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The Question Bank

# TESTZONE

बैंक परीक्षाओं के लिए  
निश्चित रूप से  
सर्वश्रेष्ठ टेस्ट सीरीज



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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 MockDrill Test of October 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

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### 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 अक्टूबर 2021 माह में Testzone पर 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



# INDEX

National & States Affairs.....	5
International Affairs.....	45
Banking & Economic Affairs.....	53
Defence Affairs.....	77
Schemes & Initiatives.....	82
Sports & Games.....	86
Important Days & Dates.....	96
Meetings, Conferences and Summits.....	114
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes.....	123
Appointments & Resignations.....	134
Amount & Agreements.....	147
Ranks, Reports & Surveys.....	155
Arts & Cultural Affairs.....	169
Acquisitions & Mergers.....	170
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships.....	174
Books & Authors.....	188
Obituaries.....	192
Persons in News.....	195
Science & Technology.....	196
Ordinance, Bills and Acts.....	203



# National & States Affairs

**1.** In October 2021, Indian comic book character 'Chacha Chaudhary' was declared as the mascot of the Union government's 'Namami Gange Programme' at an executive committee meeting of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG). NMCG, operated under Ministry of Jal Shakti, has tied up with 'Diamond Toons' to develop and distribute comics, e-comics and animated videos. Chacha Chaudhary was created by Cartoonist Pran Kumar Sharma. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Chacha Chaudhary – declared as the mascot of 'Namami Gange Programme' by NMCG
- NMCG – operated under Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Chacha Chaudhary was created by – Cartoonist Pran Kumar Sharma
- Ministry of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- MoS for Jal Shakti & Food Processing Industries – Prahlad Singh Patel
- DG of NMCG – Rajiv Ranjan Mishra

**2.** In October 2021, Payback India, which was recently acquired by BharatPe, has launched the Pay feature on its mobile app that integrates QR-based UPI payments and loyalty in single app. App users will be able to make payments by scanning the UPI QR and earn loyalty points on every transaction. Payback will soon add the feature of redemption of points at BharatPe's QRs. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Payback India – launched "Pay feature" on its mobile app to integrate QR–UPI payments & loyalty in single app
- HQs of BharatPe – New Delhi | Founder & CEO – Ashneer Grover
- HQs of Payback India – Gurgaon, Haryana | CEO – Rijish Raghavan

**3.** In October 2021, Assam launched the app 'Fishwaale', India's first e-fish market. It will help the fish farming community to get reasonable price for their produce & elimination of middlemen. Through the App one can not only sell as well as buy fish but also quality fish seed & fish feed. Aquaculture equipment & medicine will also be available on the app. The app is developed by Aqua Blue Global Aquaculture Solutions Pvt. Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Assam – launched India's first e-fish market app "Fishwaale" | developed by – Aqua Blue Global Aquaculture Solutions
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**4.** In October 2021, Telangana has developed the India's first smartphone-based eVoting solution which uses technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain technology. The solution has been successfully developed and tested and its dry run in the form of a dummy election was conducted in Khammam district. The initiative has been driven by the Telangana State Election Commission (TSEC) with the implementation support of the Technologies Wing of the IT Department of the State and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Telangana developed – India's first smartphone-based eVoting solution using AI & Blockchain technology
- Testing in the form of a dummy election – conducted in Khammam district
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- HQs of C-DAC – Pune, Maharashtra | Senior Director – Mahesh Kulkarni

5. In October 2021, International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) & GIFT City launched “I-Sprint’21”, the global FinTech Hackathon series of IFSCA. The aim of the Hackathon is to connect IFSCA & GIFT IFSC with FinTech Ecosystem, to solve Business Problems for the Banking Units & to promote retail business for the Banking Units at GIFT IFSC. The first Sprint of the series “Sprint01: BankTech” is focused on FinTechs for the Banking sector. This sprint is hosted jointly by IFSCA & GIFT city in collaboration with NITI Aayog. It shall be conducted virtually & is open to eligible FinTechs from across the Globe. The finalists of this Hackathon shall be allowed direct entry into IFSCA Regulatory/Innovation Sandbox. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- IFSCA & GIFT City – launched “I-Sprint’21” - a virtual global FinTech Hackathon series of IFSCA
- 1<sup>st</sup> Sprint of the series – “Sprint01: BankTech” – hosted jointly by IFSCA + GIFT city + NITI Aayog
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas

6. In October 2021, On his 2-day visit to West Bengal, Sarbananda Sonowal launched “MyPortApp” for digital monitoring of port operations & promoting transparency. The app has various information like vessel berthing, rake & indent, rake receipt, container status, tariff, bills, Port holidays & can be accessed anywhere 24x7. He also inaugurated a 1 MW solar plant in Haldia port to produce renewable energy for port operations. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Sarbananda Sonowal – launched “MyPortApp” & inaugurated 1 MW solar plant in Haldia port (West Bengal)
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

7. In October 2021, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the ‘Swechha programme’. Girl students will be taught about proper disposal of used sanitary pads, besides creating awareness on menstrual hygiene. The State government will provide sanitary napkins free of cost to over 10 lakh girls studying class 7 to 12. Each girl will be given 120 napkins a year. The programme will be implemented at a cost of Rs 32 Cr. Awareness on ‘Disha App’ & ‘Disha Act’ will also be created among girls. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – launched ‘Swechha programme’ (Cost – Rs 32 Cr)
- Sanitary Napkins will be provided free of cost to girls of class 7-12 (120 napkins a year)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan



**8.** In October 2021, 'Bharti AXA Life Insurance' announced a new savings product - "Bharti AXA Life Unnati" to provide long term financial stability to individuals with the benefits of savings & protection in a single plan. The 4 plan options are offered under "Bharti AXA Life Unnati": Whole Life Income option, Endowment option, Moneyback Option & Immediate Income Option. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Bharti AXA Life Insurance" announced – new savings product "Bharti AXA Life Unnati"
- HQs of Bharti AXA – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Sanjeev Srinivasan

**9.** In October 2021, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) levied a penalty on 'PMP Infratech' (₹25 lakh) & 'Rati Engineering' (₹2.5 lakh) & ₹ 1 lakh & ₹ 50,000 respectively on the individuals who managed & controlled the firms. The penalty was for rigging a tender floated by GAIL in 2017-18. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CCI levied penalties on 'PMP Infratech' (₹25 lakh) & 'Rati Engineering' (₹2.5 lakh)
- The penalty was for rigging a tender floated by GAIL in 2017-18
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003

**10.** In October 2021, 'Welspun Corp Ltd' (WCL) has become the 1<sup>st</sup> company from India to join the 'H2Pipe Joint Industry Project' on Hydrogen Pipelines launched by 'DNV AS Energy Systems' Pipeline Technology. It will collaborate with global oil & gas majors to develop the "World's 1<sup>st</sup> Guideline" for transportation of hydrogen gas in pipelines. As a Steering Committee Member, 'Welspun Corp' will collaborate with world's 24 premier energy companies to provide technical expertise in the project. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Welspun Corp Ltd – became India's 1<sup>st</sup> company to join 'H2Pipe Joint Industry Project'
- 'H2Pipe Joint Industry Project' – launched by DNV AS Energy Systems
- WCL will launch – 'World's 1<sup>st</sup> Guideline' for transportation of Hydrogen Gas
- HQs of Wellspun corp – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Vipul Mathur
- HQs of DNV Energy Systems – Pennsylvania, USA | CEO – Ditlev Engel

**11.** In October 2021, Indian Technology Congress Association (ITCA) has launched "75 Student Satellites' Mission 2022" to commemorate the 75 years of India's Independence. Under the mission, a consortium of 75 students will build satellites to be launched by ISRO. ITCA has collaborated with various organisations such as TMISAT (Israel), CSPD (Serbia) & UNISEC (Japan) to design & launch the student built satellite by 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ITCA – launched "75 Students' Satellites Consortium: Mission 2022"
- 75 students will build satellites to be launched by ISRO
- ITCA has collaborated with – TMISAT (Israel) + CSPD (Serbia) + UNISEC (Japan)
- HQs of ITCA – Bengaluru | President – DR. L V Muralikrishna Reddy
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed on – August 15, 1969



**12.** In October 2021, A report, titled “NITI Aayog-UNDP Handbook on Sustainable Urban Plastic Waste Management”, was released recently for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). The handbook will play a major role in fulfilling the goal of reducing the use of plastic & increasing plastic waste recycling. The handbook is a repository of 18 case studies/best practices from India, including 4 from south Asian countries divided into four major components. The four components are Technical models for recycling, Material Recovery Facilities (MRF), Governance for effective plastic waste management, & IEC & Digitization. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NITI Aayog + UNDP India = launched a handbook to promote sustainable management of plastic waste for ULBs
- Title of Handbook – “NITI Aayog-UNDP Handbook on Sustainable Urban Plastic Waste Management”
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965
- UNDP India’s Resident Representative – Shoko Noda

**13.** In October 2021, The Department of Posts (DoP) launched a digital version of the postal life insurance policy – “ePLI bond”, which subscribers can access through Digilocker. The Postal Life Insurance (PLI) and Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) policy bonds are available in the electronic form and all of the policies can be downloaded immediately after the issue of the policy bond. The facility is available for all new and old policyholders. ePLI bond is made available in collaboration with ‘Digilocker’, developed by the ‘National eGovernance Division’ (NeGD) of the Ministry of Electronics & IT (Meity). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DoP launched – digital version of the postal life insurance policy - “ePLI bond” (It can be accessed through Digilocker)
- Digilocker + NeGD (Division of Meity) = developed “ePLI bond”
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnav | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar
- HQs of NeGD – New Delhi | President & CEO – Shri Abhishek Singh | Created in – 2009 (By Meity)
- Director of DigiLocker & UMANG – Debabrata Nayak

**14.** Minister of State for the Ministry of Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the “AmritGrand Challenge Program” titled “जनCARE” (JanCARE) to identify 75 Start-Up Innovations in Telemedicine, Digital Health, mHealth with BIG Data, AI, Block Chain and other technologies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jitendra Singh (Ministry of S&T) – launched the “AmritGrand Challenge Program” titled “जनCARE” (JanCARE)
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Science & Technology: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K



**15.** The Defence Ministry has decided to enhance the income criteria for grant of family pension to children and siblings suffering from mental or physical disability. Such child/sibling shall be eligible for family pension for life, if his/her overall income from sources other than family pension remains less than the entitled family pension at an ordinary rate that is 30% of the last pay drawn. The financial benefit in such cases will come into effect from February 8, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Defence Ministry – to increase income limit of disabled dependents for family pension
- New limit: 30% of the last pay drawn
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

**16.** Acuite Ratings & Research became the first Indian credit rating company to be associated with the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), a United Nations-backed initiative that deals with ESG (Environment Social Governance) credit risk. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Acuite Ratings & Research – became the first Indian credit rating company to join UN supported ‘ESG’ credit risk named “Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)”
- HQs of Acuite Ratings & Research – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Sankar Chakraborti

**17.** On October 1, NITI Aayog, in a joint effort with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Indian Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), UNICEF and Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) launched “The State Nutrition Profiles” for 19 States and Union Territories. The State nutrition profiles were released by Dr. Rakesh Sarwal, Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog in a webinar titled “Towards progress on nutrition in India: Insights from National Family Health Survey (Phase -1)” organized by IFPRI. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NITI Aayog – launched “The State Nutrition Profiles” for 19 States & UTs (along with IFPRI, IIPS, UNICEF & IEG)
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

**18.** On October 1, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the second phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U 2.0) and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0). The outlay of ‘SBM-U 2.0’ is around Rs 1.41 lakh Cr, while the outlay of ‘AMRUT 2.0’ is around Rs 2.87 lakh Cr. SBM-U 2.0 envisions to make all cities garbage free and ensure grey and black water management in all cities. AMRUT 2.0 aims at providing 100% coverage of water supply to all households in around 4,700 urban local bodies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – launched the second phase of ‘SBM-U 2.0’ & ‘AMRUT 2.0’
- Outlay of ‘SBM-U 2.0’ – Rs 1.41 lakh Cr (launched in 2014) | Outlay of ‘AMRUT 2.0’ – Rs 2.87 lakh Cr (launched in 2015)



**19.** On October 1, Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Shri Giriraj Singh has launched “People’s Plan Campaign 2021 - Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas” and “Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard”. He also released a booklet on People Plan Campaign-2021 for preparation of plans for FY 2022-23 and also released the 10<sup>th</sup> issue of Gramoday Sankalp Magazine. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Giriraj Singh – launched “People’s Plan Campaign 2021 - Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas” & “Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard”
- Ministry of Panchayati Raj & Rural Development: Giriraj Singh | Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar
- Mos in Ministry of Panchayati Raj: Kapil Moreshwar Patil
- MoS in Ministry of Rural Development: Faggansingh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti

**20.** In October 2021, Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) issued guidelines for the Scheme for grant of Award to the Good Samaritan who has saved life of a victim of a fatal accident involving a motor vehicle by administering immediate assistance & rushing to Hospital/Trauma Care Centre within the Golden Hour of the accident to provide medical treatment”. The amount of award for the Good Samaritan(s) would be Rs 5,000 per incident. An individual Good Samaritan can be awarded maximum 5 times in a year. Every year, the State Level Monitoring Committee of each State/UT, under Chairmanship of Principal Secretary (Home), will nominate three most worthy proposals for national level awards & the best 10 Good Samaritans of the year will be awarded with Rs 1 lakh each along with a Certificate & trophy. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoRTH – issued guidelines of Scheme for grant of Award to the Good Samaritan
- Award for the Good Samaritan – Rs 5,000 per incident (maximum 5 times in a year to an individual)
- National level awards – best 10 Good Samaritans of the year will be awarded with Rs 1 lakh each
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: Nitin Gadkari | Constituency – Nagpur, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: V. K. Singh

**21.** In October 2021, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizer said that the government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10,000 by March 2024. The product basket of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) comprises of 1,451 drugs & 240 surgical instruments. Medicines available under PMBJP are priced around 50% - 90% less than that of branded medicines. Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India is the implementing agency of PMBJP. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The government set a target to increase PMBJKs to – 10,000 (by March 2024)
- Implementing agency of PMBJP – Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India
- Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers – Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat



**22.** In October 2021, the largest Infrastructure Finance Company, Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has become the 11<sup>th</sup> public sector enterprise to get the 'Maharatna' status. The board of a 'Maharatna' CPSE can make equity investments to undertake financial joint ventures & wholly-owned subsidiaries & undertake mergers & acquisitions in India & abroad, subject to a ceiling of 15% of the net worth of the concerned CPSE, limited to ₹5,000 Cr in one project. They can also enter into technology Joint Ventures or other strategic alliances. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) – became the 11<sup>th</sup> public sector enterprise to get the 'Maharatna' status
- HQs of PFC Ltd – New Delhi | CMD – Ravinder Singh Dhillon | Established in – 1986

**23.** In October 2021, Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj inaugurated a training program on Sandalwood Farming & Management of its health in association with the Institute of Wood Science & Technology (IWST), Bengaluru. This training initiative will help attract the youth towards sandalwood farming, revive this declining art & help reposition India as a market leader in the trade. Globally, India & Australia are the largest growers of sandalwood. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Giriraj Singh – inaugurated a training program on Sandalwood Farming (in association with IWST)
- Largest growers of sandalwood – India & Australia
- Ministry of Rural Development: Giriraj Singh | Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Rural Development: Faggansingh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti
- IWST based in – Bengaluru | Director – Dr. M. P. Singh

**24.** In October 2021, Uttar Pradesh has financed the highest number of units in India under Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) during six months of FY 2021-22. The UP government has facilitated to provide a total of over Rs 123 Cr as margin money through various banks to about 3,588 units under PMEGP with a total cost of the projects worth over Rs 450 Cr during the current financial year so far. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttar Pradesh – financed the highest number of units under PMEGP (Rs 123 Cr to about 3,588 units)
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**25.** In October 2021, Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur launched nationwide Clean India Programme from Prayagraj in commemoration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021. This cleanliness drive was the largest in the world. This mega initiative aimed to collect 75 Lakh kg waste mainly plastic waste & dispose with the support & voluntary participation of citizen. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Anurag Thakur – launched nationwide Clean India Programme – from Prayagraj
- Aim: to collect & dispose 75 Lakh kg plastic waste
- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: Anurag Singh Thakur | Constituency – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: L. Murugan



**26.** On October 2, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has flagged off the all-India car rally “Sudarshan Bharat Parikrama” of National Security Guard (NSG) from the Red Fort in Delhi as part of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> year of India’s Independence. As many as 12 NSG officers and 35 commandos will be participating in the car rally. Tokyo Olympics medalist Bajrang Punia was present on the occasion as a Guest of honour. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amit Shah – flagged off the all-India car rally “Sudarshan Bharat Parikrama” of NSG from the Red Fort in Delhi
- HQs of NSG – New Delhi | DG – M. A. Ganapathy | Founded in – 1950

**27.** On October 2, As a part of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports organized ‘Clean India’ Programme across India from October 1 to 31, 2021 for collecting and removing garbage mainly single use plastic waste. In continuation of the same, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and the National Service Scheme (NSS) conducted ‘Clean India’ drive at Golconda Fort, Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports – organized ‘Clean India’ Programme across India
- Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports: Anurag Singh Thakur | Constituency – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports: Nisith Pramanik

**28.** On October 1, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE) organised “VAYO NAMAN” Programme on the occasion of International Day of Older Persons at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. In this programme, the Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu presented a national award “Vayoshreshtha Samman-2021” to senior citizens. Apart from dedicating an Elderly Line 14567 to the Nation, Shri M. Venkaiah also launched two portals - “SAGE” (Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine) and “SACRED” (Senior Able Citizens for Re-Employment in Dignity) on this occasion. According to the “LASI report-2020”, more than 50% of senior citizens are active. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoSJE – organised “VAYO NAMAN” Programme in New Delhi
- M. Venkaiah Naidu – presented “Vayoshreshtha Samman-2021” in New Delhi
- M. Venkaiah Naidu – launched “SAGE” & “SACRED” portals
- M. Venkaiah Naidu – launched a National Helpline called “Elder Line” (14567)

**29.** On October 2, The world's largest “Khadi National Flag” has been unveiled in Leh, Ladakh on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 152<sup>nd</sup> birth anniversary. The flag was inaugurated by Ladakh Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur. It has a length of 225 feet with a width of 150 feet and weighs 1000 kg. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The world’s largest “Khadi National Flag” is unveiled – in Leh, Ladakh (length - 225 feet | weight - 1000 kg)
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur



**30.** The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) has developed an immunity boosting “Bal Raksha Kit” to protect the children up to the age of 16 from the viral infection till the time a vaccine is available. As many as 10,000 kits will be distributed free-of-cost on National Ayurveda Day on November 2. Apart from the ‘Bal Raksha Kit’, AIIA has previously been known for preparing ‘Swasthya Raksha Kit’, ‘Arogya Raksha Kit’ and ‘Ayu Raksha Kit’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AIIA – developed an immunity boosting “Bal Raksha Kit” to protect children up to the age of 16 from viral infection
- HQs of AIIA – New Delhi | Director – Tanuja Manoj Nesari

**31.** On October 3, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched “Mission Basundhara” at a programme organised by the Revenue and Disaster Management department in Guwahati. Securing land rights of indigenous populations is the prime objective of the mission. The mission also aims to eliminate the middleman from the system and reduce unnecessary visits to government offices. A total of Rs 225 Cr will be spent on the implementation of the programme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Assam – launched “Mission Basundhara” to secure land rights of indigenous populations | Cost – Rs 225 Cr
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**32.** On October 2, On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, a web portal called “Wetlands of India Portal” was launched by the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav. The portal is a single point access to all information relating to wetlands. The portal has been developed under a Technical Cooperation project “Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection” (Wetlands Project) of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. Moreover, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released the “Guidelines for sustainable Ecotourism in forest and wildlife areas” to promote a better understanding of nature and wildlife conservation. Besides, in order to monitor Ganges river dolphins, “Project Dolphin” will be implemented in 8 states - Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand & Uttar Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bhupender Yadav (MoEFCC) – launched a web portal called “Wetlands of India Portal”
- MoEFCC – released the “Guidelines for sustainable Ecotourism in forest and wildlife areas”
- “Project Dolphin” will be implemented in 8 states

**33.** On October 1, The Coal Ministry has constituted a panel to review and benchmark the timelines in project execution, including tendering process by examining tenders having a value of more than Rs 300 Cr of CIL, its subsidiaries and other PSUs. Coal India accounts for over 80% of domestic coal output. The committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Coal Ministry – constituted a panel to review and benchmark the timelines in project execution
- The committee will also examine the tenders having a value of more than Rs 300 Cr of CIL

**34.** The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a committee to review the “IRDAI (Appointed Actuary) Regulations, 2017”, to make the system tuned to the evolving business dynamics. The IRDAI panel will be led by D. Sai Srinivas. The committee will study global practices on appointment of actuaries and its functions. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IRDAI set up a committee to review the “IRDAI (Appointed Actuary) Regulations, 2017”
- The panel will be led by – D. Sai Srinivas
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

**35.** The CSIR’s Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) has introduced ‘True Cinnamon’ (popularly known as True Dalchini) cultivation in Himachal Pradesh on pilot basis. True cinnamon or Cinnamomum verum is grown mainly in Sri Lanka. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IHBT-CSIR – introduced ‘True Cinnamon’ (True Dalchini) cultivation in Himachal Pradesh
- Location of IHBT-CSIR – Palampur, Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

**36.** Karnataka’s 31<sup>st</sup> district of Vijayanagara has officially been unveiled by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. It is named after the capital of the erstwhile Vijayanagar empire. The new district will get Rs 400 Cr for creating necessary infrastructure. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ‘Vijayanagara’ - Karnataka’s 31<sup>st</sup> district – officially been unveiled by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

**37.** In October 2021, Union Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Shri Giriraj Singh jointly launched “Climate Resilience Information System and Planning (CRISP-M)” tool for integration of climate information in Geographic Information System (GIS) based watershed planning under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA along with Lord Tariq Ahmad, Minister of State for South Asia and the Commonwealth in the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). This tool will be used in 7 states where in the FCDO, Government of UK and Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India are jointly working towards climate resilience. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Giriraj Singh – launched “CRISP-M” tool for integration of climate information under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA
- FCDO + UK + Ministry of Rural Development = are using this tool
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson
- Ministry of Rural Development: Giriraj Singh | Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj: Faggansingh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti



**38.** On October 4, The world's third and India's first public transport ropeway is proposed to be constructed from Cantt Railway Station in Varanasi Junction to Church Square (Godauliya) to ease the traffic congestion. The commencement of this ropeway will give easy access to Kashi Vishwanath Temple and Dashashwamedh Ghat. The total distance of 4.2 km will be fixed in about 15 minutes. The central government will support the 80% of the cost while the remaining 20% will be borne by state government. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- World's 3<sup>rd</sup> & India's 1<sup>st</sup> Public Transport Ropeway is proposed to be constructed – in Varanasi, UP
- 80% of the cost to be borne by – Central Gov. & 20% of the cost to be borne by – State Gov.
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**39.** On October 4, Indian Railways announced that the new 2.05 km 'Pamban Railway Bridge' in Mandapam, which will connect Rameswaram to the mainland in Tamil Nadu, will be operational from March, 2022. The existing Pamban Rail Bridge, which connects Rameswaram to mainland India, is 105 years old. It will be India's first vertical lift railway bridge over the sea and is likely to cost ₹250 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 2.05 km 'Pamban Railway Bridge' in Mandapam (Tamil Nadu) will be operational – from March, 2022
- India's first vertical lift railway bridge will connect Rameswaram to the mainland in Tamil Nadu | Cost – Rs 250 Cr
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**40.** On October 4, Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare launched "i-Drone" (ICMR's Drone Response and Outreach in North East). This is a delivery model to make sure that life-saving vaccines reach everyone. This is for the first time that a 'Make in India' drone has been used in South Asia to transport COVID vaccine in Manipur. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mansukh L. Mandaviya – launched "i-Drone" (ICMR's Drone Response & Outreach in North East)
- For the first time, a 'Make in India' drone is used in South Asia to transport COVID vaccine – in Manipur
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – La. Ganesan

**41.** An Integrated Flyover-cum-Metro Viaduct Structure along with a vehicle underpass is being built in Delhi on the Majlis Park-Maujpur corridor under the Phase-IV work. This will be the first-ever integrated 'flyover-cum-metro viaduct structure' in the history of the mass rapid transit system (MRTS). This 12.098 km-long corridor will comprise eight stations, and will be completely elevated. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- First-ever Integrated Flyover-cum-Metro Viaduct Structure – being built in Delhi
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**42.** Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri announced that Union government approved Oil and Gas Projects worth Rs 1 lakh Cr for Northeast India and they are expected to be completed by 2025. It is planned to double the exploration acreage in Northeast Region (NER) from existing 30,000 Sq. Kms to 60,000 Sq. Kms by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government approved 'Oil & Gas Projects' worth Rs 1 lakh Cr for Northeast India (expected to be completed by 2025)
- Aim: To double the exploration acreage in NER to 60,000 Sq. Kms by 2025 (from existing 30,000 Sq. Kms)

**43.** PM Narendra Modi virtually dedicated to the nation the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET), located in Rajasthan's Jaipur. On this occasion, PM Modi also laid the foundation stone of a medical college each in Banswara, Dausa, Hanumangarh and Sirohi districts of Rajasthan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PM Modi – dedicated to the nation the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET)
- CIPET is located in – Jaipur, Rajasthan
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

**44.** The Defence Accounts Department under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence has developed an IT-enabled payment and accounting system called "PRABAL" to ensure that the domestic defence suppliers get payments without any delay. The Defence Accounts Department observes its foundation day on 1<sup>st</sup> of October every year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Defence Accounts Department – developed an IT-enabled payment & accounting system called "PRABAL"

**45.** The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) has come up with the detailed procedure for setting up of Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF), as per "Motor Vehicles (Registration and Functions of Vehicle Scrapping Facility) Rules 2021". The rules are applicable to all automobile collection centres, automobile dismantling centres, scrapping and recycling facilities, and recyclers. The registration of an RVSF will be valid for 10 years and can be renewed for 10 more years at a time. The scrapping centres will be provided access to the 'Vahan Database'. Further, these centre will be authorised to make entries regarding scrapping of a vehicle, as well as to issue a Certificate of Deposit and a Certificate of Scrapping. Categorization of Industrial Sectors was done under 4 Categories - Red, Orange, Green & White based on the Pollution Index (PI). The Pollution Index of any Industrial Sector is a number from 0 to 100. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoRTH – to set up "Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF)" as per "Motor Vehicles Rules 2021"
- The registration of an RVSF will be valid for – 10 years
- Categorization of Industrial Sectors was done under 4 Categories – Red, Orange, Green & White
- Pollution Index (PI) of any Industrial Sector is a number – from 0 to 100
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: Nitin Gadkari | Constituency – Nagpur, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: V. K. Singh





