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**August**  
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**PDF No. 6**  
**(PDF in English)**



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## An important message from Team Smartkeeda

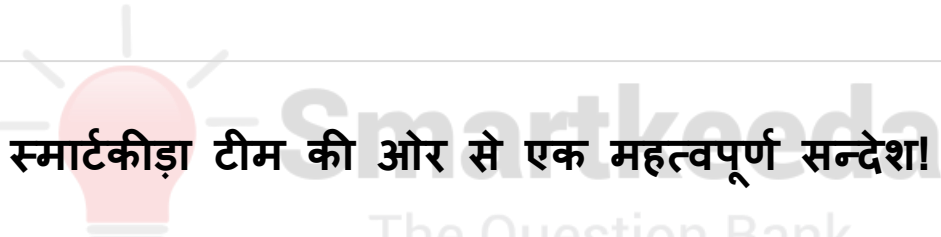
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of August 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

**501.** On August 19, Union Heavy Industries Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey has inaugurated an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station in Karnal, Haryana. With this, the Delhi-Chandigarh Highway has become the first EV-friendly stretch in India, with a network of solar-based electric vehicle chargers (SEVCs). The chargers have been set up by Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) under the FAME-I [Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) and Electric Vehicles in India] scheme of the Ministry of Heavy Industries. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Mahendra Nath Pandey – inaugurated an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station in Karnal, Haryana
- This EV charging station is located between “Delhi-Chandigarh Highway”
- The chargers are set up by Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) – under the ‘FAME-I’
- [Ministry of Heavy Industries: Mahendra Nath Pandey | Constituency – Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Heavy Industries: Krishan Pal](#)

**502.** On August 18, The Supreme Court has allowed female candidates to appear for the National Defence Academy (NDA) examination. The Supreme Court was hearing a petition filed by lawyer Kush Kalra which sought a direction to the concerned authorities to allow eligible female candidates to appear form examination and train at the NDA. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Supreme Court – allowed female candidates to appear for NDA exam
- [Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana \(48<sup>th</sup>\)](#)

**503.** The “Tri-Services all-women Mountaineering Expedition” was organised by the Army Adventure Wing to mark the celebrations of “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav”. The team was flagged off on August 1, 2021. An “All Women Tri-Services Mountaineering Team” successfully scaled Mt Manirang which is located in Himachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Army Adventure Wing – organised the “Tri-Services all-women Mountaineering Expedition”
- “All Women Tri-Services Mountaineering Team” successfully scaled “Mt Manirang” located in Himachal Pradesh
- [HP: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar](#)

**504.** On August 20, The government has constituted a 8 member committee headed by Sunil Sethi (Chairman of FDCI - Fashion Design Council of India) to suggest a roadmap for doubling the production and quadrupling the exports of handlooms in a span of 3 years. Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal has set an ambitious target to raise handloom production from the present Rs 60,000 Cr to Rs 1,25000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Government formed 8-member Committee for promotion of Handloom Sector (headed by - Sunil Sethi)
- [HQs of FDCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sunil Sethi](#)



**505.** On August 21, NTPC Ltd has commissioned India's largest floating solar PV (Photovoltaic) Project of 25MW on the reservoir of its Simhadri Thermal Power Station in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. This is also the first solar project to be set up under the government's 'Flexibilisation Scheme' notified in 2018. With this project, total installed capacity of NTPC reaches 66,900 MW. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NTPC commissioned India's largest floating solar PV Project of 25MW at Simhadri Thermal Power Station
- Simhadri Thermal Power Station – located in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- Total installed capacity of NTPC – 66,900 MW (as on August 2021)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**506.** On August 20, Indigenously developed Zydus Cadila Covid vaccine "ZyCoV-D" has received approval for Emergency Use Authorisation from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI). It will be administered to people 12 years and above. This is the world's first DNA-based vaccine against coronavirus. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DCGI approved "ZyCoV-D" - world's first DNA-based vaccine against coronavirus
- Age criteria: For people of 12 years & above
- HQs of Cadila Healthcare (Zydus Cadila) – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Pankaj Patel

**507.** On August 20, The highest altitude Herbal Park or Herbal Garden of India, situated at a height of 11,000 feet, was inaugurated at Mana village close to the Indo-China border in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district. It has been developed in 3 years under central government's Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) scheme. The herbal park has around 40 species. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India's highest altitude Herbal Park inaugurated in Chamoli, Uttarakhand (at a height of 11,000 feet & with 40 species)
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

**508.** On August 19, Union minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has announced to set up a separate Civil Services Exam (CSE) centre for Ladakh. The centre will be located in Leh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Jitendra Singh – announced to set up a separate Civil Services Exam (CSE) centre for Ladakh – in Leh
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur

**509.** On August 20, The Tamil Nadu government has reconstituted the High-level Expert Committee on exploration and extraction of Hydrocarbon projects. The government has named Sultan Ahmed Ismail as Chairman of this 7-member committee. The committee has been directed to submit its report within 4 months. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu – reconstituted 7-member High-level Expert Committee on exploration of Hydrocarbon projects
- The committee is headed by – Sultan Ahmed Ismail
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



**510.** On August 17, The Zila panchayat of Aligarh has passed a resolution seeking to rename Aligarh as Harigarh. The newly elected District Panchayat passed the resolution in the first meeting of the panchayat without any opposition. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Zila panchayat of Aligarh passed a resolution to rename “Aligarh” as “Harigarh” – in Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**511.** On August 20, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated 1.6 km long Sitabardi-Zero Mile-Kasturchand Park corridor established by Mahametro in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The inauguration of the 40,000-square-foot Freedom Park also took place on the same day. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 1.6 km long Sitabardi-Zero Mile-Kasturchand Park corridor established by Mahametro in Nagpur, Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**512.** On August 21, A stadium at the Pune-based Army Sports Institute (ASI) will be named after Tokyo Olympics gold medalist in Javelin throw, Subedar Neeraj Chopra. He was inducted into the Indian Army in the sports quota in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A stadium at the Pune-based Army Sports Institute (ASI) will be named after “Neeraj Chopra”
- Neeraj Chopra – won Gold medal in Javelin throw at the “2020 Tokyo Olympics”

