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# National & States Affairs

**251.** On August 16, Kerala government launched the “Lucky Bill” App to encourage consumers to upload invoices in a bid to curb tax evasion. The mobile application is designed by Digital University Kerala (DUK) & developed by the State GST department. The initiative is the first-of-its-kind to be introduced in India. Prizes worth Rs 5 Cr would be offered annually for the winners selected among buyers who upload their bills. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Kerala – launched the “Lucky Bill” app to encourage consumers to upload invoices in a bid to curb tax evasion
- Mobile application is designed by – Digital University Kerala (DUK) | Developed by – State GST department
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**252.** On August 15, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann dedicated 75 ‘Aam Aadmi Clinics’ or ‘Mohalla Clinics’ to the people of the State to mark 75 years of India’s independence. The mohalla clinics will offer around 100 types of clinical tests for free, besides giving medicines to patients at no cost. Each of these clinics will have four staff members, including an MBBS doctor and a laboratory technician. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Bhagwant Mann (Punjab) – dedicated 75 ‘Aam Aadmi Clinics’ or ‘Mohalla Clinics’ to the people of the State
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**253.** As on August 15, Madhya Pradesh’s tribal-dominated Mandla district has become the first fully “functionally literate” district in India. A person can be called functionally literate when he or she is able to write his or her own name, to count and read and write in Hindi. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Mandla district (Madhya Pradesh) – became the first fully “functionally literate” district in India
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

**254.** On August 18, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated India’s first AC double-decker electric bus in Mumbai. The e-bus is manufactured by Switch Mobility Ltd (Switch). The initiative will give a dynamic boost to the sustainable transport sector. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Nitin Gadkari – inaugurated India’s first AC double-decker electric bus in Mumbai
- The e-bus is manufactured by – Switch Mobility Ltd (Switch)

**255.** On August 17, a first-of-its kind database of arrested narcotics offenders called, “NIDAAN” portal, has been made operational for use by various central and state prosecution agencies tasked to enforce anti-drugs laws in India. The portal “NIDAAN” (National Integrated Database on Arrested Narco-offenders) has been developed by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). The NIDAAN platform sources its data from the ICJS (inter-operable criminal justice system) and the e-Prisons (a cloud-based application) repository. It is part of the narcotics coordination mechanism (NCORD) portal that was launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on July 30 in Chandigarh during the national conference on ‘Drug trafficking and national security’. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- A first-of-its kind database of arrested narcotics offenders called “NIDAAN” portal is made operational for use
- NIDAAN – National Integrated Database on Arrested Narco-offenders | Developed by – NCB
- HQs of NCB – New Delhi | DG – Satya Narayan Pradhan

**256.** On August 16, Uttar Pradesh cabinet approved the “Uttar Pradesh Defence and Aerospace Unit and Employment Promotion Policy-2022”, making the existing one more flexible and lucrative, providing higher incentives to investors setting up their units in the defence and aerospace manufacturing sector in the state. The cabinet decided to amend the policy (initially formulated in 2018) to provide incentives up to a maximum of Rs 500 Cr (against the existing Rs 15 Cr) to attract large investments. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UP – approved the “Uttar Pradesh Defence & Aerospace Unit and Employment Promotion Policy-2022”
- UP decided to amend the policy to provide incentives up to a maximum of Rs 500 Cr (against existing Rs 15 Cr)
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**257.** On August 15, Border Road Organization (BRO) announced to build its first steel slag road in Arunachal Pradesh, which can withstand heavy rains and adverse climatic conditions. The project is initiated after India’s first success of using 100% steel slag on Hazira Port connectivity road in Surat, Gujarat which has longer life and was built at low cost. India is the world’s second largest steel producing country after China and annually around 195 lakh tonnes of steel slag is generated in India and this quantity is slated to increase to 600 lakh tonne by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BRO – announced to build its first steel slag road in Arunachal Pradesh
- India’s 100% steel slag on Hazira Port connectivity road was built in – in Surat, Gujarat
- India is the world’s second largest steel producing country after China
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra

**258.** On August 18, the newly-designed third rake of the semi-high speed “Vande Bharat” train reached in Chandigarh for speed trials before being rolled out for the passenger services. The train was rolled out by Union Railway Minister Ashwani Vaishnav from Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai. On the testing process, the Vande Bharat train will be tested at a speed of 180 kmph and will traverse 15,000 km. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The newly-designed third rake of the semi-high speed “Vande Bharat” train reached in Chandigarh for speed trials
- The train was rolled out by Ashwani Vaishnav from Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai
- On the testing process, the Vande Bharat train will be tested at a speed of 180 kmph and will traverse 15,000 km

**259.** On August 16, Arunachal government successfully launched its first flight of drone service – ‘Medicine from the Sky’ project from Seppa to Chayang Tajo in East Kameng district. The pilot project is funded by the USAID and executed by Redwings Labs. Guided by vision of PM Narendra Modi to make India world’s drone hub, Arunachal Pradesh has decided to conduct a pilot project of using drones in healthcare, agriculture & disaster management. Earlier in 2021, Helicopter, a medical delivery drone of Hyderabad-based Marut Dronetech, had begun trials as part of Government of Telangana’s initiative ‘Medicine from the Sky’. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Arunachal Pradesh – successfully launched its first flight of drone service ‘Medicine from the Sky’ project
- The pilot project is funded by the USAID & executed by Redwings Labs
- In 2021, Telangana started its initiative ‘Medicine from the Sky’ by using Hepicopter, a medical delivery drone
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra

**260.** On August 17, the Cabinet approved the widening access of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) database to users, besides patent offices. This will be a new dawn for Indian traditional knowledge, as the TKDL will drive research & development, and innovation based on India’s valued heritage across diverse fields. The TKDL is a prior art database of Indian traditional knowledge established in 2001, jointly by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homeopathy. Until now, access to the complete TKDL database is restricted to 14 Patent Offices worldwide for the purposes of search and examination. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved the widening access of the TKDL database to users, besides patent offices
- TKDL is a prior art database of Indian traditional knowledge established in 2001
- TKDL – established by CSIR + Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homeopathy
- TKDL database is restricted to 14 Patent Offices worldwide for the purposes of search & examination
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | President – Narendra Modi | DG – Nallathambi Kalaiselvi | Established in – 1942

**261.** On August 16, the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India launched a platform called “Manthan” to drive collaboration between the industry and research institutes to implement technology-based social impact innovations and solutions in India. The platform, powered by NSEIT, promises to augment efforts to build and nurture industry participation in R&D. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Govt (PSA) – launched “Manthan” platform to drive collaboration between the industry & research institutes
- The platform is powered by – NSEIT

**262.** On August 13, the World’s Highest Railway Arch Bridge - Chenab Bridge’s Golden Joint was inaugurated in Reasi, Jammu & Kashmir. The Golden Joint is connecting two ends of the deck of the world’s highest railway bridge. It is 35 meters higher than the Eiffel Tower. The bridge will prove direct connectivity to the Kashmir valley. The construction was initially started in 2004 but the work was stopped in 2008-09. The Chenab bridge is 1,315 metres long and 359m above the river bed level. The bridge is being built at a cost of Rs 1,486 crore. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- World’s Highest Railway Arch Bridge, ‘Chenab Bridge’s Golden Joint’ – inaugurated in Reasi, Jammu & Kashmir
- Cost – Rs 1,486 Cr | Length – 1,315m | Height – 359m
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha



**263.** According to the latest Government data, for the first time, 500 cities across India have declared themselves as 'SafaiMitra Surakshit Shehar'. These cities were able to achieve adequacy in terms of institutional capacity, manpower and equipment norms as stipulated by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs and are providing safe working conditions for SafaiMitras. All Indian Cities are expected to be 'SafaiMitra Surakshit' by March 2024. Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs along with Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment launched 'NAMASTE' (National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem) Scheme. National Safai Karamchari Financial Development Corporation (NSKFDC) would be implementing agency for NAMASTE. It envisages the safety and dignity of sanitation workers in urban India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 500 cities across India have declared themselves as 'SafaiMitra Surakshit Shehar'
- All Indian Cities are expected to be 'SafaiMitra Surakshit' by March 2024
- MoHUA + MoSJE = launched 'NAMASTE' (**N**ational **A**ction for **M**echanized **S**anitation **E**cosystem) Scheme
- Implementing agency for NAMASTE – National Safai Karamchari Financial Development Corporation (NSKFDC)
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Kaushal Kishore
- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Virendra Kumar | Constituency – Sagar, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Ramdas Athawale