**46.** On October 7, At the “MSME Tech-Fin Mobility Summit” organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), MSME Secretary B. B. Swain announced that Zero-cost MSME registration portal “Udyam Registration” has crossed 50 lakh (5 million) registrations in nearly 15 months since its launch on July 1, 2020. The objective of the portal is to provide a single-page registration, consume less time and simplify processes of registering any enterprise as a MSME. Moreover, ‘Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act’ was passed in 2006. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “MSME Tech-Fin Mobility Summit” – organised by CII
- 50 lakh (5 million) MSMEs registered on the ‘Udyam’ portal in nearly 15 months since its launch on July 1, 2020
- ‘MSME Development Act’ was passed in 2006

**47.** In October 2021, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has released the “Multilingual Dementia Research and Assessment (MUDRA) Toolbox” in five Indian languages - Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam. MUDRA Toolbox is a comprehensive tool specifically to diagnose dementia in the Indian population. MUDRA Toolbox is an initiative undertaken by ICMR Neuro-Cognitive Tool Box (ICMR -NCTB) consortium to transform India’s dementia and mild cognitive impairment research and clinical practices. It is a collective effort by seven leading centers in India NIMHANS (Bengaluru), AIIMS (New Delhi), SCTIMST (Thiruvananthapuram), NIMS (Hyderabad), Apollo Hospital (Kolkata), Manipal Hospital (Bengaluru) and Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ICMR – released ‘MUDRA Toolbox’ in 5 Indian languages to diagnose dementia
- MUDRA Toolbox initiative – undertaken by ‘ICMR Neuro-Cognitive Tool Box consortium’
- HQs of ICMR – New Delhi, India | Director General – Balram Bhargava | Established in – 1911

**48.** In October 2021, To celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> year of independence, NITI Aayog’s flagship initiative, The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), will felicitate 75 women achievers as part of the Amrit Mahotsav celebration. Women Transforming India Awards (WTI) 2021 will celebrate the contribution of women entrepreneurs towards ‘Sashakt aur Samarath Bharat’. The WTI Awards is NITI Aayog’s endeavour to recognise and celebrate stories of exceptional women change-makers. WTI Awards have been hosted under the aegis of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform with a focus on ‘Women and Entrepreneurship’. This year, the WTI Awards are being launched in partnership with the UN, CISCO CSR, FICCI & Grant Thornton Bharat. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Women Entrepreneurship Platform (NITI Aayog) – hosted the “WTI Awards”
- WEP will felicitate – 75 women achievers as part of the ‘Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations’
- WTI Awards launched in partnership with – UN, CISCO CSR, FICCI & Grant Thornton Bharat
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Rajiv Kumar



**49.** On October 5, In an effort to promote indigenous & Geographical Identification (GI) tagged products, first consignment of GI tagged sweet dish “Mihidana” sourced from Bardhaman, West Bengal has been exported to the Kingdom of Bahrain. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- West Bengal’s GI tagged sweet dish “Mihidana” – exported to Bahrain
- Bahrain – Manama – Dinar | PM – Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa | King – Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

**50.** On October 6, The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) parks with a total outlay of ₹4,445 Cr in the next 5 years. The ‘PM MITRA’ will be developed by a special purpose vehicle owned by state governments and the central government in PPP mode. The park will get Development Capital Support which will provide 30% of the estimated project cost of ₹1,700 Cr for each park with a cap of ₹500 Cr to Greenfield sites. For Brownfield sites, the support will be capped at ₹200 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved the setting up of 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region & Apparel (PM MITRA)
- Total outlay of ₹4,445 Cr in the next 5 years
- Maximum Development Capital Support: ₹500 Cr to Greenfield sites & ₹200 Cr to Brownfield sites

**51.** On October 5, Actor Rana Daggubati has flagged off the first ‘Seedcopter’ drone to deliver seed balls under the ‘Hara Bhara’ initiative in Hyderabad. The first payload of 1.5 lakh seed balls was delivered in the ‘KBR National Park’ in Hyderabad. ‘Seedcopter’ for this campaign is developed by Hyderabad-based startup Marut Drones. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rana Daggubati flagged off the 1<sup>st</sup> ‘Seedcopter’ drone to deliver seed balls under ‘Hara Bhara’ initiative in Hyderabad
- ‘Seedcopter’ for this campaign is developed – by Marut Drones (based in Hyderabad, Telangana)
- KBR National Park – located in Hyderabad, Telangana
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

**52.** On October 6, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated the “Mahabahu Brahmaputra River Heritage Centre” on Barphukan’s Hillock in Assam. It is a British-era bungalow on a hillock that used to be the 17<sup>th</sup> century military office of the Ahom rulers and now has been converted into a heritage centre depicting life along the Brahmaputra River. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- M. Venkaiah Naidu – inaugurated the “Mahabahu Brahmaputra River Heritage Centre” in Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



**53.** On October 7, The Central Government, for the first time, has released the guidelines for Cybersecurity in the Power Sector with the aim to create a secure power cyber ecosystem. The guidelines were issued under the “Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for Connectivity to the Grid) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019” by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Central Government released the guidelines for Cybersecurity in the ‘Power Sector’ for the first time

**54.** In October 2021, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approved the Chhattisgarh government’s proposal to declare the combined areas of the Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve. The proposal was considered by the 11<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee of the NTCA and approval was granted under ‘Section 38V (1)’ of “The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 11<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee of NTCA approved Chhattisgarh’s proposal to declare the combined areas of the ‘Guru Ghasidas NP’ & ‘Tamor Pingla WC’ as a Tiger Reserve (4<sup>th</sup> TR in Chhattisgarh)
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

**55.** In October 2021, Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted a 4-member High Powered Advisory Committee on settlement orders & compounding of offences. The committee will be chaired by Vijay C Daga, retired judge of High Court of Bombay. The panel will work as per the ‘Settlement Proceedings Regulations, 2018’ specified by SEBI. At present, entities are provided with a window of 180 days to apply for settlement after receipt of the show-cause notice. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI – constituted a 4-member High Powered Advisory Committee on settlement orders
- The committee will be chaired by – Vijay C. Daga
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

**56.** In October 2021, Rajasthan has launched a campaign ‘Prashasan Gaon ke Sang’ to enable access to 22 departments of the local administration for the people of remote villages of Rajasthan. Under the campaign, the departments would hold camps at every gram panchayat to offer on-spot solutions to the applicants. The camps in villages would be held under the observation of respective District Collectors on weekdays. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajasthan – launched a campaign “Prashasan Gaon ke Sang” for people of remote villages
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

**57.** In October 2021, Tata AIG General Insurance Co. Ltd has announced to launch the Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) insurance. It has made TropoGo as its distribution partner for RPAS insurance. Tata AIG’s RPAS insurance covers both Hull & Third-Party Liability risks faced by them. It also provides optional coverage for BVLOS operations, night flying, data loss liability, etc. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Tata AIG General Insurance – to launch the Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) insurance
- Tata AIG General Insurance made ‘TropoGo’ as distribution partner for RPAS insurance
- HQs of Tata AIG Gen Ins – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Neelesh Garg

**58.** In October 2021, IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited, promoted by Bank of Baroda & Union Bank of India, has introduced “IndiaFirst Life Saral Bachat Bima Plan”, a savings & protection cover for the entire family. This policy provides a shorter pay commitment of 5 or 7 years while keeping entire family protected for 12 or 15 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IndiaFirst Life Insurance – introduced “IndiaFirst Life Saral Bachat Bima Plan”
- HQs of IndiaFirst Life Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – R. M. Vishakha | Chairman – Mr. Sanjiv Chadha

**59.** On October 7, “National Mission on Edible Oil - Oil Palm Business Summit for North Eastern States” was held at Guwahati, Assam. The Mission with a total outlay of Rs 11,040 Cr will bring additional area of 6.5 lakh hectares under Oil Palm plantation with 3.28 lakh hectares in North Eastern states and 3.22 in Rest of India in next 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “National Mission on Edible Oil - Oil Palm Business Summit for North Eastern States” – held at Guwahati, Assam
- Total outlay of the mission – Rs 11,040 Cr
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**60.** On October 6, The Delhi Cabinet has approved its ambitious Health Information Management System (HIMS) project. As part of the project, each citizen will have a Unique Health Card, which will be a repository of their medical information. All citizens between 1 and 18 years would be issued a health card linked to their parent’s health card. In a related development, the Cabinet approved ₹48.14 Cr for procurement, distribution and transportation of foodgrains for citizens without ration cards residing in New Delhi. An MoU between IIT Kanpur and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) was also approved by the Cabinet for the technology that will allow accurate information about the real-time source of air pollution in Delhi to be made available. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- New Delhi – provided Unique Health Cards under its Health Information Management System (HIMS) project
- IIT Kanpur + DPCC = an MoU for the accurate information about the real-time source of air pollution in Delhi
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev



**61.** On October 9, India's Power Ministry has set a revised policy to use Biomass Pellets in coal-burning Thermal Power Plants. It encourages use of Agricultural Waste which is otherwise burnt by farmers, causing air pollution. The decision makes it mandatory for 3 categories of Thermal Power Plants to use a 5% blend of biomass pellets along with coal. The policy will come into force in October 2022, with a requirement to increase the proportion of biomass to 7% within two years for two categories of power plants. The policy for co-firing of biomass would be in force for 25 years or until the useful life of the thermal power plant, whichever is earlier. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Power Ministry – set a revised policy to use Biomass Pellets in coal-burning Thermal Power Plants
- It is mandatory for 3 categories of Thermal Power Plants to use a 5% blend of biomass pellets along with coal
- The policy will come into force in October 2022 & would be in force for 25 years
- Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Power: Krishan Pal

**62.** On October 8, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Parshottam Rupala launched the River Ranching Programme at Brijghat in Uttar Pradesh. Other 4 states - Uttarakhand, Orissa, Tripura and Chhattisgarh also participated in the programme. In UP, 3 lakhs fingerlings were ranched at 3 sites namely, Brijghat, Garhmukteshwar, Tigri, Meerut and Bijnor. National Digital Livestock Mission (NFDB) has sanctioned a total budget of Rs 2.81 Cr to ranch 97.16 lakh fingerlings to different states as a part of Action plan 2020-21 of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Parshottam Rupala – launched the “River Ranching Programme” at Brijghat, Uttar Pradesh
- NFDB sanctioned Rs 2.81 Cr to ranch 97.16 lakh fingerlings as a part of Action plan 2020-21 of ‘PMMSY’
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**63.** On October 5, The Ministry of Tourism in association with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has organised the “Buddhist Circuit Train FAM Tour” as part of the Union government’s “Dekho Apna Desh” initiative. It aims to tap the potential of Buddhist tourism in India. Ajay Bhatt, Minister of State for Tourism and Defence, flagged off the journey for “Buddhist Circuit Train FAM Tour and Conference” at Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Tourism + IRCTC = organised the “Buddhist Circuit Train FAM Tour” as part of “Dekho Apna Desh” initiative
- Ministry of Tourism: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Ministry of Tourism: Shripad Yesso Naik & Ajay Bhatt
- HQs of IRCTC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Mahendra Pratap Mall



**64.** On October 9, Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope has launched “Mission Kavach Kundal”, a seven-day special campaign to boost its Covid-19 vaccination drive, starting from October 8. It has set a target of vaccinating minimum 1.5 million (15 lakh) people a day. He also declared to provide monetary assistance of ₹50,000 each to the kin of those who died due to Covid-19 infection during the pandemic. The state government has made a provision of ₹700 Cr for the same. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maharashtra – launched a 7-day special campaign “Mission Kavach Kundal” to boost its Covid-19 vaccination drive
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**65.** On October 13, The Ministry of Coal has amended “Mineral Concession Rules, 1960” with a view to allow 50% sale of Coal from Captive Mines. While, by amending “National Tariff Policy, 2016”, the government authorized ‘Imported Coal-based Plants’ to operate and sell the un-requisitioned power in the Power Exchange. To boost production, the government has introduced a provision to grant the lease of coal mines for 50 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Coal – amended “Mineral Concession Rules, 1960” to allow 50% sale of Coal from Captive Mines
- Government introduced a provision to grant the lease of coal mines for 50 years
- Ministry of Coal: Pralhad Joshi | Constituency – Dharwad, Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Coal: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao

**66.** In October 2021, NABARD subsidiary NABSanrakshan has signed a trust deed for Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Farmer Producer Organisations (CGFTFPO). The credit guarantee fund of Rs 1,000 Cr will be housed in CGFTFPO. The government has launched a Central sector scheme titled “Formation & Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)” to form & promote 10,000 new FPOs in India. Under this scheme a dedicated fund for providing credit guarantees to FPOs has been set up. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NABSanrakshan (subsidiary of NABARD) – signed a trust deed for CGFTFPO
- Rs 1,000 Cr credit guarantee fund – will be housed in CGFTFPO
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Govinda Rajulu Chintala | Founded in – 1982

**67.** In October 2021, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has launched “UFill” which is an automated fueling technology. With UFill, the invitation to customers is to “Fast forward your fill” because this digital technology obviates the need for looking at zero or final reading & the customers are given complete control over time, technology, & transparency in the fueling process. Also, it does not need any app download & it offers real time QR & voucher code through SMS. Customer can use any payment app like GPay, PayTM, PhonePe etc. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BPCL – launched an automated fueling technology - “UFill”
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, MH | Chairman & MD – Arun Kumar Singh | Founded in – 1952



**68.** In October 2021, Tamil Nadu FibreNet Corporation Ltd (TANFINET) has signed the Master Service Agreement for the implementation of “BharatNet Project” in Tamil Nadu. TANFINET is a special purpose vehicle implementing the BharatNet project in Tamil Nadu at a total cost of ₹1,815 Cr. “National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)” which was launched in October 2011 was renamed as “Bharat Net Project” in 2015. The project aims at providing 1 Gbps bandwidth connectivity to all Gram Panchayats through optical fibre cable. [\(Read more\)](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu FibreNet – implementing the “BharatNet Project” in the state (total cost – ₹1,815 Cr)
- BharatNet project – to provide 1 Gbps bandwidth connectivity to all Gram Panchayats through optical fibre cable
- National Optical Fibre Network – launched in 2011 & renamed as – “BharatNet Project” in 2015
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**69.** In October 2021, Haryana health minister Anil Vij has launched the “Swasth Haryana” mobile app. Patients can get themselves registered in advance before going to the hospital through the app. The app is developed by Haryana State Health Systems Resource Centre (HSRHC). There are many other facilities in this app such as information about the nearest blood bank, information pertaining to mother-child care & vaccination etc. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Haryana – launched “Swasth Haryana” mobile app
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

**70.** On October 10, The Indian Railways has launched two long haul freight trains “Trishul” and “Garuda” which are longer than the normal composition of freight trains. Trishul is South Central Railway (SCR)'s first long haul train comprising 3 freight trains. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Railways – launched two long haul freight trains “Trishul” & “Garuda” for South Central Railway
- HQs of South Central Railway – Secunderabad, Telangana | GM – Gajanan Mallya

**71.** On October 7, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced in Guwahati that Government of India has approved the construction of a 3 km long 4-lane bridge on Brahmaputra river in Kamrup district. The bridge will be constructed at an estimated total cost of Rs 3094 Cr. In another event Smt. Sitharaman laid foundation stone of upgradation work of 90km road from Haflong Tinali to Lower Haflong, under the Asian Development Bank (ADB) aided ‘Assam Road Network Improvement Project (ARNIP)’ in Dima Hasao. The estimated cost of this project is \$375 million, which includes \$300 million assistance from ADB. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nirmala Sitharaman – announced a 3 km long 4-lane bridge on Brahmaputra river in Kamrup, Assam (Cost - Rs 3094 Cr)
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



**72.** On October 8, Adani Group has taken over the management & responsibilities of the Jaipur International Airport from the Airports Authority of India (AAI). The airport has been leased out to the group by the government of India for a period of 50 year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Adani Group – took over the management of “Jaipur International Airport” from the AAI
- HQs of Adani Group – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Chairman – Gautam Adani | MD – Rajesh Adani

**73.** On October 13, PM Narendra Modi has launched the ambitious Rs 100 lakh Cr “Gati Shakti Master Plan” to provide multi-modal connectivity to more than 1,200 industrial clusters, including two defence corridors across India. The Prime Minister had announced ‘PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan’ in his Independence Day speech on August 15, 2021. The various aims under this Master plan are as mentioned below. In line with the goals of ‘PM Gati Shakti’, Mumbai Port Trust is constructing an ‘International Cruise Terminal’ at Ballard Pier extension berth at an estimated cost of Rs 500 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PM Narendra Modi – launched the ambitious Rs 100 lakh Cr “Gati Shakti Master Plan”
- Here is what Government aims to achieve by 2024-25 under “Gati Shakti Master Plan”:
  - 11 industrial corridors & 2 new defence corridors in Tamil Nadu & Uttar Pradesh– 4G connectivity in all villages
  - Increasing Renewable Energy capacity to 225 GW from 87.7 GW
  - Expanding the National Highway Network to 2 lakh km
  - Increasing length of Transmission Network to 4,54,200 circuit km
  - Creation of 220 new airports, heliports and water aerodromes
  - Increasing cargo handling capacity of railways to 1,600 million tons from 1210 million tons
  - Adding 17,000 km to Gas Pipeline Network or doubling the Gas Pipeline Network to 35,000 km
  - 202 fishing clusters/harbours/landing centres
- Mumbai Port Trust – constructing an ‘International Cruise Terminal’ at the cost of Rs 500 Cr

**74.** On October 12, The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy Rates for Phosphatic & Potassic (P&K) Fertilizers for the year 2021-22 with an outlay of Rs 28,602 Cr. Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme for Fertilizers was initiated in 2010. The Government brought ‘Potash Derived from Molasses’ (PDM) for the first time under this scheme. Besides, the government is expected to spend Rs 156 Cr annually on PDM as a subsidy and save foreign exchange of Rs 562 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CCEA approved the proposal of Dept of Fertilizers for fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Rates for P&K Fertilizers
- Total Outlay – Rs 28,602 Cr | NBS Scheme was launched in – 2010
- Government brought ‘Potash Derived from Molasses’ (PDM) for the first time under NBS Programme
- Government is expected to spend Rs 156 Cr annually on ‘PDM’ as a subsidy



**75.** On October 12, To leverage the experience of administering 33 Sainik Schools across India, it has been decided to set up 100 new affiliated Sainik Schools by inviting proposals from Government/Private Schools /NGOs to apply for affiliation of existing or new Schools to the Sainik Schools Society. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved affiliation of 100 Schools in Government & Private Sector with Sainik School Society

**76.** On October 12, Maharashtra has become the first state to release its own “Wildlife Action Plan (2021-30)”. The plan focuses on various 12 areas. The new plan, which will be implemented over the next 10 years, recognises concerns about climate change impacts on wildlife, coastal ecosystems, marine biodiversity, flora and fauna. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maharashtra – became the first state to release its own “Wildlife Action Plan (2021-30)”
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**77.** On October 14, Delhi Police has launched a patrolling operation called “Operation Satark” to combat and prevent crime and make public spaces safer, particularly during festive season through comprehensive patrols and increased police visibility. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Delhi Police – launched “Operation Satark” to combat & prevent crime & make public spaces safer during festivals
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**78.** On October 13, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin has virtually launched the preliminary work towards the melting of Gold ornaments, in temples under the control of the ‘Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department’ and converting them into gold bars. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu – launched preliminary work to convert Temples’ Gold Jewellery into Gold bars
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**79.** On October 14, India was re-elected to the U.N. Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the 2022-24 term with an overwhelming majority in the General Assembly. India got 184 votes in the 193-member assembly, while the required majority was 97. India’s Permanent Representative to the UN, T. S. Tirumurti participated in the elections held by the 76<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly (UNGA). India gets re-elected to the UNHRC for the 6<sup>th</sup> term. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – re-elected to the U.N. Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for 2022-24 (6<sup>th</sup> term)
- India’s Permanent Representative to the UN – T. S. Tirumurti
- HQs of UNHRC – Geneva, Switzerland | President – Nazahat Shameen Khan



**80.** On October 12, Union Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated the 29<sup>th</sup> “Hunar Haat” at Rampur, Uttar Pradesh. Union Ministry of Minority Affairs is organising “Hunar Haat” in Rampur, UP from October 16 to 25, 2021 as a part of series of 75 “Hunar Haat”. Besides, the first “Vishwakarma Vatika” has been set up in “Hunar Haat” at Rampur to protect, preserve and promote India’s glorious legacy of centuries-old skills and craftsmanship. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dharmendra Pradhan – inaugurated the 29<sup>th</sup> “Hunar Haat” at Rampur, UP – organised by Ministry of Minority Affairs
- First “Vishwakarma Vatika” has been set up in “Hunar Haat” at Rampur, UP
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**81.** On October 15, The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has launched a smart parking mobile application, “MyParkings”, which will allow users to remotely view slot availability. The app has been developed with the help of BECIL. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- South Delhi Municipal Corp – launched a smart parking mobile application, “MyParkings”
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**82.** On October 13, The government has notified new rules under which the upper limit for termination of a pregnancy has been increased from 20 to 24 weeks for certain exceptional categories of women. According to the “Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Rules, 2021”, these categories include survivors of sexual assault or rape or incest, minors and women whose marital status changes during an ongoing pregnancy (widowhood and divorce) and women with physical disabilities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government notified new rules under “Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Rules, 2021”
- Upper limit for termination of a pregnancy increased from 20 to 24 weeks for exceptional categories of women

**83.** On October 13, The National Testing Agency (NTA), an autonomous testing organisation under the ministry of education, has announced the first-ever National Aptitude Test for school students and youth aged between 13-25 years to assess their conceptual understanding in a scientific manner and help them make better career decisions. Candidates for the test have been divided into 4 age groups. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NTA – announced the first-ever National Aptitude Test for school Students & Youth aged between 13-25 years
- HQs of NTA – New Delhi | DG – Vineet Joshi | Chairperson – M. S. Ananth

**84.** On October 15, The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has extended the jurisdiction of the Border Security Force (BSF) up to 50 km inside the international borders in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam. The BSF's powers which include arrest, search and seizure, were limited to up to 15 km in these states. At the same time, the Ministry has reduced BSF's area of operation in Gujarat from 80 km from the border, to 50 km. The government was exercising the powers under the Border Security Force Act of 1968. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MHA extended the jurisdiction of BSF up to 50 km inside the international borders in Punjab, West Bengal & Assam
- BSF's powers which include arrest, search & seizure, were limited to up to 15 km in these states
- MHA reduced BSF's area of operation in Gujarat to 50 km from the border (from 80 km)
- HQs of BSF – New Delhi | Director General (DG) – Pankaj Kumar Singh

**85.** On October 14, In order to support the ambitious goal of achieving 450 GW renewable energy target of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) by 2030, the government has approved the installation of 1000 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) as a pilot project. This is the joint effort of both Ministry of New and renewable energy and Ministry of Power. Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has called for the expression of interest for procurement of 1000 MWh BESS. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government approved the installation of 1000 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
- Aim: To support the ambitious goal of achieving 450 GW renewable energy target of MNRE by 2030

**86.** On October 14, A bi-lingual mobile application "Healthy Smile" has been launched by the AIIMS to spread awareness about maintaining oral hygiene among children. Prof Randeep Guleria, Director of AIIMS, New Delhi launched this mobile app. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Randeep Guleria (AIIMS) – launched "Healthy Smile" app to spread awareness about oral hygiene among children
- HQs of AIIMS – New Delhi | Director – Randeep Guleria

**87.** On October 16, Aviation regulator Director-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has temporarily suspended SpiceJet's licence for the transportation of 'dangerous goods' for alleged violations. The suspension is for 30 days. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DGCA – temporarily suspended the licence of SpiceJet for the transportation of 'dangerous goods'
- HQs of DGCA – New Delhi | Director General – Arun Kumar
- HQs of SpiceJet – Gurugram, Haryana | Chairman & MD – Ajay Singh



**88.** On October 16, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched India's Vaccination Anthem which is sung by renowned singer Padma Shri Kailash Kher to promote the vaccination drive across India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India's Vaccination Anthem to promote the vaccination drive across India – sung by Kailash Kher

**89.** On October 15, 'Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Prerana Sthal' was inaugurated at Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam on the occasion of 90<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India and to commemorate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 'Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Prerana Sthal' – was inaugurated at NSTL in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**90.** On October 13, Uttar Pradesh government has directed all State Secondary Schools to set up "Arogya Vatika" (Salubrity Garden) in their premises. The idea was popularised by local journalist Sudhir Mishra. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttar Pradesh – directed all state secondary schools to set up "Arogya Vatika" (Salubrity Garden) in their premises
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**91.** On October 17, For the first time in the history of major ports, Ship-to-Ship operation of LPG was undertaken at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port located in Kolkata, West Bengal. As a result of this pioneering initiative, the first ever STS Operation of LPG in Indian Coast was undertaken by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- For the 1<sup>st</sup> time, Ship-to-Ship operation of LPG was undertaken – at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (Kolkata, WB)
- First ever STS Operation was of LPG in Indian Coast was undertaken by – BPCL
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

**92.** On October 16, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated and laid foundation stones of various development projects from the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In Andaman and Nicobar Islands 14 projects worth Rs 299 Cr have been inaugurated and foundation has been laid of 12 projects worth Rs 643 Cr. With this, the government is starting development work of about Rs 1,000 Cr in a small area of Andaman Islands. Besides, he also announced the renaming of Mount Harriet as Mount Manipur. He also inaugurated a new bridge named as 'Azad Hind Fauj Bridge' & a new AYUSH Hospital in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. 49 Wellness Centers cum help Centers have also been set up. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Amit Shah – laid foundation stones of 12 projects from Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island in Andaman & Nicobar
- The 12 projects worth – Rs 643 Cr
- Amit Shah – also inaugurated 14 projects worth Rs 299 Cr in Andaman & Nicobar
- ‘Mount Harriet’ renamed as ‘Mount Manipur’ (located in Andaman & Nicobar Islands)
- Amit Shah – inaugurated ‘Azad Hind Fauj Bridge’ in Andaman & Nicobar
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair | Lieu. Governor – Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi

**93.** On October 18, The UIDAI has hosted a Hackathon titled “Aadhaar Hackathon 2021” from October 28 to 31 targeted at young innovators. Aadhaar Hackathon 2021 is themed around two topics - “Enrolment and Update” & “Identity and Authentication”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UIDAI – hosted a Hackathon titled “Aadhaar Hackathon 2021” targeted at young innovators from October 28 to 31
- HQs of UIDAI – New Delhi | CEO – Saurabh Garg | Founded on – January 28, 2009

**94.** In October 2021, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has launched Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS) on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav week organised by the Ministry of Earth Sciences. Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), an autonomous Institute of Ministry of earth Sciences has developed a new Decision Support System (DSS) & extended the ability of the existing AQEWS to have decision-making capability for air quality management in Delhi - NCR region. IITM, Pune has also developed a new website for DSS. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr Jitendra Singh – launched Air Quality Early Warning System
- IITM, Pune (works under MoES) – developed a new Decision Support System (DSS) & a new website for DSS
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Earth Sciences: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K

**95.** In October 2021, the government has set up an expert group to prepare a comprehensive tax policy proposal covering all tobacco products from a public health perspective. The 9 member panel is led by Vikas Sheel, additional secretary in the health ministry. The group has been formed to analyse the current tax structure of all forms of tobacco & suggest various tax rate models for the FY23 & future Union budgets & to have a roadmap for reducing tobacco demand according to WHO’s plans . Tobacco products are in the 28% GST slab. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government – set up a 9-member Expert Group to prepare a tax policy covering all tobacco products
- The panel is headed by – Vikas Sheel



**96.** In October 2021, Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha declared the much-awaited Crime & Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) project of J&K Police “Go-Live” & launched the “JK eCOP” Mobile Application. The app provides features like One Click access for locating the nearest Police Station, panic button to send distress message & provides all the important helpline numbers to the public. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- J&K – declared CCTNS project of J&K Police - “Go-Live”
- J&K – launched “JK eCOP” Mobile App to provide all police-related public services
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**97.** In October 2021, Chhattisgarh government has launched ‘Shri Dhanwantri Generic Medical Store’ scheme to provide medicines at affordable rates to consumers. 84 generic medicine shops were opened across the state on the inaugural day of the scheme. The scheme is being run by the Urban Administration & Development Department. Under this scheme, 188 medical stores will be opened in 169 urban bodies of the state. It will be mandatory for these medical stores to sell 251 types of generic medicines & 27 surgical products. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chhattisgarh – launched ‘Shri Dhanwantri Generic Medical Store’ scheme
- The scheme is being run by – Urban Administration & Development Department
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

**98.** In October 2021, Rajnath Singh launched Web Based Project Monitoring Portal (WPMP) for Military Engineer Services (MES) to enable real time monitoring of its projects. The portal has been developed by Gandhinagar based Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications & Geo-informatics (BISAG-G). The portal is the 1<sup>st</sup> project management Governance to be implemented by the MES. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajnath Singh – launched Web Based Project Monitoring Portal (WPMP) for Military Engineer Services (MES)
- Portal developed by – BISAG-G (Based in Gandhinagar)
- HQs of MES – New Delhi | Engineer-In-Chief – Lt. Gen. Harpal Singh | Established on – 26 September, 1923

**99.** In October 2021, British satellite operator Inmarsat Holdings Ltd has become the 1<sup>st</sup> foreign operator to get India’s approval to sell high-speed broadband to planes & shipping vessels. Inmarsat will access the market via Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Inmarsat Holdings Ltd – 1<sup>st</sup> foreign operator to get India’s approval to sell high-speed broadband
- Inmarsat will access the market via – BSNL
- HQs of BSNL – New Delhi | CMD – Pravin Kumar Purwar



**100.** In October 2021, The Central Government has constituted a Working Group (WG) to roll out an overhauled Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2022. The aim is to prevent quitting of the scheme by many states due to the share of premium. The group will be headed by Ritesh Chauhan (CEO of PMFBY).

