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Kriti Advani
IBPS PO 2020, Clerk, RRB Clerk



Rahul Jha
All IBPS 2020 Exams



Kola Murali Krishna Sai
SBI PO & IBPS PO 2020



Nimish Mishra
IBPS RRB PO & IBPS Clerk 2020



Abhishek Raj
IBPS PO & RRB PO 2020



Subha Saha
IBPS PO & IBPS CLERK 2020

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August
MockDrill100
PDF No.5
(PDF in English)



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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

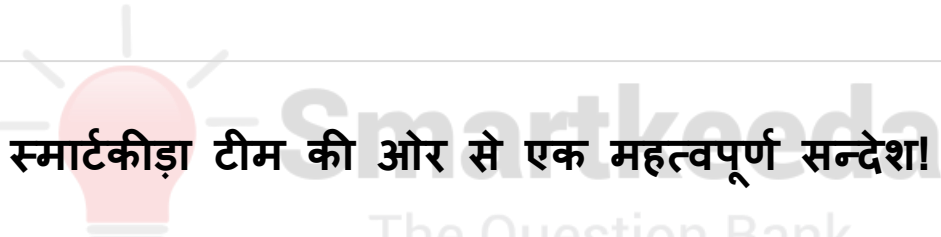
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of August 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

401. On August 18, SBI Life Insurance has launched a new-age protection solution, “SBI Life eShield Next” - an individual, non-linked, non-participating, life insurance pure risk premium product. It offers three plan options - level cover, increasing cover and level cover with future-proofing benefit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI Life Insurance – launched a new-age protection solution - “eShield Next”
- HQs of SBI Life Insurance – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Mahesh Kumar Sharma

402. On August 11, Anurag Singh Thakur and Nisith Pramanik have launched the nationwide programme of “Fit India Freedom Run 2.0” as part of ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’ which celebrates 75 years on India’s Independence. Fit India Freedom Runs will be organized in nearly 750 Districts, 75 villages in each of the Districts across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anurag Singh Thakur + Nisith Pramanik = launched the nationwide programme “Fit India Freedom Run 2.0”
- Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports: Anurag Singh Thakur | Constituency – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports: Nisith Pramanik

403. On August 17, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the world’s 2nd largest refurbished state-of-the-art National Gene Bank at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) in New Delhi. The National Gene Bank established in the year 1996 to preserve the seeds of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) for future generations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar – inaugurated world’s 2nd largest refurbished ‘National Gene Bank’ – in New Delhi
- National Gene Bank was established – in 1996
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Narendra Singh Tomar | Constituency – Morena, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Shobha Karandlaje & Kailash Choudhary

404. On August 15, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has announced the creation of 4 new districts namely Mohla-Manpur, Sakti, Sarangarh-Bilaigarh and Manendragarh in the state as well as 18 new tehsils will also be formed. He also announced to develop parks exclusively for women in all districts of the state. Moreover, he also announced a medicine scheme named “Dhanvantari Yojana” and “Minimata Park” exclusively for women. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chhattisgarh – announced to create 4 new districts - Mohla-Manpur, Sakti, Sarangarh-Bilaigarh & Manendragarh
- Now total No. of districts in Chhattisgarh – 32
- Chhattisgarh – also announced “Minimata Park” for women & “Dhanvantari Yojana”
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey



405. On August 18, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Ashwini Vaishnaw has launched the “Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Challenge - 2021” to encourage technology solutions developed by Women Entrepreneurs that facilitate Women’s Safety and Empowerment. It was launched by MyGov, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) along with UN Women. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MyGov (under MeitY) + UN Women = launched the “Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Challenge - 2021”
- [Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar](#)

406. On August 17, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) NITI Aayog in collaboration with Dassault Systemes Foundation in India has launched the 3rd series of the “Student Entrepreneurship Program (SEP 3.0)” for the young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL). The theme of ‘SEP 3.0’ is based on the “Made in 3D - Seed the Future Entrepreneurs Program”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM + Dassault Systemes Foundation = launched the 3rd series of the “Student Entrepreneurship Program (SEP 3.0)”
- Theme – “Made in 3D - Seed the Future Entrepreneurs Program”
- [AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog \(HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav\)](#)

407. In August 2021, Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd has received a ‘Notice of Award’ (NoA) to build 50 MWp Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Plant along with 50 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project at Phyang village in Leh, Ladakh. The order value of the project is Rs 386 Cr. The commercial operation date for this project is set for March 2023. This will be India’s first co-located Large Scale BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) solution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Power Solar Systems – received a ‘Notice of Award’ (NoA) to build 2 projects in Leh, Ladakh:
 - 50 MWp Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Plant
 - 50 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project
- Value of the project – Rs 386 Cr | Commercial operation date – March 2023
- [HQs of Tata Power Solar Systems – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Ashish Khanna](#)

408. On August 14, The Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani has launched 2nd phase of “SAMVAD” (Support, Advocacy & Mental health interventions for children in Vulnerable circumstances And Distress) programme in Bengaluru. SAMVAD is a National Initiative and Integrated Resource that works in child protection, mental health and psychosocial care. For the first time in independent India, SAMVAD will engage with functionaries in Panchayats. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Smriti Zubin Irani – launched 2nd phase of “SAMVAD” programme in Bengaluru



- SAMVAD – Support, **A**dvocacy & **M**ental health interventions for children in **V**ulnerable circumstances **A**nd **D**istress
- Ministry of Women and Child Development: Smriti Irani | Constituency – Amethi, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Women and Child Development: Munjapara Mahendrabhai

409. On August 13, Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL) has commissioned a 100 megawatt (MW) solar power project at Raghnesda solar park in Gujarat. This project was awarded by Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd (GUVNL). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Power RE – commissioned a 100 MW solar power project at Raghnesda Solar Park in Gujarat
- HQs of Tata Power RE – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ashwinikumar Patil
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

410. On August 17, Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajeev Chandrashekhar has announced that 6 lakh villages in India will get internet connectivity under the “Bharat Net programme” by 2024. The Centre had taken up a ‘Digital Village Programme’ under which a village in each district would be provided with better internet connectivity so that people can access various services from home. Around 5,000 digital villages had been developed in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 6 lakh villages in India will get internet connectivity under the “Bharat Net programme” by 2024
- Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

411. On August 14, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) has launched door-to-door delivery of “High-Speed Diesel” to meet the growing demand. BPCL also dedicated 15 mobile bowsers and 9 jerry can facilities in different corners of the Eastern Region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BPCL – launched door-to-door delivery of “High-Speed Diesel” to meet the growing demand
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, MH | Chairman & MD – Arun Kumar Singh