**264.** On August 15, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while commemorating the historic 76<sup>th</sup> Independence Day from the Red Fort in Delhi, called for moving forward with 5 pledges called "Panch Pran of Amrit Kaal" to make India a developed nation in 25 years by 2047. Panch Pran include, First Pran - Goal of Developed India, Second Pran - Remove any trace of colonial mindset (servitude), Third Pran - Take pride in our roots/history, Fourth Pran - Strength of our Unity, and Fifth Pran - Sense of duty among citizens, including the PM and CMs. On this occasion, PM Narendra Modi gave the slogan "Jai Anusandhan" (innovation). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – called for moving forward with 5 pledges called "Panch Pran of Amrit Kaal" to make India a developed nation by 2047
- Panch Pran include:
  - First Pran – Goal of Developed India
  - Second Pran – Remove any trace of colonial mindset or servitude
  - Third Pran – Take pride in our roots/history
  - Fourth Pran – Strength of our Unity
  - Fifth Pran – Sense of duty among citizens, including the PM & CMs
- On this occasion, PM Narendra Modi gave the slogan "Jai Anusandhan" (innovation)

**265.** The Indian Railways ran the "Super Vasuki", the heaviest and longest freight train, on the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence. South East Central Railway operated the train on August 15 as part of the Centre's Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. The 3.5-km-long train, powered by 5 locos and loaded with 295 loaded wagons, carried a total trailing load of 27,000 tonnes of coal, the heaviest fuel transportation carried by the Indian Railway in a single arrangement. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Indian Railways – ran the “Super Vasuki”, the heaviest & longest freight train, on the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day
- South East Central Railway – operated the train on August 15 as part of the ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’ celebrations
- Length of the train – 3.5 km

## **International Affairs**

**266.** On August 16, Scotland became the first country in the world to pass “Period Products Act” to legally protect the right to access free period products. Under the “Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021”, schools, colleges and universities as well as local government bodies in Scotland must make a range of period products available for free in their bathrooms. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Scotland – 1<sup>st</sup> country to pass “Period Products Act” to legally protect the right to access free period products
- [Scotland – Edinburgh – Pound sterling](#) | [PM – Nicola Sturgeon](#)

**267.** On August 16, the UK became the world’s first country to approve a COVID-19 vaccine named ‘bivalent’ for both the Omicron variant and the original coronavirus strain. The ‘bivalent’ vaccine is made by US drugmaker Moderna. It was approved for adult booster doses by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UK – 1<sup>st</sup> first country to approve a COVID-19 vaccine ‘bivalent’ for both Omicron variant & the original coronavirus strain
- The ‘bivalent’ vaccine is developed by – Moderna (US)
- [UK – London – Pound Sterling](#) | [PM – Boris Johnson](#)

**268.** As on August 16, Indian companies are importing significant volumes of petroleum coke from Venezuela for the first time. India’s growing appetite for Venezuela’s petcoke is being driven by a scramble for inexpensive fuel to power industries as global coal prices have surged. Petcoke is a byproduct from oil upgrading and an alternative to coal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian companies are importing significant volumes of petroleum coke from Venezuela for the first time
- Petcoke is a byproduct from oil upgrading and an alternative to coal
- [Venezuela – Caracas – Bolivar](#) | [President – Nicolas Maduro](#)



# **Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs**

**269.** On August 17, Karnataka Bank introduced a new term deposit scheme, “KBL Amrit Samridhi”, under Abhyudaya Cash Certificate (ACC) and Fixed Deposit (FD) for a tenure of 75 weeks (525 days). The interest rate for this deposit scheme is 6.10% per annum. The scheme has been introduced on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Karnataka Bank – introduced a new term deposit scheme, “KBL Amrit Samridhi”
- The scheme is for a tenure of 75 weeks (525 days) & interest rate for this deposit scheme is 6.10% per annum
- HQs of Karnataka Bank – Mangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Mahabaleshwara M. S. | Chairman – Pradeep Kumar Panja