**Key Points:**

- Central Government constituted a Working Group (WG) to launch an overhauled PMFBY from 'Kharif 2022'
- The group will be headed by – Ritesh Chauhan
- [PMFBY launched in – 2016](#) | [CEO of PMFBY – Ritesh Chauhan](#)

**101.** As part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, India will host young leaders aged under-35 from 75 democracies under the initiative "Gen-Next Democratic Network". Om Prakash Birla will inaugurate the event on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2021. The objective behind the event is to give the young leaders a comprehensive idea about India's rich democratic culture. The first batch will include leaders from Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Japan, Indonesia, Chile and Zambia. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – to host young leaders aged under-35 from 75 democracies under "Gen-Next Democratic Network" initiative
- It will be inaugurated by – Om Prakash Birla

**102.** On October 18, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has flagged off 'Modi Van' under the "Seva hi Sangathan" programme to commemorate PM Narendra Modi completing 20 years as an elected representative. 'Modi Van' will operate under the aegis of Kaushambi Vikas Parishad, which is run by BJP's National Secretary Vinod Sonkar. The van will help in the 100% registration under widow pension, disability pension and PM Kisan Samman Nidhi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amit Shah – flagged off 'Modi Van' under the "Seva hi Sangathan" programme
- It commemorates PM Narendra Modi completing 20 years as an Elected Representative

**103.** In October 2021, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin inaugurated 2 web portals 'e-Munnetram' & 'IT Nanban' developed by the IT Department. He also released 2 Tamil computing Software 'Keezhadi Keyboard' & 'Tamizhi – Tamizhinayam Unicode converter'. 'e-munnetram' provides the status of about 200 major infrastructure projects. 'IT Nanban' is an interactive platform to engage with the IT sector. It will enable IT/ITES companies to interact with the State government & also contribute to policy making. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu – inaugurated 2 web portals 'e-Munnetram' & 'IT Nanban'
- MK Stalin – also inaugurated 2 Tamil computing Software 'Keezhadi Keyboard' & 'Tamizhi'
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai](#) | [CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin](#) | [Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)



**104.** GAIL (India) Ltd will build India's largest green hydrogen-making plant of 10 MW capacity to supplement its natural gas business with carbon-free fuel. This was announced at the 5th edition of 'India Energy Forum' by CERAWEEK. NTPC has also announced to build a 5MW green hydrogen plant. India has targeted to use 15% natural gas by 2030 which is currently 6.2%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- GAIL – to build India's largest 10 MW Green Hydrogen-making plant
- NTPC – announced to build a 5MW Green Hydrogen Plant
- India's target to use 15% natural gas – by 2030
- HQs of GAIL – New Delhi | CMD – Manoj Jain
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975

**105.** In October 2021, Maharashtra Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray & home minister Dilip Walse-Patil inaugurated India's 1<sup>st</sup> state government-owned Wildlife DNA analysis laboratory at Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) in Nagpur. 3 fast-track DNA test unit at RFSL was also inaugurated along with the same facilities in Mumbai & Pune for cases registered under the Protection of Children From Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. These 5 labs were developed with the special fund of Rs 53 Cr under Nirbhaya Yojana of Central government. There are 2 central government-owned Wildlife DNA laboratory at Dehradun & Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maharashtra – inaugurated India's 1<sup>st</sup> state-owned "Wildlife DNA Analysis Laboratory" at RFSL in Nagpur
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**106.** In October 2021, Ircon International has handed over the newly commissioned cross-border rail section from Jaynagar to Kurtha to Government of Nepal. The 1st phase of 34.9 Km Jaynagar (India) - Kurtha (Nepal) section is part of 68.72 Km Jaynagar-Bijalpura-Bardibas rail link being built under Government of India grant assistance of NPR 8.77 billion. It will be the first broad gauge cross border rail link between India & Nepal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ircon International – handed over newly commissioned cross-border rail section from Jaynagar (Bihar) to Kurtha (Nepal)
- HQs of Ircon Int. – New Delhi | CMD – S K Chaudhary
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba

**107.** In October 2021, The Indian Railways has ordered to dissolve Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC). The stations managed by IRSDC shall be handed over to respective Zonal Railways. This is in line with recommendation from the cabinet secretariat to integrate, & undertake structural reforms in various bodies under Railways Ministry. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Indian Railways – ordered to dissolve Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC)
- Ministry of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Railways: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao & Darshana Vikram Jardosh

**108.** In October 2021, The government has notified Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2021 to incorporate the provisions related to nominal one-time compensation & uniform procedure for establishment of overground telegraph line in the Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016. Earlier the RoW Rules had covered only underground optical fibre cable (OFC) & mobile towers. The amount of one-time compensation for establishment of overground telegraph line has been fixed at maximum ₹1,000 per km. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government notified “Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2021”
- One-time compensation for establishment of overground telegraph line – maximum ₹1,000 per km
- Ministry of Communications: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Communications: Devusinh Chauhan

**109.** In October 2021, ‘Percept Live’ has officially announced the 15<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Sunburn Festival. This festival is Asia’s biggest electronic dance music festival. The festival will be held on 28, 29 & 30 December 2021 at Vagator, Goa & the theme for the same is “#Life is Calling”. Only Double Vaccinated guests will be permitted to attend the event. “Your Safety, Our Priority” will be the guiding principle for Percept Live. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 15<sup>th</sup> Edition of Sunburn Festival – to be held at Vagator, Goa on December 28, 29 & 30 by – ‘Percept Live’
- 2021’s Theme – “#Life is Calling”
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

**110.** In October 2021, Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has launched knowledge App & platform ‘CUNSULT’. This app is a forum for mentors to share their life experiences. The app is the 1<sup>st</sup> such global facility by which people who need information, advice, counsel, & guidance can contact & call up experts in multiple sectors on-the-go. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nitin Gadkari – launched ‘CUNSULT’ App & platform for mentors to share their life experiences

**111.** In October 2021, The Uttar Pradesh government has renamed the Faizabad railway junction to Ayodhya Cantt. The railway station comes under the Northern Railway zone. Earlier, Mughalsarai railway junction was also renamed as Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay junction. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Faizabad Railway Junction” (UP) – renamed as “Ayodhya Cantt” (under Northern Railway zone)
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**112.** On October 20, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kushinagar International Airport. On this occasion, Uttar Pradesh organised a 2-day conference titled “Tourism in Buddhist Circuit - A way forward” on 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2021 at Kushinagar. The conference was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Tourism, Culture & DoNER Shri G. Kishan Reddy. During his address Shri G Kishan Reddy highlighted the Buddhist circuit and Kapilvastu that is being developed as a part of the SWADESH Darshan scheme of Ministry of Tourism. Shri Narendra Modi also participated in an event marking the “Buddhist Abhidhamma Day” at the Mahaparinirvana Temple in Kushinagar on October 20. He also laid the foundation stone of Rajkiya Medical College in Kushinagar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PM Narendra Modi – inaugurated “Kushinagar International Airport” – in Uttar Pradesh
- PM Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone of ‘Rajkiya Medical College’ in Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh
- 2-day conference titled “Tourism in Buddhist Circuit - A way forward” – organised in Uttar Pradesh
- ‘SWADESH Darshan’ scheme – launched by Ministry of Tourism (in 2015)
- October 20 – “Buddhist Abhidhamma Day”

**113.** On October 26, The Union Cabinet has approved a 3% hike in dearness allowance (DA) for central government employees and dearness relief (DR) for pensioners from existing 28% to 31%. The new rates of DA and DR will be effective from July 1, 2021. The decision will benefit about 47.14 lakh central government employees and 68.62 lakh pensioners. In July 2021, DA rate was increased from 17% to 28%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved a 3% hike in DA & DR to 31% from existing 28% (effective from July 1, 2021)

**114.** On October 21, The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved “PM GatiShakti National Master Plan” including institutional framework for rolling out, implementation, monitoring and support mechanism for providing multi-modal connectivity. It was launched by PM Narendra Modi on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2021. PM GatiShakti NMP will be monitored in a three-tier system. Implementation framework includes Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGOS), Network Planning Group (NPG) and Technical Support Unit (TSU) with required technical competencies. EGOS will be headed by Cabinet Secretary and will consist of Secretaries of 18 Ministries as members and Head of Logistics Division as Member Convenor. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CCEA approved “PM GatiShakti National Master Plan” – launched by PM Narendra Modi
- ‘PM GatiShakti NMP’ will be monitored in a three-tier system
- Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGOS) set up to monitor ‘PM GatiShakti NMP’ – headed by Cabinet Secretary

**115.** Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated “Ayush Van”, a dedicated forest for Ayurvedic plants, at the Deendayal Port Trust (DPT) - Rotary Forest in Gujarat's Gandhidham city. The 'Ayush Van' was set up in 30 acres of land allotted by DPT in green-belt area. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Sarbananda Sonowal – inaugurated a dedicated forest for Ayurvedic plants “Ayush Van” – in Gandhidham, Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Devvrat
- Ministry of AYUSH: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of AYUSH: Munjapara Mahendrabhai

**116.** On October 19, Bhaskarabda, an era counted from the date of the ascension of a 7th-century local ruler, will be added to the Saka and Gregorian in the official calendar of the Assam government. The local calendar is counted from the date of the ascension of Bhaskaravarman, the 7th-century ruler of Kamrup and contemporary of Harshavardhana. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Assam – decided to add ‘Bhaskarabda’ to the Saka & Gregorian in its official government calendar
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**117.** In October 2021, To ensure faster, transparent and timely completion of election work, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has introduced the ‘Garuda’ app for digital mapping of all polling stations by adding latitude and longitude by booth-level officers (BLOs). BLOs will upload photos and location information of polling stations from their registered mobile numbers. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- ECI – launched ‘Garuda’ app for digital mapping of all polling stations
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Sushil Chandra (24<sup>th</sup>) | Formed on – 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950

**118.** On October 20, The Government has declared “Kalij Pheasant” as new State bird of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. This bird is also known as “Lophura Leucomelanos”. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Kalij Pheasant” – declared as new State bird of J & K
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**119.** On October 21, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Infosys Foundation made 806-bedded Vishram Sadan at National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Jhajjar Campus of AIIMS New Delhi. This is done as a part of Infosys’ Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated 806-bedded Vishram Sadan – at AIIMS, New Delhi
- It is made by Infosys foundation’s CSR
- HQs of Infosys – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Salil Parekh | Founded in – 1981



**120.** On October 21, NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched a Digi-Book "Innovations for You", an attempt to showcase the success stories of Atal Innovation Mission's Startups in different domains. The first edition of this book is focused on innovations in Health Care and soon other sectors shall follow. The book is a compilation of 45 health tech startups, incubated at Atal Incubation Centres spread across India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AIM (NITI Aayog) – launched 1<sup>st</sup> edition of a Digi-Book "Innovations for You" focused on innovations in Health Care
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav)

**121.** On October 20, With a sugarcane yield of 2,635 quintal per hectare, Subhash Chandra, a farmer from Bijnor district in Uttar Pradesh has won the "State-level Sugarcane Competition 2021". He received the prize money of ₹15,000 for his yield in the 'Early Plant' category. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Subhash Chandra (Bijnor, UP) – won the "State-level Sugarcane Competition 2021" – conducted by Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**122.** On October 24, Haryana government has announced to provide Smartwatches to the state's government officials to track their attendance as well as their movement during office hours. The Nagpur Municipal Corporation in 2018 became the first government body to introduce GPS-enabled smartwatches under the Smart City Project. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Haryana – announced to provide Smart-watches to the state's government officials to track their attendance
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

**123.** On October 23, Goa has achieved 100% implementation in major schemes such as open defecation free (ODF), electricity, piped water, ration to poor. PM Narendra Modi interacted with beneficiaries and stakeholders of AatmaNirbhar Bharat Swayampurna Goa programme via video conferencing. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Goa – achieved 100% implementation in major schemes such as ODF, electricity, piped water, ration to poor
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

**124.** On October 25, PM Narendra Modi has launched "PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission" from Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi with the total outlay of Rs. 64,180 Cr. It is touted to be one of India's largest pan-India schemes. Under the scheme, a National Institution for One Health, 4 new National Institutes for Virology, a Regional Research Platform for WHO South East Asia Region, 9 Biosafety level-III Laboratories, 5 new Regional National Centres for Disease Control will be set up. For making Uttar Pradesh a medical hub of India, Narendra Modi inaugurated 9 medical colleges in the state worth Rs 2,329 Cr. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – launched “PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission” from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- Total outlay of the Mission – Rs 64,180 Cr
- Narendra Modi – also inaugurated 9 medical colleges in Uttar Pradesh worth Rs 2,329 Cr
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**125.** On October 25, Department of School Education and Literacy had launched the “National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN) Bharat Mission” in July 2021 with the aim to achieve the goal of universal proficiency in foundational literacy and numeracy for every child by Grade 3. For implementation of the mission, a National Steering Committee (NSC) has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A National Steering Committee is constituted for the implementation of “NIPUN Bharat Mission”
- Chairman of the NSC – Dharmendra Pradhan

**126.** In October 2021, Dharmendra Pradhan has launched the phase-II of Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) for 2 years. Total 9 IIMs are the academic partner for classroom sessions for MGNF phase-II. IIM Bangalore was the academic Partner for phase-I. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dharmendra Pradhan – launched phase-II of “MGNF” for – 2 years

**127.** In October 2021, R K Singh, Union Minister of Power & New and Renewable Energy, launched the new market segment, “Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM)”. It will help in energy transition from fossil fuel to non-fossil fuel. Now any interested party can setup renewable energy capacity and sell it to Discoms/industries. National Load Dispatch Centre (NLDC), POSOCO, is the Nodal Agency for GDAM. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- R. K. Singh (Ministry of Power) – launched a new market segment “Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM)”
- Nodal Agency for GDAM – National Load Dispatch Centre (NLDC), POSOCO

**128.** In October 2021, Under the initiative ‘Swasth Mahila, Swasth Goa’, free breast cancer screening using ‘iBreast’ devices will be done for 1 lakh women in Goa. Also, free treatment will be provided for all positive cases with the support of the Government of Goa. The initiative was launched by cricketer Yuvraj Singh’s YouWeCan Foundation in partnership with SBI foundation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Yuvraj Singh’s YouWeCan Foundation – launched “Swasth Mahila, Swasth Goa” for breast cancer screening of women
- “Swasth Mahila, Swasth Goa” – was launched in partnership with SBI foundation
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai



**129.** On October 24, Former India captain and Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) president Mohd Azharuddin unveiled the world's biggest Cricket bat in Hyderabad. The bat is certified by the Guinness Book of World Records and designed by Pernod Ricard India. The bat measures 56.10 feet, weighs 9 tonnes and is made of poplar wood. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mohd Azharuddin – unveiled the world's biggest Cricket bat – in Hyderabad
- Length – 56.10 feet | Weight – 9 tonnes | Made of – Poplar wood

**130.** On October 26, The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in collaboration with global partners launched the first-of-its-kind and the largest 'Impact Bond' for skilling in India. The collaboration involves a \$14.4 million fund which will benefit 50,000 youth by making them employment ready. The Skill Impact Bond (SIB) is the first impact bond involving public, private partners and a public private partnership organisation, NSDC. The target group includes 60% women and girls and the objective is to equip them with skills and vocational training and provide access to wage-employment in Covid-19 recovery sectors. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NSDC – launched the first-of-its-kind & the largest 'Impact Bond' for skilling in India
- The collaboration involves a \$14.4 million fund which will benefit 50,000 youth
- HQs of NSDC – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Manish Kumar

**131.** On October 24, The Karnataka government has decided to rename the Mumbai-Karnataka region as Kittur-Karnataka. Former chief minister BS Yediyurappa had earlier renamed Hyderabad-Karnataka as Kalyana-Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Karnataka – to rename the 'Mumbai-Karnataka' region as 'Kittur-Karnataka'
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

**132.** Indian and international dance groups participated in the 3-day National Tribal Dance Festival organised in Raipur from October 28 to 30 under the tourism development plan of the Chhattisgarh government. The first edition of the National Tribal Dance Festival was held in 2019. The dance performances were held in two categories - 'Wedding Ceremonies' and 'Other Prominent Rituals'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 3-day National Tribal Dance Festival – organised in Raipur, Chhattisgarh (1<sup>st</sup> edition – in 2019)
- The dance performances were held in two categories: 'Wedding Ceremonies' & 'Other Prominent Rituals'
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey



**133.** On October 28, PM Narendra Modi approved the reconstitution of his Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) for a period of 2 years. Former Deputy Governor of RBI Rakesh Mohan, along with IIM Ahmedabad Professor T. T. Ram Mohan, and Director-General of the NCAER Poonam Gupta, are the 3 new members who will join the 7-member council that advises the Prime Minister of India on the country's Economy. The term of the previous EAC to the PM ended in September, 2021. Bibek Debroy has retained his position as the chairman of the EAC-PM since 2017. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – approved the reconstitution of his Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM) for a period of 2 years
- Rakesh Mohan + T. T. Ram Mohan + Poonam Gupta = joined the 7-member EAC-PM
- Chairman of EAC-PM – Bibek Debroy (since 2017)

**134.** On October 28, Union Minister of MSME Shri Narayan Rane has launched “SAMBHAV”, a National Level Awareness Programme-2021 being organised by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises in New Delhi. Under the 1-month long awareness programme, students from different colleges/ITIs from all parts of India will be encouraged by 130 field offices of the Ministry to take up entrepreneurship. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narayan Rane – launched “SAMBHAV” - a National Level Awareness Programme-2021 – organised by Ministry of MSME
- Ministry of MSME: Narayan Rane | Constituency – Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of MSME: Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

**135.** On October 28, A Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice N. V. Ramana has appointed a 3-member panel to enquire, investigate and determine whether Pegasus spyware was used for snooping on citizens during 2019. The panel comprises Naveen Kumar Chaudhary, Prabakaran P. & Ashwin Anil Gumaste and their probe would be monitored by former SC Judge R. V. Raveendran. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The SC appointed an expert panel led by R. V. Raveendran to probe Pegasus spyware
- The 3-member panel comprises: Naveen Kumar Chaudhary, Prabakaran P. & Ashwin Anil Gumaste
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana (48<sup>th</sup>)
- Retirement age of Chief Justices & Judges of HC – 62 years | Chief Justice of India & judges of the SC – 65 years

**136.** On October 26, The Radio over Internet Protocol (ROIP) System at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata was inaugurated for providing effective long-range marine communications. The ROIP system is introduced as a marine communication mode, for the first time in any major Indian port. SMT Port is the only riverine port in India. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- “Radio over Internet Protocol (ROIP) System” – inaugurated at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (Kolkata)
- Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port – the only riverine port in India (the rest are Coastal Ports)

**137.** On October 29, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai launched “Paryavaran Saathi” Chatbot and website to facilitate people’s participation in the fight against pollution. The chatbot has been made in partnership with UNICEF’s Yuwaah initiative. Besides, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia launched a parent outreach programme called “Parents Sammavad” to increase parents’ participation in their children’s education. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gopal Rai (Delhi) – launched “Paryavaran Saathi” Chatbot & website to fight against pollution
- Manish Sisodia (Delhi) – launched a parent outreach programme called “Parents Sammavad”
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**138.** On October 27, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin launched the “Illam Thedi Kalvi” (Education at Doorstep) scheme at Mudaliarkuppam in Villupuram district to promote education at all levels, right from school to university, for all sections of society. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu – launched the “Illam Thedi Kalvi” (Education at Doorstep) scheme at Mudaliarkuppam, Villupuram
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**139.** On October 27, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched a mobile application “Food Safety Connect” to connect with consumers and food business operators (FBOs). The app will help food businesses, particularly hawkers, vendors and start-ups, to apply for FSSAI registration through a faster and convenient mode. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- FSSAI – launched a mobile application “Food Safety Connect” to connect with consumers & FBOs
- HQs of FSSAI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rita Teotia | CEO – Shri Arun Singhal

**140.** On October 28, Chennai-Mysore Shatabdi Express has become the first Integrated Management Systems (IMS) certified train of Southern Railway, first Shatabdi of Indian Railways and second mail/express train on Indian Railways. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chennai-Mysore Shatabdi Express – became the first IMS certified train of Southern Railway
- HQs of Southern Railway – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | GM – John Thomas





**141.** In October 2021, the Textiles Ministry has approved a pilot project on skilling of design or commissioning technical personnel associated with application of Geo-textiles in infrastructure projects including roads, highways, railways and water resources. The project will be conducted concurrently by the IISc Bangalore, IIT Madras and IIT Roorkee. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Textiles Ministry – approved a pilot project on skilling of Design or commissioning Technical Personnel
- The project will be conducted by = IISc Bangalore + IIT Madras + IIT Roorkee
- Ministry of Textiles: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Textiles: Darshana Vikram Jardosh

**142.** In October 2021, Minister of Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the “Incubation Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (AIIA- iCAINE)” at All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi. The program was organized as a part of the celebrations of 6<sup>th</sup> Ayurveda Day on the theme “Ayurveda for Poshan”. A national seminar on “Start-ups in Ayush Sector - Scope and Opportunities (AYUR-UDYAMA)” was also organized as a part of the program. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sarbananda Sonowal – inaugurated “Incubation Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (AIIA- iCAINE)” in New Delhi
- Ministry of AYUSH: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of AYUSH: Munjapara Mahendrabhai

**143.** In October 2021, Uttarakhand forest department has inaugurated the biggest Aromatic Garden of India in Lalkuan of Nainital district. The garden has 140 different species of aromatic species from across India. The project has been funded under “CAMPA” (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) scheme of the central government. In 2006, ad hoc CAMPA was established for the management of Compensatory afforestation fund. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The biggest Aromatic Garden of India – inaugurated in Lalkuan, Nainital, Uttarakhand
- CAMPA scheme – launched by central government in 2006
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

**144.** Guwahati is among the three cities in the world chosen by WasteAid, UK-based non-profit organisation, to launch a Zero Waste Cities Challenge. The aim was to find entrepreneurs with innovative business ideas that can help reduce or recycle waste and create green employment opportunities. The non-profit has now chosen two winners from Guwahati - entrepreneurs from Shree Guru Plastic and Inside Out, for their work on promoting circular economy and reducing the usage of plastics. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Guwahati is among the 3 cities in the world chosen by WasteAid for the 'Zero Waste Cities Challenge'
- Guwahati has 2 winners for work on waste models
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**145.** On October 29, Ramky Enviro Engineers Ltd (REEL) has inaugurated India's largest landfill gas-to-compressed biogas (CBG) plant at Hyderabad Integrated Municipal Solid Waste in Telangana. The project is focused on the conversion of landfill gas into CBG for use as a vehicle fuel. The final product will be sold to Bhagyanagar Gas Limited through its retail outlets in Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- REEL – inaugurated India's largest landfill gas-to-CBG plant – at Hyderabad, Telangana
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

**146.** On October 31, India has launched its first manned ocean mission "Samudrayan", joining six other nations engaged in exploring the ocean depths for studies and research. The 'Samudrayan' project is undertaken by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) and will be a part of the ₹6,000 Cr Deep Ocean Mission. A deep-sea vehicle "Matsya 6000" is designed under 'Samudrayan' initiative to carry three persons. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India – launched its first manned ocean mission "Samudrayan" – from NIOT, Chennai
- The 'Samudrayan' project is undertaken by – National Institute of Ocean Technology (Chennai, Tamil Nadu)
- A deep-sea vehicle "Matsya 6000" will carry 3 persons under 'Samudrayan' initiative

**147.** On October 28, Ramdas Athawale, Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment inaugurated the 52<sup>nd</sup> edition of "India Handicraft and Gift Fair-Delhi Fair - Autumn 2021" held from October 28 -31, 2021 at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida Expressway. The Handicrafts exports during the 6 months of current financial year from April to September, 2021-22 is Rs 15,995.73 Cr registering a growth of over 60.34% over the same period in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ramdas Athawale – inaugurated the 52<sup>nd</sup> edition of "India Handicraft & Gift Fair-Delhi Fair - Autumn 2021" at India Expo Centre & Mart, on Greater Noida Expressway

**148.** On October 29, The Brahmaputra Mail Special became the first Mail/Express train of Indian Railways to run entirely on electric traction and it recently arrived at Kamakhya station in Guwahati, Assam. It is operated by the Northeast Frontier Railway zone. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- "Brahmaputra Mail Special" became the first Mail/Express train to run entirely on Electric Traction
- The train arrived at Kamakhya station in Guwahati, Assam | Operated by – Northeast Frontier Railway zone



**149.** On October 30, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched “Uttam Beej Portal”, which will benefit farmers of the state. The State is producing 30-35 lakh quintals certified seed of Wheat and other crops.

