 3.4 Cr in FY2019-20)
- Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chaowdhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad

229. On August 10, The RBI has launched a “Scheme of Penalty for non-replenishment of ATMs” under which a penalty of ₹10,000 per ATM will be levied in the event of a cash-out situation for more than 10 hours in a month, starting on 1 October, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – launched a “Scheme of Penalty for non-replenishment of ATMs”
- Penalty of ₹10,000 per ATM in case of a cash-out situation for more than 10 hours in a month – starting Oct 1, 2021
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

230. On August 10, The RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 10 lakh on Gadhinglaj Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Maharashtra, for contravention of certain norms. Besides, the RBI has also imposed a penalty of Rs 2 lakh each on Malkapur Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd and Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd for contravention of certain norms. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI imposed a penalty of:
 - Rs 10 lakh on – Gadhinglaj Urban Co-operative Bank (Maharashtra)
 - Rs 2 lakh on – Malkapur Urban Cooperative Bank (Maharashtra)
 - Rs 2 lakh on – Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Urban Co-operative Bank (Maharashtra)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

231. On August 12, 10 major banks, including SBI, ICICI Bank, Canara Bank and Standard Chartered Bank, have joined hands for the first time to set up an online platform called the “Secondary Loan Market Association (SLMA)”. It has been formed on the recommendation of the RBI’s Task Force on the Development of Secondary Market for Corporate Loans . Sanjay Srivastava is the Chairman of SLMA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 10 major banks collaborated to set up “Secondary Loan Market Association (SLMA)”
- Chairman of the SLMA – Sanjay Srivastava



232. On August 12, Arya Collateral Warehousing Services, India's largest post-harvest Agritech player forays into a strategic partnership with State Bank of Mauritius (SBM), India to reinforce its competencies in financing solutions. This partnership will help financing agri-traders and agri-entrepreneurs across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arya + SBM Bank India = partnership to finance agri-traders & agri-entrepreneurs across India
- HQs of Arya Collateral Warehousing Services – Noida, UP | Co-Founder & CEO – Prasanna Rao
- HQs of SBM Bank India – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sidharth Rath
- SBM Bank India – the 1st foreign bank in India to obtain a banking licence from the RBI

Defence Affairs

233. On August 8, India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) carried out a bilateral naval exercise called “Zayed Talwar” off the Abu Dhabi coast to increase bilateral military cooperation. The Indian Navy deployed warship INS Kochi and two ‘Sea King MK 42B’ helicopters during the exercise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + UAE = carried out a bilateral naval exercise “Zayed Talwar” off the coast of Abu Dhabi, UAE
- INS Kochi participated in this naval exercise
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

234. On August 12, India is conducting its first-ever naval exercise with Saudi Arabia called “Al-Mohed Al-Hind”. Indian Navy's guided-missile destroyer INS Kochi reached Saudi Arabia to participate in this exercise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Al-Mohed Al-Hind” first-ever naval exercise – between India & Saudi Arabia
- INS Kochi participated in this naval exercise
- Saudi Arab – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal | Saudi Crown Prince – Mohammed bin Salman

235. In August 2021, India, United States, Japan and Australia participated in the 25th edition of “Malabar 2021” exercise which was held in Guam - a U.S. island territory in the western Pacific. This exercise is aimed at keeping China in check amid the Asian power's increasing assertiveness in regional waters. INS Shivalik, INS Kadmatt and P8I patrol aircraft participated in the exercise. ‘Malabar Exercise’ was started in 1992 between India & the US. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Malabar 2021” exercise = India + US + Japan + Australia – held in Western Pacific Ocean (hosted by the US)
- INS Shivalik, INS Kadmatt & P8I patrol aircraft participated in the exercise
- ‘Malabar Exercise’ was started in 1992 between India & the US
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris



Schemes & Initiatives

236. On August 10, PM Narendra Modi has launched the 2nd phase of “Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)” or “Ujjwala 2.0” at Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh. The scheme provides free cooking gas connections to poor families by handing over domestic LPG cylinder connections. In the Union budget for FY 21-22, provision for an additional 1 Cr LPG connection under the PMUY (Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana) scheme was announced. The scheme was launched on 1 May 2016. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi launched the 2nd phase of “Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)” or “Ujjwala 2.0” – at Mahoba, UP
- In Union budget for FY 21-22: Provision for an additional 1 Cr LPG connection under the ‘PMUY’ scheme
- The scheme was launched – on 1 May, 2016 | Tagline of the scheme – “Swachh Indhan, Behtar Jeevan”
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