**270.** On August 16, State Bank of India (SBI) launched its first “state-of-the-art” dedicated branch for start-ups in India. The branch launched by SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara is located in Koramangala, Bengaluru. The branch will offer one-stop solution to the corporates and start-ups starting from the formation of the entity till IPOs and FPOs of the companies. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- SBI – launched its first “state-of-the-art” dedicated branch for start-ups in India
- The branch is located in Koramangala, Bengaluru | Launched by – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Alok Kumar Choudhary | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**271.** On August 13, Yes Bank partnered with SellerApp, a seller-centric intelligence platform, to encourage the seller segment of its client base to adopt Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC) and help them expand their digital commerce footprint. ONDC, a strategic initiative of the Indian government, is being built as an alternative to Flipkart and Amazon. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Yes Bank + SellerApp = partnered to encourage seller segment of its client base to adopt ONDC
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”

**272.** On August 18, the Union Cabinet approved a 1.5% interest subvention on short-term farm loans up to Rs 3 lakh, which will be provided to lending institutions for the financial year 2022-23 to 2024-25. Under the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS), short term agriculture loan upto Rs 3 lakh is available to farmers engaged in Agriculture and other allied activities at the rate of 7% per annum and an additional 3% subvention is also given to the farmers for prompt and timely repayment of loans. In order to support sectors affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, the cabinet also approved an enhancement of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) corpus by Rs 50,000 Cr to Rs 5 trillion. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved a 1.5% interest subvention on short-term farm loans up to Rs 3 lakh for FY 2022-23 to 2024-25
- Under Modified Interest Subvention Scheme:
  - Agriculture loan up to Rs 3 lakh is available to farmers engaged in Agriculture & other Allied activities
  - Interest rate per annum – 7% | Additional interest subvention – 3%
- Cabinet approved an enhancement of the ECLGS corpus by Rs 50,000 Cr – to Rs 5 trillion (Rs 5 lakh Cr)



**273.** On August 10, Build Your Dreams (BYD) India, a new energy vehicle manufacturer, signed an MoU with the HDFC Bank towards a stock financing solution to its pan India dealer network. HDFC Bank's dealer finance solution provides a bouquet of customised products offering tailored solutions for electric car dealers and BYD's end customers. BYD now has four industries including auto, electronics, new energy and rail transit. HDFC Bank has committed to becoming carbon neutral by FY2032. This tie-up is a step towards that. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Build Your Dreams + HDFC Bank = an MoU towards a Stock Financing Solution to its pan India dealer network
- BYD functions in 4 industries: Auto, Electronics, New Energy & Rail Transit
- HDFC Bank has committed to becoming Carbon Neutral by FY 2032
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your World”

**274.** On August 18, Bank of Baroda (BoB) launched the 'Baroda Tiranga Deposit Scheme' for a limited time period to celebrate 75 years of India's independence. This is a special fixed deposit scheme offering a higher interest rate to subscribers. The scheme will be applicable on retail deposits below Rs 2 Cr. It is available in two tenor buckets offering interest rates of 5.75% per annum for 444 days and 6.00% per annum for 555 days. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BoB – launched the 'Baroda Tiranga Deposit Scheme' to celebrate 75 years of India's independence (below Rs 2 Cr)
- Interest rates – 5.75% per annum for 444 days & 6.00% per annum for 555 days
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha | Tagline – “India's International Bank”

**275.** On August 12, Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank, signed an MoU with Food Corporation of India (FCI) to provide “Ultima Salary package”, a best-in-class salary account with exclusive benefits & features to all its employees. With this MOU, the Bank has reinstated its commitment towards offering holistic banking services to the employees of Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) sector. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Axis Bank + FCI = an MoU to provide a salary account named “Ultima Salary package”
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