**513.** On August 20, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated several projects in Gujarat’s Somnath and laid the foundation stone for Parvati Temple, which is proposed to be constructed with a total outlay of ₹30 Cr. The temple was built by Indore’s Queen Ahilyabai after she found that the old temple was in ruins. The Old (Juna) Somnath is also referred to as ‘Ahilyabai Temple’. Somnath Promenade has been developed under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme at a cost of over ₹47 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for Parvati Temple – in Somnath Temple premises, Gujarat (Outlay - ₹30 Cr)
- “PRASHAD” Scheme – launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Tourism
- Somnath Temple – located in Veraval, Gujarat | Chairman of Somnath Temple Trust – Narendra Modi
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

**514.** On August 17, Faridabad Smart City has roped in comic book icon “Chacha Chaudhary”. Each social media post will depict Chacha Chaudhary and Sabu, his loyal sidekick, guiding and teaching people on effectively using the infrastructure put in place. The Centre has selected 100 cities to be developed as smart cities with each city getting Rs 100 Cr per year on an average over a 5-year period to complete the developments. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Faridabad Smart City – roped in comic book icon “Chacha Chaudhary” to guide people on effectively using Infrastructure
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya



**515.** On August 20, The historic over 150-year-old Gartang Gali wooden bridge located at a height of 11,000 feet in Nelong Valley in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district near the Indo-China border is reopened for tourists after 59 years. Gartang Gali bridge is believed to have been built by Peshawar Pathans. The bridge has been renovated by the public works department at a cost of ₹65 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 150-year-old 'Gartang Gali Wooden Bridge' located in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand – reopened for tourists after 59 years
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

**516.** On August 21, The Madhya Pradesh government will train budding sportspersons for the 2024 and 2028 Olympics under a "Talent-Search Programme". The government has started looking for sportspersons so that they can be groomed in 18 sports academies in the State for the world's largest sporting event. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Madhya Pradesh – launched "Talent-Search Programme" in the field of Sports
- Aim: To train budding sportspersons for the 2024 & 2028 Olympics
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

**517.** On August 22, The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has extended a grant of ₹24.90 lakh for a project on Integrated Mangrove Fishery Farming System (IMFFS) in Cuddalore district. The project is being implemented by the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NABARD – granted ₹24.90 lakh for a project on Integrated Mangrove Fishery Farming System – in Cuddalore, TN
- Location of MSSRF – Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**518.** During "Joint Scientific IAGA-IASPEI Assembly 2021", Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh has announced that India is going to have 35 more earthquake observatories by the end of this year and 100 more such observatories in the next 5 years by 2026. Currently, India has 115 Earthquake Observatories. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India will add 35 more earthquake observatories by 2021 & 100 more earthquake observatories by 2026
- Currently, India has 115 Earthquake Observatories
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Earth Sciences: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K

**519.** On August 24, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has inaugurated India's first "Smog Tower" in Delhi. It is an experimental set up worth Rs 20 Cr to purify air in a 1-km radius around the structure. It was jointly developed by IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay. Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) is the nodal agency for the tower. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India's first "Smog Tower" inaugurated in Delhi | Cost – Rs 20 Cr
- It was jointly developed by IIT Delhi & IIT Bombay | Nodal agency for the tower – Delhi Pollution Control Committee
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev





**520.** On August 22, Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Jal Shakti Prahlad Singh Patel has launched 7 indigenous food products of Manipur in Imphal, as part of the 'Make in India' initiative. These products were developed under the Incubation Lab project of Manipur Food Industries Corporation Limited (MFICL) in collaboration with TQS Global, Ghaziabad with a budget provision of ₹10 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Prahlad Singh Patel – launched 7 indigenous food products of “Manipur” as part of the ‘Make in India’ initiative
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – La. Ganesan

**521.** On August 21, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) has developed the first of its kind AI-enabled chatbot - “Urja” to provide its customers an interface for a seamless self-service experience and faster resolution of queries/issues. The chatbot is an intelligent virtual assistant with AI/NLP (Natural Language Processing) capabilities and trained on more than 600 use cases. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BPCL – developed the first of its kind AI-enabled chatbot - “Urja” to enhance customer care service
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, MH | Chairman & MD – Arun Kumar Singh | Founded in – 1952

**522.** On August 20, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced a ₹6 lakh Cr “National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)” for a 4-year period from FY 2022 to FY 2025. NMP will unlock value in brownfield infrastructure assets across sectors ranging from Power to Road & Railways. In other terms, the government plans to sell the infrastructure assets worth Rs 6 lakh Cr in next 4 years. And this NMP report was developed by NITI Aayog. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nirmala Sitharaman – announced a ₹6 lakh Cr “National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)” for 4-year period
- NMP report was developed by – NITI Aayog
- Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chaowdhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad

**523.** On August 20, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has flagged off a fleet of 5 Trauma Care Ambulances donated to the Army by a non-profit group for deployment in Jammu and Kashmir. The ambulances have been donated by Borderless World Foundation to the Chinar Corps. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajnath Singh flagged off a fleet of 5 Trauma Care Ambulances – in J & K
- The ambulances have been donated by Borderless World Foundation to the Chinar Corps
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

**524.** On August 23, Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh has launched a new Geospatial planning portal, “Yuktdhara” to facilitate new MGNREGA assets using remote sensing and geographic information system-based data. It is a joint initiative by the ISRO and Ministry of Rural Development. This platform will serve as a repository of assets (geotags) created under various national rural development programmes i.e. MGNREGA, Integrated Watershed Management Programme, Per Drop More Crop programme and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Giriraj Singh – launched a new Geospatial planning portal “Yuktdhara” to facilitate new MGNREGA assets
- It is a joint initiative by = ISRO + Ministry of Rural Development
- Ministry of Rural Development: Giriraj Singh | Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Rural Development: Faggansingh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti

**525.** On August 21, To establish more facilities to regulate the testing of covid-19 vaccines for quick release of vaccine batches, the Central government has identified the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad and National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune as Central Drug Laboratories (CDLs). The funding support for the same was provided under the ‘PM-Cares Funds’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NIAB (Hyderabad) & NCCS (Pune) – identified as Central Drug Laboratories for testing of Covid19 vaccines

**526.** On August 21, Indian government has launched a rescue mission named “Operation Devi Shakti” to evacuate stranded Indians from Afghanistan takeover by the Taliban. Jaishankar mentioned it while referring to the arrival of a fresh batch of 78 evacuees in Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian launched a rescue mission “Operation Devi Shakti” to evacuate stranded Indians from Afghanistan
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | Care taker President – Amrullah Saleh

**527.** On August 25, NITI Aayog, in collaboration with World Resources Institute (WRI), has launched the “Forum for Decarbonising Transport” in India as a part of the “Nationally Determined Contribution - Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA)” project. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NITI Aayog + WRI = launched the “Forum for Decarbonising Transport” in India
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of WRI – Washington, D.C., US | President & CEO – Ani Dasgupta