237. On August 10, The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched a “Loan Interest Subvention Scheme” in association with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) to provide financial assistance for innovative waste to energy biomethanation projects. A GIS (Geographic Information System)-based Waste Mapping Tool of organic waste streams was also unveiled. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MNRE + UNIDO + GEF = launched a “Loan Interest Subvention Scheme” for Energy Biomethanation projects
- HQs of UNIDO – Vienna, Austria | Director General – Li Yong | Founded in – 1966
- Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Bhagwanth Khuba

238. “Seekho Aur Kamao” is a skill development scheme for youth of 14-35 years age group and aiming at providing employment opportunities. In the last 7 years approx 3.92 lakh persons have been benefitted under this employment oriented scheme. Under this scheme, AISECT recently announced to train 950 minority community candidates across 7 states. It is a flagship scheme under the Ministry of Minority Affairs. The scheme ensures 75% placement, out of which 50% should be in organized sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AISECT – to train 950 minority community candidates across 7 states – under “Seekho Aur Kamao” scheme
- “Seekho Aur Kamao” scheme – for youth of age group 14-35 years | Scheme under – Ministry of Minority Affairs
- Ministry of Minority Affairs: Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi | Constituency – Jharkhand
- MoS in Ministry of Minority Affairs: John Barla



239. Under the “Scheme for Self-Employment and Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers”, 58,098 persons have been paid one-time cash assistance of Rs 40,000 for facilitating switch to alternative occupations. Further, 16,057 of them were given skill training; and 1,387 persons were given Capital subsidy for self-employment projects and sanitation related projects. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 58,098 persons have been paid one-time cash assistance of Rs 40,000 – under the “Scheme for Self-Employment and Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers”

240. On August 10, UNICEF India and Facebook have launched a 1-year joint initiative to end violence against children with a special focus on online safety. The partnership will include a nationwide social media campaign and capacity building for 1,00,000 school-children on online safety, digital literacy and psychosocial support. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNICEF India + Facebook = launched a 1-year joint initiative to end violence against children in India
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, USA | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946
- HQs of Facebook – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in – 2004



Sports & Games

241. On August 8, India has finished with 7 Medals (1 Gold, 2 Silver, 4 Bronze) at the 48th Position in the “2020 Summer Olympic Games” which took place in Tokyo, Japan. It was in London Olympics, in 2012, that India won 6 medals, the country’s highest tally for 9 years. The USA (113), which won 39 gold, 41 silver and 33 bronze medals, finished at the top spot in Tokyo Olympics. The USA was followed by China (88 medals) & Japan (58 medals). 13 years old Momiji Nishiya from Japan has become the Youngest Gold Medalist in the history of Olympics. She is the winner of Women’s Street Skateboarding event at the ‘2020 Tokyo Olympics’. Besides, Karate has made its debut in the Olympic Games this year in the 32nd edition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India ranked 48th in the “2020 Summer Olympic Games” at Tokyo – with 7 Medals (1 Gold, 2 Silver, 4 Bronze)
- 1st - USA (113 medals) | 2nd - China (88 medals) | 3rd - Japan (58 medals)
- List of 7 Medals won at “2020 Summer Olympic Games” held in Tokyo, Japan in 2021: (32nd edition)

Winner	Game	Medal
Neeraj Chopra	Javelin Throw	Gold
Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting	Silver
Ravi Dahiya	Wrestling	Silver
P. V. Sindhu	Badminton	Bronze
Lovlina Borgohain	Boxing	Bronze
Bajrang Punia	Wrestling	Bronze
Indian Team	Men’s Hockey	Bronze



- Momiji Nishiya ([Japanese Skateboarder](#)) – the Youngest Gold Medalist in the history of Olympics (13 years old)
- Karate – made its debut in the Olympic Games this year

242. A 101-member contingent of Indian Army has participated in the “International Army Games 2021” organised by Russia from August 22 to September 4. In the 7th edition of the games in 2021, more than 280 teams from 42 countries would participate and the competition was being held in 11 countries. India had stood first amongst the 8 countries that participated in the Army Scouts Master Competition 2019 in Jaisalmer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 101-member contingent of Indian Army – participated in the 7th “International Army Games 2021” organised by Russia
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

243. On August 6, 20-year-old from Pune, Harshit Raja has become India’s 69th Chess Grandmaster after he drew his game against Dennis Wagner at the “Biel Masters Open 2021”. He won silver in U-13 National Chess Championship in Jamshedpur in 2014 and gold in the SGFI Nationals held in Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Harshit Raja ([Chess](#)) – became India’s 69th Chess Grandmaster
- He drew his game against Dennis Wagner (Germany) at the “Biel Masters Open 2021”