412. On August 16, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and Ministry of Jal Shakti have unveiled the 2nd season of successful travelogue “Rag Rag Mein Ganga”. It was unveiled by Union Ministers Anurag Thakur, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat & Prahalad Singh Patel. Season-2 of Rag Rag Mein Ganga will be dedicated to Arth-Ganga. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of I&B + Ministry of Jal Shakti = unveiled the 2nd season of a travelogue program “Rag Rag Mein Ganga”
- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: Anurag Singh Thakur | Constituency – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh



- MoS in Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: L. Murugan
- Ministry of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- MoS in Ministry of Jal Shakti: Prahlad Singh Patel

413. On August 16, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi will become India's first hospital to have its own fire station inside its premises. The Delhi Fire Service (DFS) has collaborated with AIIMS, Delhi for this purpose. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIIMS, Delhi – to become India's first hospital to have its own Fire Station inside its premises
- HQs of AIIMS – New Delhi | Director – Randeep Guleria

414. On August 18, The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to set up a unit of the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) in Deoband, the town in Saharanpur known for its Islamic seminary Darul Uloom Deoband. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – decided to set up a unit of the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) in Deoband, Saharanpur, UP
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

415. On August 19, Ministry of Coal has launched "Vriksharopan Abhiyan - 2021" as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' Celebrations. Coal/lignite PSUs of the Ministry of Coal have set an ambitious target under the "Go Greening" drive to cover 2385 hectares of area under bio-reclamation/plantation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Coal – launched "Vriksharopan Abhiyan - 2021" as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'
- Ministry of Coal & Ministry of Mines: Pralhad Joshi | Constituency – Dharwad, Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Coal & Ministry of Mines: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao

416. On August 16, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have granted conditional exemption from Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules, 2021 to 10 organizations. These 10 organizations are - Government of Karnataka, National Health Mission, Gangtok Smart City Development, Steel Authority of India, Asia Pacific Flight Training Academy, Blue Ray Aviation, Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bayer Crop Science, and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology. These exemptions are valid for a period of one year from the date of approval. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoCA + DGCA = granted Drone use permission to 10 organizations
- Ministry of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia | Constituency – Guna, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Civil Aviation: V. K. Singh
- HQs of DGCA – New Delhi | Director General – Arun Kumar



417. On August 18, India has introduced a new category of emergency electronic visas called “e-Emergency X-Misc Visa” for Afghan nationals in view of the situation in Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – introduced “e-Emergency X-Misc Visa” for Afghan nationals
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | Care taker President – Amrullah Saleh
- HQs of Taliban – Kandahar, Afghanistan | Present Supreme Leader – Hibatullah Akhundzada

418. On August 19, The Central government has approved India’s ratification of the UNEP’s Kigali Amendment to phase down climate-damaging refrigerant Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Montreal Protocol. The Amendment to gradually reduce use of HFCs by the late 2040s was adopted by 197 countries in Rwanda in October 2016. Under its commitment to the Montreal Protocol, India will complete its phase down of HFCs in 4 steps from 2028 onwards with cumulative reduction of 10% in 2032, 20% in 2037, 30% in 2042 and 80% in 2047 over 2024-26 baseline. HFCs is used in air-conditioners, refrigerators and insulating foams. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to implement UNEP’s Kigali Amendment to phase down use of ‘HFCs’ under the Montreal Protocol
- ‘Montreal Protocol’ was adopted by 197 countries in Rwanda in October 2016
- HFCs is used in air-conditioners, refrigerators and insulating foams

419. On August 17, Indian Army has organised a 400 Km “JAZBAA - E - TIRANGA” Relay Marathon in Jammu & Kashmir. More than 300 troops took part, carrying the Indian Tricolour all along the Line of Control. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army organised – 400 Km “JAZBAA - E - TIRANGA” Relay Marathon in Jammu & Kashmir
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

420. On August 18, The Indian Army has renamed its goodwill school in Lolab of Jammu and Kashmir’s Kupwara district after Shaurya Chakra awardee rifleman Abdul Hamid Chara, who was killed in a counter-militancy operation in 2000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army renamed its goodwill school in Kupwara, J&K – after Abdul Hamid Chara (Shaurya Chakra awardee)
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty



421. On August 18, To honour Olympic silver medallist Ravi Dahiya, the Delhi government renamed “Rajkiya Bal Vidyalaya” situated in Adarsh Nagar as “Ravi Dahiya Bal Vidyalaya”. The Delhi government has made a push to nurture upcoming athletes by setting up the Delhi Sports University and appointing Karnam Malleswari as its Vice-Chancellor. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi government renamed “Rajkiya Bal Vidyalaya” – after Ravi Kumar Dahiya (a Wrestler - Silver in 2020 Olympic)
- Vice-Chancellor of Delhi Sports University – Karnam Malleswari
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

International Affairs

422. On August 17, The BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa) have signed an agreement for cooperation in ‘Remote Sensing Satellite Data Sharing’, according to Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). This will contribute in strengthening multilateral cooperation among BRICS space agencies in meeting the challenges faced by mankind, such as global climate change, major disasters and environmental protection. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BRICS countries – signed an agreement for cooperation in ‘Remote Sensing Satellite Data Sharing’
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed on – August 15, 1969
- BRICS Member Countries: 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | Chairmanship (2021) – India

423. On August 19, A consortium of Doctors and Researchers from India, Brazil, Russia, and South Africa have partnered to conduct a study on the epidemiological impact and Intersection of the Covid-19 and Tuberculosis (TB) pandemics in these countries. The four countries currently rank 2nd to 5th in the number of cases of Covid-19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A consortium of Doctors & Researchers from India, Brazil, Russia & South Africa – to study intersection of Covid & TB

Banking & Economic Affairs

424. On August 16, Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB), in association with the Karnataka government, has launched India’s first of its kind “FRUITS” (Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System) portal to store land related details of all the farmers. All the farmers will be registered and given a “FRUITS ID (FID)” number. Canara Bank is the sponsor bank of KVGB. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- KVGB + Karnataka = launched India's first of its kind "FRUITS" portal to store land related details of all the farmers
- FRUITS – Farmer Registration & Unified beneficiary Information System | FID number – FRUITS ID number
- HQs of KVGB – Dharwad, Karnataka | Chairman – P. Gopi Krishna
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot

425. On August 16, PayNearby has partnered with Visa and RBL Bank to launch 'SoftPoS' and 'mPoS' for its over 1.5 million retail network. PayNearby is the first company to launch an all-inclusive digital package for retailers. SoftPoS allows merchants to accept contactless payments of up to ₹5,000 through a simple tap. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PayNearby + Visa + RBL Bank = partnership to launch 'SoftPoS' & 'mPoS' for its retail network
- SoftPoS allows merchants to accept contactless payments of up to ₹5,000
- HQs of PayNearby – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Anand Kumar Bajaj
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly | Founded in – 1958
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Vishwvir Ahuja | Chairman – Prakash Chandra

426. On August 13, The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has setup a panel of Experts who will look into the concerns that could hinder the process of shifting India's trade settlement to T+1 (Trade plus 1 day) from the current T+2. India moved to the T+2 settlement cycle from the T+3 cycle in April 2003. Currently, most of the global markets operate on T+2 but some large markets including the US have resolved to shorten the settlement cycle to T+1 by 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – setup a panel of Experts to analyze the process of shifting India's Trade Settlement Cycle to T+1 (from T+2)
- India moved to the T+2 settlement cycle from T+3 cycle – in April, 2003
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

427. On August 16, Tata Motors has joined hands with Bank of Maharashtra to offer "Maha Super Car Loan scheme" for its 'New Forever' range of passenger vehicles. The scheme will offer a maximum of 90 per cent financing on the total cost of the vehicle (on-road pricing). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Motors + Bank of Maharashtra = to offer "Maha Super Car Loan scheme" for passenger vehicles
- HQs of BoM – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – A S Rajeev | Tagline – "One Family One Bank"
- HQs of Tata Motors – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Guenter Butschek



428. On August 16, HDFC bank has launched “Green and Sustainable Deposits” with an aim to safeguard the environment from Climate Change. These deposits will carry interest rates up to 6.55% while maturity period would vary from 3 to 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC bank – launched “Green & Sustainable Deposits” to safeguard the environment from Climate Change
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”

429. On August 18, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed HDFC Bank to issue new Credit Cards after a 9-month hiatus. However, the restrictions on the bank’s Digital business generating activities and new launches under ‘Digital 2.0’ will continue until further review by the RBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – allowed HDFC Bank to issue new Credit Cards after a 9-month hiatus
- However, restrictions on the new launches under ‘Digital 2.0’ will continue until further review by the RBI
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”

430. On August 18, Kotak Mahindra Bank has deployed a secure “Do It Yourself (DIY)” - Digital Repayment Platform for missed loan repayments, in a tie-up with Creditas Solutions. The ‘Neo Collections’ platform enables repayment of outstanding dues through a variety of payment modes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank + Creditas Solutions = introduced “Do It Yourself (DIY)” - Digital Repayment Platform
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let’s make money simple”
- HQs of Creditas Solutions – Gurugram, Haryana

431. On August 18, ICICI Bank, HSBC and Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) have executed India’s 1st set of ‘swaption’ deals, giving new risk management tools to borrowers in rapidly changing interest rate scenarios. ICICI Bank and the two overseas lenders transacted ‘swaptions’ on Overnight Index Swap (OIS) for a total notional sum. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank + HSBC + SCB = executed India’s 1st set of ‘swaption’ deals
- OIS – Overnight Index Swap | IRS – Interest Rate Swap
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – [Sandeep Bakhshi](#) | Taglines – “Hum Hain Na!” & “Khayal Apka”
- HQs of HSBC India – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Hitendra Dave | Founded in – 1853
- HQs of SCB – London, UK | CEO – Bill Winters



432. On August 14, German banking major Deutsche Bank has got approval to set up an IFSC-Banking Unit (IBU) at India's first International Financial Services Centre at GIFT City (GIFT IFSC). It became the 17th IBU to be operational at GIFT City. Deutsche Bank has global network spread across 59 countries, is among the largest international banks operating in India for over 40 years. The Banking transactions at the GIFT IFSC have crossed \$100 billion in value by the end of July 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Deutsche Bank – got approval to set up an IFSC-Banking Unit (IBU) at India's first IFSC at GIFT City (17th IBU)
- HQs of Deutsche Bank – Frankfurt, Germany | CEO – Christian Sewing | President – Karl von Rohr
- HQs of Deutsche Bank AG, India – Mumbai, Maharashtra

433. On August 16, The World Bank has announced the launch of a new “Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund” under the broader Digital Development Partnership (DDP) umbrella program. The new fund aims to better define and systematically launch the cybersecurity development agenda. The launch of the Trust Fund is made possible with donor contributions from Estonia, Germany, Japan, and the Netherlands. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank – to launch a new “Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund” under the Digital Development Partnership
- Donors for the Fund – Estonia, Germany, Japan & the Netherlands
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

434. On August 18, the RBI has revised guidelines for both new and existing “Safe Deposit Locker” and “Safe Custody Article Facility” in the banks effective from January 1, 2022. In case of incidents such as fire, theft, burglary, or fraud, a compensation of 100 times of the existing annual rent of the safe deposit locker will be given. As per the revised guidelines, the bank can transfer the content to the customer's nominee or legal heir if the locker remains inoperative for 7 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – revised guidelines for both new and existing “Safe Deposit Locker” & “Safe Custody Article Facility”
- The revised guidelines will be effective – from January 1, 2022
- In case of incidents such as fire, theft, burglary, or fraud: Compensation of 100 times of the annual rent of locker
- If the locker remains inoperative for 7 years – the content can be transferred to the customer's nominee
- CDD criteria – Customer Due Diligence criteria
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

435. On August 18, Following the announcement by Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman in Union Budget 2020-21, Injeti Srinivas, Chairperson of the IFSCA, launched the pilot run of “International Bullion Exchange” at the IFSC in GIFT City, Gujarat. The International Bullion Exchange shall be the “Gateway for Bullion Imports into India” where buyers and sellers will be able to trade gold and silver. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Injeti Srinivas – launched “International Bullion Exchange” at the IFSC in GIFT City, Gujarat
- International Bullion Exchange – will be the “Gateway for Bullion Imports into India”
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas

436. On August 17, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a “Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring (PRISM)”, a web-based end-to-end workflow automation system, to strengthen compliance by supervised entities (SEs). This is aimed at helping supervised entities to strengthen their internal defences and resilience and bringing focus on Root Cause Analysis (RCA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – launched a “Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring (PRISM)”
- RCA – Root Cause Analysis
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

Defence Affairs

437. In August 2021, India-Russia joint military exercise “INDRA 2021” was conducted at Prudboy Ranges, Volgograd in Russia to enhance interoperability between the two armies. This military exercise was started in 2003 between India and Russia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A joint military exercise “INDRA 2021” – conducted between India & Russia (initially started in 2003)
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