**528.** On August 24, The Union government has formally launched the Virtual School concept that will allow millions of eligible students outside the school system to complete their studies without physically attending schools. This will be implemented through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). Students in Classes 9 to 12 will have options to join this Virtual School. Besides, the government’s commitment to promote accessibility led to the development of the E-Comic cum Activity Book, titled - “Priya - The Accessibility Warrior”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- National Institute of Open Schooling – to implement Virtual School concept for the students of Classes 9 to 12
- Government also launched E-Comic cum Activity book titled - “Priya - The Accessibility Warrior” for Divyang
- Government’s aim to attain foundational literacy for every child by the end of Grade 3 – by 2027
- HQs of NIOS – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | Chairperson – Sridhar Srivastava



## International Affairs

**529.** On August 19, India, in collaboration with the UN, has launched “UNITE Aware” platform to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers who are operating in such a risky environments across the world. India has contributed \$1.64 million for this project. India has developed the technology platform in partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Operational Support. Moreover, the UNSC has unanimously adopted a resolution on ensuring accountability for crimes against UN peacekeepers for the first time during a meeting held under the Indian presidency. The open debate with the theme “Protecting the protectors: Technology and Peacekeeping” was one of three signature events being hosted by India as part of its presidency of the UN Security Council. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Indian Gov + UN = launched “UNITE Aware” platform to ensure the safety & security of peacekeepers
- India contributed \$1.64 million for this project
- UNSC – unanimously adopted a resolution on ensuring accountability for crimes against UN peacekeepers
- HQs of UNSC – New York, USA | Presidency in August 2021 – India (July - France | Sep - Ireland)

**530.** On August 20, World’s first fossil-free ‘Green Steel’ has been manufactured in Sweden. The full-scale production of the material will begin from 2026. The steel industry is one of the major contributors to greenhouse emissions, accounting for up to 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- World’s first fossil-free ‘Green Steel’ is manufactured – in Sweden
- Full-scale production of the material will begin – from 2026
- Steel industry accounts for up to 8% of global Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Sweden – Stockholm – Krona | PM – Kjell Stefan Lofven

## Banking & Economic Affairs

**531.** On August 16, ASK Investment Managers Ltd has launched the first of its kind flexicap Alternate Investment Fund (AIF) namely “ASK Emerging Opportunities Fund” with digital onboarding. The fund is targeting to raise Rs 1,000 Cr. The term of the scheme is 7 years with 2 years of lock-in period. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- ASK Investment Managers Ltd – launched India’s 1<sup>st</sup> flexicap AIF namely “ASK Emerging Opportunities Fund”
- Fund’s target to raise Rs 1,000 Cr | Term of the scheme – 7 years | Lock-in period – 2 years
- HQs of ASK Investment Managers Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Sunil Rohokale

**532.** On August 21, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched the “Ubharte Sitaare Fund” of Corpus Rs 250 Cr with an aim to identify Indian enterprises with potential advantages by way of technology, products or processes along with export potential. The 'Ubharte Sitaare Fund' has been set up by Exim Bank and SIDBI. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Nirmala Sitharaman – launched the “Ubharte Sitaare Fund” – set up by Exim Bank & SIDBI | Corpus – Rs 250 Cr
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Harsha Bangari | Founded in – 1982
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Sivasubramanian Ramann | Established in – 1990

**533.** On August 21, Facebook India has launched a new programme called the “Small Business Loans Initiative”, in partnership with online lending platform - Indifi, to help small and medium businesses (SMBs). Through this programme, small businesses can get loans between Rs 5 lakh and 50 lakh. Small businesses that are wholly or partly women-owned can get a special 0.2 per cent reduction per annum on the applied loan interest rate from Indifi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Facebook India + Indifi = launched a new programme called the “Small Business Loans Initiative”
- Small businesses can get loans between “Rs 5 lakh to 50 lakh” through this programme
- HQs of Facebook – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in – 2004
- HQs of Indifi – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Alok Mittal

**534.** On August 20, The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) have partnered with Kotak Mahindra Bank for \$50 million loan portfolio guarantee to support increased financial access to women borrowers and MSMEs in India. The program will be supported by the Chennai-based NBFC, Vivriti Capital, which will provide a \$1 million first loss guarantee. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- USAID + DFC + Kotak Mahindra Bank = \$50 million loan guarantee to support Women Entrepreneurs & MSMEs
- HQs of USAID – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Samantha Power | Founded in – 1961
- HQs of DFC – Washington D.C., US | CEO – Dev Jagadesan | Founded in – 2020
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let’s make money simple”

**535.** On August 19, Fintech startup Capital Float has partnered with Razorpay to extend its ‘buy now, pay later’ solution - “Walnut 369” to all Razorpay-enabled online merchants. The partnership provides customers seamless and instant access to credit while shopping at leading direct-to-consumer brands. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Capital Float + Razorpay = to extend its ‘buy now, pay later’ solution - “Walnut 369” for online merchants
- HQs of Capital Float – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD – Sashank Rishyasringa
- HQs of Razorpay – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Harshil Mathur

**536.** On August 19, NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has partnered with Mashreq to offer acceptance of its mobile-based real-time payment system, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), in the UAE. In July, Bhutan had become the first country to adopt India’s BHIM UPI QR-based payments. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NIPL + Mashreq = to offer India’s BHIM UPI QR-based payments in the UAE
- HQs of NIPL – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Ritesh Shukla
- HQs of Mashreq – Dubai, UAE | CEO – Ahmed Abdelaal



**537.** On August 17, US-headquartered Citibank NA has received the regulatory approval to open a banking unit at India's only International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gandhinagar. This is the first US bank to set up a branch at the Gujarat Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Citibank – received the regulatory approval to open a banking unit – at GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- HQs of Citibank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ashu Khullar
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

**538.** On August 17, ICICI Bank Germany has launched a digital and instant Blocked Account named “ICICI Bank Germany Student Blocked Account” for students aspiring to study in Germany. This account enables students to deposit the required amount with the Bank and get the Balance Confirmation Certificate (BCC). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ICICI Bank Germany – launched “ICICI Bank Germany Student Blocked Account”
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – [Sandeep Bakhshi](#) | Taglines – “Hum Hain Na!” & “Khayal Apka”
- Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier

**539.** On August 22, The total Loans & Advances extended by NABARD during 2020-21 have registered a growth of 25.2% year-on-year to reach Rs 6 lakh Cr. NABARD earned Rs 34,671.2 Cr income during 2020-21 and registered 6.1% growth in the income. Its profit before tax in 2020-21 was Rs 6,081.4 Cr and after tax was Rs 4,320 Cr. Agricultural credit outstanding grew at 12.3% in 2020-21, the highest across all sectors. During 2020-21, the NABARD has formed about 6.8 lakh self-help groups (SHGs). A Credit Guarantee Fund of Rs 1,000 Cr with equal share from the central government and NABARD was set up under NABSarakshan, a NABARD subsidiary. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NABARD's Loans & Advances registered a growth of – 25.2% to reach Rs 6 lakh Cr (during 2020-21)
- NABARD's income registered a growth of – 6.1% to reach Rs 34,671.2 Cr (during 2020-21)
- Agricultural credit outstanding grew – at 12.3% (highest across all sectors)
- Central Govt + NABARD = set up a Credit Guarantee Fund of Rs 1,000 Cr under NABSarakshan
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Govinda Rajulu Chintala | Founded in – 1982

**540.** On August 23, Paytm and HDFC Bank have announced a strategic partnership to build comprehensive solutions across payment gateway, point of sale machines and credit products including Paytm Postpaid which is Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) solution, Eazy EMI and Flexi Pay. The partnership will aim to empower new businesses which have recently ventured online, and enable them to scale up. They jointly launched a co-branded point of sale (POS) product in the retail segment. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Paytm + HDFC Bank = a strategic partnership to develop payment products for new Online Ventures
- They jointly launched a co-branded point of sale (POS) product in the retail segment
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”



**541.** On August 24, The State Bank of India (SBI) has opened a floating ATM on Dal Lake in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar for the convenience of locals and tourists. According to the bank's website, there are over 60,000 SBI ATMs in India, the largest network in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBI – opened a “floating ATM” on Dal Lake in Srinagar, J & K
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**542.** On August 23, The RBI has imposed penalties of ₹27.5 lakh and ₹20 lakh, respectively, on Thrissur-headquartered Dhanlaxmi Bank and Gorakhpur-based NE & EC Railway Employees’ Multi-State Primary Cooperative Bank. Dhanlaxmi Bank was penalised for violation of norms related to the “Depositor Education and Awareness Scheme” while the action against NE & EC Cooperative Bank was due to deficiencies in its regulatory compliance. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI imposed penalty of ₹27.5 lakh on Dhanlaxmi Bank
- RBI imposed penalty of ₹20 lakh on NE & EC Railway Employees’ Multi-State Primary Cooperative Bank
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935
- HQs of Dhanlaxmi Bank – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – J. K. Shivan

**543.** On August 25, Bajaj Finserv will enter Rs 35-trillion mutual fund (MF) industry after the company received in-principle approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The company would be setting up an asset management company (AMC) and the trustee company, directly or indirectly. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bajaj Finserv – received in-principle approval from the SEBI to start Mutual Fund business
- HQs of Bajaj Finserv – Pune, Maharashtra | Chairman and MD (CMD) – Sanjiv Bajaj

**544.** On August 23, RBI-appointed Expert Committee on Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs) has recommended a 4-tier structure for the urban cooperative banks (UCBs) depending upon the deposits and prescribed different capital adequacy and regulatory norms for them based on their sizes. The UCBs can be split into 4 categories as given below. The minimum Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) for them could vary from 9% to 15%. Besides, the RBI is also planning to include General Anti-Avoidance Rule (GAAR) regulations for Round Tripping. An Umbrella Organisation is proposed to be set-up with minimum capital of Rs 300 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI-appointed committee has recommended a 4-tier structure for the UCBs:
  - Tier-1 with deposits up to Rs 100 Cr
  - Tier-2 with deposits between Rs 100 Cr to Rs 1,000 Cr
  - Tier-3 with deposits between Rs 1,000 Cr to Rs 10,000
  - Tier-4 with deposits of over Rs 10,000 Cr
- RBI is also planning to include **General Anti-Avoidance Rule (GAAR)** regulations for Round Tripping
- An Umbrella Organisation is proposed to be set-up with minimum capital of – Rs 300 Cr
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935



# Defence Affairs

**545.** On August 20, India has finalised a deal with Russia to buy a sizeable number of 'AK-103' series of Assault Rifles for the Indian Army under the 'Mega Infantry Modernisation Programme' to replace Army's ageing and obsolete weapons. It will be manufactured by the Indo-Russia Rifles Pvt. Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- India – to buy 'AK-103' series of Assault Rifles for the Indian Army – from Russia
- It will be done under the 'Mega Infantry Modernisation Programme' | Manufacturer – Indo-Russia Rifles Pvt. Ltd
- 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

**546.** On August 24, Indian Navy has carried out a "Maritime Partnership Exercise" with the Philippine Navy. Two Indian warships, INS Ranvijay, Guided Missile Destroyer, D55 and INS Kora, Guided Missile Corvette, P61 participated in the exercise in the West Philippine Sea. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Indian Navy + Philippine Navy = carried out a "Maritime Partnership Exercise" in the West Philippine Sea
- INS Ranvijay & INS Kora – participated in this exercise
- Philippines – Manila – Peso | President – Rodrigo Duterte



## Schemes & Initiatives

**547.** On August 20, In a bid to boost the state's economy through agriculture and horticulture, the Arunachal Pradesh cabinet has approved two credit-linked schemes, which will facilitate Rs 300 Cr investment in the agro-based sectors. The state government has earmarked Rs 60 Cr of subsidy each for "Atma Nirbhar Krishi Yojana" for agriculture and "Atma Nirbhar Bagwani Yojana" for horticulture during the 2021-22 fiscal. The schemes will be available for cultivators, self-help groups and farmer producer organisations (FPOs). Under the programmes, a farmer can get up to Rs 1.6 lakh with no collateral or bank guarantee, while self-help groups can avail of up to Rs 10 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Arunachal Pradesh approved 2 credit-linked schemes to facilitate Rs 300 Cr investment in Agro-based sectors:
  - "Atma Nirbhar Krishi Yojana" for agriculture
  - "Atma Nirbhar Bagwani Yojana" for horticulture
- Subsidy for each scheme – Rs 60 Cr | Rs 1.6 lakh to a farmer | Rs 10 lakh to SHGs
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra

**548.** On August 17, Telangana CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao has launched "Dalit Bandhu" to benefit government staff in the state. Each Dalit beneficiary family will be provided Rs 10 lakh under this scheme. Rythu Bandhu scheme was launched by the CM in Huzurabad three years ago. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Telangana – launched "Dalit Bandhu" to benefit government staff | Rs 10 lakh – to each Dalit beneficiary
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan



**549.** On August 22, The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has launched a novel initiative to get rid of diseases like Malaria and Dengue, implementing a 10-week long “Every Sunday at 10 AM for 10 mnts” campaign. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- GHMC – implemented “Every Sunday at 10 AM for 10 mnts” campaign to get rid of diseases like Malaria & Dengue
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

## Sports & Games

**550.** India’s Amit Khatri won the silver medal in men’s 10,000m race walk at the “World Athletics U20 Championships” as he finished with a time of 42 minutes 17.94 seconds. Amit finished behind gold medal winner Heristone Wanyonyi of Kenya who clocked a time of 42:10.84. The 2021 edition of the “World Athletics U20 Championships” was held in Nairobi, Kenya. Javelin Thrower Kunwar Ajai Raj Singh Rana and Long Jumper Shaili Singh led the Indian challenge in the “World Athletics U20 Championships”. Long jumper from Uttar Pradesh, Shaili Singh has won the silver medal at the Championships. Overall, India finished at the 21st position with 3 Medals (2-Silver & 1-Bronze). While the list was topped by Kenya with 16 medals. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “World Athletics U20 Championships 2021” – held in Nairobi, Kenya | India’s position – 21st | Top – Kenya
- Kunwer Ajai Raj Singh Rana + Shaili Singh = led the Indian challenge in this Championships
- Amit Khatri ([Racewalker](#)) – won silver medal in men’s 10,000m race walk at “World Athletics U20 Championships”
- Shaili Singh ([Long Jumper](#)) – won the silver medal in women’s long jump at “World Athletics U20 Championships”
- [Kenya – Nairobi – Kenyan Shilling | President – Uhuru Kenyatta](#)

**551.** On August 20, Giant symbol of the Paralympic Games, the “Three Agitos”, has been installed on a floating platform in Odaiba Marine Park ahead of Tokyo 2020 which started on August 24. The Agitos symbol consists of three crescent lines of red, blue and green. While, “Someity” is the mascot of the ‘Tokyo 2020 Paralympics’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Symbol of the ‘2020 Paralympic Games’ – “Three Agitos”
- Mascot of the ‘2020 Paralympics Games’ – “Someity”
- Agitos symbol consists of 3 colours: Red, Blue & Green

**552.** On August 20, G. Sathiyam and Manika Batra have won the “World Table Tennis Contender 2021” held in Budapest, Hungary. They defeated Nandor Ecseki and Dora Madarasz of Hungary. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- G. Sathiyam & Manika Batra ([Table Tennis](#)) – won “World Table Tennis Contender 2021” in Budapest, Hungary
- [Hungary – Budapest – Forint | President – Janos Ader](#)
- [HQs of ITTF – Lausanne, Switzerland | CEO – Steve Dainton | President – Thomas Weikert | Founded in – 1926](#)





**553.** On August 21, The recently elected president of AICF, Sanjay Kapoor has announced that the All-India Chess Federation (AICF) and the Chess Association of India have merged into one entity to run the sport. They have now come together under the umbrella of the AICF. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- All-India Chess Federation + Chess Association of India = merged into One entity under the umbrella of the 'AICF'
- HQs of AICF – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | President – Sanjay Kapoor | Secretary – Bharat Singh Chauhan

## Important Days & Dates

**554.** On August 22, World Sanskrit Day (Sanskrit Diwas or Vishva-Samskrita-dinam) is celebrated on Shravana Poornima every year, and this year it falls on August 22. While Sanskrit Week observed in India between August 19-25. World Sanskrit Day was celebrated for the first time in the year 1969. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- August 22 – “World Sanskrit Day” (Sanskrit Diwas) – observed on Shravana Poornima (since 1969)
- August 19 to 25 – “Sanskrit Week”
- [The first state to declare Sanskrit as an official language – Uttarakhand](#)

**555.** “International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism” was observed on August 21. In 2021, the theme is “Connections”. This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attacks on September 11, 2001. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- August 21 – International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism
- Theme – “Connections”

**556.** World Senior Citizen Day is observed every year on August 21 to raise awareness around issues that impact older adults including mental well-being. The day also recognises and acknowledges the contribution of the elders to society. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- August 21 – World Senior Citizen Day

**557.** On August 20, Every year, India celebrates “Akshay Urja Diwas” or “National Renewable Energy Day” to make people aware of the use of natural sources of energy like biogas, solar energy, wind energy and hydroelectrical power. The day also marks the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The first-ever memorial stamp commemorating this day was issued in 2004 by former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- August 20 – “Akshay Urja Diwas” or “National Renewable Energy Day” (since 2004)
- The day also marks the birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi



**558.** Every year, the World Entrepreneurs' Day is observed on August 21 to create awareness for entrepreneurship, innovation and leadership throughout the world. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- August 21 – World Entrepreneurs' Day

**559.** Every year on 23 August, the world observes the “International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition”. The day is marked to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- August 23 – “International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition”

**560.** This year, the “World Water Week” took place in Stockholm, Sweden where speakers from all across the world came together to address some of the biggest water challenges impacting the globe, including water scarcity, climate crisis and biodiversity loss. It was observed from August 23 to 27. The conversation all through the week was based on this year's theme of “Building Resilience Faster”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- August 23 to 27 – “World Water Week 2021” – took place in Stockholm, Sweden
- Theme – “Building Resilience Faster”



## Meetings, Conferences and Summits

The Question Bank

**561.** The United Nation Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) organizes the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) every 4 years. The first UNWGIC was organized by China in October 2018. Indian will organise the 2<sup>nd</sup> United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) in Hyderabad in October, 2022. The theme of 2<sup>nd</sup> UNWGIC will be “Geo-enabling the Global Village”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian will organise the 2<sup>nd</sup> UNWGIC in Hyderabad, Telangana – in October, 2022
- Theme of 2<sup>nd</sup> UNWGIC – “Geo-enabling the Global Village”
- 1<sup>st</sup> UNWGIC was organized by China – in October, 2018 | UN-GGIM organizes the UNWGIC every 4 years



## Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**562.** On August 20, The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) has announced the names of winners for its 12<sup>th</sup> edition, which was held virtually. Pankaj Tripathi, Manoj Bajpayee and Samantha Akkineni were some of the other winners at the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the festival. All the winners are given below category-wise. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- The full list of winners at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2021:

Category	Winner
Best Feature Film	Soorai Pottru
Best Performance Male (Feature)	Suriya Sivakumar (Soorai Pottru)
Best Performance Female (Feature)	Vidya Balan (Sherni) & Honourable mention to Nimisha Sajayan (The Great Indian Kitchen)
Best Director	Anurag Basu (Ludo) & Honorary Mention Prithvi Konanur (Pinki Elli?)
Best Series	Mirzapur Season 2
Best Actor in a Series	Manoj Bajpayee (The Family Man 2)
Best Actress in a Series	Samantha Akkineni (The Family Man 2)
Diversity in Cinema Award	Pankaj Tripathi
Best Documentary Film	Shut Up Sona

## Appointments & Resignations

**563.** On August 20, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, Nitin Chugh has resigned from the bank with effect from September 30. He was appointed as the bank's MD & CEO on December 1, 2019, for a tenure of 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Nitin Chugh – resigned from his post as MD & CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- HQs of Ujjivan SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Founded in – 2004

**564.** On August 20, The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has re-appointed Tejendra Mohan Bhasin as Chairman of the Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF) for a further period of 2 years. The ABBFF is a panel constituted to examine bank frauds of over Rs 50 Cr and recommend action. It is headed by T. M. Bhasin. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- T. M. Bhasin – re-appointed as Chairman of the Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds – for 2 years
- Present Central Vigilance Commissioner – Suresh N. Patel | CVC is appointed by – The President of India

**565.** On August 19, The Appointment Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Shanti Lal Jain as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indian Bank for a period of 3 years. Jain is presently the Executive Director of Bank of Baroda. He will replace Padmaja Chunduru. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shanti Lal Jain – appointed as MD & CEO of Indian Bank for 3 years (replacing - Padmaja Chunduru)
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Shanti Lal Jain | Tagline – “Your Own Bank”

**566.** Nand Kishore Singh, the chairman of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission, has been elected as the President of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) Society. He succeeds Dr. Manmohan Singh, former Prime Minister of India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- N. K. Singh – elected as the President of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) Society
- He succeeds Dr. Manmohan Singh

**567.** On August 20, Apurva Chandra, a 1988-batch IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre, has been appointed as the Secretary of ministry of Information & Broadcasting. He will succeed Amit Khare. Prior to this he was serving as Special Director General, Defence Acquisition, Ministry of Defence. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Apurva Chandra – appointed as the Secretary of ministry of I & B (succeeding - Amit Khare)
- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: Anurag Singh Thakur | Constituency – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: L. Murugan

**568.** On August 20, Senior BJP leader from Tamil Nadu, La. Ganesan has been appointed as the new Governor of Manipur. Ganga Prasad was given additional charge as Governor of Manipur after the retirement of Najma Heptulla. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- La. Ganesan – appointed as new Governor of Manipur (replacing - Ganga Prasad)
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – La. Ganesan

**569.** On August 20, Television monitoring agency Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) has announced the appointment of Nakul Chopra as its chief executive officer (CEO) effective 25 August 2021. Former CEO Sunil Lulla has resigned to pursue his ambition as an entrepreneur. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nakul Chopra – appointed as the CEO of Broadcast Audience Research Council (replacing - Sunil Lulla has)
- HQs of BARC – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Nakul Chopra | Founded in – 2010



## Amount & Agreements

**570.** On August 20, Exim Bank has extended line of credit (LoC) worth \$210.73 million on behalf of the Indian government to Guinea to support various projects in the African country. \$170 million LoC has been extended to finance the drinking water supply project, \$20.51 million for financing a project for construction and upgradation of regional hospitals and \$20.22 million LOC for financing two solar projects. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Exim Bank extended a line of credit (LoC) worth \$210.73 million to Guinea
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Harsha Bangari | Founded in – 1982
- Guinea – Conakry – Guinean Franc | President – Alpha Conde

**571.** On August 16, The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a \$500 million loan to expand the Metro Rail Network in Bengaluru with construction of two new metro lines totaling 56 km in length. The project supports urban transformation of Bengaluru City into a more livable and sustainable city with the concepts of transit-oriented development (TOD) and multi-modal integration (MMI). [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Indian Gov + ADB = \$500 million loan agreement to expand the Metro Rail Network in Bengaluru, Karnataka
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

**572.** On August 22, The Uttar Pradesh government has received the sanction letter of ₹5100 Cr loan for the 594-kilometre-long Ganga Expressway project from the Punjab National Bank (PNB). This expressway will be the longest in north India and the second longest in India. The project's estimated cost is ₹36,230 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- UP received a sanction letter of ₹5100 Cr loan for 594 km long “Ganga Expressway” project – from PNB
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao | Tagline – “The Name You Can Bank Upon”

## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**573.** On August 20, Twelve Indian companies appeared in the “Hurun Global 500 List 2021”. Wipro (ranked 457<sup>th</sup>), Asian Paints (477<sup>th</sup>) and HCL Technologies (498<sup>th</sup>) made it to the coveted list for the first time this year. The Indian companies were led by oil-to-telecom giant Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), with a valuation at \$188 billion and the ranking of 57 globally. Globally, Apple is the most valuable company with a valuation of \$2.4 trillion, followed by Microsoft and Amazon. India is 9<sup>th</sup> by the number of companies featured on the list, which is led by the US (243) and followed by China (47), Japan (30) and the UK (24). [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- 12 Indian companies appeared in the “Hurun Global 500 List 2021”
- In India: 1<sup>st</sup> – RIL (57<sup>th</sup> - \$188 billion) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Wipro (457<sup>th</sup>) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Asian Paints (477<sup>th</sup>)
- Globally: 1<sup>st</sup> – Apple (\$2.4 trillion) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Microsoft (\$2.1 trillion) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Amazon (\$1.8 trillion)
- India – 9<sup>th</sup> by the number of companies featured on the list | 1<sup>st</sup> – US (243), 2<sup>nd</sup> – China (47), 3<sup>rd</sup> – Japan (30)

**574.** On August 23, HDFC Life has developed the “Life Freedom Index 2021” that analysed the consumers’ financial freedom. The index dropped 4.8 points in 2021, indicating that the financial security of Indians has been hit. Life Freedom Index is made up of four indices. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HDFC Life Insurance – developed the “Life Freedom Index 2021” made up of 4 indices
- The index dropped 4.8 points in 2021
- HQs of HDFC Life – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Vibha Padalkar