244. On August 11, The 34-year-old Argentine footballer Lionel Messi has joined French Football club Paris Saint-Germain on a two-year deal after ending his association with FC Barcelona. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lionel Messi ([Argentina](#)) – joined “Paris Saint-Germain FC” (leaving Barcelona FC)
- HQs of PSG FC – Paris, France | President – Nasser al-Khelaifi

Important Days & Dates

245. On August 9, Japan’s Nagasaki has marked the 76th anniversary of the US atomic bombing. The US dropped 2 atomic bombs named “Little Boy” in the city of Hiroshima and “Fat Man” in the city of Nagasaki on August 6 & 9 respectively in the year 1945. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- August 9 – 76th anniversary of “Nagasaki Day”
- An atomic bomb named “Fat Man” dropped by the US on Nagasaki city of Japan – on August 9, 1945
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga



246. The “International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples” is celebrated every year on August 9. The United Nations (UN) estimates that there are more than 476 million indigenous people in the world who make 6.2% of the global population. The day was marked for the first time by UN General Assembly in December 1994. In 2021, the theme is “Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- August 9 – “International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples” (since December 1994)
- Theme – “Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract”

247. August 8 has a landmark significance in Indian history and is celebrated every year as the Quit India Movement Day. The Quit India Movement was launched on 8th August 1942. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- August 8 – “Quit India Movement Day”
- The Quit India Movement was launched on – 8th August 1942

248. “World Lion Day” is celebrated on August 10 of every year to raise awareness about lions and to mobilise support for their protection and conservation. According to the World Wide Fund for animals (WWF), even though a lion is often referred to as the “King of the Jungle,” it actually only lives in grasslands and plains. India is home to the majestic Asiatic Lion, who inhabit the protected territory of Sasan-Gir National Park. The day first celebrated in 2013. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- August 10 – “World Lion Day” (since - 2013)
- India is home to – Asiatic Lion | Sasan-Gir National Park – located in Gujarat

249. The “World Biofuel Day” is observed on August 10 to raise awareness of the importance of non-fossil fuels as a substitute for conventional fossil fuels. World Biofuel Day was first observed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Gas in 2015. This day is observed in honour of Sir Rudolf Diesel - the inventor of the diesel engine. This year, the ‘World Biofuel Day’ is celebrated with the theme of “The promotion of Biofuels for a Better Environment”. While, Indian Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) celebrated this day with the theme of “Biofuels for Sustainability and Rural Income”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- August 10 – World Biofuel Day (since - 2015)
- Theme for 2021 – “The promotion of Biofuels for a Better Environment”
- Theme celebrated by MoPNG – “Biofuels for Sustainability and Rural Income”
- This day is observed in honour of “Sir Rudolf Diesel” - the inventor of the Diesel Engine



250. The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has decided to name August 7 as “Javelin Throw Day” in India to honour Neeraj Chopra’s first historic Olympic gold. He bagged the 1st Gold medal in men’s javelin throw at the “2020 Tokyo Olympics” on August 7. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- August 7 – “Javelin Throw Day” in India to honour Neeraj Chopra’s first historic Olympic Gold
- HQs of AFI – New Delhi | President – Adille J. Sumariwalla

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

251. Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar has participated in the “G20 Research Ministers’ Meeting” which was hosted in hybrid mode by Italy. G20 Education Ministers exchanged views on enhancing research collaborations and sharing digital space among G20 Countries for a strong, sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Subhas Sarkar – participated in the “G20 Research Ministers’ Meeting” – hosted by Italy
- Ministry of Education: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Education: Subhas Sarkar

252. India is set to host the 1st “Internet Governance Forum” in the country from October 20-22, 2021. The forum will be organised by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY). The theme of forum is “Inclusive Internet for Digital India”. Anil Kumar Jain, the Chairman of Coordination Committee, India ‘Internet Governance Forum 2021’ (IGF), stated that India is the 2nd largest broadband subscription country in the world and also has the highest data consumption per user per month. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to host the 1st “Internet Governance Forum” from October 20-22, 2021
- Theme – “Inclusive Internet for Digital India”
- India – the 2nd largest broadband subscription country in the world
- Chairman of Coordination Committee of the IGF – Anil Kumar Jain

253. On August 9, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chaired a high-level open debate on “Enhancing Maritime Security - A Case for International Cooperation”. This was for the first time that an Indian Prime Minister presided over a meeting of the UN Security Council. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi – chaired a high-level open debate on “Enhancing Maritime Security - A Case for International Cooperation”



- Narendra Modi – 1st Indian PM presided over a meeting of the UNSC
- HQs of UNSC – New York, USA | Presidency in August 2021 – India (July - France | Sep - Ireland)
- Permanent members in the UNSC: 5 – China, France, Russia, U.K. & U.S.
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador – T. S. Tirumurti