[{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Haryana – launched “Uttam Beej Portal” to benefit farmers of the state
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

**150.** On October 31, the Gujarat government launched its “e-Sarkar” app on a pilot basis in its effort to make administrative works paperless, quick and easy for citizens. The e-Sarkar app will be applicable to various government departments at the Secretariat, district and taluka levels. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gujarat – launched its “e-Sarkar” app on a pilot basis for paperless administration
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

**151.** In October 2021, the SEBI reconstituted a 7-member Technical Advisory Committee to recommend measures for changes and improvements in market structure in view of the technological changes. Dr. Deepak B. Phatak, Padma Shri & Professor of IIT Bombay, will be the Chairman of the committee. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI – reconstituted a Technical Advisory Committee to recommend measures for technical changes in market structure
- Chairman of the committee – Deepak B. Phatak
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

**152.** Enabling access to civic services and providing ease of living for all citizens, eGov Foundation’s “DIGIT” (Digital Infrastructures for Governance, Impact and Transformation) platform will now support the National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) with the objective of supporting effective citizen-centric governance. The NUDM aims to set up integrated platforms, to drive the digital initiatives of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to transform urban India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- eGov Foundation’s “DIGIT” platform will now support the “National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM)”
- DIGIT – Digital Infrastructures for Governance, Impact and Transformation

**153.** The 3-day 2<sup>nd</sup> “National Tribal Dance Festival” was observed on October 28, 2021 at Science College ground in Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh. It was jointly inaugurated by of Jharkhand's CM Hemant Soren and Chhattisgarh's CM Bhupesh Baghel. The dance performances will be held in two prominent categories - ‘wedding ceremonies’ and ‘other prominent rituals’. The first edition of the dance festival was held in 2019.

[{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- 3-day 2<sup>nd</sup> “National Tribal Dance Festival” – observed in Raipur, Chhattisgarh (first edition held in 2019)
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

**154.** In October 2021, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, in association with the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) launched “Dilli Bakes” - the first ‘One District, One Product’ in the bakery products category under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoFPI + NAFED = launched “Dilli Bakes” - the first ‘One District, One Product’ in bakery products category in Delhi
- Ministry of Food Processing Industries: Pashu Pati Kumar Paras | Constituency – Hajipur, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Food Processing Industries: Prahalad Singh Patel
- HQs of NAFED – New Delhi | MD – Sanjeev Kumar Chadha | Chairman – Bijender Singh

**155.** In October 2021, Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh L. Mandaviya launched a nationwide expansion of Pneumococcal 13-valent Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) as a part of ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’. It is for the first time in India that PCV would be available for universal use. Around 16% of deaths in children occur due to pneumonia in India. The nationwide roll-out of PCV will reduce child mortality by around 60%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mansukh L. Mandaviya – launched Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) under “Universal Immunisation Programme”
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar

**156.** In October 2021, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and Union minister for minority affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi jointly inaugurated the 30<sup>th</sup> edition of “Hunar Haat” in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The fair went on for 10 days. Over 500 handicraftsmen and skilled craftsmen from more than 30 states and Union territories participated in it. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pushkar Singh Dhami + Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi = inaugurated the 30<sup>th</sup> edition of “Hunar Haat” in Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- ‘Hunar Haat’ is organised by – Ministry of Minority Affairs
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh
- Ministry of Minority Affairs: Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi | Constituency – Jharkhand
- MoS in Ministry of Minority Affairs: John Barla



# International Affairs

**1.** In October 2021, Siemens & German rail operator “Deutsche Bahn” has unveiled world’s 1<sup>st</sup> automated & driverless train in the ‘Hamburg city’. The train will be sharing tracks with other regular trains. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Siemens + Deutsche Bahn (Germany) = unveiled world’s 1<sup>st</sup> automated & driverless train in ‘Hamburg city’
- HQs of Siemens Limited – Munich, Germany | President & CEO – Roland Busch
- HQs of Deutsche Bahn – Berlin, Germany | CEO – Richard Lutz
- Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier

**2.** The US has declared ‘Ivory-billed Woodpecker’ and 22 more species as Extinct. According to the UN, 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- US – declared ‘Ivory-billed Woodpecker’ and 22 more species as Extinct
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**3.** ONGC Videsh Limited has started its first exploratory drilling campaign in Bangladesh for finding oil and gas. The Production Sharing Contract (PSC) was signed between ONGC Videsh, OIL and Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration & Production Company Limited (BAPEX) in February, 2014. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- ONGC Videsh – started its first exploratory drilling campaign in Bangladesh for finding oil & gas
- HQs of ONGC Videsh Ltd – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Alok Kumar Gupta | Chairman – Subhash Kumar
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Seikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

**4.** On October 4, The Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) has launched its programme in Seychelles. India was chosen as the partner administration and has provided tax expert for this programme. TIWB is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). This programme is the 6<sup>th</sup> TIWB programme which India has supported by providing tax expert. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Tax Inspectors Without Borders – launched its programme in Seychelles
- India – chosen as the Partner Administration by providing tax expert (6<sup>th</sup> TIWB programme supported by India)
- TIWB – a joint initiative of UNDP & OECD



5. In October 2021, Venezuela has introduced a new currency with 6 fewer zeros. The million-to-1 change for the bolivar is intended to ease both cash transactions and bookkeeping calculations in bolivars. This is the third time Venezuela's socialist leaders have lopped zeros off the currency. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Venezuela – introduced a new currency with 6 fewer zeros
- [Venezuela – Caracas – Bolivar](#) | [President – Nicolas Maduro](#)

6. On October 7, India officially joined the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, a group of more than 70 countries encouraging the adoption of the global goal to protect 30x30. The group is co-chaired by Costa Rica & France and by the UK as Ocean co-chair. India is the 1<sup>st</sup> county from the BRICS nations to join this group. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – officially joined the “High Ambition Coalition for Nature & People” (1<sup>st</sup> county from the BRICS)
- The group is co-chaired by Costa Rica & France | Ocean co-chair – UK

7. On October 5, Denmark approved a plan to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) in Agriculture and Forestry sectors by 55% and 65% respectively by 2030. The emission target reduction is based on the GHGs emission level of 1990. Under this plan, Denmark has committed to reduce GHGs emission by 70% by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Denmark approved a plan to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG): 55% in Agriculture & 65% in Forestry by 2030
- Denmark committed to reduce GHGs emission by 70% by 2030
- [Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone](#) | [PM – Mette Frederiksen](#)

8. On October 6, World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended the first anti-malarial vaccine named “RTS, S” or “Mosquirix”. “RTS, S” was first authorised in 2015 by the European Medicines Agency for use in Africa in infants and children. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- WHO recommended the first anti-malarial vaccine named “RTS, S” or “Mosquirix”
- “RTS, S” was first authorised in 2015 by the European Medicines Agency for use in Africa
- [HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland](#) | [DG – Tedros Adhanom](#) | [Member Countries – 194](#) | [Founded in – 1948](#)

9. On October 9, The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has recognised access to a Clean & Healthy Environment as a fundamental right, formally adding its weight to the global fight against climate change and its devastating consequences. The World Health Organization estimates that some 13.7 million deaths a year, or around 24.3% of the global total, are due to environmental risks such as air pollution and chemical exposure. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- UNHRC – recognised ‘Access to a Clean & Healthy Environment as a Fundamental Right’
- HQs of UNHRC – Geneva, Switzerland | President – Nazahat Shameen Khan

**10.** On October 12, International Energy Agency (IEA) has invited India, the world’s third-largest energy consumer, to become its full-time member. Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri held online discussions with IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol. India in March 2017 became an associate member of the IEA. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IEA – invited India to become its full-time member
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol | Member countries – 30

**11.** The World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched the first-ever “Global Roadmap to Defeat Meningitis by 2030”. Meningitis is a debilitating disease that kills hundreds of thousands of people each year. WHO launched the strategy along with a broad coalition of partners like PATH, UNICEF, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and University College London. They also aim to reduce the overall deaths by 70%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- WHO – launched the first-ever “Global Roadmap to Defeat Meningitis by 2030”
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

**12.** On October 14, Bhutan and China signed an agreement on a ‘Three-Step Roadmap’ to resolve their boundary disputes. Since 1984, talks between Bhutan and China have largely focused on two separate areas of dispute, including Doklam and other areas in Bhutan’s West. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bhutan + China = an agreement on a ‘Three-Step Roadmap’ to resolve their boundary disputes
- Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum | PM – Lotay Tshering
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**13.** On October 14, China and Russia held a joint naval exercise called “Joint Sea 2021” off the Russian Far East in the latest sign of their growing political and military alignment. The exercise kicked off with a ceremony in Russia’s Peter the Great Gulf. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China + Russia = held a joint naval exercise called “Joint Sea 2021” in Russia’s Peter the Great Gulf
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin



**14.** On October 15, The United States has overtaken China to account for the largest share of the world's bitcoin mining, as per the data published by Britain's Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance. The US accounts for the largest share of mining, some 35.4% of the global hash rate as of the end of August 2021, followed by Kazakhstan and Russia. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- US – overtook China to account for the largest share of the world's bitcoin mining
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**15.** On October 18, India and Israel have agreed to resume negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) from November 2021. Israel has officially started the process of joining the India based International Solar Alliance (ISA), a global initiative that India has spearheaded. Based in Gurugram, ISA has 124 countries as its members and aims to harness solar energy to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Israel = agreed to resume negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) from November 2021
- Israel – started the process of joining the International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- HQs of ISA – Gurugram, Haryana | DG – Alok Sahay

**16.** On October 20, The Russian director Klim Shipenko stayed on the International Space Station (ISS) for 12 days shooting a sequence for the first film beyond Earth titled "The Challenge". With this, Yulia Peresild became first actor to shoot a film in space. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "The Challenge" - World's first film to be shot in space
- Director – Klim Shipenko (Russia) | Actor - Yulia Peresild (Russia)

**17.** On October 18, Spain has housed 'La Lloreria' or the 'Crying Room' to remove the mental health stigma in the society. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez recently announced a 100-million-euro (\$116 million) mental healthcare drive, which will include services such as a 24-hour suicide helpline. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Spain – housed 'La Lloreria' or the 'Crying Room' to remove the mental health stigma in the society
- Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez | President – Emmanuel Macron

**18.** On October 19, Ecuador's President Guillermo Lasso announced a 60-day State of Emergency amidst a rise in violent drug crimes. The government has pointed to drug trafficking and consumption as the underlying problem. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ecuador – announced a 60-day 'State of Emergency' amidst a rise in violent drug crimes
- Ecuador – Quito – US Dollar | President – Guillermo Lasso





**19.** On October 18, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has unveiled the “Bhoodan Grove” plaque at the Jerusalem Forest in Israel. Indian leaders who were exploring ways to implement the socialist ideals of the Sarvodaya movement namely, ‘Bhoodan and Gramdan’, made several visits to Israel to study the social structure of different forms of Israel’s communal and cooperative institutions - ‘Kibbutzim and Moshavim’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- S. Jaishankar – unveiled the “Bhoodan Grove” plaque in Israel
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Naftali Bennett

**20.** In October 2021, Invest India has been unanimously elected as the President of the Steering Committee of World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) for 2021-2023. As WAIPA President, Invest India shall be guided by Prime Minister Modi’s vision of “Vasudaiva Kutumbakam” to promote prosperity for all through sustainable investment. WAIPA is the primary nodal global agency for Investment Promotion Agencies & is a premier global platform for investment & trade. WAIPA was established in 1995 under the auspices of the UNCTAD, to promote the role of Investment Promotion Agencies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Invest India – elected as the President of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies for 2021-23
- HQs of Invest India – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Deepak Bagla | Established in – 2009 (under ministry of C&I)
- HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Rebecca Grynspan
- HQs of WAIPA – Geneva | Presidency – Invest India | Established in – 1995

**21.** On October 21, Former US president Donald Trump announced plans to launch his own social networking platform called “TRUTH Social”. The long-awaited platform will be owned by Trump Media & Technology Group (TMTG). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Donald Trump – announced plans to launch his own social networking platform called “TRUTH Social”

**22.** On October 18, During the 5 day official visit of External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar to Israel, he paid homage to the victims of the Holocaust in Jerusalem, Israel. India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United States decided to launch a new Quadrilateral Economic Forum (New QUAD). India and Israel agreed to resume negotiations on a “Free Trade Agreement (FTA)” from November, 2021 & conclude it by June, 2022. S. Jaishankar visited Israel’s ‘Ovda Airbase’ to meet the Indian contingent participating in the biennial “Blue Flag 2021” exercise involving Air Force missions from 8 countries. He also released a book titled “Bombay/Mumbai: City Heritage Walks” by an India born scholar Prof. Shaul Sapir. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Israel + UAE + US = to launch a new Quadrilateral Economic Forum (New QUAD)
- India + Israel = to resume negotiations on “Free Trade Agreement (FTA)” from Nov, 2021 & conclude it by June, 2022
- Biennial exercise “Blue Flag 2021” – held between India & Israel
- S. Jaishankar released – “Bombay/Mumbai: City Heritage Walks” book – written by Prof. Shaul Sapir

**23.** On October 21, Pakistan will continue to be on the 'Grey List' of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as it needs to further demonstrate that action is being taken against UN-designated terrorists like Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar. Three new countries - Turkey, Jordan, and Mali have also been added in the 'Grey List'. While Mauritius and Botswana were removed from the list. In June 2018, Pakistan was placed on the 'Grey List' of jurisdictions under increased monitoring. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- FATF – retained Pakistan on the 'Grey List' as on October 21, 2021
- Last time, Pakistan was 'Grey Listed' in June, 2018
- Three new countries added in the 'Grey List': Turkey, Jordan & Mali
- Two countries removed from the 'Grey List': Mauritius & Botswana
- HQs of FATF – Paris, France | President – Marcus Pleyer | Member Countries – 39

**24.** On October 20, Sri Lanka has received the first consignment of 3.1 million litres high quality non-harmful Nano Nitrogen liquid fertiliser from India to help the island nation's Eastern province in the cultivation of maize and paddy. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sri Lanka – received the first consignment of non-harmful Nano Nitrogen liquid fertiliser from India
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

**25.** In October 2021, Singapore has planned to launch standardised guidelines for 'Renewable Energy Certificates' (RECs) to decarbonise its power sector & develop a regional grid. The RECs are market-based instruments substantiating that electricity has been generated from renewable energy sources. One certificate represents that one megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity was generated from a renewable energy source and delivered to the grid. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Singapore – to launch standardised guidelines for RECs & develop a Regional Grid
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob

**26.** On October 25, India, along with Australia, the UK and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) will be launching a new initiative for "Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)" on the sidelines of the upcoming Conference of Parties (COP26). India, Australia and the UK have committed an initial funding of \$10 million for IRIS. SIDS comprises 58 countries in the Caribbean, Pacific, Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea regions. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Australia + UK + SIDS = to launch a new initiative called "IRIS" at COP26
- India + Australia + UK = committed an initial funding of \$10 million for 'IRIS'



**27.** On October 23, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's ceremonial but top legislative body, passed a new land law for the protection and exploitation of the country's land border areas, which will come into effect from January 1, 2022. China shares its 22,457-km land boundary with 14 countries including India, the third longest after the borders with Mongolia and Russia. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China – passed a new land law for the protection & exploitation of its land border areas (effective from Jan 1, 2022)
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**28.** On October 27, South Korea built the world's largest Hydrogen Fuel cell power plant. The Shinincheon Bitdram Fuel Cell Power Plant is a power plant with a total capacity of 78 MW constructed in four stages since 2017 by using fuel cells supplied by POSCO Energy and Doosan Fuel Cell. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- South Korea – built the world's largest 'Hydrogen Fuel Cell Power Plant' | Total capacity – 78 MW
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Moon Jae-in

**29.** In October 2021, Australia has given in-principle support for Net-Zero Carbon Emission by 2050. The National party's in-principle support for the target is a breakthrough for the Prime Minister Scott Morrison. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Australia – gave in-principle support for Net-Zero Carbon Emission by 2050
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

**30.** On October 29, Facebook Inc. changed its name to “Meta” (Meta Platforms, Inc.). Facebook's name change is the most definitive signal so far of the company's intention to stake its future on a new computing platform - 'Metaverse'. Meta is fundamentally an ancient Greek word, which means 'Beyond'. A new corporate logo is designed like an infinity-shaped symbol of blue colour. The term 'Metaverse' was first coined in 1992 in “Snow Crash” novel written by Neal Stephenson. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Facebook changed its name to “Meta” – to stake its future on a new computing platform - 'Metaverse'
- Meta – an ancient Greek word which means 'Beyond' | New Logo – Blue infinity-shaped symbol
- 'Metaverse' term was first coined in 1992 in “Snow Crash” novel written by Neal Stephenson
- HQs of Meta – California, US | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in – 2004

**31.** On October 29, The US Agency for International Development (USAID) announced the launch of a new, 5-year, \$49 million initiative called the “South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP)”. The SAREP will facilitate collaboration among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka to improve access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- USAID – launched a 5-year initiative called the “South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP)” worth \$49 million
- HQs of USAID – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Samantha Power | Founded in – 1961

**32.** The African Union (AU) has also suspended Sudan from the bloc over the unconstitutional seizure of power. Sudan's civilian and military leaders had been in a fragile power-sharing agreement for the past two years. Sudan will remain suspended until civilian rule in the country is restored. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- African Union – suspended Sudan from the bloc over the unconstitutional seizure of power
- Sudan – Khartoum – Sudanese Pound | PM – Abdalla Hamdok



# Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

1. In October 2021, The Reserve Bank of India has granted permission to Emirates NBD, the government-owned bank of UAE, to open two more branches in India. Emirates NBD has maintained a representative office in India since 2000 and got permission from RBI to open its first bank branch in Mumbai in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- RBI – granted permission to Emirates NBD (UAE) to open two more branches in India
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

2. In October 2021, ESAF Small Finance Bank has launched ‘Supreme’ a Current account product for Non-Resident Indians to provide various features such as enhanced ATM cash withdrawal limit of Rs 50,000 per day in India, point of sale (POS) transaction limit of Rs 80,000 per day in India and e-commerce transaction limit of Rs 20,000 per day in India. The bank began offering NRIs savings bank in June 2018 and current accounts in May 2021. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- ESAF Small Finance Bank – launched ‘Supreme’ a Current account product for NRIs
- HQs of ESAF SFB – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – K. Paul Thomas | Chairman – P R Ravi Mohan

3. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹1.02 Cr on Aditya Birla Money Ltd (ABML) for the violation of various regulations. It was found that AMBL is misleading the clients by understating losses and overstating profits. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- SEBI – imposed a penalty of ₹1.02 Cr on Aditya Birla Money Ltd
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

4. In October 2021, State Bank of India (SBI) has extended its partnership with TCS for another 5 years. This will support the bank’s ability to launch newer offerings & respond to business & regulatory changes. SBI has been using ‘TCS BaNCS’ for over two decades. In the most recent such engagement, TCS is helping build “Bharat Craft” - an omnichannel, online B2B e-commerce platform which would serve as a marketplace for MSMEs, jointly driven by SBI & the Government of India. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- SBI + TCS = extended the partnership for 5 years | SBI is using ‘TCS BaNCS’ for over two decades
- TCS – helping to build “Bharat Craft” - a B2B e-commerce platform for MSMEs | Platform is driven by – SBI & GoI
- HQs of TCS – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Rajesh Gopinathan | Founded in – 1968
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman



5. In October 2021, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched “6S Campaign” with focal theme of “Janta Se Jodna” to drive a special awareness campaign for the development of financial services in India. The campaign encapsulates six schemes such as - Swabhiman, Samruddhi, Sampark & Shikhar, Sankalp & Swagat under customer outreach programme. Through ‘Swabhimaan’, the bank aims to push the financial inclusion agenda by penetration of the three social security schemes namely ‘Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana’(PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana’(PMJJBY), & ‘Atal Pension Yojana’(APY). Through ‘Samruddhi’, the bank aims to drive credit outreach for the agricultural sector & cover all agricultural credit products like KCC, gold loans & investment credit etc. ‘Shikhar’, ‘Sankalp’ & ‘Swagat’ schemes will help MSME sectors. ‘Sampark’ scheme will focus on bank's mobile app “PNB One”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PNB – launched “6S Campaign” with Focal Theme – “Janta Se Jodna”
- “6S Campaign” encapsulates 6 schemes: Swabhiman, Samruddhi, Sampark, Shikhar, Sankalp & Swagat
- ‘Swabhimaan’ – for financial inclusion – by penetration of the three social security schemes
- ‘Samruddhi’ – for the agricultural sector & to cover all agricultural credit products
- ‘Shikhar’, ‘Sankalp’ & ‘Swagat’ – for MSME sectors
- ‘Sampark’ – for PNB mobile app “PNB One”
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao | Tagline – “The Name You Can Bank Upon”

6. In October 2021, IIFL Finance has launched instant business loan on WhatsApp to avail loan up to ₹10 lakh with minimum documentation & approval in five minutes. This is powered by an AI-bot that matches the users’ inputs to the loan offer & complete the procedure. Technological services will be provided by Setu. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIFL Finance – launched ‘instant business loan on WhatsApp’ to avail loan up to ₹10 lakh
- Technological services will be provided by – Setu
- HQs of IIFL Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Nirmal Jain | MD – Venkataraman Rajamani

7. In October 2021, Ezetap has partnered with Axis Bank to introduce “My Vyappar” for retail businesses in India. Through My Vyappar, Axis Bank will introduce a host of services for digital payments management for the merchants & incentivize them for using digital payments. “My Vyappar” offers various facilities like Buy Now Pay Later, EMI facilities & multilingual capability etc. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ezetap + Axis Bank = to introduce “My Vyappar” for retail businesses
- HQs of Ezetap – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Byas Nambisan
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”



**8.** In October 2021, The RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 30 lakh on 'Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd', Pune for non-compliance with specific directions issued by RBI under the Supervisory Action Framework (SAF) and RBI directions on 'Frauds in UCBs: Changes in Monitoring and Reporting mechanism'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – imposed a penalty of Rs 30 lakh on Janata Sahakari Bank (Pune)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- HQs of Janata Sahakari Bank – Pune, MH | Chairman – Shri. Madhav Ramkrishna Mate | Established in – 1949

**9.** In October 2021, 'Shivalik Small Finance Bank' (SSFB) has announced a strategic partnership with 'Go Digit General Insurance' to provide an array of instant, easy-to-understand insurance products through the bank's network of branches. This will include health insurance plans, motor insurance, & home & shop insurance. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SSFB + Go Digit General Insurance = signed a partnership to provide insurance products through the bank's network
- HQs of SSFB – Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Suveer Kumar Gupta
- HQs of Go Digit General Insurance – Bengaluru | CEO – Vijay Kumar

**10.** The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has partnered with YES Bank to launch a contactless payments solutions - "RuPay On-the-Go". This was launched in association with fintech infrastructure partner, Neokred, and manufacturing partner, Seshaasai at the 'Global Fintech Festival 2021'. The wearable payment solution would eliminate need to carry a physical card. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the 'Global Fintech Festival' was organised by the NPCI, Fintech Convergence Council (FCC) and Payment Council of India (PCI) under the theme of "FinTech: Empowering a Global Digital Economy". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NPCI + YES Bank = partnership to launch a contactless payments solutions - "RuPay On-the-Go"
- 2nd 'Global Fintech Festival' was organised by = NPCI + FCC + PCI
- Theme of the festival – "FinTech: Empowering a Global Digital Economy"
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – "Experience our Expertise"

**11.** In October 2021, Reserve Bank of India has issued a 'Small Finance Bank' licence to the "Centrum Group-BharatPe consortium". The consortium will take over the assets & liabilities of 'Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative' (PMC) Bank. Centrum's MSME & Micro Finance businesses will be merged into "Unity Small Finance Bank". Former SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar will be chairman of the BharatPe board. The joint venture will infuse Rs 1,800 Cr capital into PMC. In September 2019, the RBI had superseded the board of PMC Bank & placed it under regulatory restrictions. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- RBI – issued SFB licence to “Centrum Group-BharatPe consortium” (Name: Unity Small Finance Bank)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- HQs of BharatPe – New Delhi | Founder & CEO – Ashneer Grover
- HQs of Centrum Group – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Chandir Gidwani

**12.** In October 2021, Saraswat Bank & Axis Securities (ASL) have partnered to offer the bank’s customers a 3-in-1 account that comprises savings, demat & online trading, all in one account. This will make it easier to transfer funds quickly, reduce paperwork & provide a comprehensive platform to invest. This collaboration will broaden & improve the bank’s ability to offer integrated financial solutions to a diverse customer base. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Saraswat Bank + Axis Securities = to provide customers with a 3-in-1 account (Savings, Demat & Trading account)
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”
- HQs of Saraswat Bank – Mumbai | Chairman – Gautam Thakur
- HQs of Axis Securities – Mumbai | MD & CEO – B Gopkumar

**13.** In October 2021, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd announced the launch of ‘Micro ATMs’. Micro ATMs are small handheld devices. Customers of all banks who possess a debit card can use a Kotak Micro ATM for key banking services such as cash withdrawals & checking account balances. The bank will use its extensive Business Correspondents (BC) network to launch micro ATMs. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank – to launch small handheld devices “Micro ATMs” for key banking services
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let’s make money simple”

**14.** In October 2021, Indian Bank has added a host of new ‘digital wealth management products’ on its mobile banking app in partnership with Fisdom. Bank’s customers will get to invest in pension funds & digital gold & even file income tax returns online. Indian Bank is the seventh-largest public sector bank in India, after the merger with Allahabad Bank. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Indian Bank + Fisdom = added digital wealth management products on its mobile banking app
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Shanti Lal Jain | Tagline – “Your Own Bank”
- HQs of Fisdom – Mumbai | Co-founder & CEO – Subramanya SV





**15.** In October 2021, Walmart-owned PhonePe has collaborated with National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) Bharat Bill Pay Limited (NBBL) to launch "ClickPay" for its customers. PhonePe is one of the 1<sup>st</sup> platforms to enable support for ClickPay. ClickPay is a one-of-its-kind payment link that enables customers to make recurring online bill payments for electricity, gas, loan repayments, water bills, etc. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PhonePe + NBBL = to launch "ClickPay" for its customers
- HQs of PhonePe – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam | Founded in – 2015
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

**16.** In October 2021, State Bank of India and Indian Navy launched SBI's "NAV-eCash" card onboard India's largest naval aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya. The card will obviate the difficulties faced by personnel onboard in handling physical cash during deployment of the ship at high seas. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Navy + SBI = launched "NAV-eCash" card onboard INS Vikramaditya
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral Karambir Singh | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**17.** On October 5, Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB), sponsored by Canara Bank, has bagged two national awards ('APY Big Believers' and 'Leadership capital') from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for significant enrolment under the Atal Pension Yojana (APY). KVGB Chairman P. Gopi Krishna received the awards from PFRDA Chairman Supratim Bandyopadhyay at Chennai. So far, the bank has enrolled (cumulative) 2,30,432 accounts under APY. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank – received "APY Big Believers" & "Leadership capital" from PFRDA
- HQs of KVGB – Dharwad, Karnataka | Chairman – P. Gopi Krishna | Sponsored by – Canara Bank
- HQs of PFRDA – New Delhi | Chairperson – Supratim Bandyopadhyay | Founded in – 2003
- APY was launched by PM Narendra Modi – in 2015