438. A bilateral Naval Exercise “Exercise Konkan-2021” was conducted in the English Channel between Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of UK. INS Tabar participated in this exercise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Exercise Konkan-2021” – conducted between India & UK
- INS Tabar participated in this exercise
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

439. On August 17, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a \$716 million deal with the US-based GE Aviation for 99 ‘F404’ aircraft engines and support services that will power the indigenous “Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk-1A”. In February, the Defence Ministry had signed a ₹48,000 Cr deal with HAL to supply 83 ‘LCA-Mk1A’ to the Indian Air Force. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- HAL + GE Aviation (US) = \$716 million deal for 99 'F404' aircraft engines & to support services related to 'LCA-Mk1A'
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt | Chairma & MD – R. Madhavan
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

440. On August 19, A bilateral Maritime Exercise was held between Indian Navy and Royal Bahrain Naval Force at Manama, Bahrain. INS Kochi participated in the exercise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bilateral Maritime Exercise was held between – “Indian Navy & Royal Bahrain Naval Force” at Manama, Bahrain
- INS Kochi participated in the exercise
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral Karambir Singh | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950
- Bahrain – Manama – Dinar | PM – Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa | King – Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

441. On August 17, Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) and MBDA, a European missile maker, have signed a license agreement to establish a manufacturing facility for the Final assembly, integration and test (FAIT) of Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile (ASRAAM) at Bhanur, Telangana. The facility is expected to commence operations by the year 2022-23. ASRAAM is one of the 'Within Visual Range' missiles available and BDL will be manufacturing these at its Bhanur unit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BDL + MBDA = to establish a manufacturing facility for the “ASRAAM” missile – at Bhanur, Telangana
- ASRAAM – Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile
- HQs of BDL – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Siddharth Mishra | Founded in – 1970
- HQs of MBDA – Le Plessis-Robinson, France | CEO – Eric Beranger

442. On August 18, The Indian Navy has carried out Bilateral Maritime Exercise with the Vietnamese Navy in the South China Sea as part of maritime cooperation between the two countries. INS Ranvijay and INS Kora undertook bilateral maritime exercises with Vietnam People's Navy (VPN) frigate VPNS Ly Thai To (HQ-012). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy + Vietnamese Navy = conducted 'Bilateral Maritime Exercise' in the South China Sea
- INS Ranvijay & INS Kora – participated in this exercise
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral Karambir Singh | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Pham Minh Chinh | President – Nguyen Xuan Phuc



443. On August 19, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the 5th edition of the “Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC)” in New Delhi under Innovations for Defence Excellence - Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO). It is meant to achieve self-reliance and foster innovation and technology development in the defence and aerospace sectors. 35 problem statements - 13 from the Services and 22 from Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) were unveiled under ‘DISC 5.0’. iDEX-DIO was launched in 2018 by the Department of Defense Production. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – launched 5th edition of the “Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC)” in New Delhi under ‘iDEX-DIO’
- “iDEX-DIO” was launched – in 2018
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

Schemes & Initiatives

444. On August 17, In a significant development, the Jammu & Kashmir government has issued orders for giving a fresh impetus to the training in handicraft sector in the UT by unveiling the ‘KARKHANDAR’ scheme which is a unique concept for the upliftment of artisans and weavers through training. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K – unveiled the ‘KARKHANDAR’ scheme to provide training in the field of handicrafts sector
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

445. On August 20, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched a Health Insurance scheme called “Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana Smart Card scheme” in tribal-dominated Malkangiri district. Around 9.6 million families in the state will receive these smart cards. Each family can get treatment cost up to ₹5 lakh per year and women will get benefits up to ₹10 lakh per year under BSKY. The BSKY smart card scheme is a new version of the ‘Biju Swasthya Kalyan Scheme’ that was first launched in August 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – launched a Health Insurance scheme called “Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana Smart Card scheme”
- ‘Biju Swasthya Kalyan Scheme’ was initially launched – in August 2018
- Each family can get treatment cost up to ₹5 lakh/year | women will get benefits up to ₹10 lakh/year
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

446. On August 18, The Chhattisgarh government has launched the “Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Majdur Nyay Yojana”, with the provision of ₹200 Cr benefiting 12 lakh landless families. The families of the beneficiaries will each be ensured the amount of ₹6,000 annually. The scheme is focused on covering MGNREGA and contract worker. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Chhattisgarh – launched the “Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Majdur Nyay Yojana”
- Outlay of the scheme – ₹200 Cr | ₹6,000 annually to each beneficiary
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

447. On August 17, The government has announced rates of Tax Refunds under the export promotion scheme “Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP)” for 8,555 products. ₹19,400 Cr would be available for 2021-22 for both the “RoDTEP” and the “Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL)”. The ‘RoSCTL’ scheme was announced for the export of garments and apparels. For the ‘RoDTEP’ scheme, the amount is ₹12,454 Cr and the remaining ₹6,946 Cr for ‘RoSCTL’. However, 3 sectors of steel, chemicals and pharmaceuticals would not get the benefit of ‘RoDTEP’ as they have done well without incentives. The tax refund rates range from 0.5% to 4.3% for various sectors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government announced rates of Tax Refunds under ‘RoDTEP’ scheme for exporters to cover 8,555 items
- ₹12,454 Cr – allocated to ‘RoDTEP’ | ₹6,946 Cr allocated to ‘RoSCTL’
- RoDTEP – Remission of Duties & Taxes on Exported Products | RoSCTL – Rebate of State & Central Taxes & Levies
- 3 sectors excluded from ‘RoDTEP’ scheme: Steel, Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals
- Tax Refunds rates range – from 0.5% to 4.3%

448. On August 19, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh L. Mandaviya has virtually inaugurated “Arogya Dhara 2.0”, which commemorated the completion of 2 Cr treatments under “Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)”. Treatments worth approximately Rs 25,000 Cr have been provided till date across 33 States/UTs in India since the launch of the scheme on 23rd September 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mansukh Mandaviya – inaugurated “Arogya Dhara 2.0” to mark the completion of 2 Cr treatments under ‘AB-PMJAY’
- ‘AB-PMJAY’ was launched in – 2018
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar

449. On August 18, To undertake prospecting operations of minerals, the Ministry of Mines has adopted a ‘Scheme for accreditation of Private Exploration Agencies’ developed by the National Accreditation Board for Education and Training of the Quality Council of India (QCI-NABET). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Mines – adopted a ‘Scheme for accreditation of Private Exploration Agencies’ developed by QCI-NABET



- HQs of NABET – New Delhi | NABET – functions under QCI
- HQs of QCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Adil Zainulbhai | Secretary General – Dr. Ravi P Singh