## **Defence Affairs**

**276.** On August 16, Indian's largest defense public sector company, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) announced to open its first overseas office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The office in Malaysia will help HAL in tapping the new business opportunities for Fighter Lead-in Trainer (FLIT) LCA and other requirements of Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) like Su-30 MKM and Hawk upgrades. This is an important step as defence sector has achieved a significant growth in exporting military equipment. India registered highest ever Defence exports of Rs 12,815 Cr in 2021-22. In last year, the Defence Ministry approved a ₹48,000 Cr deal with HAL for the procurement of 83 Tejas fighter aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF). According to the HAL officials, HAL would start delivering the jets (Mk-IA variant) to the IAF in 2025 and all 83 jets will have to be handed over by 2030. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- HAL – announced to open its first overseas office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- India registered highest ever Defence exports of Rs 12,815 Cr in 2021-22
- HAL would start delivering the jets (Mk-IA variant) to the IAF in 2025 & all 83 jets will have to be handed over by 2030
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt | Chairma & MD – C. B. Ananthkrishnan (addi. charge)
- Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur – Ringgit | PM – Ismail Sabri Yaakob | King – Al-Sultan Abdullah

## Sports & Games

**277.** On August 16, FIFA, the governing body of world football, banned the All India Football Federation (AIFF), citing 'third party' intervention. The ban was lifted on August 26, after FIFA received confirmation that the mandate of the Committee of Administrators that was set up to assume the powers of the AIFF Executive Committee had been terminated and that the AIFF administration had regained full control. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- FIFA – temporarily banned the All India Football Federation (AIFF), citing 'third party' intervention (on Aug 16)
- The ban was lifted on August 26
- HQs of AIFF – Dwarka, Delhi | President – Praful Patel | Gen. Secretary – Kushal Das
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino

**278.** In August 2022, Bhavani Devi, who became the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympics, has won a Gold medal at the "Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2022" in London. She defeated Australia's Veronika Vasileva in the finals of senior women's sabre individual category. She had also won a gold at the same event back in 2018, when the tournament took place in Canberra, Australia. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Bhavani Devi (Fencer) – won Gold at "Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2022" (defeating - Veronika Vasileva)
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

## Persons in News

**279.** As on August 2022, Kaizad Bharucha, executive director of HDFC Bank, emerged the Highest Earning Banker for 2021-22 (FY22). Bharucha received Rs 10.64 Cr remuneration in FY22, mainly due to Rs 4.46 Cr as performance bonus. However, Amitabh Chaudhry of Axis Bank was the Highest Paid MD & CEO among bankers in FY22 with a total remuneration of Rs 7.63 Cr in FY22. Chaudhry was followed by Sumant Kathpalia (Rs 7.3 Cr), MD & CEO of Indusind Bank, and Sandeep Bakhshi (Rs 7.08 Cr), MD & CEO of ICICI Bank. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Kaizad Bharucha (Executive Director of HDFC Bank) – emerged the Highest Earning Banker for 2021-22 (FY22)
- Highest Paid MD & CEOs:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – Amitabh Chaudhry (Axis Bank) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Amitabh Chaudhry (Indusind Bank) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sandeep Bakhshi (ICICI Bank)



## Science & Technology

**280.** On August 15, a team of clinicians and scientists from three Hyderabad-based institutes - LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), IIT Hyderabad & Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), 3D-printed an artificial cornea and transplanted it into a rabbit's eye. The researchers from the three institutes have collaborated to develop the 3D-printed Cornea from the human donor corneal tissue. It is a made-in-India product by an Indian clinician-scientist team and the first 3-D printed human cornea that is optically and physically suitable for transplantation. Corneal damage is the leading cause of blindness worldwide with more than 1.5 million new cases of corneal blindness reported every year. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- LV Prasad Eye Institute + IIT Hyderabad + CCMB – 3D-printed an artificial cornea & transplanted it into a rabbit's eye
- These 3 institutes ([Hyderabad](#)) – collaborated to develop the 3D-printed Cornea from the human donor corneal tissue
- [Director of IIT Hyderabad – B. S. Murty](#)

## Appointments & Resignations

**281.** In August 2022, Ranjit Rath has taken over as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of state-run Oil India Ltd (OIL). Prior to his appointment, Rath was the CMD of Mineral Exploration & Consultancy Ltd. He has also held the positions of the CEO of Khanij Bidesh India Limited and MD of Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. He replaced Sushil Chandra Mishra who retired on 30 June. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- [Ranjit Rath](#) – taken over as the CMD of Oil India Ltd (succeeding - [Sushil Chandra Mishra](#))
- [HQs of OIL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh](#) | [CMD – Ranjit Rath](#)