**18.** On October 4, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave licence to the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) to start operations as the bad bank with a corpus of Rs 6,000 Cr. The license was issued under Section 3 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002. Recently, the Cabinet cleared a proposal to provide government guarantee worth ₹30,600 Cr to security receipts issued by NARCL. It will be 51% owned by PSBs and the remaining by private sector lenders. NARCL will pay up to 15% of the agreed value for the bad loans in cash and the remaining 85% would be government-guaranteed security receipts. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- RBI gave licence to the NARCL to start operations as the 'Bad Bank' with a corpus of Rs 6000 Cr
- Government approved the ₹30,600 Cr as a guarantee to back Security Receipts (SRs)
- Share of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in NARCL – 51%
- NARCL will pay agreed value for the bad loans through: 15% in cash & 85% via security receipts
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**19.** In October 2021, Government recently announced to fund infusion of Rs 1,650 Cr in the National Export Insurance Account (NEIA) to boost project exports. The NEIA Trust was set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in March 2006. It provides export credit insurance cover for promoting medium and long-term project exports from India. With this announcement, Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has targeted to achieve financing of USD 7 billion of project exports over the next 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Government announced to fund infusion of Rs 1,650 Cr in NEIA to boost project exports
- Exim Bank – targeted to achieve financing of \$7 billion of project exports over the next 5 years
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD – Harsha Bangari | Founded in – 1982

**20.** On October 4, In exercise of the powers conferred under 'Section 45-IE (1)' of the "Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934", the RBI has superseded the Board of Directors of two NBFCs - Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) and Srei Equipment Finance Limited (SEFL), owing to governance concerns and defaults in meeting their various payment obligations. The RBI has appointed Rajneesh Sharma (Ex-Chief General Manager of Bank of Baroda) as an Administrator to run these entities till NCLT process kicks in. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI superseded the Board of Directors of two NBFCs:
  - Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) & Srei Equipment Finance Limited (SEFL)
- Rajneesh Sharma – appointed as an Administrator of SIFL & SEFL
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**21.** On October 5, Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL) has received approval from the government for collection of direct and indirect taxes. With this, the bank becomes the first scheduled private sector bank to receive approval. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank – first scheduled private sector bank to receive approval for collection of direct & indirect taxes
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – "Let's make money simple"



**22.** Muthoot Finance has joined hands with Senseforth AI Research Pvt Ltd to launch “Mattu”, an AI-powered virtual assistant. The intelligent assistant enables users to apply for loans, address concerns, perform various transactions and much more. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Muthoot Finance + Senseforth.ai = to launch an AI-powered virtual assistant “Mattu”
- HQs of Muthoot Finance – Kochi, Kerala | MD & CEO – George Alexander Muthoot
- HQs of Senseforth.ai – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Shridhar Marri

**23.** The RBI has released its web publication entitled “Quarterly Basic Statistical Returns (BSR)-1: Outstanding Credit of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), June 2021” on its ‘Database on Indian Economy (DBIE)’ portal. Bank credit registered a 5.8% growth (y-o-y) in June 2021 (Q1 FY22) from 5.1% in Q4 of FY21. Personal loans growth accelerated to 14.8% on y-o-y basis. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI released “Quarterly Basic Statistical Returns (BSR)-1: Outstanding Credit of SCBs, June 2021”
- Bank credit registered 5.8% growth in June 2021 (Q1 FY22)
- Personal loans registered a 14.8% growth in June 2021 (Q1 FY22)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**24.** The SEBI has decided to introduce the concept of ‘swing pricing’ for all open-ended debt mutual fund schemes except overnight funds, gilt funds and Gilt with 10-year maturity funds. The framework will be applicable from March 1, 2022. Swing pricing is a mechanism by which fund houses can adjust a scheme’s net asset value (NAV) in response to the flows into or out of the fund. The SEBI has decided to implement ‘swing pricing’ only on redemptions above Rs 2 lakh from the scheme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI – to introduce the concept of ‘Swing Pricing’ for all open-ended debt mutual fund schemes – from March 1, 2022
- SEBI decided to implement ‘swing pricing’ only on redemptions above Rs 2 lakh from the MFs Scheme
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

**25.** In October 2021, Vested Finance, a platform for investing in foreign stocks for Indians has tied up with SBM Bank, the Indian subsidiary of State Bank of Mauritius for facilitating forex transfers. Vested users will be able to open accounts with SBM Bank and transfer money abroad at low costs. Clients transferring money to their US brokerage account will not face a fixed charge. They will only face a forex mark-up of 1.2%. Also, Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) was introduced by the RBI to facilitate Resident Individuals up to USD 2,50,000 outside India. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Vested Finance + SBM Bank India = for facilitating forex transfers at low cost (forex mark-up of 1.2%)
- Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) was introduced by – RBI
- HQs of Vested Finance – San Francisco, USA | CEO – Viram Shah
- HQs of SBM Bank India – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sidharth Rath
- SBM Bank India – the 1<sup>st</sup> foreign bank in India to obtain a banking licence from the RBI

**26.** In October 2021, Reserve Bank of India has authorised 'Karur Vysya Bank' to collect direct taxes on behalf of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). The bank customers can remit the direct taxes through any branch or through net banking or mobile banking services (DLite Mobile application). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Karur Vysya Bank – got approval from RBI to collect direct taxes on behalf of CBDT
- "DLite" - a mobile application of Karur Vysya Bank
- HQs of CBDT – New Delhi | Chairman – Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra | Formed in – 1944
- HQs of KVB – Karur, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – B. Ramesh Babu
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**27.** In October 2021, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) withdrew all restrictions imposed on Hindu Cooperative Bank Limited, Pathankot. Also, RBI has imposed a penalty of ₹1 lakh on 'The Kurla Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd' (KNS Bank), Mumbai for contravention certain norms related to Depositor Education & Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI – withdrew all restrictions imposed on 'Hindu Cooperative Bank Limited' (Pathankot, Punjab)
- RBI imposed a penalty of – ₹1 lakh on 'The Kurla Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd' (Mumbai, Maharashtra)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**28.** On October 5, BSE Technologies Private Limited (BSE Tech) has received an in-principle approval from RBI for setting up and operating Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) under the "Payments and Settlement Systems Act, 2007". TReDS is an electronic platform for facilitating the financing/discounting of trade receivables of MSMEs through multiple financiers. The minimum paid-up equity capital to set up and operate the TReDS is Rs 25 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- BSE Technologies – received an in-principle approval from RBI to set up & operate 'TReDS' under "Payments & Settlement Systems Act, 2007"
- TReDS – Trade **R**eceivables **D**iscounting **S**ystem | Minimum paid-up equity capital to set up TReDS – Rs 25 Cr
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**29.** In October 2021, The SEBI has directed mutual funds (MFs) to undertake minimum 25% and 10% of their monthly secondary market trades in Corporate Bonds and Commercial Paper respectively on the Request for Quote (RFQ) platform of stock exchanges. The higher limits will come into force with effect from December 1, 2021. Besides, the SEBI also modified REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts) & InvITs (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) regulations with respect to Exit Options. In such cases, the Exit Option Price would be enhanced by an amount equal to a sum determined at the rate of 10% per annum for the period between the first notice date and second notice date. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI – directed MFs to undertake minimum 25% of their monthly secondary market trades in Corporate Bonds & 10% in Commercial Paper
- SEBI – also modified REITs & InvITs regulations with respect to Exit Options
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

**30.** On October 5, PNB Housing Finance has joined hands with CSC e-Governance Services India to provide last-mile home loan facilities to individuals living in smaller cities i.e. tier 2 and 3 cities. CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle, has been set up by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) under the “Companies Act, 1956” to oversee the implementation of the CSC scheme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PNB Housing Finance + CSC e-Governance Services India = to provide home loan facilities in tier-2 & tier-3 cities
- HQs of PNBHF – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Hardayal Prasad | Tagline – “Ghar Ki Baat”
- HQs of CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd – New Delhi | CEO – Sanjay Kumar Rakesh | MD – Dinesh Tyagi
- CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd – set up by MeitY under the “Companies Act, 1956”

**31.** On October 6, Moody’s Investors Service has changed its outlook on India’s sovereign ratings from Negative to Stable. Now, Moody’s and Standard & Poor’s have a stable outlook on their ratings on India, while Fitch still has a negative outlook. All three rating agencies have given India the lowest investment grade. In Moody’s lexicon, India has ‘Baa3’ ratings. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Moody’s changed its outlook on India’s sovereign ratings from Negative to Stable
- Now, Outlook on India’s sovereign ratings: Moody’s – Stable | S&P – Stable | Fitch Ratings – Negative
- HQs of Moody’s – New York, USA | CEO – Robert Fauber

**32.** On October 7, BharatPe has announced its entry into the ‘Buy Now Pay Later’ (BNPL) category with the launch of its product - ‘Postpe’. Postpe provides credit to customers to buy now and pay later, for anything, and from anywhere. Customers can avail interest-free credit limit of up to Rs 10 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- BharatPe – launched “Postpe” & entered into the ‘Buy Now Pay Later’ (BNPL) category
- HQs of BharatPe – New Delhi | Founder & CEO – Ashneer Grover | Chairman – Rajnish Kumar

**33.** On October 8, In a bid to promote digital transactions, the RBI proposed to increase per transaction limit from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh through Immediate Payment Service (IMPS). In addition, the RBI also proposed to introduce a framework for Retail Digital Payments in offline mode across India. It is also proposed to introduce a framework for leveraging Geo-tagging technology for capturing exact location information on all existing and new PA infrastructure viz., Point of Sale (PoS) terminals, Quick Response (QR) Codes, etc. Moreover, the RBI's Regulatory Sandbox (RS) has announced 4<sup>th</sup> cohort with the theme of ‘Prevention & Mitigation of Financial Frauds’. The RBI also introduced “Internal Ombudsman Scheme” for the NBFCs, while Priority Sector Lending (PSL) facility by Banks to NBFCs was extended till March 31, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced:
  - to increase per transaction limit from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh through IMPS
  - to introduce a framework for ‘Retail Digital Payments’ in offline mode across India
  - to introduce a framework for leveraging ‘Geo-tagging Technology’ for capturing exact location information
  - 4<sup>th</sup> cohort under the ‘Regulatory Sandbox’ initiative | Theme – “Prevention & Mitigation of Financial Frauds”
  - introduced “Internal Ombudsman Scheme” for the NBFCs
  - extended PSL facility by Banks to NBFCs – till March 31, 2022
- Themes of cohorts under the ‘Regulatory Sandbox’ initiative:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - “Retail Payments” | 2<sup>nd</sup> - “Cross-Border Payments” | 3<sup>rd</sup> - “Prevention & Mitigation of Financial Frauds”
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**34.** On October 8, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced to extend the tap on Special Long-Term Repo Operations (SLTRO) for Small Finance Banks (SFBs) till December 31, 2021. A 3-year SLTRO facility of ₹10,000 Cr at the repo rate was made available to SFBs in May 2021 to be deployed for fresh lending of up to ₹10 lakh per borrower. This facility was made available till October 31, 2021. Besides, in its 4<sup>th</sup> Bi-monthly monetary policy statement, the RBI retained India's GDP for FY22 at 9.5% & India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation in FY22 at 5.3%. While, other rates (RR, RRR, BR, MSF, CRR, SLR) were kept unchanged for the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive time. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI extended the tap on SLTRO for Small Finance Banks (SFBs) – till December 31, 2021
- 3-year SLTRO facility of ₹10,000 Cr at the repo rate was made available to SFBs in May 2021 (till October 31, 2021)
- Under SLTRO facility: Fresh lending of up to ₹10 lakh per borrower
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**35.** On October 8, Based on the recommendation of Controller General of Accounts, Ministry of Finance, Federal Bank has been authorized by Reserve Bank of India for collection of Direct and Indirect Taxes, on behalf of CBDT and CBIC. Federal Bank customers will soon be able to pay their Direct and Indirect taxes through the Bank's various digital platforms like FedMobile (Mobile Banking app), FedNet (Net Banking), Fedebiz (Corporate Digital Banking), and through wide branch network. The bank also upgraded its mobile banking app - 'FedMobile'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Federal Bank – authored by the RBI for collection of Direct & Indirect Taxes on behalf of CBDT & CBIC
- 'FedMobile' – a mobile banking app of Federal Bank
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – “Your Perfect Banking Partner”
- HQs of CBDT – New Delhi | Chairman – Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra | Formed in – 1944
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar | Founded in – 1964

**36.** On October 8, IndusInd Bank has been authorised by the Reserve Bank of India for collection of direct and indirect taxes on behalf of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). The authorization has been awarded on the basis of recommendation from the Controller General of Account (CGA) as well as the Ministry of Finance. With this, IndusInd Bank customers will soon be able to pay their Direct and Indirect taxes through the Bank's state-of-the-art digital platforms such as 'Indusnet' - its net banking platform and 'IndusMobile' - its mobile banking application. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IndusInd Bank – authored by the RBI for collection of Direct & Indirect Taxes on behalf of CBDT & CBIC
- Other two banks previously authored for the same: Federal Bank & Karur Vysya Bank
- 'IndusMobile' – a mobile banking app of IndusInd Bank
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – “We Make You Feel Richer”
- HQs of CBDT – New Delhi | Chairman – Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra | Formed in – 1944
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar | Founded in – 1964

**37.** In October 2021, Agri-fintech firm 'Dvara E-Dairy Solutions Pvt Ltd' has entered into a partnership with Jana Small Finance Bank (Jana SFB) to service small dairy farmers. Dvara E-Dairy will empower small & medium dairy farmers with financial & cattle management solutions using digital technologies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jana SFB + Dvara E-Dairy Solutions = entered a partnership to service small dairy farmers
- HQs of Jana SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Ajay Kanwal
- HQs of Dvara E-Dairy Solutions – Chennai | CEO – Ravi KA

**38.** On October 13, Indian Bank has picked up 13.27% stake in the proposed bad bank National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL). While SBI, Union Bank of India and PNB picked up over 12% stake each in NARCL. As per the Indian bank, the investment of 13.27% would be reduced to 9.90% by December 31, 2021. Earlier, Government had approved the ₹30,600 Cr as a guarantee to back Security Receipts (SRs) which will be issued by NARCL. NARCL is 51% owned by Public Sector Banks (PSBs). NARCL will acquire bad loans or stressed assets worth Rs 2 lakh Cr from banks via 15% in cash and the remaining 85% will be government-guaranteed Security Receipts (SRs). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Bank – picked up 13.27% stake in the NARCL
- SBI + UBI + PNB = picked up over 12% stake each in NARCL
- MD of the NARCL – Padmakumar Madhavan Nair | Lead Sponsor – Canara Bank (with 12% equity)

**39.** On October 14, After Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank is now integrated with TN Govt's IFHRMS (Integrated Finance Human Resource Management System) portal designed for collection of all treasury receipts. IFHRMS portal is developed as a comprehensive management system by integrating Human Resources and Financial services to improve operational efficiency. In this connection, IOB has launched an NPS Campaign until October 31. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IOB is now integrated with TN Govt's IFHRMS (after Indian Bank)
- HQs of IOB – Chennai, TN | MD & CEO – Partha Pratim Sengupta | Tagline – “Good people to grow with”
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**40.** In October 2021, The world's 20 biggest economies (G20) are set to endorse a landmark deal on a Global Minimum Corporate Tax Rate of 15% and will aim to implement the rules by 2023. Under Pillar One, taxing rights on over \$125 billion of profit are expected to be reallocated to market jurisdictions each year. Pillar Two introduces a global minimum corporate tax rate set at 15%. The new minimum tax rate will apply to firms with revenue above €750 million and is estimated to generate around \$150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- G20 is set to endorse 'Global Minimum Corporate Tax Rate' of 15% from 2023
- New minimum tax rate will apply to firms with revenue above €750 million
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2021 – Italy | 2022 – Indonesia | 2023 – India | 2024 – Brazil

**41.** In October 2021, The Ministry of Finance has kept interest rates on Small Savings Schemes (SSS) unchanged for the Q3 of 2021-22. As per the ministry circular, Public Provident Fund (PPF) will continue to earn 7.1%, the National Savings Certificate (NSC) will fetch 6.8%, and the Post Office Monthly Income Scheme Account will earn 6.6%. Senior Citizens Savings Scheme & Sukanya Samridhi Yojana account will earn interest rates of 7.4% & 7.6% respectively. [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- Ministry of Finance kept interest rates on Small Savings Schemes (SSS) unchanged for the Q3 of 2021-22
- Public Provident Fund (PPF) – 7.1% | National Savings Certificate (NSC) – 6.8%
- Senior Citizens Savings Scheme – 7.4% | Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana – 7.6%
- Post Office Monthly Income Scheme – 6.6%
- The Small Savings Schemes consist of – 12 Schemes

**42.** On October 19, The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a fine of Rs 1 Cr on State Bank of India for failing to comply with fraud classification rules. RBI had conducted a probe in accounts maintained with SBI and had found it deficient in reporting frauds. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI imposed a fine of Rs 1 Cr on SBI for failing to comply with fraud classification rules
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**43.** In October 2021, Bharti AXA Life Insurance has entered into a bancassurance partnership with Utkarsh Small Finance Bank to distribute its life insurance products. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Bharti AXA Life Insurance + Utkarsh SFB = Bancassurance partnership
- HQs of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank – Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Govind Singh
- HQs of Bharti AXA Life Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – **Parag Raja**

**44.** In October 2021, HDFC Bank, Mastercard, the US government's Development Finance Corporation (DFC) & the US Agency for International Development (USAID) have launched a \$100 million credit facility to help Indian small businesses. Through this partnership, USAID will help facilitate access to finance & support the digitisation journey for women-owned small businesses & entrepreneurs. The aid would be available for new-to-credit small businesses owners, including at least 50% of women entrepreneurs. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- HDFC Bank + Mastercard + DFC + USAID = launched a \$100 million credit facility to help Indian small businesses
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, US | CEO – Michael Miebach | Founded in – 1966
- HQs of USAID – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Samantha Power | Founded in – 1961



**45.** On October 18, The RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.95 Cr on Standard Chartered Bank for not complying with various directions issued by the central bank with regard to 'customer protection', 'cyber security framework in banks', 'credit card operations of banks, and 'creation of a central repository of large common exposures'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.95 Cr on Standard Chartered Bank
- HQs of SCB – London, UK | CEO – Bill Winters
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**46.** In October 2021, ITILITE, a business travel & expense management platform has tied up with ICICI Bank to issue commercial credit cards for businesses in India. ICICI bank will issue the CTA card to businesses, while ITILITE will offer a digital, automated, & cost-effective travel & expense management platform. Businesses can use the CTA card to recharge their ITILITE wallet & make travel bookings on behalf of their employees. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ITILITE + ICICI Bank = an MoU to issue Commercial Credit Cards for businesses
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Taglines – “Hum Hain Na!” & “Khayal Apka”

**47.** In October 2021, Rupifi & Flipkart Wholesale have partnered to offer Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) offering to the MSMEs shopping on Flipkart Wholesale. To ease customer onboarding on the platform, Flipkart Wholesale & Rupifi team have designed a multilingual application. This partnership enables Kiranas & MSMEs members on Flipkart Wholesale get instant & digital credit, with flexible repayment terms & transparent pricing. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rupifi + Flipkart Wholesale = to offer 'Buy Now, Pay Later' to the MSMEs
- HQs of Rupifi – Bengaluru | CEO – Anubhav Jain
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy

**48.** In October 2021, In a first for any NBFC in India, REC Limited, a Navratna NBFC has successfully raised USD 75 million (about Rs 561 Cr) 5-year Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) linked Syndicated Term Loan with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC). It shall be utilised to fund power sector projects as permitted under the external commercial borrowing (ECB) guidelines of the RBI. Along with the loan, REC has also entered into interest rate swap referencing Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) to hedge the interest rate risk on this facility, which is the first such deal by any corporate in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- REC Limited – raised \$75 million 5-year SOFR linked Syndicated term loan with SMBC to fund power sector projects
- REC Limited – entered into interest rate swap referencing 'SOFR'
- HQs of REC Limited – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Sanjay Malhotra | Founded in – 1969



**49.** In October 2021, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched NPCI Tokenization System (NTS) to support tokenisation of RuPay cards. NTS will support tokenisation of RuPay as an alternate to storing card details with merchants. Businesses can maintain their RuPay consumer base utilizing TROF (Token Reference On File) for future transactions initiated by their respective RuPay consumers. Card tokenisation is a process that replaces details of a card with an encrypted algorithmically generated token. The token is generated either by the card issuer or payments network. The RBI has mandated tokenisation of cards from 1 January 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NPCI – launched “NPCI Tokenization System” to support tokenisation of RuPay cards
- Businesses can maintain RuPay consumer base utilizing TROF for future transactions
- RBI mandated tokenisation of cards from – 1 January 2022
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**50.** In October 2021, Kotak Mahindra Bank has tied up with Pine Labs to expand its point-of-sale (PoS) services to more merchants. This MoU opens up a significant market opportunity for the bank to onboard new merchants & offer them an integrated PoS-plus suite of digital payments & banking products proposition. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kotak Mahindra Bank + Pine Labs = to expand point-of-sale services to merchants
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let’s make money simple”
- HQs of Pine Labs – Noida, UP | CEO – B Amrish Rau

**51.** In October 2021, India Infrastructure Finance Co. Ltd. (IIFCL) will finance Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InVITs), adding a new funding avenue for infrastructure projects. IIFCL has received approval from the RBI to back InVITs & will spend about ₹4,000 Cr in this segment this fiscal. InVITs are emerging as a key instrument in the infrastructure sector offering more liquidity & flexibility for developers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIFCL – to finance InVITs & will spend about ₹4,000 Cr in this segment
- HQs of IIFCL – New Delhi | MD – Padmanabhan Raja Jaishankar

**52.** In October 2021, Union Bank of India has signed an MoU with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Hyderabad under which C-DAC will assist the bank to impart cyber security awareness & education to customers & employees. As part of the National Cyber Security Awareness month (October), the bank launched an e-book & Spin-N-Learn, an online game on its website. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- UBI + C-DAC = an MoU to assist the bank to impart Cyber Security awareness
- UBI – launched an e-book & an online game ‘Spin-N-Learn’
- October – “National Cyber Security Awareness Month”
- HQs of C-DAC – Pune, Maharashtra | Senior Director – Mahesh Kulkarni
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”

**53.** In October 2021, Razorpay announced the launch of ‘Razorpay TokenHQ’, India’s 1<sup>st</sup> multi-network Card-on-File (CoF) tokenization solution. Razorpay will be the first payment gateway to launch Tokenization solutions across Mastercard, RuPay, & Visa. Using Razorpay TokenHQ, businesses would be able to create, process, delete & modify tokens for online card payments with customers’ consent. Recently, RBI introduced new guidelines disallowing businesses, payment aggregators, & acquiring banks, from storing customers’ credit/debit/prepaid card information. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Razorpay – to launch ‘Razorpay TokenHQ’ - India’s 1<sup>st</sup> multi-network Card-on-File tokenization solution
- HQs of Razorpay – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Harshil Mathur
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**54.** In October 2021, AU Small Finance Bank unveiled a sound box that provides instant voice-based payment alerts to merchant partners. It is made available in five languages - Hindi, English, Punjabi, Gujarati & Marathi. The QR Code Sound Box will enhance the bank’s reach in digital payments. Paytm had introduced a similar feature in March this year. AU Small Finance Bank is the first & only small finance bank to have launched credit cards. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- AU Small Finance Bank – unveiled a voice-based Payment Alerts Sound Box (available in 5 languages)
- HQs of AU SFB – Jaipur, Rajasthan | MD & CEO – Sanjay Agarwal | President – Sharad Goklani

**55.** In October 2021, Private sector general insurer Future Generali India Insurance (FGII) has entered into a bancassurance tie-up with the Bank of India (BoI) for further penetration of its general insurance products. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- FGII + BoI = bancassurance agreement to promote General Insurance Products
- HQs of BoI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Atanu Kumar Das | Tagline – “Relationship Beyond Banking”
- HQs of FGII – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Anup Rau

**56.** On October 20, The RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1 Cr on Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) over certain specified violations. The central bank also imposed a fine of over ₹27 lakh on cross-border in-bound service operator Western Union Financial Services Inc (WUFSI) for non-compliance with certain provisions of the directions contained in the Master Direction on Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS Directions) dated February 22, 2017. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1 Cr on Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)
- RBI – imposed a fine of over ₹27 lakh on Western Union Financial Services Inc (WUFSI)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935
- HQs of PPBL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Satish Kumar Gupta
- HQs of WUFSI – Colorado, US

**57.** On October 20, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced the launch of the NPCI Tokenization System (NTS) that will support tokenization of cards as an alternative to storing card details with merchants. The NPCI's Token Reference On File (TROF) service will help millions of RuPay cardholders maintain the security of their financial data. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NPCI – launched the “NTS Platform” (NPCI Tokenization System) to support tokenization of cards
- NPCI's **Token Reference On File (TROF)** service will help millions of RuPay cardholders maintain data security
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

**58.** In October 2021, HDFC Ltd & India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) have entered into a strategic alliance to offer home loans to customers of IPPB. As per the MoU, credit, technical and legal appraisals, processing, and disbursement for all home loans will be handled by HDFC Ltd, while IPPB will be responsible for sourcing of loans. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HDFC Ltd + IPPB = a strategic alliance to offer home loans to customers of IPPB
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Sushil Chandra (24<sup>th</sup>) | Formed on – 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Venkatram Jayanthi | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> Sep, 2018

**59.** In October 2021, ICICI Lombard has introduced a new initiative “BeFit”. It will be serviced through its “ILTakeCare” app. It provides customers with the benefits of OPD services i.e. doctor consultation, pharmacy & diagnostics services, and physiotherapy sessions in a cashless manner. The pharmacy service provides with its express service, i.e. medicine delivered at home within 60 minutes and lab tests both at home and centre visit. The product also offers 24 x 7 consultations (tele and virtual) by a panel of expert doctors. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- ICICI Lombard – introduced a new initiative “BeFit” to provide customers with the benefits of OPD services
- ICICI Lombard’s app – “ILTakeCare”
- HQs of ICICI Lombard – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Bhargav Das Gupta

**60.** In October 2021, IndiGo & Kotak Mahindra Bank announced a strategic partnership to launch a co-branded credit card, Ka-ching under the 6E Rewards programme. 6E is the airline code for IndiGo. The co-branded card will be available in two variants – ‘6E Rewards’ & ‘6E Rewards XL’. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- IndiGo + Kotak Mahindra Bank = partnership to launch a co-branded credit card - “Ka-ching”
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let’s make money simple”
- HQs of IndiGo – Gurugram, Haryana | CEO – Ronojoy Dutta