254. On August 12, Election Commission of India (ECI), Sushil Chandra has handed over the “Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA)” role to the Election Commission of Bhutan for 2021-22. He inaugurated the 11th Annual meeting of the Forum for the year 2021 hosted by Election Commission of Bhutan. The theme of the meeting was “Use of Technology in Elections”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sushil Chandra – inaugurated the 11th Annual meeting of the “Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA)” – hosted Bhutan
- Theme – “Use of Technology in Elections”
- Member countries in FEMBoSA: 8 – India, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka & Pakistan
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Sushil Chandra (24th) | Formed on – 25th Jan, 1950
- Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan – Dasho Sonam Topgay
- Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum | PM – Lotay Tshering

255. The 15th India-Singapore Foreign Office Consultations were held virtually on 11th August, 2021. The Indian delegation was led by Ms. Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs. Both sides discussed ways to strengthen economic engagement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 15th India-Singapore Foreign Office Consultations – held virtually on 11th August, 2021
- Indian delegation was led by – Ms. Riva Ganguly Das
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob

256. On August 11, The 5th edition of the National Public Procurement Conclave (NPPC) was organized by Government e-Marketplace (GeM) in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on August 9 & 10, 2021 on the theme “Technology enabled Government Procurement - Towards Efficiency, Transparency, and Inclusiveness”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 5th edition of the “National Public Procurement Conclave (NPPC)” organized by = GeM + CII
- Theme – “Technology enabled Government Procurement - Towards Efficiency, Transparency, and Inclusiveness”
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – T. V. Narendran | DG – Chandrajit Banerjee | Founded in – 1895



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

257. Nagaland has been conferred with 7 National Awards on the first “Van Dhan Annual Awards 2020-21”, during the celebration of 34th foundation day of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED). The awards were presented by Union tribal minister, Arjun Munda. Nagaland has received awards in 3 categories - Best Survey State, Best Training State and the most number of Van Dhan Vikas Clusters (VDVKCs). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nagaland – conferred with 7 National Awards on the first “Van Dhan Annual Awards 2020-21”
- Nagaland received awards in 3 categories: Best Survey State, Best Training State & most number of VDVKCs
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi

258. The West Bengal government has won “5 Skoch Awards 2021” (1 Platinum, 1 Gold and 3 silver awards) for various schemes in 4 categories of governance. GoWB schemes including Silpasathi, e-Nathikaran, Online system for auto-renewal of certificate of enlistment (urban) & Online system for issuance of trade licence (rural) have won the esteemed SKOCH Awards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- West Bengal – won “5 Skoch Awards 2021” for various schemes in 4 categories of governance
- Silpasathi scheme & e-Nathikaran scheme – belong to West Bengal
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

259. On August 11, Maharashtra government has announced the Rajiv Gandhi award for the Information and Technology (IT) sector. This will be a lasting tribute to Rajiv ji for his pioneering work in the technology sector of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – announced the Rajiv Gandhi award for the IT sector
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Appointments & Resignations

260. On August 8, Union Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba has been given 1 year extension in service till August 30, 2022 by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). A Cabinet Secretary can serve the post for a maximum period of 4 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajiv Gauba – given 1 year extension to serve as the Cabinet Secretary – till August 30, 2022
- Cabinet Secretary can serve for a maximum period of 4 years



261. On August 10, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has roped in Neeraj Chopra, an Olympic Gold medalist, for its public awareness campaign to warn people against digital banking frauds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neeraj Chopra ([Javelin throw](#)) – roped in by the RBI for its ‘Public Awareness Campaign’ against digital banking frauds
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

262. On August 10, Cashify has roped in National Award winner Bollywood actor Raj Kumar Rao as its first Brand Ambassador to represent the brand in all their campaigns and in a multi-year engagement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Raj Kumar Rao – roped in as the first Brand Ambassador of Cashify

263. On August 7, R. K. Vishnoi has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of THDC India Ltd (THDCIL) - a joint venture between NTPC and Uttar Pradesh government. He has succeeded Vijay Goel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R. K. Vishnoi – appointed as the Chairman & MD of THDC India Ltd (THDCIL) (succeeding - Vijay Goel)
- THDCIL – a joint venture between NTPC + UP Government
- HQs of THDCIL – Rishikesh, Uttarakhand | Chairman & MD – R. K. Vishnoi

264. On August 5, The Board of Directors of Vodafone Idea Ltd have accepted the request of Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla to step down as Non-Executive Director and Non-Executive Chairman of the Board. Birla is being replaced by a telecom veteran Himanshu Kapania. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himanshu Kapania – appointed as Non-Executive Chairman of Board of Directors of Vodafone Idea
- He replaced – Kumar Mangalam Birla
- HQs of Vi Ltd – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Ravinder Takkar | Non-Executive Chairman – Himanshu Kapania