**575.** On August 19, Calcutta University has secured the 2<sup>nd</sup> rank among the Best Universities across India in the “Academic Ranking of World Universities 2021” released by the Shanghai Ranking Consultancy. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore was selected as the Best University in India. Harvard University has topped the ranking globally. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Academic Ranking of World Universities 2021” – released by Shanghai Ranking Consultancy
- IISc Bangalore – Best University in India | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Calcutta University
- Harvard University – globally Best University

**576.** On August 20, 14 million people out of 39 million are facing severe hunger in Afghanistan, according to the World Food Programme (WFP). According to WFP estimates, some 2 million children are malnourished in Afghanistan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- WFP’s estimates: 14 million people are facing severe hunger in Afghanistan (out of 39 million)
- WFP’s estimates: 2 million children are malnourished in Afghanistan
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | Care taker President – Amrullah Saleh
- HQs of UNWFP – Rome, Italy | ED – David Muldrow Beasley | Countries – 36

**577.** The UNICEF’s report titled “The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis” is the first climate report to combine high-resolution geographic maps detailing global environmental and climate impacts with maps that show regions where children are vulnerable due to poverty, lack of access to education, health care or clean water. India is among the 33 extremely high-risk countries. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis” – released by UNICEF
- India is among the 33 extremely high-risk countries
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, USA | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946



**578.** On August 25, A report titled “Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021” released by Asian Development Bank, has demonstrated that the region made substantial progress in the last two decades with respect to several development targets. Asia-Pacific Region’s Economy registered a growth to 35% of Global GDP in 2019 from 27% in 2000. Besides, the population of the extremely poor has reduced from 1.2 Billion in 1999 to 202.9 Million in 2017 in Asia-Pacific region. The pandemic pushed 75-80 million people in developing Asia-Pacific region into extreme poverty in 2020. The Asia-Pacific region lost an estimated 8% of working hours in 2020 due to Covid19. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021” – released by ADB
- Asia-Pacific Region’s Economy grew to 35% of Global GDP in 2019 (from 27% in 2000)
- Asia-Pacific Region’s extremely poor population reduced to 202.9 Million in 2017 (from 1.2 Billion in 1999)
- Asia-Pacific Region’s 75-80 million people fall into extreme poverty in 2020
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68

**579.** On August 24, India has effectively surpassed the United States to become the world’s second most desired manufacturing destination after China, as per the report titled “Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2021” released by Cushman & Wakefield. The index ranks 47 countries across Europe, the Americas, and the Asia Pacific. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2021” released by Cushman & Wakefield (US)
- 1<sup>st</sup> – China | 2<sup>nd</sup> – India | 3<sup>rd</sup> – US

**580.** As much as 32% of India’s coastline underwent Sea Erosion and 27% of it expanded between 1990 and 2018, according to a recent technical report by the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) under the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences. West Bengal coastline has been affected the most as 60% of the coastline underwent erosion during this period of 28 years. Odisha coast has expanded the most which is 51%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 32% of India’s coastline underwent Sea Erosion between 1990 & 2018 | Most affected state – West Bengal (60%)
- 27% of India’s coastline expanded between 1990 & 2018 | Most affected state – Odisha (51%)
- HQs of NCCR – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Director – M.V. Ramana Murthy

## **MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships**

**581.** On August 19, Intel India in collaboration with Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (SINE)-IIT Bombay, has launched “Plugin Alliance”, a first-of-its-kind industry-technology grouping with a focus on accelerating Industry 4.0 transformation in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Intel India + SINE (IIT Bombay) = launched a first-of-its-kind industry-technology grouping called “Plugin Alliance”
- HQs of Intel India – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Country Head of Intel India – Nivruti Rai
- SINE – an umbrella organisation at IIT Bombay (Director of IIT Bombay – Subhasis Chaudhuri)



**582.** On August 17, Assam Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (AMTRON) has signed a tripartite MoU with an Israel based company, Corsight AI for establishing a strong Face Recognition Technology Development and Services portfolio along with setting up a Facial Recognition Center of Excellence (FR-COE) at Tech City, Guwahati. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AMTRON + Corsight AI (Israel) = an MoU to set up AI Centre of Excellence at Guwahati, Assam
- HQs of AMTRON – Guwahati, Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**583.** On August 21, The Odisha government has signed an MoU with an Ahmedabad-based Urban Management Centre (UMC) for technical support to launch a training programme for the “Mission Shakti” self-help groups (SHGs) engaged in solid waste management. Over the past two decades, nearly 6 lakh “Mission Shakti” SHGs have been formed in Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Odisha + Urban Management Centre = an MoU to enhance capacity of “Mission Shakti” SHGs for waste management
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- Location of UMC – Ahmedabad, Gujarat

**584.** On August 24, Microsoft has teamed up with Invest India to support tech startups in India. Under this collaboration, Microsoft for Startups program will work with the Government’s “Accelerating Growth for New India’s Innovations (AGNi) Mission”. Selected startups can utilise Microsoft technology like Azure, GitHub and M365 and personalised technical sessions, content and mentorship for running their businesses. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Microsoft + Invest India + AGNi Mission = partnership to support tech startups in India
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | Chairman – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975
- HQs of Invest India – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Deepak Bagla | Established in – 2009 (under ministry of C&I)

## **Books & Authors**

**585.** A latest book titled “Let’s Go Time Travelling Again: Indians Through the Ages” has been published posthumously. It was written by Subhadra Sen Gupta. Subhadra Sen Gupta is a famous Children’s book writer and was awarded Sahitya Akademi’s “Bal Sahitya Puraskar” in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Let’s Go Time Travelling Again: Indians Through the Ages” book – authored by Subhadra Sen Gupta
- Subhadra Sen Gupta – “Bal Sahitya Puraskar” (2015)





**586.** On August 23, Ajitabha Bose has written a biography on the life journey of Kapil Sharma titled “The Kapil Sharma Story”. The foreword of the book is written by the superstar Dharmendra. The book is published by his own venture (Ajitabha Publishers). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “The Kapil Sharma Story” – written by Ajitabha Bose
- Publisher – Ajitabha Publishers

**587.** On August 20, A book titled “Battlefield” written by Vishram Bedekar translated from Marathi by Jerry Pinto is the author’s first and only novel. The book is based on Bedekar’s own personal experiences. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