**61.** On October 23, The RBI has introduced a revised Scale-based Regulatory Framework for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), which will be effective from 1 October, 2022. The scale-based Regulatory Framework will comprise of 4 layers based on their size, activity, and perceived riskiness. Under the new framework, the RBI has tweaked the Non-Performing Asset (NPA) classification to more than 90 days for all categories of NBFCs. Based on their size & activity, NBFCs are mainly categorised into 3 layers - Base Layer, Middle Layer & Upper Layer. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI – introduced a revised Scale-based Regulatory Framework for NBFCs effective from October 1, 2022
- RBI tweaked the NPA classification to more than 90 days for all categories of NBFCs
- NBFCs are mainly categorised into 3 layers – Base Layer, Middle Layer & Upper Layer
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**62.** On October 23, The RBI has released a draft framework on master directions to implement the “Basel III Capital Framework for All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs)” including EXIM Bank, NABARD, NHB, and SIDBI. The draft directions propose minimum capital ratio of 11.5% of total risk weighted assets (RWA) effective from July 1, 2022. They also propose AIFIs to maintain a capital conservation buffer in the form of common equity at 2.5% of RWA, in addition to the minimum capital adequacy ratio of 9%. The draft regulations proposed raising common equity in tier-1 capital to 5.5% of RWA and proposed the minimum tier-1 capital at 7%. All India Financial Institutions’ (AIFIs) investments in the capital instruments should be limited to 10% of the investing bank’s capital funds. For improving the quality of banking supervision, three sets of regulations known as Basel-I, II, and III were issued by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI – released a draft framework to implement the “Basel III Capital Framework for AIFIs”
- Ratios effective from July 1, 2022:
  - Minimum Capital Ratio: 11.5%
  - Minimum Capital Adequacy Ratio: 9%
  - Capital Conservation Buffer: 2.5%
  - Common Equity In Tier-1 Capital: 5.5%
  - Minimum Tier-1 Capital: 7%
- AIFIs investments in the capital instruments should be limited to 10% of the investing bank’s capital funds
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**63.** On October 18, RBL Bank has launched the new digital platform named “Abacus 2.0”. It would enable the bank to provide products and services to new as well as existing customers digitally. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- RBL Bank – launched the new digital platform named “Abacus 2.0”
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Vishwavir Ahuja | Chairman – Prakash Chandra

**64.** On October 26, Yes Bank has launched a new category of savings account named “YES Family” proposition enabling customers to care for the well-being of everyone in their family. The proposition is available across YES Prosperity, YES Premia and YES FIRST programs to cater to different customer segments. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Yes Bank – launched a new category of savings account named “YES Family” proposition
- Yes Family accounts include 3 programmes: YES Prosperity, YES Premia & YES First
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”

**65.** On October 27, SBI General Insurance announced its technological collaboration with Google Pay that will enable users to buy SBI General’s health insurance on the Google Pay app. This collaboration marks Google Pay’s first such alliance with any insurer in India. Users will be able to buy both individual and family plans under ‘Arogya Sanjeevani’ policy through ‘Google Pay Spot’. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- G-Pay + SBI General Insurance = first collaboration with any insurer in India
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998
- HQs of SBI Gen Ins. – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Prakash Chandra Kandpal | Tagline – “Suraksha aur Bharosa Dono”



**66.** On October 25, Future Generali India Insurance (FGII) has entered into a bancassurance tie-up with the Bank of India (BoI) for further penetration of its general insurance products. Through this alliance, FGII will offer its wide array of best-in-class and innovative insurance solutions to 5,084 BoI branches. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Future Generali India Insurance + BoI = a bancassurance tie-up
- HQs of FGII – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Anup Rau
- HQs of BoI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Atanu Kumar Das | Tagline – “Relationship Beyond Banking”

**67.** On October 28, The government announced the appointment of veteran banker K. V. Kamath as Chairperson of the newly set up ₹20,000 Cr National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID). Mr. Kamath completed his 5-year tenure in 2020 as the first head of the New Development Bank set up by the BRICS group of countries. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- K. V. Kamath – appointed as the Chairperson of the newly set up ‘NaBFID’ with a corpus of ₹20,000 Cr

**68.** On October 27, Karnataka Bank has been conferred with the “Top Organizations with Innovative HR Practices” award at the 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the Asia Pacific HRM Congress held in Bengaluru, Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Karnataka Bank – conferred with the “Top Organizations with Innovative HR Practices” award
- 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the Asia Pacific HRM Congress – held in Bengaluru, Karnataka
- HQs of Karnataka Bank – Mangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Mahabaleshwara M. S. | Chairman – Pradeep Kumar Panja

**69.** On October 27, Sunfresh Agro Industries Pvt Ltd (SAIPL) and State Bank of India (SBI) have joined hands to extend financial support to the dairy farmers in Maharashtra. The credit facility through SBI will help in improving animal health, yield and milk quality in addition to enabling marginal farmers to own more cattle. Sunfresh Agro owns dairy brand ‘Prabhat’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sunfresh Agro Industries + SBI = partnership to extend financial support to the dairy farmers in Maharashtra
- Sunfresh Agro owns dairy brand ‘Prabhat’
- Location of Sunfresh Agro Industries – Shrirampur, Maharashtra
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman





**70.** On October 27, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published the 37<sup>th</sup> half-yearly reports on 'Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves' as of end-September 2021. According to the report, India's foreign exchange reserves surged by \$58.38 billion during April-September, 2021 to \$635.36 billion, from \$576.98 billion as at end-March 2021. The RBI's share of gold in the total foreign exchange reserves increased marginally from about 5.87% to 5.88% which is 743.84 metric tonnes of gold with the increase of 11% (year-on-year). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI published the 37<sup>th</sup> half-yearly reports on 'Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves' as of end-September 2021
- India's Foreign Exchange Reserves: surged by \$58.38 billion during April-Sep, 2021 (from \$576.98 bn to \$635.36 bn)
- RBI's share of gold in the total foreign exchange reserves: 743.84 metric tonnes (5.88%) | increased by 11% y-o-y
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**71.** In October 2021, As per the latest rules published by the RBI, there shall be a ceiling of Rs 1 Cr per borrower for financing subscriptions to Initial Public Offerings (IPO) from April 1, 2022. The RBI's new rules might reduce the quantum of funds available with high networth investors (HNI) for bidding in IPOs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – capped NBFC's IPO funding at Rs 1 Cr per borrower from April 1, 2022
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**72.** On October 28, PayU launched its tokenisation solution "PayU Token Hub", which allows issuing banks to generate their own tokens. This solution is built by PayU and Wibmo, in partnership with Visa, MasterCard and leading banks. 'PayU Token Hub' will enable businesses to comply with RBI's latest guidelines on online card data storage. PayU Token Hub is fully interoperable, providing best of network and issuer tokens for Card-On-File (COF) use cases extensible to device tap-and-pay. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PayU – launched its tokenisation solution "PayU Token Hub"
- The tokenisation solution is built by = PayU + Wibmo + Visa + MasterCard
- HQs of PayU – Netherlands | CEO – Laurent le Moal

**73.** On October 28, Max Life Insurance, in collaboration with FinVu and Finarkein, has adopted the Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem. Max Life Insurance is the first insurer to adopt the AA ecosystem, which allows customers to digitally share their financial information and data across various financial institutions. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Max Life Insurance + FinVu + Finarkein = adopted the Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem
- Max Life Insurance – the first insurer to adopt the AA ecosystem
- HQs of Max Life Ins. – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Prashant Tripathy



**74.** On October 28, Kotak Mahindra Bank has partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch Credit Cards on the RuPay Network for Indian armed forces personnel. The 'Kotak RuPay Veer Platinum' and 'Kotak RuPay Veer Select' Credit Cards are specially designed to fulfill the needs of armed forces Personnel. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kotak Mahindra Bank + NPCI = to launch Credit Cards on the RuPay Network for Indian armed forces' personnel
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let's make money simple”
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

**75.** On October 31, Yes Bank in partnership with BankBazaar.com, launched a co-branded credit card “FinBooster” which is built around a unique proposition of credit fitness tracker. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Yes Bank + BankBazaar.com = launched a co-branded credit card “FinBooster”
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- HQs of BankBazaar.com – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Founder & CEO – Adhil Shetty

**76.** On October 31, Federal Bank and Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. Limited (ABHICL) have announced their bancassurance partnership to provide bank's customers with innovative health insurance solutions offered by ABHICL. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Federal Bank + Aditya Birla Health Insurance = bancassurance partnership
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – “Your Perfect Banking Partner”
- HQs of ABHICL – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Mayank Bathwal

**77.** On October 28, Mastercard has partnered with Lawrencedale Agro Processing India (LEAF) to launch “LEAF Farmer Network (LFN)”, a digital platform to improve financial assess and inclusion among the farmers in India. LFN will empower farmers across Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu with digitization. The launch of LFN is an extension of 'Mastercard Farm Pass', a pilot programme that was introduced in 2018 in Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mastercard + LEAF = to launch “LEAF Farmer Network (LFN)” to improve financial assess & inclusion among farmers
- LFN is an extension of 'Mastercard Farm Pass' which was introduced in 2018 in Andhra Pradesh
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, US | CEO – Michael Miebach | Founded in – 1966
- HQs of LEAF – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Founder & CEO – Palat Vijayaraghavan

**78.** On October 29, The RBI eased Current Account (CA) rules for bank exposures less than Rs 5 Cr, allowing lenders to open current account, cash credit and overdraft facilities without any restriction. The RBI asked banks to implement the changes within 1 month. For borrowers, where the exposure of the banking system is less than Rs 5 Cr, there is no restriction on opening of Current Accounts or on provision of CC/OD facility by banks. For borrowers where the exposure is more than Rs 5 Cr, will continue to maintain current accounts with any one of the banks with which they have cash credit or overdraft facility, provided that the bank has at least 10% of the exposure of the banking system to that borrower. The RBI also clarified that other lending banks will only be allowed to open Current Accounts. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – eased Current Account (CA) rules for bank exposures less than Rs 5 Cr
- No restriction for borrowers on opening of CAs where the exposure of the banking system is less than Rs 5 Cr
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**79.** On October 29, The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$250 million (about Rs 1,875 Cr) loan to support India's National Industrial Corridor Development Program (NICDP). This is the first subprogram of the programmatic \$500 million loan to develop 11 industrial corridors spanning 17 states. As part of NICDP, it is also developing guidelines for Green Corridor Frameworks and Climate-Resilient Infrastructure as well as focusing on enhancing skills for the participation of female labour. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ADB – approved a \$250 million (about Rs 1,875 Cr) loan to support India's NICDP
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966

**80.** In October 2021, Government of India, in consultation with the RBI, has decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds. The Sovereign Gold Bonds will be issued in 4 tranches from October 2021 to March 2022. The Bonds will be denominated in multiples of gram(s) of gold with the minimum permissible investment limit of 1 gram. While the maximum limit of subscription shall be 4 KG for individual, 4 Kg for HUF and 20 Kg for trusts and similar entities per fiscal (April-March). The tenor of the Bond will be for a period of 8 years with exit option after 5<sup>th</sup> year. Bonds will be sold through Commercial banks (except Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks), Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL), designated Post Offices (as may be notified) and recognised Stock Exchanges. The investors will be compensated at a fixed rate of 2.50% per annum payable semi-annually on the nominal value. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sovereign Gold Bonds will be issued in 4 tranches from October 2021 to March 2022
- Points related to Sovereign Gold Bonds:
  - Assured return on bond – 2.50% per annum (payable semi-annually)
  - Minimum Purchase limit – 1 gram of gold | Maximum Purchase limit – 4 Kg of gold
  - Tenor of the bond – 8 years
  - To be sold through: Scheduled Commercial Banks, SHCIL, CCIL, Post Offices & Stock Exchanges (except SFBs & PBs)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935



**81.** On October 30, Finance Ministry approved the proposal of Ministry of Labour to provide 8.5% rate of interest on provident funds for 2020-21. The interest rate is understood to have been decided on an income of Rs 70,300 Cr from sale of debt and equity investments, leaving a surplus of around Rs 300 Cr with the EPFO. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Finance Ministry approved the proposal of Ministry of Labour to provide 8.5% rate of interest on provident funds
- Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chaowdhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad

**82.** In October 2021, China-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) along with the Asian Development (ADB) is processing a \$2 billion loan for India to purchase COVID-19 vaccines under ADB's Asia-Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX). Besides funding various infra projects in India, the AIIB has also granted USD 1.75 billion to India for the COVID-19 relief budget support. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AIIB + ADB = processing a \$2 billion loan for India to purchase COVID-19 vaccines under ADB's 'APVAX'
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966
- HQs of AIIB – Beijing, China | President – Jin Liqun | Established in – 2016 | Members – 104

**83.** On October 31, the board of Ujjivan Financial Services has approved the amalgamation of the company with its subsidiary, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, to meet the minimum public shareholding norms of SEBI. Ujjivan Finance Services currently holds 83.32% of the total paid-up equity share capital of Ujjivan SFB. Under RBI norms, the promoter's minimum initial contribution to the paid-up equity capital of SFB should be at least 40%, which shall be locked in for a period of 5 years. In the case of Ujjivan SFB, the 5-year period expires on January 31, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ujjivan Financial Services – approved the amalgamation of the company with its subsidiary Ujjivan SFB
- The promoter's minimum initial contribution to the paid-up equity capital of SFB should be at least 40%
- HQs of Ujjivan SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Ittira Davis | Founded in – 2004

# Defence Affairs

**1.** In October 2021, The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of India-Sri Lanka bilateral Joint Exercise, “Mitra Shakti”, conducted at Combat Training School, Ampara, in Sri Lanka from October 4 to October 15. Mitra Shakti, which translates to ‘Power of friendship’, is carried out under a United Nations (UN) mandate as both the armies contribute to the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces. The exercise aims to promote close relations between the armies of both countries and enhance inter-operability and sharing best practices in counter-terrorism operations. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 8<sup>th</sup> edition of “Mitra Shakti” bilateral Joint Exercise – between India & Sri Lanka – conducted in Ampara, in Sri Lanka
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

**2.** The fifth edition of India-Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise, “JIMEX” held in Arabian Sea from 6 to 8 October 2021. JIMEX series of exercises commenced in January 2012 with special focus on maritime security cooperation. The Indian Navy was represented by INS Kochi & INS Teg. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 5<sup>th</sup> edition of “JIMEX” - India-Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise – held in Arabian Sea
- INS Kochi & INS Teg – participated in the exercise
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida

**3.** In October 2021, 6th Edition of India - UK Joint Company Level Military Training “Exercise Ajeya Warrior” has commenced at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand. The exercise is part of an initiative to develop inter-operability & sharing expertise with friendly foreign nations. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- “Exercise Ajeya Warrior” – between India & UK – commenced at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

**4.** In October 2021, Indian Naval Fast Attack Craft (IN FAC) ‘T 80’ was decommissioned at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai on 7 October 2021 after 23 years of service. Rear Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Western Naval Command, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The Israel built ship was the first of the ‘Super Dvora Mk II Class’ which was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1998 by then Vice Admiral ‘Madhvendra Singh’. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- 1<sup>st</sup> of 'Super Dvora Mk II Class' Indian Naval Fast Attack Craft (IN FAC) "T 80" decommissioned at Mumbai
- IN FAC "T 80" was built by – Israel | It was decommissioned after 23 year of service
- It was commissioned in the Indian Navy – on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1998
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral Karambir Singh | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Naftali Bennett

**5.** India will host its largest biennial naval exercise, "Ex Milan" in February 2022 & invites have been sent to 46 countries. All Quad countries are participating in it. Ex Milan began in 1995. It has so far been held at Port Blair but is now being shifted to Visakhapatnam which offers more space & infrastructure. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- "Ex Milan" - India's largest biennial Naval exercise – to be held in February 2022 (Began in 1995)
- Location is shifted – from Port Blair to Visakhapatnam
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral Karambir Singh | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950

**6.** On October 7, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has delivered the heaviest Semi-Cryogenic propellant tank named "SC120-LOX" to Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). This Semi Cryo-liquid Oxygen (LOX) tank will be a part of 'SC120' stage of ISRO's GSLV Mark III launch vehicle. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- HAL – delivered the heaviest Semi-Cryogenic propellant tank named "SC120-LOX" to ISRO
- This Semi Cryo-liquid Oxygen (LOX) tank will be a part of 'SC120' stage of ISRO's GSLV Mark III launch vehicle
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt | Chairma & MD – R. Madhavan
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed on – August 15, 1969

**7.** In October 2021, A team from 4/5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force) which represented the Indian Army at the prestigious "Cambrian Patrol Exercise" at Brecon, Wales, UK has been awarded Gold medal. This exercise is also referred as the "Olympics of Military Patrolling" among militaries in the world. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- A team from 4/5 Gorkha Rifles – Gold medal at the prestigious "Cambrian Patrol Exercise" held in UK
- Cambrian Patrol Exercise – also referred as "Olympics of Military Patrolling"
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty



**8.** In October 2021, The 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the Indo-US joint training exercise “Ex Yudh Abhyas 21” commenced at “Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson” in Alaska. 350 soldiers of the 7 Madras infantry battalion group of the Indian Army participated in the exercise. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + USA = commenced 17<sup>th</sup> edition of joint training exercise “Ex Yudh Abhyas 21” in Alaska, US
- 350 soldiers of the 7 Madras infantry battalion group of the Indian Army participated in it
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**9.** On October 10, QUAD Nations - India, the US, Japan and Australia conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of “2021 Malabar” naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal from October 12 to 15. It will focus on advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises, seamanship evolution and weapon firings. The navies of the Quad nations conducted the first phase of the drills near the Pacific Ocean island of Guam from August 26 to 29, 2021. INS Ranvijay, INS Satpura, P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft and a submarine participated in the drill. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- QUAD Nations – conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of “2021 Malabar” naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal
- INS Ranvijay + INS Satpura = participated in the exercise
- QUAD countries – 4: India, US, Japan & Australia

**10.** On October 18, The Indian Navy has received the 11<sup>th</sup> anti-submarine warfare aircraft “P-8I” from the US-based aerospace company Boeing. The Defence Ministry had first signed a contract for eight P-8I aircraft in 2009. Later, in 2016, it signed a contract for four additional P-8I aircraft. And this is the third aircraft to be delivered under the option contract signed in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Navy – received the 11<sup>th</sup> anti-submarine warfare aircraft “P-8I” from Boeing
- HQs of Boeing – Chicago, USA | CEO – Dave Calhoun | Founded in – 1916
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral Karambir Singh | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950

**11.** In October 2021, The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted the flight test of the indigenously designed Abhyas - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur in Odisha. Abhyas is designed & developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru. It is powered by a gas turbine engine to sustain a long endurance flight at subsonic speed. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- DRDO – successfully conducted the flight test of the indigenously designed Abhyas - HEAT
- Abhyas – designed & developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

**12.** On October 23, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched an 'Integrated Unmanned Road Map for Indian Navy' at the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Naval Commanders' Conference. This will outline all the unmanned aerial and underwater platforms and efforts of the Navy as part of its force modernisation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajnath Singh – launched an 'Integrated Unmanned Road Map for Indian Navy'
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

**13.** On October 22, The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with the US government under #ForeignMilitarySale (FMS) for procurement of "MK 54 Torpedo & Expendable (Chaff and Flares)" for the Indian Navy at a cost of Rs 423 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoD + US = a contract to procure "MK 54 Torpedo & Expendable (Chaff & Flares)" for Indian Navy (Cost - Rs 423 Cr)
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**14.** On October 26, The sea phase of the maiden bilateral tri-service exercise "Konkan Shakti 2021" between the UK and Indian Armed Forces commenced off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea. INS Chennai participated in the exercise. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A bilateral tri-service exercise "Konkan Shakti 2021" – held between India & UK in the Arabian Sea
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

**15.** On October 26, As part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Indian Navy has conducted an Offshore Sailing Regatta from Kochi to Goa under aegis of Indian Naval Sailing Association (INSA). Six Indian Naval Sailing Vessels (INSVs) viz Mhadei, Tarini, Bulbul, Neelkanth, Kadalpura and Hariyal participated in this event. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Navy – conducted an Offshore Sailing Regatta from Kochi (Kerala) to Goa
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral Karambir Singh | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950





**16.** In October 2021, Konkan Shakti 2021 is the first bilateral tri-service exercise between the armed forces of India and the UK. The sea phase & the air operations of this exercise held off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea. The land phase of the exercise conducted at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> bilateral tri-service exercise “Konkan Shakti” – between India & UK
- Sea phase & the air operations – in Arabian Sea | Land phase operations – in Chaubatia, Uttarakhand
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

**17.** On October 29, The 7<sup>th</sup> Indian Navy Frigate of ‘P1135.6’ class “INS Tushil” was launched at Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad, Russia. Mrs Datla Vidya Varma named the new frigate as “Tushil”, a Sanskrit word which means ‘Protector Shield’. Frigates being built in Russia cost almost \$500 million each. Project ‘1135.6’ is also known as ‘Talwar Class’ - a class of guided-missile frigates. These have been designed and built by Russia for the Indian Navy. These are modified Krivak III-class frigates. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 7<sup>th</sup> ship of ‘P1135.6’ class (Talwar Class frigate) named “INS Tushil” – launched at Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad, Russia
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

**18.** On October 28, in a significant boost to the maritime safety and security of the nation, the indigenously built Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) ‘Sarthak’ was commissioned and dedicated to the nation at Goa by the Director General of Indian Coast Guard K. Natarajan. ICGS Sarthak will be based at Porbandar in Gujarat and operate on India’s Western Seaboard. ICGS Sarthak was built by the Goa Shipyard Limited and will be commanded by Deputy Inspector General M. M. Syed. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ‘ICGS Sarthak’ – commissioned & dedicated to the nation at Goa – by K. Natarajan (DG of ICG)
- Built by – Goa Shipyard Limited | Commanded by – Inspector General M. M. Syed
- ‘ICGS Sarthak’ will be based – at Porbandar, Gujarat
- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | Director General – Krishnaswamy Natarajan | Founded in – 1977

**19.** The Indian Navy received its first ‘P15B’ stealth guided-missile destroyer named “Visakhapatnam” built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL). The contract for 4 ships of ‘Project 15B’, known as the Visakhapatnam class ships, was signed in January 2011. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Navy – received its first ‘P15B’ stealth guided-missile destroyer named “Visakhapatnam” – from MDL
- The contract for 4 ships of ‘Project 15B’ was signed – in January, 2011
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral Karambir Singh | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950



# Schemes & Initiatives

**1.** In October 2021, Punjab government has launched “Mera Ghar Mere Naam” scheme to give ownership rights to people living in houses within the ‘Lal lakir’ of villages & cities. ‘Lal lakir’ refers to land that is part of the village habitation & is used for non-agriculture purposes only. Earlier this scheme was launched only for the residents of villages but now it is being extended to the eligible residents of the cities. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Punjab – launched “Mera Ghar Mere Naam” scheme for people living in villages & cities
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Charanjit Singh Channi | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**2.** In October 2021, Manipur Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh launched the “Chief Minister’s Health for All”. Door-to-door health screening will be conducted across the State and Jan Aushadhi medicines will be provided to patients free of cost for primary health care under the scheme. The ‘Chief Minister Gi Hakchel Gi Tengbal (CM Health Care Scheme)’ and ‘Ayushman Bharat Health Cards’ will also be issued to the patients having severe and chronic illness, if eligible. During the campaign Screening will be done using a hand-held device known as “ASHA Plus” for 10 non-communicable diseases. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Manipur – launched the “Chief Minister’s Health for All”
- A hand-held device “ASHA Plus” will be used for screening of 10 non-communicable diseases
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – La. Ganesan

**3.** The Central government has extended the “Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt” (CGSSD) by another 6 months till March 31, 2022. The scheme was launched on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 to provide credit facility through lending institutions to the promoters of stressed MSMEs. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- “Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt” (CGSSD) – extended by another 6 months (till March 31, 2022)

**4.** On October 5, The Ministry of Textiles has approved continuation of “Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS)” up to March 2022 with a total outlay of ₹160 Cr. CHCDS aims to create world-class infrastructure that caters to the business needs of the local artisans & SMEs to boost production and export. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Ministry of Textiles – extended “Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS)” till March 2022
- Total outlay of the CHCDS – ₹160 Cr
- Ministry of Textiles: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Textiles: Darshana Vikram Jardosh

5. On October 6, The Union Cabinet approved the Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) equivalent to 78 days' wages for the financial year 2020-21 for all eligible non-gazetted Railway employees (excluding RPF/RPSF personnel). The maximum amount payable per eligible railway employee is Rs 17,951 for 78 days with a ceiling of Rs 7000/month. The PLB Scheme for the Railways came into force from the year 1979-80. The scheme envisages a review every 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved the “Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) Scheme” for FY 2020-21
- Maximum amount payable per eligible railway employee is Rs 17,951 for 78 days with a ceiling of Rs 7000/month
- PLB Scheme envisages a review every 3 years

6. On October 5, The National Health Authority (NHA) has revised the Health Benefit Package (HBP) Master under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY). In the revised version of Health Benefit Package (HBP 2.2), rates of some health packages have been increased by 20% to 400% under ‘PM-JAY’. In 2018, Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY was launched with the HBP 1.0 with a total of 1,393 packages. The scheme aims to provide free and cashless healthcare services up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NHA revised the Health Benefit Package (HBP) under the “AB PM-JAY”
- In the revised version of ‘HBP 2.2’: rates of some health packages increased by 20% to 400% under ‘PM-JAY’
- ‘AB PM-JAY’ was launched in 2018 | Annual cashless health cover per family – Rs 5 lakhs

7. In October 2021, Madhya Pradesh government has implemented “Mukhyamantri Ration Aapke Dwar Yojana”. Under the scheme, ration will be transported by vehicles in those villages where there are no fair price shops. The objective of this scheme is to provide ration material to Divyanga & senior citizens near their homes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Madhya Pradesh – implemented “Mukhyamantri Ration Aapke Dwar Yojana”
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

8. In October 2021, The central government has extended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP), the insurance scheme for healthcare workers fighting covid-19 for another 6 months w.e.f October 20, 2021. The scheme was launched on 30 March 2020 to provide personal accident cover of Rs 50 Lakh to health care providers who are in direct contact & care of covid-19 patients. A relief package of Rs 1.70 Lakh Cr was announced under PMGKY. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Central government – extended the PMGKP insurance scheme for healthcare workers for 6 months
- PMGKP – launched on 30 March, 2020 | Personal accident cover to health care providers – Rs 50 Lakh



**9.** In October 2021, Gujarat government launched 'Go-Green' scheme & its portal to provide electric two-wheelers at subsidised rates to construction & industrial workers of the state. Under the scheme, a worker of the organised sector would get a subsidy of 30% on the vehicle's price or Rs 30,000, whichever is less, on the purchase of battery-powered two-wheelers. For workers in the construction sector, the criteria is 50% subsidy or Rs 30,000, whichever is less. Only government-approved 'Made in India' vehicles that are capable of covering a distance of 50 kilometers in one charge are covered under the scheme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gujarat – launched 'Go-Green' scheme to provide 'Made in India' electric 2-wheelers at subsidised rates
- Subsidy for Organised sector: 30% of the vehicle cost or Rs 30,000, whichever is less
- Subsidy for Construction sector: 50% of the vehicle cost or Rs 30,000, whichever is less
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