265. On August 10, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd has assigned Padma Shri Awardee and India’s first Formula One driver Narain Karthikeyan as its Brand Ambassador. Narain Karthikeyan is the first racing driver to make his debut in Formula 1 from India in 2005. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narain Karthikeyan ([India’s 1st F1 Racing Driver](#)) – appointed as Brand Ambassador of JK Tyre & Industries Ltd
- HQs of JK Tyre & Industries Ltd – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – Raghupati Singhania

266. On August 10, Arunachal Pradesh Governor Brigadier B. D. Mishra (retd) has been given additional charge of Mizoram. Sikkim Governor Ganga Prasad has been given the additional charge of Manipur. They will discharge the functions of the Governor of Mizoram & Manipur - Hari Babu Kambhampati & Najma A. Heptulla respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- B. D. Mishra – given additional charge as Governor of Mizoram (discharging - Hari Babu Kambhampati)
- Ganga Prasad – given additional charge as Governor of Manipur (discharging - Najma A. Heptulla)
- The Governor of a State is appointed by the President under 'Article 155' of the IC
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – B. D. Mishra (addi. charge)
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Ganga Prasad (addi. charge)

267. On August 10, A 1993-batch Indian Foreign Services officer, B. Nagabhushana Reddy has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Malaysia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- B. Nagabhushana Reddy – appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Malaysia
- Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur – Ringgit | PM – Ismail Sabri Yaakob

268. On August 10, The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Gajendra Singh and Anjani Kumar Tiwari as members in the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB). According to the order, they have been appointed to the post for 5 years from the date of assumption of charge of the post, or till attaining the age of 65 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gajendra Singh & Anjani Kumar Tiwari – appointed as members in the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board
- Location of PNGRB – New Delhi

Amount & Agreements

269. On August 10, NABARD has sanctioned loans worth ₹ 188.81 Cr to Goa for Construction of Super Speciality Block, Bambolim and Enhancement of Solid Waste Treatment Plant, Saligao under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), taking the cumulative sanctions to ₹ 217.72 Cr during 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NABARD sanctioned loans worth ₹ 188.81 Cr to Goa for various Social infrastructure Projects in the State:
 - Construction of Super Speciality Block (Bambolim, Goa)
 - Enhancement of Solid Waste Treatment Plant (Saligao, Goa)
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Govinda Rajulu Chintala | Founded in – 1982
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai



270. On August 10, Reliance New Energy Solar Ltd (RNE SL) along with Paulson and Co. Inc. and Bill Gates, has announced an investment of \$144 million in Ambri Inc, an energy storage company based in Massachusetts, USA. Besides, Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani has announced to build a Giga Factory in Jamnagar for the storage of intermittent energy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RNE SL + Paulson & Co. Inc. + Bill Gates = to invest \$144 million in Ambri Inc ([Massachusetts, USA](#))
- [HQs of RNE SL – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#)
- [HQs of Reliance Industries Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani | Founded in – 1973](#)

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

271. On August 12, a report titled “Climate Change 2021: the Physical Science Basis”, the 6th Assessment Report (AR 6) was released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The report projects an increase in average temperatures and hot extremes across the continent. The Global average temperature will cross the target of 2°C above pre-industrial levels by 2060 while 1.5° C by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Climate Change 2021: the Physical Science Basis” – the 6th assessment report released by IPCC
- Global Average Temperature: to cross above pre-industrial levels 1.5° C by 2030 & 2°C by 2060
- [HQs of IPCC – Geneva, Switzerland | Chair – Hoesung Lee](#)

272. HCL Technologies Ltd has overtaken Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp to become the 4th most valuable India-centric information technology (IT) services company with market cap of \$39 billion. Tata Consultancy Services Ltd leads the list with a market cap of \$164 billion, followed by Infosys Ltd and Wipro Ltd, which have a market cap of \$96 billion and \$46.5 billion respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HCL Technologies Ltd – became the 4th most valuable India-centric IT Services Company (m-cap – \$38 billion)
- 1st - TCS (\$164 billion) | 2nd - Infosys (\$96 billion) | 3rd - Wipro (\$46.5 billion)
- [HQs of HCL Technologies – Noida, UP | MD & CEO – C. Vijayakumar | Chairperson – Roshni Nadar Malhotra](#)