**282.** On August 16, the Central government and the board of National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) appointed Rajkiran Rai G as its Managing Director (MD) for nearly 5 years till May 18, 2027. After beginning operations in its new avatar, picking Rai as the MD of NaBFID, was the FSIB's first recommendation. The Centre, in October 2021, had appointed K. V. Kamath as Chairperson of the NaBFID. According to the 'NaBFID Act 2021', the institution will have one MD and not more than three DMDs. The newly-incorporated NaBFID is targeting financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh Crore in its first year of operations. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- [Rajkiran Rai G](#) – appointed as MD of NaBFID for 5 years
- NaBFID is targeting financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh Crore in its first year of operations
- [HQs of NaBFID – Mumbai, MH](#) | [Chairperson – K. V. Kamath](#)





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इस खेल में कोई वित्तीय जोखिम नहीं है और इसकी आदत लग जाए तो अच्छा है।

# Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**283.** On the occasion of Independence Day, as many as 1,082 police personnel were awarded the President's Police Medals by Droupadi Murmu, the President of India. The number of police personnel who received gallantry medals stood at 347. Among the personnel who received Gallantry Awards, 109 are from Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), 19 are from the Border Security Force (BSF), 6 each from Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) & the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force, and the rest of them were from J&K Police and Maharashtra. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- As many as 1,082 police personnel were awarded the President's Police Medals on the occasion of Independence Day
- 347 police personnel received gallantry medals:
  - CRPF - 109 | BSF - 19 | SSB - 6 | ITBP - 6 | Rest from - J&K Police + Maharashtra

**284.** On August 15, President Droupadi Murmu approved 107 Gallantry Awards to armed forces and CAPF personnel. The awards include 3 Kirti Chakra, 13 Shaurya Chakras, 2 bar to Sena Medals, 81 Sena Medals, 1 Nao Sena Medal and 7 Vayu Sena Medals. Naik Devendra Pratap Singh was awarded the second highest peacetime gallantry award "Kirti Chakra". Wing Commander Deepika Misra made history becoming the first woman to receive the "Vayu Sena" medal for her role in flash floods in Madhya Pradesh in August, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Droupadi Murmu – approved 107 Gallantry Awards to armed forces & CAPF personnel
- The awards include 3 Kirti Chakra, 13 Shaurya Chakras, 81 Sena Medals, 1 Nao Sena Medal & 7 Vayu Sena Medals
- Naik Devendra Pratap Singh – was awarded "Kirti Chakra" (the second highest peacetime gallantry award)
- Wing Commander Deepika Misra – became the first woman to receive the "Vayu Sena" medal

# Schemes & Initiatives

**285.** On August 15, Telangana government launched "Chenetha Bheema", a life insurance scheme for handloom and powerloom weavers, the first-of-its-kind scheme for the welfare of weavers' families. Besides, Telangana government's "Bathukamma Saree" scheme and various other welfare schemes are providing a regular source of income for weavers. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Telangana – launched "Chenetha Bheema", a life insurance scheme for handloom & powerloom weavers
- Telangana – had also launched "Bathukamma Saree" scheme to provide a source of income for weavers
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

**286.** As on August 15, the Rajasthan government plans to spend over Rs 17 Cr this financial year for providing coaching to students for competitive exams. This is substantially higher than the previous year's figure of Rs 3.5 Cr. 'Mukhyamantri Anuprati Coaching Yojana' was introduced by Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot in 2021-22. Under the scheme, such students are provided free coaching from reputed coaching institutes. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Rajasthan – to spend over Rs 17 Cr in FY23 under 'Mukhyamantri Anuprati Coaching Yojana'
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

**287.** On August 15, Sikkim Chief Minister P. S. Tamang hoisted the national flag at Bhaichung Stadium in Namchi, on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's Independence and announced schemes for the welfare of women in the state. He announced the launch of 'Aama Yojana' and 'Vatsalya Yojana'. Under Aama Yojana all unemployed mothers in the state will receive Rs 20,000 annually which will be deposited in their bank accounts. Under the Vatsalya Yojana an aid of Rs 3 lakh will be provided to childless women for in vitro fertilization treatment. The financial assistance of Rs 3 lakh for IVF treatment will be given in two phases. The chief minister also announced year-long maternity leave for women employees of the state. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sikkim – launched 'Aama Yojana' and 'Vatsalya Yojana' for the welfare of women in state
- Under Aama Yojana, all unemployed mothers in the state will receive Rs 20,000 annually
- Under Vatsalya Yojana, an aid of Rs 3 lakh will be provided to childless women for in Vitro Fertilization Treatment
- [Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad](#)