450. On August 24, West Bengal government has launched the second phase of “Duare Sarkar” - an outreach drive to help people get benefits of state-run schemes at their doorstep. According to sources in the government, ‘Lakshmir Bhandar’ scheme has emerged as the most popular scheme. As part of the scheme, a woman member of a general caste family would get Rs 500 a month (Rs 6,000 a year) and one from an SC or ST family would get Rs 1,000 monthly, which is Rs 12,000 annually. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- West Bengal – launched the 2nd phase of “Duare Sarkar”
- WB’s ‘Lakshmir Bhandar’ scheme: Rs 6,000/year to a woman from Gen | Rs 12,000/year to a woman from SC/ST
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

Sports & Games

451. India has topped the medals tally with 15 medals (8 Gold, 2 Silver and 5 Bronze medals) at the 16th edition of the “Youth World Archery Championship 2021” held in Wroclaw (Poland) from August 9 to 15, 2021. The championship was organised by World Archery Federation (WAF). Komalika Bari became the second Indian after Deepika Kumari to win both the Cadet and Junior Recurve Women World Champions’ titles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Archery Federation – organised the 16th “Youth World Archery Championship 2021” in Wroclaw, Poland
- India – topped the medals tally with 15 medals (8 Gold, 2 Silver & 5 Bronze)
- Komalika Bari – 2nd Indian to win both the Cadet & Junior Recurve Women World Champions’ titles
- Komalika Bari, Deepika Kumari, Priya Gurjar, Bishal Changmai, Sakshi Chaudhary – Indian Archers
- HQs of WAF – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Ugur Erdener

452. On August 16, The Odisha government has decided to extend the sponsorship of Indian National Hockey Teams for another 10 years. The current sponsorship ends in 2023. Each player was awarded ₹10 lakh and each support staff member was awarded ₹5 lakh by the Chief Minister. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – to extend the sponsorship of Indian National Hockey Teams for another 10 years
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal



453. On August 15, S. L. Narayanan has finished runner-up after a draw with Israel's Ilia Smirin in the 9th and final round of the "RTU Open Chess Tournament" in Riga, Latvia. Germany's Alexander Donchenko has won with 7.5 points from 9 rounds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. L. Narayanan ([India - Chess](#)) – stood at 2nd in the "RTU Open Chess Tournament" in Riga, Latvia
- 1st – Alexander Donchenko ([Germany - Chess](#))

454. In August 2021, Brazil has won Gold medal in the men's football event at "2020 Tokyo Olympics" defeating Spain in the final match. It's a third straight Olympic soccer medal for Brazil. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Brazil – won Gold medal in the men's football event at "2020 Tokyo Olympics" (defeating - Spain)
- [Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian real | President – Jair Bolsonaro](#)

Important Days & Dates

455. August 19 is observed as World Photography Day, which aims to inspire photographers across the world. World Photo Day originates from the invention of the 'Daguerreotype', a photographic process developed by Frenchmen Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicephore Niepce in 1837. The first selfie was clicked by American Robert Cornelius in 1839. On August 19, 2010 World Photo Day hosted its first global online gallery. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- August 19 – World Photography Day
- 'Daguerreotype' - a photographic process – developed by Louis Daguerre & Joseph Nicephore Niepce in 1837

456. August 19 is observed as "World Humanitarian Day" every year in honour of all humanitarians going to extraordinary lengths to support various causes. This day was observed for the first time in 2009. This year, the theme is "The Human Race". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- August 19 – "World Humanitarian Day" (since 2009)
- Theme – "The Human Race"

457. World Mosquito Day is observed annually on August 20 to commemorate British doctor Sir Ronald Ross' landmark discovery in 1897 that female mosquitoes (Anopheles mosquitoes) transmit malaria between humans. This year's theme is "Reaching the Zero Malaria Target". [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- August 20 – World Mosquito Day
- Theme – “Reaching the Zero Malaria Target”

458. To mark the 77th birth Anniversary of late Prime Minister of India Shri Rajiv Gandhi, “Sadbhavana Diwas” or “Harmony Day” was observed on August 20. India’s highest civilian award “Bharat Ratna” was (posthumously) awarded to Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- August 20 – “Sadbhavana Diwas” or “Harmony Day”
- Rajiv Gandhi – awarded with “Bharat Ratna” in 1991 (posthumously)

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

459. On August 13, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar has addressed the 6th meeting of Agriculture Ministers of the member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) which was organized virtually in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The Government of India has been taking several steps to develop innovative technologies and their dissemination from Lab to Land to empower rural youth, farmers and farm women. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar – addressed the 6th meeting of Agriculture Ministers of SCO – held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- HQs of SCO – Beijing, China | SG – Vladimir Norov | Member Countries – 8 | 2021 Presidency – Tajikistan
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Narendra Singh Tomar | Constituency – Morena, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Shobha Karandlaje & Kailash Choudhary

460. On August 19, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has chaired the 5th meeting of “BRICS Industry Ministers” through video conferencing. The Industry Ministers of BRICS Countries Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa attended the meeting. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – chaired the 5th meeting of “BRICS Industry Ministers”
- BRICS Member Countries: 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | Chairmanship (2021) – India



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

461. On August 17, Piyush Goyal has conferred the “National Intellectual Property Awards 2020” to the winners at an event. India has recorded 572% growth in grant of Patents in last 7 years. 28,391 patents granted in 2020-21 as compared to 4,227 grants during 2013-14. Besides, 14.2 lakh trademark registrations have been done in 4 years (2016-2020). He announced 80% fee concession for Start-ups & Small Entities. Moreover, India’s ranking in “Global Innovation Index” jumped to 48th in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – conferred the “National Intellectual Property (IP) Awards 2020” to the winners
- India recorded 572% growth in grant of Patents in last 7 years (28,391 patents granted in 2020-21)
- Piyush Goyal – announced 80% fee concession for Start-ups & Small Entities
- India – 48th in the “Global Innovation Index 2020”

462. On August 14, An influential US lawmaker from New York has reintroduced a resolution in the US House of Representatives to posthumously award the prestigious “Congressional Gold Medal” to Mahatma Gandhi in recognition of his promotion of peace and nonviolence. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian award in the United States. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- An influential US lawmaker reintroduced a resolution in the US House of Representatives to posthumously award the prestigious “Congressional Gold Medal” – to Mahatma Gandhi
- “Congressional Gold Medal” – the highest civilian award in the US
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

Appointments & Resignations

463. On August 14, Olympian P. R. Sreejesh is appointed as Brand Ambassador of Adventure Tourism in Kerala. Parattu Raveendran Sreejesh was a goalkeeper and the former captain of the Indian National Hockey team. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- P. R. Sreejesh ([Hockey Player](#)) – appointed as Brand Ambassador of Adventure Tourism in Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