273. On August 10, India is ranked 122nd in the “2020 Global Youth Development Index” released by the Commonwealth Secretariat. The Index measures the progress of youth development in 181 countries around the world. Singapore ranked top for the first time followed by Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark. The index ranks countries between 0.00 (lowest) and 1.00 (highest). Somalia recorded the largest gains in peace and security of young people, followed by Colombia, Sri Lanka. Globally, Sweden leads on education, Luxembourg on equality and inclusion, Indonesia on political and civic participation, while Singapore topped the employment, health and peace and security domains. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “2020 Global Youth Development Index” – released by the Commonwealth Secretariat | India – 122nd
- 1st - Singapore | 2nd - Slovenia | 3rd - Norway
- HQs of Commonwealth Secretariat – London, UK | Secretary-General – Patricia Scotland

274. On August 10, Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has presided over the release of “National Fact Sheet Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS-4), India, 2019”. The fourth round of Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS-4) was conducted in 2019 by the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). The average current tobacco usage among students aged 13-15 in India was 8.5%. Between the last two surveys, the current use declined by 42% (2009-2019). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mansukh Mandaviya – released “National Fact Sheet Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS-4), India, 2019”
- This 4th round of survey was conducted in 2019 – by International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS)
- Average current tobacco usage among students aged 13-15 in India – 8.5%
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar

275. On August 10, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai has informed that India’s 16th Census (Census 2021) will be the first-ever Digital Census in the country. For this digital census, Ministry of Finance has allocated ₹3,768 Cr for Financial Year 2021. The ‘Census 2021’ will be conducted in 18 languages out of the 22 scheduled languages (under 8th schedule) and English. Besides, the information of household which is headed by Transgender community will be collected under ‘Third Gender’ as a new category for the first time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s 16th Census (Census 2021) will be conducted digitally for the first time
- Ministry of Finance has allocated ₹3,768 Cr for the digital census
- ‘Census 2021’ will be conducted in = 18 languages + English | India’s 1st Census was held – in 1881
- Info. of household headed by Transgender will be collected under a new category called – ‘Third Gender’
- Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chaowdhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad

276. On August 11, CoinDCX, an exchange platform of private cryptocurrencies, has announced a \$90 million fundraise which raised company’s valuation to \$1.1 billion (around Rs 8,150 Cr), making it the first Indian cryptocurrency exchange to reach the ‘Unicorn’ status (companies with over USD 1 billion valuation). The company was founded in 2018, claims 35 lakh users at present and aims to make 5 crore Indians as investors in crypto. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CoinDCX – 1st Indian Cryptocurrency Exchange to grab ‘Unicorn’ status with valuation of \$1.1 billion (Rs 8,150 Cr)
- ‘Unicorn’ status is given to the companies with over USD 1 billion valuation
- HQs of CoinDCX – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Sumit Gupta



277. On August 12, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has been declared the Best Airport in India and Central Asia for the 3rd consecutive year, by Skytrax World Airport Awards. The Delhi airport has also received the "COVID 19 Airport Excellence Award". Its ranking has also improved, moving up to 45 in the "World's TOP 50 Airport in the year 2021". The Best International Airport award was given to Hamad International Airport, Doha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "World's TOP 50 Airport in the year 2021" – by Skytrax World Airport Awards
- Indira Gandhi Int. Airport – Best Airport in India & Central Asia for the 3rd consecutive year | 45th globally
- Best International Airport in the world – Hamad International Airport (Doha, Qatar)
- Indira Gandhi Int. Airport (Delhi) – also received the "COVID 19 Airport Excellence Award"

278. On August 11, "Quality of Life for Elderly Index 2021" was released by Dr. Bibek Debroy, Chairman of Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). The Index has been created by the Institute for Competitiveness (IFC) at the request of EAC-PM. The Index framework includes 4 pillars: Financial Well-being, Social Well-being, Health System and Income Security. Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh are top-scoring regions in Aged and Relatively Aged States, respectively. Chandigarh and Mizoram are top-scoring regions in Union Territory and North-East States category. The Aged States refer to States with an elderly population of more than 5 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Quality of Life for Elderly Index 2021" – released by Bibek Debroy (Chairman of the EAC-PM)
- The Index is created by Institute for Competitiveness (IFC)
- Index framework includes 4 pillars: Financial Well-being + Social Well-being + Health System + Income Security
- Category-wise Rankings are as given below:

Category	Top	Lowest
Aged States	Rajasthan	Telangana
Relatively Aged States	Himachal Pradesh	Gujarat
North-Eastern States	Mizoram	Arunachal Pradesh
Union Territories	Chandigarh	Jammu & Kashmir