**10.** On October 23, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the state government's ambitious "Parivar Pehchan Patra (family id)" scheme for students. Free of cost education will be given to those whose verified family income is less than ₹1.80 lakh per annum. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Haryana – launched "Parivar Pehchan Patra (family id)" scheme for students
- Free education will be provided to students whose family income is less than ₹1.80 lakh/annum
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

**11.** On October 19, Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurated 250mm Seer Water Supply scheme in Kashmir. The project will benefit around 10,000 people and will be completed under the ambit of Jal Jeevan Mission within 3 months. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Piyush Goyal – inaugurated 250mm Seer Water Supply scheme in Kashmir, J & K
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**12.** On October 26, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the "Krishi Udaan 2.0" scheme which will help solve the problem of wastage of agricultural food wastes in India. 'Krishi UDAN' scheme was initially launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) in 2020 to focus on transporting perishable food products from the hilly areas, northeastern states and tribal areas. The ministry has selected 53 airports to be covered under the scheme which will be majorly operated by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jyotiraditya Scindia (MoCA) – launched the "Krishi Udaan 2.0" scheme | Initially launched in 2020
- 53 airports will be covered under the "Krishi UDAN 2.0" scheme
- Ministry of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia | Constituency – Guna, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Civil Aviation: V. K. Singh



**13.** On October 29, the Madhya Pradesh government has launched a scheme namely “Mukhyamantri Awasiya Bhu-adhikar Yojna” to provide free plots of land to families who do not have land to build their houses in rural areas. The maximum area of the plot for allotment will be 60 sq m. For getting a residential plot, applications have to be submitted online through ‘SAARA’ portal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Madhya Pradesh – launched “Mukhyamantri Awasiya Bhu-adhikar Yojna” to provide free plots of land to families
- Applications to get a plot can be submitted through ‘SAARA’ portal
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

**14.** On October 30, To bring a sharper focus on moving women to the higher economic order, the central government has launched an initiative on creating “Lakhpati SHG women”, to enable rural self-help groups (SHGs) women to earn at least Rs 1 lakh per annum. The Ministry of Rural Development has envisioned livelihood support to 25 million rural SHG women in the next 2 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Central government launched an initiative on creating “Lakhpati SHG women”
- The initiative will ensure women associated with SHGs earn ₹1 lakh per year
- MoRD – envisioned livelihood support to 25 million rural SHG women in the next 2 years

**15.** Shri Amit Shah, Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation launched the “Dairy Sahakar” scheme at Anand, Gujarat, during the function organised by Amul for celebration of 75<sup>th</sup> Foundation Year of Amul. The ‘Dairy Sahakar’ scheme with a total investment of Rs 5000 Cr will be implemented by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) under Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India to realize the vision, “From Cooperation to Prosperity”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amit Shah (Ministry of Cooperation) – launched the “Dairy Sahakar” scheme at Anand, Gujarat
- Outlay of the scheme – Rs 5000 Cr | It will be implemented by – NCDC under Ministry of Cooperation
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

**16.** On October 30, the Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah launched the “Mukhyamantri Ghasiyari Kalyan Yojana” and “Computerization of Cooperative Societies” in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amit Shah – launched the “Mukhyamantri Ghasiyari Kalyan Yojana” in Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

# Sports & Games

**1.** In October 2021, Hockey India (HI) has pulled out of “2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games’ Hockey Competition”, citing COVID-19 concerns & UK's discriminatory quarantine rules for travellers from India. HI's move came a day after England pulled out of the “FIH Men's Junior World Cup” to be held in Bhubaneswar. Hockey India President ‘Gyanandro Ningombam’ communicated the federation's decision to Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President ‘Narinder Batra’. Hangzhou Asian Games is the Continental qualification event for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games & keeping the priority of the Asian Games in mind, Hockey India has taken this decision. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Hockey India – pulled out of “2022 Birmingham CWG”
- Earlier, England pulled out of “FIH Men’s Junior World Cup” (to be held in Bhubaneswar)
- Hangzhou Asian Games – Continental qualification event for “2024 Paris Olympic”
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Narinder Batra | CEO – Thierry Weil | Founded in – 1924
- HQs of Hockey India – New Delhi | President – Gyanendro Ningombam
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

**2.** In October 2021, World Chess Champion ‘Magnus Carlsen’ has won the inaugural “Meltwater Champions Chess Tour” which is an online chess championship held on chess24.com. Magnus Carlsen is from Norway. Teimour Radjabov of Azerbaijan was the runner up of this championship. This tour was started in November 2020 & concluded in October 2021. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Magnus Carlsen (Norway) – won ‘Meltwater Champions Chess Tour’ (held online on chess24.com)
- Runner up – Teimour Radjabov (Azerbaijan)

**3.** In October 2021, India clinched a silver medal after going down 0-2 to Russia in the final of the “FIDE World Women’s Team Chess Championship”. It was India’s first ever medal in the world team chess championship. India came into the final after a win over a strong Georgian team. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- India – won silver medal in the “FIDE World Women’s Team Chess Championship” | Gold medal won by – Russia
- HQs of FIDE – Lausanne, Switzerland | CEO – Geoffrey D. Borg | Founded on – July 20, 1924

**4.** In October 2021, At the 2021 Turkish GP which took place at Istanbul Park, Valtteri Bottas took his first win since Russian Grand Prix last year. Hamilton finished fifth. After this race, Valtteri Bottas was leading the championship. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Valtteri Bottas (Finland – Mercedes) – won “Turkish Grand Prix-2021”
- Turkey – Ankara – Lira | President – Recep Tayyip Erdogan

5. In October 2021, Australia beat India by 14 runs in the 3<sup>rd</sup> & final T20 Women’s International to seal the multi-format series by 11-5 points. All three formats have been clubbed together & India after losing ‘WODI series’ by 1-2 margin, lost the WT20I 0-2. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Australia beat – India by 14 runs in the 3<sup>rd</sup> & final T20 Women’s International
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

6. In October 2021, Indian women’s cricket team opener ‘Smriti Mandhana’ has become the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian woman to score a century in a ‘Pink-ball Test’ (against Australia). This is also the first century by an Indian woman on Australian soil. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Smriti Mandhana – became the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian woman to score a century in a ‘Pink-ball Test’ (against Australia)

7. Rupinder Pal Singh has announced his international retirement from Hockey with immediate effect. The 30-year-old, regarded as one of the best drag-flickers of the country, represented India in 223 matches. He is nicknamed ‘Bob’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rupinder Pal Singh – retired from Hockey

8. In October 2021, The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) & the Local Organising Committee (LOC) unveiled “Our Goal for All” as the official tagline of the 2022 Women’s Asian Cup to be held in India. A total of 12 teams will make their way to the tournament which will take place in Navi Mumbai, Mumbai & Pune from January 20 to February 6. The top 5 teams in the Asia Cup will also qualify to the FIFA Women’s World Cup Australia/New Zealand 2023. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Our Goal for All” - an Official tagline of the 2022 Women’s Asian Cup (Location - India)
- FIFA Women’s World Cup 2023 – Australia/New Zealand
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino
- HQs of AIFF – Dwarka, Delhi | President – Praful Patel | Gen. Secretary – Kushal Das
- HQs of AFC – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President – Salman Bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa

**9.** In October 2021, Divya Deshmukh has become India's 21<sup>st</sup> Woman Grand Master (WGM) at the Grandmaster chess tournament in Budapest, Hungary. She is from Nagpur. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Divya Deshmukh ([Nagpur - Chess Player](#)) – became India's 21<sup>st</sup> Woman Grand Master
- HQs of FIDE – Lausanne, Switzerland | CEO – Geoffrey D. Borg | Founded on – July 20, 1924
- HQs of AICF – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | President – Sanjay Kapoor | Secretary – Bharat Singh Chauhan

**10.** On October 2, 'FC Goa' has won their maiden "Durand Cup Football Tournament" after defeating Mohammedan Sporting Club with 1-0 in the final at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) in Kolkata. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- FC Goa – won their maiden "Durand Cup Football Tournament"

**11.** Veteran India men's hockey team striker S. V. Sunil announced his international retirement. The 32-year-old Sunil, hailing from Karnataka, was part of the 2014 Asian Games gold-winning side. Sunil's decision came after Rupinder Pal Singh and defender Birendra Lakra announced their international retirements. The Arjuna awardee has won gold and bronze medals in the 2014 and 2018 Asian Games respectively besides a gold in the Asia Cup 2017. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- S. V. Sunil – retired from Hockey (Arjuna awardee)
- Rupinder Pal Singh + Birendra Lakra = also retired from Hockey

**12.** In October 2021, The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) allotted the right of hosting the "South Asian Cross Country Championship (SACCC) 2022" to Nagaland. Scheduled to be held at Kohima in January 2022, top athletes from 8 south Asian countries - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives will participate in the event. AFI has also allotted the 56<sup>th</sup> "National Cross Country Championships 2022" to Nagaland. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nagaland – to host the "South Asian Cross Country Championship (SACCC) 2022" – in Kohima
- Nagaland – will also host the 56th "National Cross Country Championships 2022"
- Athletes from 8 South Asian Countries will participate in the Championship
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)
- HQs of AFI – New Delhi

**13.** On October 6, For the first time ever, India has won all 8 International Hockey Federation (FIH) 'Hockey Star Awards' with drag-flickers Harmanpreet Singh and Gurjit Kaur claiming the "Player of the Year" honours in men and women. PR Sreejesh and Savita Punia won the "Goalkeeper of the Year" award in men's and women's section. [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- India – won all 8 “FIH Hockey Star Awards” for the first time
- Harmanpreet Singh – named as the “Player of the Year” award in Men
- Gurjit Kaur – named as the “Player of the Year” award in Women
- PR Sreejesh – named as the “Goalkeeper of the Year” award in Men
- Savita Punia – named as the “Goalkeeper of the Year” award in Women
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Narinder Batra | CEO – Thierry Weil | Founded in – 1924

**14.** In October 2021, Indian Grandmaster P Iniyar has won “La Nucia International Open Chess Tournament 2021” by defeating Jony Wilson Leon Valdes of Cuba in the final round. The tournament was held in Valencia, Spain. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- P Iniyar (Tamil Nadu) – won “La Nucia Open Chess Tournament” | by defeating - Jony Wilson Leon Valdes (Cuba)
- HQs of FIDE – Lausanne, Switzerland | President /Chairman – Arkady Dvorkovich
- Managing Director – Dana Reizniece-Ozola | Founded on – July 20, 1924

**15.** On October 5, India won 43 medals, including 17 Gold, 16 Silver and 10 Bronze, to finish on top in the ISSF Junior World Championship in Lima. Vijayveer Sidhu, Rhythm Sangwan, Arjun Singh Cheema and Shikha Narwal were India's gold medallists on the final day. Hyderabad teenager Dhanush Srikanth created history by clinching 10m air rifle men's team gold at the ISSF Junior World Championships. He became the first Indian and the only shooter in the world with hearing and speech impairment to win a Gold medal in the regular ISSF World Championships. Moreover, India's Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar has won Gold in 50m Rifle three positions men's event with a new junior world record at the ISSF Junior World Championships in Lima, Peru. He finished with a record score of 463.4. Earlier in the day, 14-year-old Naamya Kapoor clinched Gold in the women's 25m pistol event while her compatriot Manu Bhaker won bronze. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India – topped the medal tally at “ISSF Junior World Championships” at Lima, Peru (17 Gold, 16 Silver & 10 Bronze = 43)
- Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar – won Gold in men's 50m Rifle event
- In Women's 25m Pistol event: Naamya Kapoor – Gold | Manu Bhaker – Bronze
- Dhanush Srikanth – 1<sup>st</sup> Indian & only shooter in the world with hearing & speech impairment to win a Gold medal at IISF World Championships
- Other Gold medalists on the final day: Vijayveer Sidhu, Rhythm Sangwan, Arjun Singh Cheema & Shikha Narwal

**16.** On October 5, Germany has unveiled the logo for Soccer's 2024 European Championship. Germany hosted the World Cup in 2006. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Germany – unveiled the logo for Soccer's 2024 European Championship
- Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier

**17.** In October 2021, For the first time, Indian Table Tennis contingent won 3 Bronze medals in the IITF's Asian Table Tennis Championship held this year. Indian Men's Team - Sharath Kamal, Sathiyam Gnanasekaran and Harmeet Desai won a bronze after losing to South Korea. While the two Indian pairs of Sharath Kamal Achanta & G. Sathiyam, and Harmeet Desai & Manav Thakkar, won bronze medals in the men's doubles of the "2021 ITTF-ATTU Asian Championships". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Table Tennis – won 3 Bronze medals in the "IITF's Asian Table Tennis Championship 2021" (first time)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Bronze: Sharath Kamal, Sathiyam Gnanasekaran & Harmeet Desai
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Bronze: Sharath Kamal Achanta & G. Sathiyam
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bronze: Harmeet Desai & Manav Thakkar

**18.** In October 2021, Kenya's Joyciline Jepkosgei has won women's London Marathon in two hours, 17.43 minutes as world record holder. Also, Ethiopia's Sisay Lemma won the men's London Marathon. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Joyciline Jepkosgei ([Kenya](#)) – won women's "London Marathon 2021"
- Sisay Lemma ([Ethiopia](#)) – won men's "London Marathon 2021"

**19.** In October 2021, Indian Grandmaster Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa has won the 'Julius Baer Challengers Chess Tour' Finals after defeating Christopher Yoo of the USA by 3-0. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- R. Praggnanandhaa ([Chess](#)) – won 'Julius Baer Challengers Chess Tour' after defeating Christopher Yoo ([USA](#))
- HQs of FIDE – Lausanne, Switzerland | President /Chairman – Arkady Dvorkovich
- Managing Director – Dana Reizniece-Ozola | Founded on – July 20, 1924

**20.** On October 11, FIFA has unveiled the official mascot of the U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 "Ibha" - an Asiatic lioness representing women power. Ibha aims to inspire women and girls across India and around the world to realise their potential. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- FIFA – unveiled the official mascot of the U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 - "Ibha"
- "Ibha" – an Asiatic lioness representing women power
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino | Founded – 1904

**21.** On October 16, In the 14<sup>th</sup> Edition of IPL, M. S. Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings (CSK) clinched their 4<sup>th</sup> title with 27-run win over Eoin Morgan's Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at Dubai, UAE. Three records were created by captain MS Dhoni in IPL 2021 - 300 appearances as captain in T20 cricket, Oldest captain to win IPL trophy & his 8<sup>th</sup> trophy as captain in a T20 tournament. In IPL 2021 final, 'Orange Cap' for scoring a massive runs in all matches was given to Ruturaj Gaikwad while 'Purple Cap' for picking up the most number of wickets was given to Harshal Patel. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- M. S. Dhoni's CSK – won the 14<sup>th</sup> Edition of IPL – defeating Eoin Morgan's KKR (CSK's 4<sup>th</sup> title)
- Ruturaj Gaikwad – won 'Orange Cap' for scoring a massive runs in all matches of IPL 2021
- Harshal Patel – won 'Purple Cap' for picking up the most number of wickets in IPL 2021
- M. S. Dhoni created 3 records in IPL 2021:
  - 300 appearances as captain in T20 cricket
  - Oldest captain to win IPL trophy
  - 8<sup>th</sup> trophy as captain in a T20 tournament

**22.** On October 16, India has defeated Nepal with the score of 3-0 to win its 8<sup>th</sup> South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship. Sunil Chhetri is the present captain of India National Football Team (Blue Tigers) and Igor Stimac is the present head coach. Sunil Chhetri was declared as the 'Man of the Match' and broke the record of 77 International goals by Brazilian football player 'Pele'. The motto of the SAFF was "Unity in Strength". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – won its 8<sup>th</sup> South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship (by defeating - Nepal)
- Sunil Chhetri – declared as the 'Man of the Match' in SAFF Championship
- Sunil Chhetri – broke the record of 77 International goals by Brazilian football player 'Pele'
- Motto of the SAFF – "Unity in Strength"
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba

**23.** On October 15, The ICC has partnered with UNICEF to amplify awareness around mental health and well-being of children and adolescents throughout the "Men's T20 World Cup" in the UAE and Oman. The partnership will amplify UNICEF's global campaign "#OnYourMind" which calls for commitment, communication and action to promote good mental health for every child. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ICC + UNICEF = partnership to amplify awareness around mental health & well-being of children & adolescents
- "Men's T20 World Cup" – in UAE & Oman | "#OnYourMind" – global campaign of UNICEF
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | Acting CEO – Geoff Allardice | Members – 106 countries
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, US | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946



**24.** On October 19, The “2021 BNP Paribas Open” was held from 7-17 October. This 44<sup>th</sup> edition of “ATP Masters 1000 Tennis Tournament” was held in Indian Wells, California, US. Cameron Norrie of the UK has won his first-ever ATP Masters 1000 by winning the Men’s singles title. While Women’s singles title was won by Paula Badosa of Spain. Besides, Serbia’s Novak Djokovic has topped the ATP rankings as of October 2021. Australia's John Peers and Slovakia's Filip Polasek won the Men’s Doubles title. While Belgium's Elise Mertens and Taiwan's Su Wei Hsieh won the Women’s Doubles title. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 44<sup>th</sup> “ATP Masters 1000 Tennis Tournament” or “2021 BNP Paribas Open” – held in Indian Wells, California, US
- Cameron Norrie ([UK](#)) – won Men’s Singles Title (His first-ever ATP Masters 1000)
- Paula Badosa ([Spain](#)) – won Women’s Singles Title
- Novak Djokovic ([Serbia](#)) – topped the ATP rankings as of October 2021
- John Peers ([Australia](#)) & Filip Polasek ([Slovakia](#)) – won Men’s Doubles Title
- Elise Mert ([Belgium](#)) & Su Wei Hsieh ([Taiwan](#)) – won Women’s Doubles Title

**25.** In October 2021, Fencer Bhavani Devi has won the Charleville National Competition in France in the individual women’s sabre event. She is the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian to compete in the sport at the Tokyo Olympics. Currently, she is the top-ranked fencer from India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bhavani Devi ([Fencer](#)) – won ‘Charleville National Competition’ in France in the individual women’s ‘Sabre event’
- Bhavani Devi (top-ranked fencer from India) – 1<sup>st</sup> Indian to compete in Fencing at Tokyo Olympics
- HQs of FIE – Lausanne | President – Alisher Usmanov | Founded in – 1913

**26.** In October 2021, Australian fast bowler James Pattinson has announced his retirement from international cricket. He has played 15 one-day & four Twenty20 international matches. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- James Pattinson ([Australia](#)) – retired from International Cricket
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | Acting CEO – Geoff Allardice | Members – 106 countries

**27.** On October 18, Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has become the highest wicket-taker in T20 International cricket when he crossed Lasith Malinga’s tally of 107 wickets. Shakib now has 108 wickets from 89 T20 International games. Third in the list is New Zealand's Tim Southee, who has 99 wickets to his name. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shakib Al Hasan ([Bangladesh](#)) – became the highest wicket-taker in T20 International Cricket (108 wickets)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Lasith Malinga ([Sri Lanka](#)) - 107 wickets | 3<sup>rd</sup> - Tim Southee ([New Zealand](#)) - 99 wickets



**28.** In October 2021, Karnataka swimmer Ridhima Veerendrakumar bagged the Gold medal in 50m backstroke for group II girls at the 37<sup>th</sup> Sub Junior & 47<sup>th</sup> Junior National Championships. She broke Maana Patel's 7 year old record of 30.37 seconds created in 2014 with 29.94 seconds. Shalini Dixit of Karnataka bagged the Silver medal in this event. Also, Maharashtra's Apeksha Fernandes created a new national record in the 50m breast stroke for group I girls. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ridhima Veerendrakumar ([Karnataka](#)) – won Gold medal in 50m backstroke for group II girls at the 37<sup>th</sup> Sub Junior & 47<sup>th</sup> Junior National Championships
- Shalini Dixit ([Karnataka](#)) – won Silver in this event in this event
- Ridhima Veerendrakumar – broke Maana Patel's 7 year old record
- Apeksha Fernandes ([Maharashtra](#)) – created a new national record in the 50m breast stroke for group I girls

**29.** In October 2021, Fabio Quartararo has become the 1st Frenchman to win the MotoGP world championship at the "Emilia Romagna Grand Prix-2021". He is a Yamaha rider. Emilia-Romagna is a region in northern Italy. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Fabio Quartararo ([France - Yamaha](#)) – won MotoGP "Emilia Romagna Grand Prix-2021" (1<sup>st</sup> French Person to win)
- [Italy – Rome – Euro](#) | [President – Sergio Mattarella](#) | [PM – Mario Draghi](#)

**30.** In October 2021, Red Bull driver Max Verstappen has won the Formula One (F1) "US Grand Prix-2021". Max Verstappen & Red Bull won on a track where Lewis Hamilton & Mercedes have been dominant for years. The victory doubled Verstappen's lead over Hamilton to 12 points. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Max Verstappen ([Belgium - Red Bull](#)) – won "US Grand Prix-2021"
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar](#) | [46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden](#) | [49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris](#)

**31.** On October 18, China has defeated Japan with 3-1 in the Uber Cup final held in Aarhus, Denmark, to reclaim "Uber Cup 2021" title. This is China's 15<sup>th</sup> Uber Cup title win in 19 finals. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China – won its 15<sup>th</sup> "Uber Cup 2021" title (defeating - Japan)
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi](#) | [President – Xi Jinping](#)

**32.** The 72<sup>nd</sup> "Inter-Services Football Championship" was held at Maharaja Stadium, Kochi between 15 – 20 Oct 21. Indian Navy, Army Red, Army Green and Indian Air Force teams participated in the 4-day long championship conducted by Signal School under the aegis of the Southern Naval Command at Naval base, Kochi. The finals were played between Army Red and Air Force. The Chief Guest Rear Admiral Antony George presented the "Services Football Trophy for the Year 2021-22" to the Indian Air Force. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- 72<sup>nd</sup> “Inter-Services Football Championship” – held at Maharaja Stadium, Kochi, Kerala
- Winner team ‘IAF’ – received the “Services Football Trophy for the Year 2021-22”

**33.** In October 2021, Olympic badminton champion Viktor Axelsen clinched the ‘Denmark Open 2021’ in his hometown with an emphatic win over world number one Momota Kento of Japan. Also, Akane Yamaguchi of Japan won her second title in the women’s category defeating An Se-young of South Korea. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Viktor Axelsen ([Denmark - Badminton](#)) – won “Denmark Open 2021” in men’s single
- Akane Yamaguchi ([Japan - Badminton](#)) – won “Denmark Open 2021” in women’s single

**34.** In October 2021, BCCI unveiled Ahmedabad & Lucknow as the two new teams for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022 after CVC Capitals Partners & RPSG Group bid for the teams. The RPSG Group picked Lucknow as their home base with a winning bid of Rs 7090 Cr while CVC Capital Partners have opted for Ahmedabad with a bid of Rs 5625 Cr. Now, ‘IPL 2022’ season will comprise 10 teams. Before 2022, the 2010 edition of the IPL also featured 10 teams. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ahmedabad & Lucknow – 2 new teams for ‘IPL 2022’ (Now total teams – 10)
- RPSG Group – opted for Lucknow team
- CVC Capital Partners – opted for Ahmedabad team
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sourav Ganguly | Secretary – Jay Shah | Founded in – 1928

**35.** In October 2021, Netherlands all-rounder Ryan ten Doeschate has announced his retirement from international cricket after his side failed to qualify for the Super 12 stage of the T20 World Cup in Sharjah. Born in South Africa, Ten Doeschate made his debut in Amstelveen in 2006 against Sri Lanka in an ODI match. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ryan ten Doeschate ([Netherlands](#)) – retired from International Cricket
- [Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro](#) | [PM – Mark Rutte](#)

**36.** On October 27, In a first of its kind move, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has signed a 3-year exclusive partnership with sports management firm IOS Sports and Entertainment. IOS Sport will act as exclusive commercial partner of AFI. They will work towards building the AFI’s brand in India. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- AFI + IOS Sports & Entertainment = a 3-year exclusive partnership
- HQs of IOS Sports – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Neerav Tomar
- HQs of AFI – New Delhi | President – Adille J. Sumariwalla | Secretary General – Ravinder Chaudhry

**37.** On October 29, Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of Odisha has virtually launched the world's first-ever "FIFA Football for School Programme" at Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar. Football for Schools (F4S) is an ambitious world-wide programme run by FIFA, which aims to contribute to the education, development and empowerment of around 700 million children. In the run-up, a 3-day "Capacity Building Workshop - Train the Trainer" was conducted by FIFA at KISS from 25<sup>th</sup> October in which 100 Physical Education teachers from Odisha and over 100 football players from KIIT & KISS participated. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Naveen Patnaik (Odisha) – launched the world's first-ever "FIFA Football for School Programme" at KISS, Bhubaneswar
- FIFA – conducted a 3-day "Capacity Building Workshop - Train the Trainer" at KISS, Bhubaneswar
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**38.** On October 28, Fran Wilson has announced her retirement from International Cricket. She has featured in three World Cups, including being part of England team that lifted the ICC Women's World Cup trophy at Lord's in 2017. Besides, Sri Lankan cricketer Eshani Lokusuriyage also announced her retirement from International Cricket. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Fran Wilson (England) – retired from International Cricket
- Eshani Lokusuriyage (Sri Lanka) – retired from International Cricket

**39.** In October 2021, Ireland's Amy Hunter became the youngest player to score an ODI century, striking an unbeaten 121 to a win against Zimbabwe at the age of 16. She overtook the record previously held by India's Mithali Raj, who scored 114 not out against Ireland at the age of 16 years and 205 days in June 1999. The youngest male batter to score an ODI century remains Pakistan's Shahid Afridi, who scored 102 against Sri Lanka in 1996 aged 16 years and 217 days. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amy Hunter (Ireland) – became the youngest female player to score an ODI century (the age of 16)
- She overtook the record previously held by India's Mithali Raj
- The youngest male player to score an ODI century – Shahid Afridi (Pakistan)

**40.** Indian Grandmaster Panneerselvam Iniyan emerged as the winner in the 5<sup>th</sup> Rujna Zora Chess Tournament held in Serbia. He finished half a point ahead of the second placed Makarian Rudik of Russia. Another Indian player V. S. Raahul stood at the third spot. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- P. Iniyan (Indian GM) – emerged as the winner in the 5<sup>th</sup> Rujna Zora Chess Tournament held in Serbia
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Makarian Rudik (Russia) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – V. S. Raahul (India)



# Important Days & Dates

**1.** International Coffee Day is celebrated on October 1 to identify the plight of the farmers of coffee beans. It was officially declared as International Coffee Day in 2015 by the International Coffee Organisation (ICO), set up in 1963 in London. ICO has announced that the theme of International Coffee Day 2021 will be “Coffee’s Next Generation”. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- October 1 – International Coffee Day – by International Coffee Organisation (Since 2015)
- 2021’s Theme – “Coffee’s Next Generation”
- HQs of ICO – London, UK | ED – Jose Dauster Sette | Established in – 1963 | Member Countries – 49