464. On August 16, Direct selling FMCG firm Amway India has announced appointed Olympian Saikhom Mirabai Chanu as the brand ambassador for Amway and its Nutrilite range of products. Chanu, a weightlifter, won the silver medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in the women's 49kg category. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Saikhom Mirabai Chanu ([Weightlifter](#)) – appointed as brand ambassador of Amway India for its ‘Nutrilite’ range
- [HQs of Amway India – New Delhi | CEO – Anshu Budhraj](#)

465. On August 21, Malaysia’s King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah has appointed Former Deputy Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob as the new Prime Minister of Malaysia. He has succeeded Muhyiddin Yassin who resigned after losing majority support in the lower house of parliament. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Muhyiddin Yassin – resigned from the post of Prime Minister of Malaysia
- Ismail Sabri Yaakob – appointed as new Prime Minister of Malaysia
- [Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur – Ringgit | PM – Ismail Sabri Yaakob | King – Al-Sultan Abdullah](#)

466. In August 2021, Nine new judges, including three women, have been appointed to the Supreme Court. 3 out of these 9 new judges - Justice Vikram Nath and Justice B. V. Nagarathna and Justice P. S. Narasimha are in line to become the chief justice of India. Justice B. V. Nagarathna can become the first woman Chief Justice of India (CJI) in September 2027 if the government clears her name. The sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court is 34. The high court judges retire at the age of 62, while the retirement age of Supreme Court judges is 65. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 9 new judges (3 women) – appointed to the Supreme Court
- B. V. Nagarathna can become the first woman Chief Justice of India (CJI) in September 2027
- Sanctioned strength of judges in the SC – 34
- Retirement age of HC judge – 62 | Retirement age of SC judge – 65
- [Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana \(48th\)](#)

467. On August 18, Actor-producer Priyanka Chopra Jonas has been announced as the Chairperson of “Jio MAMI Film Festival”. The Mumbai Academy of Moving Image (MAMI) board also welcomed 2 new members - filmmaker Anjali Menon and renowned filmmaker-archivist Shivendra Singh Dungarpur. Actress Deepika Padukone was the former chairperson of the trust and she stepped down almost 4 months ago. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Priyanka Chopra Jonas – appointed as the Chairperson of “Jio MAMI Film Festival” (succeeding - Deepika Padukone)
- MAMI – **M**umbai **A**cademy of **M**oving **I**mage | Founded in – 1997



468. On August 17, Afghanistan's first vice president Amrullah Saleh has declared himself as the caretaker President of Afghanistan following the resignation of Ashraf Ghani. Citing the provisions of the Constitution of Afghanistan, Saleh stated that the first vice president automatically becomes the caretaker president in the event of the president's absence, escape or resignation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amrullah Saleh – declared himself as the caretaker President of Afghanistan
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | Care taker President – Amrullah Saleh

469. On August 17, Neuberg Diagnostics, India's 4th largest diagnostics lab chain has roped in ace cricketer, MS Dhoni, as a brand ambassador for the next 2 years. He will advocate for Neuberg's health and wellness campaign and convey its efforts towards empowering every citizen with better and affordable healthcare. Besides, Kauvery Group of Hospitals had also roped in MS Dhoni as their Brand Ambassador. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MS Dhoni – appointed as a Brand Ambassador of Neuberg Diagnostics – for 2 years
- MS Dhoni – appointed as a Brand Ambassador of Kauvery Group of Hospitals ([Chennai](#))
- HQs of Neuberg Diagnostics – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & Chairman – G. S. K. Velu



Amount & Agreements

470. On August 17, The World Bank Group member International Finance Corporation (IFC) has extended \$75 million or over Rs 557 Cr debt support to IndoSpace Logistics Fund to develop logistics and industrial parks with an objective to enhance warehousing and supply chain infrastructure in India. The IFC is extending the loan, a \$580-million vintage fund to IndoSpace Logistics Parks III LP. Logistics costs are estimated to be around 13-14% of GDP in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IFC – extended \$75 million (Rs 557 Cr) loan support to IndoSpace Logistics Fund develop logistics & industrial parks
- IFC – is extending a \$580-million vintage fund to “IndoSpace Logistics Parks III LP”
- HQs of IFC – Washington D.C., US | MD – Makhtar Diop | Established in – 1956 (an arm of World Bank)



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

471. On August 18, The RBI has launched “Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index)” to capture the extent of financial inclusion across India. The FI-Index is a comprehensive index which incorporates details of banking, investments, insurance, postal as well as the pension sector. This Index primarily comprises 3 parameters - Access, Usage & Quality in the extent of 35%, 45% & 20% respectively. This Index records information and data on several aspects of financial inclusion on a scale of 0-100. The annual ‘FI-Index’ for the FY21 is 53.9 across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – launched “Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index)” | India’s ‘FI-Index’ for FY21 – 53.9
- 3 parameters of FI-Index: Access (35%), Usage (45%) & Quality (20%)
- ‘FI-Index’ incorporates details of these sectors: Banking, Investments, Insurance, Postal & Pension
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

472. On August 11, Bangladesh was the most polluted country across the world in 2020, followed by Pakistan and India, according to a report titled “The World’s Best and Worst Towns and Cities for Clean Air” prepared by British company HouseFresh. Chinese city of Hotan in Xinjiang province has been named the most polluted city followed by Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh and Bangladesh’s Manikganj respectively in the list of 50 ‘Most Polluted Cities’ in the world. Of the 50 most polluted cities worldwide, 49 are in Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, and India. Tasmanian city of Judbury in Australia topped the list of cities with the cleanest air with a PM2.5 level of 2.4µg/m³. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Most Polluted Countries in the world”: 1st - Bangladesh, 2nd - Pakistan, 3rd - India
- “50 Most Polluted Cities in the world”: 1st - Hotan (China), 2nd - Ghaziabad, 3rd - Manikganj (Bangladesh)
- “Cleanest Cities in the world”: 1st - Judbury (Australia), 2nd - Kailua-Kona (Hawaii, US), 3rd - Muonio (Finland)

473. On August 18, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has become the 1st Information Technology (IT) company and 2nd overall after Reliance Industries, to cross the Rs 13 lakh Cr m-cap. TCS had reported a 28.5% year-on-year growth in its consolidated net profit to Rs 9,008 Cr for the quarter ended June, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TCS – became the 1st IT company & overall 2nd company to cross the Rs 13 lakh Cr m-cap
- TCS – reported 28.5% year-on-year growth for the quarter ended June, 2021
- HQs of TCS – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Rajesh Gopinathan