279. On August 12, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has declared Indore as India's first 'Water Plus' city under the "Swachh Survekshan 2021". Swachh Survekshan which was launched as part of the "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan", is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns in India. The first survey was undertaken in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA declared "Indore" as India's first 'Water Plus' city under the "Swachh Survekshan 2021"
- The first Swachh Survekshan was undertaken – in 2016
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Kaushal Kishore



280. On August 11, The number of billionaires in India has come down to 136 in 2020-21 from 141 in 2019-20, based on the gross total income declared in the income tax return, as announced by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Number of billionaires in India came down to 136 in 2020-21 (from 141 in 2019-20)

Acquisitions & Mergers

281. On August 10, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of additional 2.727% stake in Bikaji Foods International Ltd by Lighthouse India Fund III, Ltd (Fund III) and Lighthouse India III Employee Trust. Lighthouse Funds currently has 7.472% equity shareholding in Bikaji through one of its funds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI – approved acquisition of 2.727% stake in Bikaji Foods Int. Ltd – by Lighthouse India Fund III, Ltd (Fund III) and Lighthouse India III Employee Trust
- HQs of Bikaji Foods Int. Ltd – Bikaner, Rajasthan | MD & Chairman – Shivratan Agarwal
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003

282. On August 12, ReNew Power has signed two separate binding agreements for the acquisition of a 99 MW Singoli Bhatwari Hydroelectric Project in Uttarakhand and a 260 MW Solar Project in Telangana. The combined enterprise value of the acquisitions is around Rs 2,850 Cr. 99 MW Singoli Bhatwari HP will be acquired from Larsen and Toubro (L&T), while 260 MW Solar Project will be acquired from Acme Solar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ReNew Power signed two separate binding agreements for the acquisition of:
 - 99 MW Singoli Bhatwari Hydroelectric Project in Uttarakhand (from L&T)
 - 260 MW Solar Project in Telangana (from Acme Solar)
- HQs of ReNew Power – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Sumant Sinha

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

283. On August 9, North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi) has signed an MoU with Federation of Industries of North-Eastern Region (FINER) for promoting and nurturing Entrepreneurship, generating employment and creating empowerment of weaker sections. NEDFi celebrated its 26th Foundation Day on August 9, 2021. A 'Clearance Sale of Artisanal Products of NER' was also inaugurated at NEDFi House. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- NEDFi + FINER ([Guwahati](#)) = an MoU for promoting & nurturing Entrepreneurship in the North East
- August 9 – 26th Foundation Day of NEDFi ([located in - Guwahati, Assam](#))

284. On August 10, India's National Institute of Ocean Technology and National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the US have signed an agreement on monsoon data analysis and cooperation to improve weather forecasts in the region. The MoU was signed by India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + US = an MoU on Monsoon Data Analysis & Cooperation to improve weather forecasts
- India's Ambassador to the US – Taranjit Singh Sandhu
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

Books & Authors

285. On August 8, Rijula Das's debut novel - a murder mystery, titled "A Death in Shonagachhi" is a hard-hitting portrayal of life and death in red light district of Calcutta. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "A Death in Shonagachhi" novel – authored by Rijula Das

286. On August 8, Veteran actor Shabana Azmi has launched a book titled "The Year That Wasn't - The Diary of a 14-Year-Old" written by a 14-year-old girl from Kolkata - Brisha Jain. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "The Year That Wasn't - The Diary of a 14-Year-Old" – authored by Brisha Jain (14-year-old girl from Kolkata)
- The book was launched by – Shabana Azmi

287. Popular children's author Sudha Murty has come out with a beginners guide on the extraordinary stories about earth. Murty's book titled "How the Earth Got its Beauty" has illustrations by Priyanka Pachpande and it is published by Penguin Random House imprint Puffin. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "How the Earth Got its Beauty" book – authored by Sudha Murty
- The book has illustrations by – Priyanka Pachpande | Publisher – Penguin Random House



288. On August 9, The Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu has lauded the government for setting an ambitious target of providing tapped water connections to nearly 20 Cr households by 2024. He released a book titled “Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government” at Upa-Rashtrapati Nivas in New Delhi. He also commended the editor of the book - K. J. Alphons. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. Venkaiah Naidu – released “Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government” book | Editor – K. J. Alphons
- Target of providing tapped water connections to nearly 20 Cr households – by 2024
- [Vice President of India – Venkaiah Naidu | Constituency – Karnataka](#)

289. Award-winning novelist Anuradha Roy has authored a new book titled “The Earthspinner”. This is a story about the changed ways of loving and living in the modern world which will be released on September 3. It will be published by Hachette India. Her last book “All the Lives We Never Lived” had won the Tata Literature Live! “Book of the Year Award 2018”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Earthspinner” book – authored by Anuradha Roy
- Her other books: “All the Lives We Never Lived”