**288.** On the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's Independence, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced to launch new schemes on sanitation, nutrition, and for the well-being of farmers, labourers and the brave soldiers of the state. The state government wants to empower Karnataka to make a contribution of at least USD 1 trillion to realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of transforming India into a USD 5 trillion economy. In order to create a clean and hygienic environment in government schools and colleges, 100% toilet coverage will be achieved in the state at a cost of Rs 250 Cr. Moreover, the "Raitha Vidya Nidhi", launched by Karnataka government for farmers' children, will be extended to landless agriculture labourers too. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Karnataka – to extend "Raitha Vidya Nidhi" to landless agriculture labourers too (currently for farmers' children only)
- Karnataka aims to achieve 100% toilet coverage in government schools & colleges (Cost - Rs 250 Cr)
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot](#)

**289.** On August 16, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in partnership with consumer durables company, Usha International Limited (UIL) launched the 5<sup>th</sup> phase of its flagship initiative "Mission Swavalamban" to set up 300 Swavalamban Silai Schools across 10 districts of 6 States/UTs. These schools will be launched in Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Goa, Puducherry, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to empower rural women and help them evolve as homepreneurs. Through the first four phases of the initiative, 2,700 homepreneurs have been skilled. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SIDBI + Usha International = launched the 5<sup>th</sup> phase of its flagship initiative "Mission Swavalamban"
- SIDBI will set up 300 Swavalamban Silai Schools across 10 districts of 6 States/UTs
- [HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Sivasubramanian Ramann | Established in – 1990](#)

**290.** On the occasion of India's 76th Independence Day, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the "Vidya Rath - School on Wheels" project. The project aims at providing economically challenged underprivileged children access to elementary education for a period of 10 months after which they will be integrated into the conventional education system. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Himanta Biswa Sarma – launched the "Vidya Rath - School on Wheels" project on the Independence Day
- The project aims to provide EWS children access to Elementary Education for a period of 10 months
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi](#)





**291.** On August 15, Ministry of Home Affairs sanctioned approval for the creation of “Village Defence Guard Scheme 2022” in Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier, this scheme was known as Village Defence Committee in which volunteers from villages were trained by Indian Army and Police. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Home Affairs – sanctioned approval for the creation of “Village Defence Guard Scheme 2022” in J&K
- Earlier, the scheme was known as ‘Village Defence Committee (VDC)’
- [Ministry of Home Affairs: Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Home Affairs: Nityanand Rai, Ajay Kumar & Nisith Pramanik](#)

## **Books & Authors**

**292.** On August 10, Union Minister of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Parshottam Rupala launched a unique coffee table book titled “Fish & Seafood - a Collection of 75 Gourmet Recipes” in New Delhi. The Department of Fisheries has come up with this initiative to boost the domestic consumption of fish and seafood, along with popularizing the local fish species. The recipe book is a highlight of the diversity of fish available within the domestic water bodies and the fish culinary heritage of the country. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Parshottam Rupala – launched a unique coffee table book titled “Fish & Seafood - a Collection of 75 Gourmet Recipes”
- It will boost the domestic consumption of fish and seafood, along with popularizing the local fish species
- [Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying: Parshottam Rupala | Constituency – Gujarat](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying: Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan & Dr. L. Murugan](#)

**293.** Philip Short, once a correspondent for the BBC, The Economist and The Times, has authored a biography of the Russian President Vladimir Putin titled “Putin: His Life and Times”. He worked on this biography for 8 years. The book was released in the midst of the Ukraine crisis. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Putin: His Life and Times”, a biography of Vladimir Putin – authored by Philip Short
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin](#)

## **Obituaries**

**294.** On August 16, Veteran cricket administrator Amitabh Chaudhary, the former BCCI acting Secretary and President of Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) died of heart attack at the age of 58. A retired senior IPS officer was also the Chairman of Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amitabh Chaudhary – former BCCI acting Secretary & President of Jharkhand State Cricket Association – passed away
- He was also the Chairman of Jharkhand Public Service Commission



## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**295.** Forbes Asia published its 2022 edition of the list titled “Best Under A Billion”, the Best 200 mid-sized companies in the Asia-Pacific region. These are publicly listed companies with annual revenue of below \$1 billion. This year, 24 Indian firms appeared in the list, down from 26 in 2021. With this, India ranked 4<sup>th</sup> among Asian countries, followed by China on 5<sup>th</sup> place with 22 companies on the list. Taiwan has the greatest number of companies listed at 30, followed by Japan with 29 and South Korea has 27. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Best Under A Billion”, a list of the Best 200 mid-sized companies in Asia-Pacific region – published by Forbes Asia
- 24 Indian firms appeared in the list (down from 26 in 2021)
- India ranked 4<sup>th</sup> among Asian countries | 1<sup>st</sup> – Taiwan | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Japan | 3<sup>rd</sup> – South Korea

**296.** On August 13, Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) India released an updated report titled ‘Landscape of Green Finance in India’ on India’s effort to track green investment flows. As per the report, the tracked green finance in 2019-2020 was Rs 3.09 lakh Cr (USD 44 billion) per annum, which is about a fourth of India’s needs. The report estimates that for India to achieve its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, the country requires an approximate Rs 162.5 lakh Cr (\$2.5 trillion) from 2015 to 2030 or roughly Rs 11 lakh Cr (\$170 billion) per year. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Landscape of Green Finance in India” report on India’s effort to track green investment flows – by CPI India
- Tracked green finance in 2019-2020 was Rs 3.09 lakh Cr (USD 44 billion) per annum (one fourth of India’s needs)
- India requires an approximate Rs 11 lakh Cr (\$170 billion) per year

## Amount & Agreements

**297.** On August 16, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh approved StartUp loan of Rs 1.15 Cr to TGP Bioplastics Pvt Ltd for commercialising ‘compostable’ plastic and thus also mitigate the usage of Single Use Plastics (SUP). An MoU was signed between Technology Development Board (a statutory body under Department of S&T) and TGP Bioplastics for manufacturing & commercialization of compostable plastic. This unique project has received seed funding under NIDHI Prayas (DST), NITI Aayog and UNIDO for the prototype development. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Dr. Jitendra Singh – approved StartUp loan of Rs 1.15 Cr to TGP Bioplastics for commercialising ‘compostable’ plastic
- Department of S&T + TGP Bioplastics = an MoU for manufacturing & commercialization of compostable plastic

## Ordinance, Bills and Acts

**298.** On August 17, the government raised the thresholds for prosecutions and arrests under the “Customs Act, 1962” to Rs 50 lakh from Rs 20 lakh for smuggling and illegal imports of goods in baggage, and from Rs 1 Cr to Rs 2 Cr for cases involving commercial fraud. The changes were notified through two circulars issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs under the Department of Revenue. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Under the “Customs Act, 1962”, Govt raised the thresholds for prosecutions & arrests to:
  - Rs 50 lakh for smuggling & illegal imports of goods
  - Rs 2 Cr for commercial fraud
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairman – Vivek Johri | Founded in – 1964

## **MoUs, Collaborations & Partnership**

**299.** On August 17, the Union Cabinet approved signing of a contract between Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), India and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, France, to support the International Transport Forum (ITF) activities on the Indian transport sector. The activities to be carried out under this contract will lead to new scientific results and identification of technology options for decarbonisation of transport sector in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved signing of a contract between TIFAC & OECD to support ITF activities on the Indian Transport Sector
- HQs of OECD – Paris, France | Secretary-General – Mathias Cormann | Member countries – 37

**300.** On August 10, Rajasthan government approved signing an MoU with SJVN Ltd for developing 10,000 MW renewable energy projects in the state entailing an investment of Rs 50,000 Crore. These projects/parks will usher in socio-economic development in the state and will open up multiple direct and indirect employment opportunities. Recently, Rajasthan became the first state in India to reach 10 GW cumulative large-scale solar installations. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajasthan + SJVN Ltd = an MoU for developing 10,000 MW RE projects in the state worth Rs 50,000 Cr
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra
- HQs of SJVN Ltd – Shimla, Himachal Pradesh | CMD – Nand Lal Sharma





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