474. In August 2021, The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), under Ministry of Finance, Government of India has released the 60th edition of the Public Sector Enterprises Survey 2019-20. As per the PE Survey 2019-20 as on 31st March, 2020 there are 256 operational Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and their net profit in FY20 decreased by 20% mostly due to fall in profits of the Petroleum sector. Loss of 84 loss making CPSEs was Rs 44,817 Cr in Financial Year 2019-20. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- 60th edition of “Public Sector Enterprises Survey 2019-20” – released by Department of Public Enterprises
- As per the PE Survey 2019-20: There are 256 operational CPSEs as on 31st March, 2020
- Net profit of CPSEs in FY20 decreased by 20% (mostly due to fall in profits of Petroleum sector)

475. On August 19, Indian billionaire investor, businessman and DMart founder Radhakishan Damani has entered the elite club of world’s top 100 billionaires. His net worth currently stands at \$19.3 billion, securing the 97th rank in the “World’s 100 Richest List”, as per the “Bloomberg Billionaires’ Index”. Elon Musk has topped the list, followed by Jeff Bezos, Bernard Arnault. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Radhakishan Damani – entered world’s top 100 rich list as per “Bloomberg Billionaires’ Index” (August 2021)
- Present Net worth of Radhakishan Damani – \$19.3 billion | His present rank – 97th
- 1st – Elon Musk | 2nd – Jeff Bezos | 3rd – Bernard Arnault
- HQs of DMart – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Founder – Radhakishan Damani | CEO – Navil Noronha

476. On August 18, India has ranked second in the list of 20 countries with the highest cryptocurrency adoption rate, according to Chainalysis’s “Global Crypto Adoption Index 2021”. Vietnam secured the first spot, and Pakistan came third. Global adoption of cryptocurrency grew over 800% in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Crypto Adoption Index 2021” – released by Chainalysis (New York, US)
- 1st – Vietnam | 2nd – India | 3rd – Pakistan

Acquisitions & Mergers

477. On August 16, Adani Road Transport Ltd (ARTL) has announced to acquire 49% stake for ₹1,680 Cr in Maharashtra Border Check Post Network Ltd (MBCPNL), a subsidiary of Sadbhav Infrastructure Project Limited. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adani Road Transport – acquires 49% stake in Maharashtra Border Check Post Network Ltd (MBCPNL)
- HQs of ARTL – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Krishna Prakash Maheshwari
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

478. On August 17, Arunachal Pradesh has signed an MoA (Memorandum of Agreement) with NEEPCO (North East Electrical Power Corporation Ltd) for the development of two Hydro-Power Projects in the State. The MoA is for construction of the 90-MW New Melling project in Tawang and the 120 MW Nafra project in West Kameng district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arunachal Pradesh + NEEPCO = an MoA for the development of two Hydro-Power Projects in the State
- 90-MW New Melling project – in Tawang, AP | 120 MW Nafra project – in West Kameng, AP
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra
- HQs of NEEPCO – Shillong, Meghalaya | MD & Chairman – Vinod Kumar Singh

479. On August 18, The Union Cabinet has approved a pact between India and the United States on cooperation in the field of Geology. For the same purpose, an MoU was signed between the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and the Florida International University (FIU). Besides, the cabinet also approved signing of an MoU between the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of India and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) of Bangladesh on Cooperation in the field of Disaster Management, Resilience and Mitigation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GSI (India) + FIU (US) = an MoU in the field of Geology
- NDMA (India) + MoDMR (Bangladesh) = an MoU in the field of Disaster Management, Resilience and Mitigation
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

480. On August 19, The Ministry of Tourism has signed an MoU with MakeMyTrip (India) Private Ltd and Ibibo Group Private Ltd in a bid to strengthen the hospitality and tourism industry especially in the times of the pandemic. The ministry has already signed MoUs with Cleartrip and Yatra.com and Ease my Trip. The primary objective of this MoU is to provide an extensive visibility to accommodation units, which have self-certified themselves on “SAATHI” (System for Assessment, Awareness and Training for the Hospitality Industry) on the OTA platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Tourism + MakeMyTrip + Ibibo = to strengthen the hospitality & tourism industry
- SAATHI – System for Assessment, Awareness and Training for the Hospitality Industry
- Ministry of Tourism: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Ministry of Tourism: Shripad Yesso Naik & Ajay Bhatt



481. On August 19, For Naval cooperation, Indian Navy and Australian Navy have signed a “Joint Guidance for Navy to Navy Relationship” document. The document is aligned to the “2020 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership” agreed by the Prime Ministers and aims to ensure shared approached to regional and global security challenges. Australia has also deployed a Liaison Officer at the Indian Navy’s Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Australia = “Joint Guidance for Navy to Navy Relationship” document
- The document is aligned to the “2020 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership”
- Australia – deployed a Liaison Officer at Indian Navy’s Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

482. On August 18, For making available high quality and high speed internet access to the States of North Eastern Region of the country, Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has signed an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for hiring of 10 Gbps International Bandwidth for Internet Connectivity to Agartala from Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited (BSCCL), Bangladesh via Cox Bazar/Kuakata. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USOF + BSNL = to hire 10 Gbps International Bandwidth for Internet Connectivity to Agartala from Bangladesh
- HQs of BSNL – New Delhi | CMD – Pravin Kumar Purwar
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

483. On August 18, The Union Cabinet has approved an MoU between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), Switzerland to strengthen relations within the framework of the international scientific and technological collaboration and to promote cooperation in fields of mutual interest. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICMR + FIND (Switzerland) = an MoU to promote cooperation in fields of mutual interest
- HQs of ICMR – New Delhi, India | Director General – Balram Bhargava | Established in – 1911
- Switzerland – Bern – Swiss Franc | President – Guy Parmelin



Books & Authors

484. On August 15, Former Supreme Court Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman has launched his 3rd book “Discordant Notes - The Voice of Dissent in a Court of Last Resort”. During the launch of this book, he emphasised that Constitution is our holy book. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Discordant Notes - The Voice of Dissent in a Court of Last Resort” book – authored by Rohinton Fali Nariman

485. On August 16, HarperCollins has announced a new book titled “Lahore: Book 1 of the Partition Trilogy” authored by Manreet Sodhi Someshwar. Manreet Sodhi Someshwar is a bestselling writer of 6 books, including the award-winning “The Radiance of a Thousand Suns” and the critically acclaimed “The Long Walk Home”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Lahore: Book 1 of the Partition Trilogy” book – authored by Manreet Sodhi Someshwar
- Publisher – HarperCollins
- Her other books: “The Radiance of a Thousand Suns” & “The Long Walk Home”