290. On August 7, Padma Shri Ritu Menon has authored a new book titled “Zohra! A Biography in Four Acts”. In this biography, Ritu Menon shared a compelling account of Zohra’s life and work that situates her as a pathbreaking figure in the history of Indian dance, theatre, TV, and cinema. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Zohra! A Biography in Four Acts” book – authored by Ritu Menon
- Her other books: “Out of Line” & “Borders and Boundaries: Women in India’s Partition”

Obituaries

291. On August 9, Veteran actor Anupam Shyam died due to multiple organ failure. The 63-year-old actor was best known for his work on the TV show ‘Mann Kee Awaaz: Pratigya’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anupam Shyam – an Actor – passed away

292. Veteran Space Scientist Ramabhadran Aravamudan passed away recently in August, 2021. He was 84. He was among the first to join the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 1962 when it was still named Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR). He retired from ISRO in 1997. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Ramabhadran Aravamudan – a Space Scientist – passed away
- He was among the first to join the ISRO & retired from ISRO in 1997
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed on – August 15, 1969

293. On August 10, Former International Hockey player Gopal Bhengra passed away. He had represented India at the 1978 World Cup in Argentina. He was 75 years old. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gopal Bhengra – Former International Hockey player – passed away (1978 World Cup in Argentina)

294. On August 10, Popular Malayalam film and television actor Saranya Sasi has died in Thiruvananthapuram due to Covid-19 complications. She was 35. Saranya had been diagnosed with a form of brain tumour in 2012. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Saranya Sasi – a Malayalam Actress – passed away

Science & Technology

295. On August 8, Researchers at IIT Jodhpur have developed a low-cost water purification and treatment unit for schools in rural areas of Jodhpur, Sirohi and Jhunjhunu districts of Rajasthan. The water purification unit uses membrane-assisted sorption-based Ultrafiltration (UF) technology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Jodhpur – developed a low-cost ‘Water Purification & Treatment Unit’ for schools in rural areas of Rajasthan
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

296. The ISRO has drafted the “Indian Satellite Navigation Policy - 2021” (SATNAV Policy - 2021) in order to achieve self-reliance in satellite based navigation. Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) are space based navigation systems that provide navigation signals across the globe. Currently, there are 4 GNSS - GPS from the USA, GLONASS from Russia, Galileo from European Union & BeiDou from China. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO – drafted the “SATNAV Policy - 2021” to achieve self-reliance in satellite based navigation
- Currently, there are 4 GNSS:
 - GPS (USA)
 - GLONASS (Russia)
 - Galileo (EU)
 - BeiDou (China)
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed on – August 15, 1969



297. India has launched its most advanced Geo-imaging satellite (Gisat-1) on August 12 from Sriharikota by using ISRO's 'GSLV-F10' rocket. The 2,268-kg Gisat-1 is codenamed "EOS-3". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India launched its most advanced "Gisat-1" by using 'GSLV-F10' rocket – from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- 2,268-kg Gisat-1 is codenamed "EOS-3"
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed on – August 15, 1969

298. On August 11, Researchers at IIT Delhi and AIIMS have developed a "Telerobotic Ultrasound System" that allows remote ultrasound access through a robotic arm. The need for this innovation arose during the first nationwide lockdown in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Delhi + AIIMS = developed a "Telerobotic Ultrasound System"
- HQs of AIIMS – New Delhi | Director – Randeep Guleria

299. On August 11, India has test-launched "Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM)" with a new Made-in-India Turbofan Engine from a defence facility off the Odisha coast. ITCM is an advanced version of subsonic cruise missile "Nirbhay". It can strike targets at a distance of up to 1,000 km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – test-launched "Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM)" with a new Turbofan Engine from Odisha
- ITCM is an advanced version of subsonic cruise missile "Nirbhay" | Strike range of the missile – 1000 Km
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

Ordinance, Bills and Acts

300. On August 8, The SEBI has amended the "SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR)) Regulations, 2015" pertaining to the appointment, removal and remuneration of Independent Directors to ensure their independence and effectiveness. The new rules will be applicable from January 1, 2022. A cooling-off period of 1 year has been introduced for an 'Independent Director' transitioning to a 'Whole-Time Director' (WTD). The composition of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC) is modified to include 2/3rd Independent Directors instead of 50% as per the current requirement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – amended the "SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR)) Regulations, 2015"
- The rules pertain to the appointment, removal & remuneration of 'Independent Directors' (IDs)
- Cooling-off period for an 'Independent Director' transitioning to a 'Whole-Time Director' – 1 year
- Composition of the Nomination & Remuneration Committee (NRC) is modified to include – 2/3rd IDs
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992





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