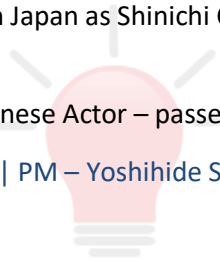
- “Battlefield” book – written by Vishram Bedekar
- The book is translated from Marathi – by Jerry Pinto

## **Obituaries**

**588.** Japanese actor Sonny Chiba has died. He was 82. He wowed the world with his martial arts skills in more than 100 films. He was known in Japan as Shinichi Chiba. Chiba set up Japan Action Club in 1980. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sonny Chiba – a Japanese Actor – passed away
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga



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**589.** On August 17, BJP veteran Kalyan Singh passed away at the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI) in Lucknow. He was 89. He was the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister and former Rajasthan Governor. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kalyan Singh – a Politician – passed away (Party - BJP | Former CM of UP & Former Governor of Rajasthan)

**590.** Olympic footballer and former National coach Syed Shahid Hakim passed away in Gulbarga, Karnataka. He was 82. He was part of the 1960 Olympics team. Hakim became the second footballer, after Shabbir Ali, to win the “Dhyan Chand Award” for lifetime achievement in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Syed Shahid Hakim – a Football Player & Coach – passed away (1960 Olympics Team)
- Awards: “Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement” (2017)



## Person in News

**591.** On August 19, Amazon has announced the availability of India's first celebrity voice feature on Alexa with legendary Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan. Indian customers can choose to add the veteran actor's voice to their Alexa experience on Echo devices. The feature is currently only available on Android for an introductory price of ₹149 for one year. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Amitabh Bachchan – became first Indian voice of Amazon's Alexa in India (feature's charge - ₹149/yea at present)
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | CEO – Andy Jassy | Incorporated in – 1994
- HQs of Amazon India – Hyderabad, Telangana | Country Head – Amit Agarwal

## Science & Technology

**592.** On August 20, A team of researchers from Delhi University (DU), along with biologists from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, USA, have discovered a new species of frog named "Adi Cascade Frog" (Amolops Adicola) on the Adi hills in Arunachal Pradesh. The findings were published in the Journal of Natural History, London. Besides, in Karnataka, a new plant called 'Brachystelma Tumakurens' was also found. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- "Adi Cascade Frog" (Amolops Adicola) – discovered on the Adi hills in Arunachal Pradesh
- Discovery made by = Delhi University + Wildlife Institute of India + North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (US)
- Discovery published in – Journal of Natural History
- 'Brachystelma Tumakurens' a plant – found in Karnataka
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot

**593.** On August 19, The DRDO's Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur in collaboration with DRDO's High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune has developed an advanced Chaff material and chaff cartridge-118/I to safeguard the fighter aircraft of the Air Force against hostile radar threats. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Defence Laboratory + HEMRL = developed an advanced Chaff technology to safeguard fighter jets against radar threats
- Location of DRDO's Defence Laboratory – Jodhpur, Rajasthan | Location of DRDO's HEMRL – Pune, Maharashtra
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria | Vice Chief – Vivek Ram Chaudhari

**594.** On August 18, A team of marine biologists from the Central University of Punjab has discovered a new marine algae species in the Andaman archipelago, which has been named "Acetabularia jalakanyakae" after the Sanskrit word 'Jalakanyaka' meaning the 'Goddess of Oceans' or 'Mermaid'. The species is also the first of the genus Acetabularia to be discovered in India. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- “Acetabularia jalakanyakae” a marine algae species – discovered in Andaman & Nicobar Island
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair | Lieu. Governor– Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi

**595.** On August 19, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) has launched “Google Cloud Garages” to help enterprise customers evaluate cloud solutions. These new cloud garages or centres will be launched at its co-innovation and advanced research centres in Amsterdam, New York, and Tokyo. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- TCS – launched “Google Cloud Garages” in Amsterdam, New York & Tokyo
- HQs of TCS – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Rajesh Gopinathan | Founded in – 1968

**596.** On August 23, IIT Madras has developed India’s first indigenous motorised wheelchair vehicle, “NeoBolt” that can be used even on uneven terrains. NeoBolt has a maximum speed of 25 kmph and travels up to 25 km per charge. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- IIT Madras – developed India’s first indigenous motorised wheelchair vehicle “NeoBolt”
- Director of IIT Madras – Bhaskar Ramamurthi

**597.** On August 23, OneWeb, a low earth orbit (LEO) satellite Communications Company, has launched 34 satellites by Arianespace from the Baikonur Cosmodrome. This launch brings OneWeb’s total in-orbit constellation to 288 satellites. The launch follows the successful completion of OneWeb’s ‘Five to 50’ mission. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- OneWeb – launched 34 satellites by Arianespace – from Baikonur Cosmodrome, in Kazakhstan
- OneWeb’s total in-orbit constellation – 288 satellites | ‘Five to 50’ mission – belongs to OneWeb
- HQs of OneWeb – London, UK | CEO – Adrian Steckel | Executive Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal
- OneWeb – co-owned by Bharti Global & the UK

## Ordinance, Bills and Acts

**598.** On August 20, The President of India Ram Nath Kovind has approved the Constitution (127<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Bill and granted assent to the Constitution (105<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Act, 2021, which empowers states to identify and specify the Socially and Educationally Backward Class (SEBC). In ‘Article 366’ of the Constitution, for ‘Clause (26C)’, the following clause shall be substituted, namely - “(26C) Socially and Educationally Backward Classes”. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind – approved the “Constitution (127<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Bill”
- Ram Nath Kovind – granted assent to the “Constitution (105<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Act, 2021”
- It empowers states to identify and specify the **Socially & Educationally Backward Class (SEBC)**
- **National Commission For Backward Classes (NCBC)** – functions under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment



**599.** On August 20, President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to a bill to amend the “General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act”. This will facilitate bringing down government’s equity below 51% in a public sector General Insurance Company. Titled, the ‘General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Act, 2021’, the new law has brought in total 3 amendments. The bill removed the provision to ‘Section 10B’ of the act. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ram Nath Kovind – gave assent to “General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment 2021”
- It brings down government’s equity below 51% in a public sector General Insurance Company
- The bill removed the provision to ‘Section 10B’ of the act

**600.** On August 24, The Haryana government has introduced a Bill titled “Haryana Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2021” in the Assembly, proposing jail term ranging from 7 to 10 years and a fine not less than ₹10 lakh for offences related to paper leak. The Bill was tabled by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Haryana – introduced a Bill in the Assembly for offences related to paper leak
- Punishments: Jail term – from 7 to 10 years | Fine – minimum ₹10 lakh
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya





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