486. In August 2021, A new biography titled “The Dream of Revolution: A Biography of Jayaprakash Narayan” was released on August 23 by Penguin Random House India. The book is written by historian Bimal Prasad and author Sujata Prasad. Jayaprakash Narayan is a revolutionary leader and independence activist. Jayaprakash Narayan had posthumously received ‘Bharat Ratna’ in 1999. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Dream of Revolution: A Biography of Jayaprakash Narayan” book – authored by Bimal Prasad & Sujata Prasad
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India
- Jayaprakash Narayan – posthumously received ‘Bharat Ratna’ in 1999

487. On August 18, A new novel inspired by real events titled “Operation Trojan Horse” is authored by D. P. Sinha and Abhishek Sharan. It is published by HarperCollins India. The novel includes the 26/11 Mumbai attacks and talks of India's fight against terror. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Operation Trojan Horse” novel – authored by D. P. Sinha & Abhishek Sharan
- Publisher – HarperCollins India



488. A new book titled “Mission Domination: An Unfinished Quest” authored by Sports historian Boria Majumdar and Sports journalist Kushan Sarkar has been published by Simon & Schuster India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Mission Domination: An Unfinished Quest” book – authored by Boria Majumdar & Kushan Sarkar
- Publisher – Simon & Schuster India

Obituaries

489. In August 2021, Maki Kaji, also known as the “Godfather of Sudoku”, passed away. He was 69. He was the creator of the popular numbers puzzle Sudoku. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maki Kaji (Godfather of Sudoku) – a Japanese Businessman – passed away

490. On August 16, Tamil Actor and popular TV host Anandha Kannan passed away at the age of 48. He was reportedly suffering from a rare bile-duct cancer. Anandha Kannan started his career with Vasantham TV in Singapore before moving to Chennai where he worked with Sun Music as a video-jockey. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anandha Kannan – Tamil Actor & popular TV host – passed away

491. One of India’s most famous athletics coaches, O. M. Nambiar, the man who transformed a village girl P. T. Usha into Asia’s Golden Girl, passed away at Payyoli in Kozhikode. He was 89. He was honoured with the ‘Padma Shri Award’ in 2021 and the ‘Dronacharya Award’ in 1985. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- O. M. Nambiar – an Athletics Coach – passed away (The Coach of P. T. Usha)
- Awards: ‘Padma Shri Award’ (2021) & ‘Dronacharya Award’ (1985)

Person in News

492. On August 16, Google has honoured the famous Hindi poet Subhadra Kumari Chauhan with a doodle on her 117th birth anniversary. She is known to be India's first woman protester during the freedom movement of India. She was jailed twice for her involvement in the protests against the British in 1923 and 1942. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google doodle – honoured the famous Hindi poet “Subhadra Kumari Chauhan” on her 117th birth anniversary
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998



493. On August 19, The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, has paid homage to Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, former President of India, on his birth anniversary at Rashtrapati Bhavan. He was the 9th President of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind – paid homage to Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma (9th President of India) on his birth anniversary

Science & Technology

494. On August 15, Researchers have identified 3 new species of 'Wild Balsam' in Kerala, of which two have been named after V. S. Achuthanandan (Communist veteran and former CM of Kerala) and K. K. Shailaja (Former Health Minister of Kerala). The species, belonging to the genus 'Impatiens' (family Balsaminaceae), were spotted in the Western Ghats region of southern Kerala and the Idukki district. Three species are named - Impatiens achudanandanii, Impatiens shailajae & Impatiens danii. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3 new species of 'Wild Balsam' - a flower – discovered in Kerala (names: Achudanandanii, Shailajae & Danii)
- The species belong to the genus 'Impatiens' (family Balsaminaceae)
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

495. On August 16, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has successfully carried out the Ground Run and Low Speed Taxi Trials (LSTT) of the "Hindustan-228 (VT-KNR)" aircraft for Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) 'Type Certification'. This is a major milestone for the first fixed wing Made-in-India civil aircraft in India. It was launched as a part of Regional Connectivity Scheme - "UDAN" (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) which was launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL – successfully carried out the Ground Run & Low Speed Taxi Trials of "Hindustan-228 (VT-KNR)" aircraft
- "UDAN" (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) was launched in 2016 – by Ministry of Civil Aviation
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt | Chairma & MD – R. Madhavan

496. On August 17, Department of Science & Technology (DST) launched 3 Online Applications - GEO Spatial Data Dissemination Portal & Sarathi Web GIS app (developed by Survey of India) and Manchitran Enterprise Geoportal (developed by the National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Department of S&T launched 3 online apps/portals:
 - GEO Spatial Data Dissemination Portal (developed by Survey of India)
 - Sarathi Web GIS app (developed by Survey of India)
 - Manchitran Enterprise Geoportal (developed by the National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation)



497. On August 17, IIT Madras has collaborated with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) for research in areas of Pavement Engineering & Intelligent Transportation Systems. A MoRTH chair is being created at IIT Madras, to focus on research and development (R&D), teaching and training in traffic and highway engineering. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Madras + MoRTH = for research in areas of Pavement Engineering & Intelligent Transportation Systems
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: Nitin Gadkari | Constituency – Nagpur, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: V. K. Singh

498. On August 17, Smart devices maker Oppo has announced the set-up of a specialised lab for camera innovation at its Hyderabad R&D centre. The lab has been designed to develop localised features, camera solutions using AI and focus on developing imaging software for a better user experience. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Oppo – announced to set-up a Specialised Lab for camera innovation – in Hyderabad, Telangana
- HQs of Oppo – Dongguan, China | CEO – Tony Chen
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

499. On August 16, A rare orchid species - “Cephalanthera Erecta var. Oblanceolata”, has been found for the first time in India in Uttarakhand’s Chamoli district at an altitude of 1870 metres. The discovery has been published in Nelumbo, the six-monthly journal of BSI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Cephalanthera Erecta var. Oblanceolata” a rare orchid species – discovered in Chamoli, Uttarakhand (1st time)
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

Ordinance, Bills and Acts

500. On August 13, The “Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021” has received the assent of the President Ram Nath Kovind. The “Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act 2021” has amended ‘Income Tax Act 1961’ and ‘Finance Act 2012’. Meanwhile, Bills for amending “Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Act”, “Limited Liability Partnership Act” and Bill for “Tribunal Reforms” have also become Acts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- President Ram Nath Kovind – gave assent to the “Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021”
- “Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act 2021” – amended ‘Income Tax Act 1961’ & ‘Finance Act 2012’





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