**2.** World Vegetarian Day is celebrated on October 1 to raise awareness about the health and humanitarian benefits of a vegetarian lifestyle. October 1 also kick starts the “Month of Vegetarian Food”. The day was founded by the North American Vegetarian Society (NAVS) in 1977 and endorsed by the International Vegetarian Union (IVU) in 1978. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- October 1 – World Vegetarian Day – by International Vegetarian Union (Since 1978)
- October – “Month of Vegetarian Food”
- IVU Chairman – Marly Winckler | Founded – 1908 in Dresden, Germany

**3.** In the year 1999, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) announced that ‘World Space Week’ would be celebrated annually from 4 to 10 October to celebrate two occasions - the launch of the ‘Sputnik I’ on 4 October 1957, and the anniversary of the signing of the ‘Outer Space Treaty’ on 10 October 1967. World Space Week is considered the largest space event on the planet and commemorates the contributions and achievements of thousands of people in the fields of space science and technology. This year, the theme for World Space Week is “Women in Space”. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- October 4 to 10 – World Space Week – by UNGA (Since 1999)
- 2021’s Theme – “Women in Space”
- HQs of UNGA – New York, USA | President – Abdulla Shahid | Member Countries – 193

**4.** World Habitat Day is observed on the first Monday of October every year. This year, it is being observed on October 4 across the world. World Habitat Day was first observed in 1986 with its theme as “Shelter is my Right”. It was hosted by Nairobi, Kenya that year. The day is recognised by the United Nations and observed to address the problems of rapid urbanisation and its impact on the environment and human poverty. The theme of this year’s World Habitat Day is “Accelerating Urban Action for a Carbon-free World”. [{Read more}](#)





**Key Points:**

- October 4 (first Monday of October) – World Habitat Day – by UN (since 1986)
- 2021's Theme – “Accelerating Urban Action for a Carbon-free World”
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres

5. On 5 October every year, “International Teachers’ Day” or “World Teachers’ Day” is observed to highlight the key responsibilities, rights and value of teachers and issues related to teachers and teaching. This year the theme of World Teachers’ Day is “Teachers at the Heart of Education Recovery”. In 1994, UNESCO introduced the International Teachers’ Day. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 5 – International Teachers’ Day – by UNESCO (since 1994)
- Theme – “Teachers at the Heart of Education Recovery”
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945

6. “National Voluntary Blood Donation Day” is celebrated on October 1 every year to promote voluntary Blood donation. The theme for this year is “Give Blood & keep the world beating”. A Voluntary Blood Donation Camp was inaugurated at Nirman Bhawan on this occasion. India needs approximately 1.45 Cr units of blood every year. Earlier a large percentage of blood collected was through professional donors but the landmark Supreme Court judgement in 1996 banned the professional blood donation in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 1 – “National Voluntary Blood Donation Day”
- 2021's Theme – “Give Blood & keep the world beating”
- A Voluntary Blood Donation Camp – inaugurated at Nirman Bhawan

7. “World Cotton Day” is celebrated annually on 7 October. The ‘World Trade Organization’ (WTO) & the ‘International Cotton Advisory Committee’ (ICAC) established the ‘World Cotton Day’ on 7 October 2019. This year, the theme for ‘World Cotton Day’ is “Cotton for Good”. India is the largest consumer & the 2<sup>nd</sup>-largest producer of fibre. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> ‘World Cotton Day’, India introduced its very first logo & label “Kasturi Cotton”. The ‘Cotton Corporation of India’ has also built the “Cott-Ally” smartphone app to provide most recent information to the farmers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 7 – 3<sup>rd</sup> “World Cotton Day” – By WTO (since 2019)
- 2021's Theme – “Cotton for Good”
- Cotton Corporation of India – launched mobile app “Cott-Ally” for farmers
- On 2<sup>nd</sup> ‘World Cotton Day’ – India introduced its very first logo & label “Kasturi Cotton”
- HQs of WTO – Geneva, Switzerland | 7<sup>th</sup> DG – Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria) | Countries – 164



**8.** 'World Hospice & Palliative Care Day' (WHPCD) takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of October every year by "Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance" (WHPCA) to celebrate & support hospice & palliative care around the world. In 2021, it was observed on October 9 with theme, "Leave no one behind - equity in access to palliative care". On WHPCD this year, a new report on 'Equity in Access to Palliative Care' was published by WHPCA. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 9 (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of October) – World Hospice & Palliative Care Day
- 2021's Theme – "Leave No One Behind - Equity in Access to Palliative Care"

**9.** 'World Post Day' is observed every year on October 9 to mark the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874 in Bern, Switzerland. This day recognizes the invaluable contributions of postal workers to our societies & economies. It was first declared as the World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan, in 1969. The theme for 2021 is "Innovate to Recover". In India, 'National Postal week' is celebrated from October 9 to October 15. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 9 – World Post Day – by Universal Postal Union (since 1969)
- 2021's Theme – "Innovate to Recover"
- October 9 to 15 – National Postal week
- HQs of UPU – Bern, Switzerland | Director General – Bishar Hussein | Established – 1874

**10.** The "International Day of the Girls" is celebrated annually on October 11 by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to promote the progress & safety of girls. The theme for International Day of Girl Child 2021 is "Digital Generation. Our Generation". A resolution to declare October 11 as the International Day of the Girls Child was adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 19, 2011 and the day was first celebrated in 2012. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 11 – "International Day of the Girls" – by UNICEF (since 2012)
- 2021's theme – "Digital Generation, Our Generation"
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, US | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946

**11.** "World Mental Health Day", celebrated every year on October 10, is aimed at raising awareness & spreading education about mental health issues across the globe. It was first observed on October 10, 1992 as an annual activity of 'World Federation for Mental Health'. The theme of this year is "Mental health in an unequal world". WHO also conducted a 'World Mental Health Day campaign' with slogan "Mental health care for all: let's make it a reality". Also, "Mental Health Awareness Campaign Week" was observed from Oct 5-10 by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- October 10 – “World Mental Health Day” – by World Federation for Mental Health (since 1992)
- 2021’s theme – “Mental health in an unequal world”
- WHO World Mental Health Day campaign slogan – “Mental health care for all: let’s make it a reality”
- October 5 to 10 – “Mental Health Awareness Campaign Week” – observed by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar

**12.** In October 2021, The Territorial Army celebrated its 72<sup>nd</sup> Raising Day on October 9, 2021. On this occasion, Director General Territorial Army, Lt Gen Preet Mohindera Singh paid tributes to the fallen brave hearts at the National War Memorial. The Territorial Army Act was enacted on Aug 18, 1948. The Territorial Army was formally raised by the first Governor General Shri C Rajagopalachari on 09 Oct 1949. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- October 9, 2021 – Territorial Army celebrated its 72<sup>nd</sup> Raising Day
- Territorial Army Act – enacted on Aug 18, 1948
- Territorial Army was formally raised on – October 9, 1949 (by – C Rajagopalachari )
- Director General of Territorial Army – Lt Gen Preet Mohindera Singh

**13.** “World Migratory Bird Day” is celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in May & in October each year. This year 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of October fell on October 9. This day is celebrated to raise awareness of migratory birds & the need for international cooperation to conserve them. This year’s theme was “Sing, Fly, Soar – Like A Bird!”. World Migratory Bird Day was initiated in 2006. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- October 9 – World Migratory Bird Day (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of May & October) | Since - 2006
- 2021’s Theme – “Sing, Fly, Soar – Like A Bird!”

**14.** ‘World Arthritis Day’ (WAD) is celebrated on October 12 every year. The purpose of World Arthritis Day is to bring awareness about Arthritis which is a disease that affects the joints. The theme of World arthritis day 2021 is “Don’t delay, connect today: time2work”. The first celebration of ‘World Arthritis Day’ began in 1996. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- October 12 – World Arthritis Day (since - 1996)
- 2021’s Theme – “Don’t delay, connect today: time2work”



**15.** “World Day Against the Death Penalty” is observed every 10 October. This day encourages & consolidates the political & general awareness of the world-wide movement against the death penalty. The theme for 2021 is “Women Sentenced to Death: An Invisible Reality.” The day was 1<sup>st</sup> organised by the “World Coalition Against the Death Penalty” in 2003. This year 19<sup>th</sup> edition was observed. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 10 – “World Day Against the Death Penalty” – by World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (since - 2003)
- 2021’s Theme – “Women Sentenced to Death: An Invisible Reality”

**16.** Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, celebrated the ‘Banking Day’ on October 11 as part of the ‘National Postal Week’ & ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’ (AKAM) celebrations. India Post celebrates National Postal Week from 9 to 16 October every year. The main theme for ‘Banking Day’ is promotion of ‘Sukanya Samridhi Yojana’ which was launched in January, 2015. Assam Postal Circle released today a special cover on GI Tagged ‘Muga silk’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 11 – Banking Day – by Department of Posts | as part of – National Postal Week & AKAM celebrations
- Main theme for ‘Banking Day’ – “Promotion of Sukanya Samridhi Yojana” (Launched in January, 2015)
- 9 to 16 October – National Postal Week
- Assam Postal Circle – released a special cover on GI Tagged ‘Muga silk’
- Ministry of Communications: Ashwini Vaishnav | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Communications: Devusinh Chauhan
- Secretary in Department of Posts – Vineet Pandey

**17.** October 2, 2021 marks the 117<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri, who was born in 1904, in Uttar Pradesh’s Mughalsarai. He became India’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Prime Minister in 1964. Sandeep Sashtri authored a book on his life, “Lal Bahadur Shastri: Politics & Beyond”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 2 – 117<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri (became India’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Prime Minister in 1964)
- “Lal Bahadur Shastri: Politics & Beyond” book – authored by Sandeep Sashtri

**18.** In October 2021, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World Egg Day was celebrated across the globe on 8 October 2021 by “International Egg Commission” (IEC) to celebrate the power of the egg & all its nutritional & environmental benefits. It is celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of October every year. The theme for this year is “Eggs for all: Nature’s perfect package”. World Egg Day was established in 1996. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- October 8 (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday) – World Egg Day – by International Egg Commission (since - 1996)
- 2021's Theme – “Eggs for all: Nature's perfect package”
- HQs of IEC – UK | Chairman – Suresh Chitturi | Established – 1964

**19.** The “World Thrombosis Day” (WTD) takes place every year on 13 October, the birthday of “Rudolf Virchow” who was a pioneer in the pathophysiology of thrombosis. This day is observed to increase global awareness of thrombosis, & reduce unnecessary deaths & disabilities caused by the condition. “Eyes open to Thrombosis” is the theme for World Thrombosis Day 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 13 – “World Thrombosis Day” (birthday of “Rudolf Virchow”)
- 2021's Theme – “Eyes open to Thrombosis”

**20.** “International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction” is held every 13 October. The day was adopted in 1989 after the United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) call for a day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness & disaster reduction. The 2021 edition focuses on “International cooperation for developing countries to reduce their disaster risk & disaster losses”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 13 – “International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction”

**21.** During October 4-10, “International Organization of Securities Commissions” (IOSCO) organized its 5<sup>th</sup> “World Investor Week” with the support of the Italian G20 Presidency to promote investor education & protection. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 4 to 10, 2021 – 5<sup>th</sup> edition of “World Investor Week” – by IOSCO
- HQs of IOSCO – Madrid, Spain | Secretary General – Paul P. Andrews

**22.** The “International Day of Non-Violence” is observed on October 2, the birth anniversary of India's Independence movement hero Mahatma Gandhi. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in a resolution adopted on June 15, 2007, established the commemoration as an occasion to spread the message of non-violence through education and public awareness. The theme of the International Day of Non-Violence 2021 is not specifically addressed. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 2 – “International Day of Non-Violence” (birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi)



**23.** International Day of Older Persons is celebrated every year on October 1 to spread awareness about the need for health provisions and social care for elderly. The theme for 2021 is “Digital Equity for All Ages”. According to United Nations, by 2050, the world’s population aged 60 years and older will reach 2 billion, up from 900 million in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 1 – International Day of Older Persons
- 2021’s Theme – “Digital Equity for All Ages”

**24.** On October 1, The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) observed “National Pension System Diwas” (NPS Diwas). This campaign was dedicated towards ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ celebrations and to encourage citizens to join NPS for achieving financial freedom upon retirement through pension as a regular income. As a mark of their contribution towards this eventful day, State Bank of India enabled NPS enrollments in their ‘YONO Mobile App’ and Kotak Mahindra Bank likewise in their Mobile Banking App. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 1 – “National Pension System Diwas”
- HQs of NPS – New Delhi | CEO – Sashi Krishnan | Launched in – 2004

**25.** On October 1, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu launched a unique one-to-one national helpline for breast cancer and benign breast diseases, “UBF HELP”. It was set up by Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation. The helpline launched on the eve of the beginning of “International Breast Cancer Awareness Month” which is annually observed during the month of October and aims at spreading awareness about breast cancer. An international symbol of breast cancer awareness is ‘Pink Ribbon’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October – “International Breast Cancer Awareness Month”
- M. Venkaiah Naidu – launched “UBF HELP” a unique national helpline for breast cancer & benign breast diseases
- An international symbol of Breast Cancer Awareness – ‘Pink Ribbon’

**26.** In October 2021, “World Standards Day” is observed on 14 October annually to spread awareness about the importance of standardisation to the global economy. The theme for this year’s World Standards Day is “Standards for sustainable development goals - shared vision for a better world”. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the national standards body in India. In 1970, the first World Standards Day was formally inaugurated by Faruk Sunter, President (at that time) of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 14 – World Standards Day – by ISO (since 1970)
- 2021’s theme – “Standards for sustainable development goals - shared vision for a better world”
- HQs of BIS – Manek Bhawan, Old Delhi | Director General – Pramod Kumar Tiwari
- HQs of ISO – Geneva, Switzerland | President – Eddy Njoroge | President-elect – Ulrika Francke

**27.** October 2 was World Farm Animals Day or World Day for Farmed Animals (WDFA). It was launched in 1983 by Farm Animal Rights Movement (FARM), and is a non-violent protest against factory farms and slaughterhouses. The day is celebrated by the International Animal Welfare Organization on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhiji as he was an animal lover.

**Key Points:**

- October 2 – “World Farm Animals Day” or “World Day for Farmed Animals (WDFA)” (since 1983)

**28.** Every year, from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October, India celebrates “Wildlife Week” with an aim to protect the preserve country’s fauna. Wildlife Week 2021 marks the 67<sup>th</sup> Wildlife Week which was celebrated under the theme “Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet”. The first Wildlife Week was observed in 1957. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 2 to 8 – 67<sup>th</sup> “Wildlife Week” (since - 1957)
- 2021’s Theme – “Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet”

**29.** “World Animal Day” is observed every year on October 4. The World Animal Day was initiated by Heinrich Zimmermann to address the plight of animals and initiate work towards their protection. This day is also known as “Animal Lovers Day”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 4 – “World Animal Day” or “Animal Lovers Day”
- The day was initiated by – Heinrich Zimmermann (Animal Protection Activist)

**30.** On October 2, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti celebrated the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi as “Swachh Bharat Diwas” under ‘Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen Phase 2’ as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 2 – “Swachh Bharat Diwas” – celebrated by Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation

**31.** In October 2021, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the 28<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) through Video Conferencing. The NHRC is an embodiment of India’s concern for the promotion and protection of human rights. It was established on 12 October, 1993. The statute under which it is established is the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993 as amended by the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 12 – 28<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of NHRC – addressed by Narendra Modi
- NHRC is established under – ‘PHRA 1993’ & amended by the ‘Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006’
- HQs of NHRC – New Delhi | Chairperson – Arun Kumar Mishra | Established in – 1993

**32.** Global Handwashing Day is observed on October 15 to raise awareness and better understand the importance of hand hygiene. The theme for the Global handwashing Day 2021 is “Our Future is at Hand – Let’s Move Forward Together.” Last year Lifebuoy launched its ‘H for Handwashing’ initiative. This year, Lifebuoy launched its first-ever H for Handwashing Alphabet Book which is written by the world-renowned author Mr. Ruskin Bond. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 15 – Global Handwashing Day
- 2021’s Theme – “Our Future is at Hand - Let’s Move Forward Together”
- Lifebuoy – launched Alphabet Book titled ‘H’ for ‘Handwashing’ – written by Ruskin Bond

**33.** International Day of Rural Women is observed on October 15. The theme for this year is “Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All”. Recently, UN Women released a report titled “Beyond COVID-19: A feminist plan for sustainability and social justice”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 15 – International Day of Rural Women
- 2021’s Theme – “Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All”
- “Beyond COVID-19: A feminist plan for sustainability and social justice” report – released by UN Women
- HQs of UN Women – New York, USA | Executive Director – Ms. Sima Bahous

**34.** October 15 of every year is celebrated as World Students’ Day in honor of former Indian president APJ Abdul Kalam, who was born on the same day in 1931. The day aims to acknowledge the efforts of Kalam towards education and students. The United Nations declared October 15 as World Students’ Day in 2010. This year, on his 90<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary, the theme for World Students’ day is “Learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace”. In 2002, he became the 11<sup>th</sup> president of India & served the office till 2007. He was also awarded India’s highest civilian honor or the Bharat Ratna. 22 teachers from various states have been selected for the “Dr Kalam Memorial Teacher’s Award” by Dr Vikhe Patel Foundation & Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 15 – World Students’ Day (since - 2010) | 90<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of – Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam
- 2021’s Theme – “Learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace”
- Dr Vikhe Patel Foundation & Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre selected – 22 teachers for Dr Kalam Memorial Teacher’s Award
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres

**35.** World Sight Day is observed annually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of October to draw attention on blindness and vision impairment. It was originally initiated by the Sight First Campaign of Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) in 2000. This year, World Sight Day was observed on October 14. The theme for World Sight Day 2021 is “Love Your Eyes”. [{Read more}](#)





**Key Points:**

- October 14 (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday) – World Sight Day – by Lions Club International Foundation (since - 2000)
- 2021's Theme – “Love Your Eyes”
- HQs of LCIF – Illinois, United States | International President – Douglas X. Alexander | Founded in – 1968

**36.** The National Mission for Clean Ganga celebrates 5<sup>th</sup> October as National Ganga River Dolphin Day to raise awareness and encourage conservation of Ganga River Dolphins. Ganga Dolphins were declared national aquatic animals in 2010.

**Key Points:**

- October 5 – “National Ganga River Dolphin Day” – by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)
- NMCG functions under – Ministry of Jal Shakti | DG – Rajiv Ranjan Mishra

**37.** In October 2021, The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the “International E-Waste Day” took place on 14 October 2021. This year's International E-Waste Day's focus was “Consumer is the key to Circular Economy”. International E-Waste Day is annually organised by Waste Electrical & electronic equipment (WEEE) to promote the proper way to dispose of e-waste. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition was organised in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 14 – 4<sup>th</sup> edition of International E-Waste Day by – WEEE (since - 2018)
- 2021's focus – “Consumer is the key to Circular Economy”
- HQs of WEEE – Brussels, Belgium | President – Jan Vlak | Founded in – 2002

**38.** In October 2021, “World Food Day” is celebrated on October 16. It is an initiative by the Food & Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations. This day marks the anniversary of the founding of the FAO. This year, the World Food Day commemoration was jointly led by the FAO, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, & the World Food Programme (WFP). This year's theme was “Our actions are our future. Better Production, Better Nutrition, Better Environment & a Better Life”. World Food Day was established in November 1979. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 16 – World Food Day by – FAO (since - 1979)
- 2021's Theme – “Our actions are our future. Better Production, Better Nutrition, Better Environment & a Better Life”
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1945

**39.** “National Voluntary Blood Donation Day” is celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> October of every year across the country to raise awareness about Blood donation and promote voluntary Blood donation in India. In 2021, the theme is “Give Blood and keep the world beating”. The day was first observed in 1975. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 1 – National Voluntary Blood Donation Day (since - 1975)
- 2021's Theme – “Give Blood and keep the World Beating”

**40.** In 2021, India celebrates the 89<sup>th</sup> Air Force Day on October 8 to raise awareness about the Indian Air Force (IAF) as an organisation that strives to strengthen national security and authority. The Indian Air Force is the fourth largest air force in the world. Its Hindon Air Force Station located in UP's Ghaziabad is the largest in Asia. The motto of the IAF is “Nabha Sparsham Deeptham”, which means “Touch the Sky with Glory”. 2021's Indian Air Force Day is celebrated as “Swarnim Vijay Varsh” to commemorate the victory of 1971 war. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 8 – 89<sup>th</sup> “Indian Air Force Day” (“Swarnim Vijay Varsh”)
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh
- Motto of IAF – “Nabha Sparsham Deeptham” or “Touch the Sky with Glory”

**41.** On 16 October 2021, the National Security Guard (NSG) also known as the ‘Black Cats’ celebrated 37<sup>th</sup> Raising Day. The NSG was formed in 1984 & its motto is “Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha”. Black Cats conducted “Operation Black Tornado” in 2008 & killed all terrorists who had laid siege to the sites during the 26/11 Mumbai attacks. NSG works under Ministry of Home Affairs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 16 – 37<sup>th</sup> raising day of NSG (also known as ‘Black Cats’)
- HQs of NSG – New Delhi | DG – M. A. Ganapathy | Founded on – Sep 22, 1986
- Motto of NSG – Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha (Omnipresent Omnipotent Security)

**42.** In October 2021, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed every year on October 17 & aims to raise awareness about people living in poverty. On 22 December 1992, UNGA declared October 17 as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. This year's theme is “Building forward together: Ending Persistent Poverty, Respecting all People & our Planet”. The 1<sup>st</sup> International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was observed in 1993. Also, 2018-2027 was declared as 3<sup>rd</sup> decade for Eradication of poverty by UN with a theme “accelerating global actions for a world without poverty”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 17 – International Day for the Eradication of Poverty by – UN (Since 1993)
- 2021's Theme – “Building forward together: Ending Persistent Poverty, Respecting all People & our Planet”
- Theme of 3<sup>rd</sup> decade for Eradication of poverty (2018-2027) – “Accelerating Global Actions for a World without Poverty”
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres
- HQs of UNGA – New York, USA | President – Abdulla Shahid | Member Countries – 193

**43.** In October 2021, World Osteoporosis Day is celebrated on October 20 to raise awareness about osteoporosis. Osteoporosis is a disease in which the bones become weak & brittle because of the loss of mineral density. The day was first celebrated by United Kingdom's National Osteoporosis Society in 1996. The theme for 2021 is “Serve Up Bone Strength”. This day is organised by the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) which is the world's largest non-governmental organisation dedicated to the prevention, diagnosis, & treatment of osteoporosis. IOF was formed in 1998. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- October 20 – World Osteoporosis Day – by IOF
- 2021's theme – “Serve Up Bone Strength”
- HQs of IOF – Nyon, Switzerland | President – Cyrus Cooper | CEO – Philippe Halbout

**44.** World Iodine Deficiency Day or Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDDs) Prevention Day is observed on 21 October to raise awareness regarding the importance of iodine in an individual's development. Iodine regulates the thyroid hormone in our body. Iodine deficiency leads to problems in a person's metabolism & hamper the development of the brain. Irregular secretion of thyroid hormones can lead to a condition called goiter as well. In 1962, India launched the National Goiter Control Program (NGCP) which was renamed as 'National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Program (NIDDCP)' in 1992. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 21 – “World Iodine Deficiency Day” or “Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day”
- India launched National Goiter Control Program (NGCP) in 1962

**45.** 'National Police Commemoration Day' is observed on October 21 every year. It is observed to salute the spirits of police forces & their families & brave police martyred who lost their lives fighting for the country. In 2018, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's 1<sup>st</sup> National Police Museum in Delhi on this day. This day is observed in remembrance of an incident of October 21, 1959, when twenty Indian soldiers were attacked by Chinese troops in Ladakh & ten Indian policemen lost their lives. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 21 – “National Police Commemoration Day” (Since 1959)
- India's 1<sup>st</sup> National Police Museum launched in – Delhi (in 2018)

**46.** The International Chefs' Day is celebrated across the globe every year on 20 October to create awareness about the profession & healthy food. In 2004, Dr. Bill Gallagher, a famous chef & former president of the 'World Association of Chefs Societies' (Worldchefs) initiated this Day. This day was instituted to remind chefs that it was their duty to pass on their knowledge & culinary skills to the next generation of chefs. The theme for International Chefs Day this year too is “Healthy Food for the Future”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 20 – The International Chefs' Day (Since 2004)
- 2021's Theme – “Healthy Food for the Future”
- The day was initiated by – Dr. Bill Gallagher (Former president of World Association of Chefs Societies)

**47.** 'The International Stuttering Awareness Day' is marked annually on 22 October to create more knowledge about the condition & reduce the stigma associated with it. The theme for this year is “Speak the Change You Wish to See”. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- October 22 – The International Stuttering Awareness Day
- 2021's theme – “Speak the Change You Wish to See”

**48.** October 23 is commemorated each year as “International Snow Leopard Day”. This day was first celebrated in 2014 after the signing of the ‘Bishkek declaration on conservation of snow leopards’ at the 1<sup>st</sup> ‘Global snow leopard forum’ in Kyrgyzstan in 2013. This declaration led to the formation of the “Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection Program” (GSLEP). India is also a part of the GSLEP Programme. Also, India has been conserving snow leopards & their habitats through the Project Snow Leopard (PSL). The IUCN Status of Snow Leopard was changed from “endangered” to “vulnerable” in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 23 – “International Snow Leopard Day” (since – 2014)
- ‘Bishkek declaration’ – signed on October 23, 2013 at the 1<sup>st</sup> ‘Global Snow Leopard Forum’
- HQs of IUCN – Gland, Switzerland | President – Xinsheng Zhang | CEO – Bruno Oberle | Founded in – 1948

**49.** In October 2021, International Day of Diplomats is annually observed across the globe on October 24 to acknowledge the role of the diplomats in making the world a better place. In 2021, it was the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day. Idea of celebrating this day was given by Indian diplomat Abhay Kumar, who first hosted the day in Brasilia on October 24, 2017. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 24 – International Day of Diplomats (since - 2017)
- 1<sup>st</sup> International Day of Diplomats – hosted by Abhay kumar – in Brasalia

**50.** “UN Disarmament Week” is celebrated from October 24 to October 30 to promote awareness & better understanding of disarmament issues. United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) provides substantive & organizational support for norm-setting in the area of disarmament through the work of the General Assembly. UNODA was established in January 1998 as the Department for Disarmament Affairs. It was originally established in 1982 upon the recommendation of the General Assembly’s 2<sup>nd</sup> special session on disarmament. In 2007, it became the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 24 to 30 – UN Disarmament Week
- HQs of UNODA – New York | Under SG – Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu

**51.** In October 2021, World Polio Day is observed on October 24 every year to raise awareness for polio vaccination & eradication of polio. Polio is caused by an RNA virus. The theme of World Polio Day is “One Day. One Focus: Ending Polio - delivering on our promise of a Polio-free world!”. The World Polio Day was established by ‘Rotary International’ to commemorate the birth anniversary of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- October 24 – World Polio Day (Birth anniversary of Jonas Salk)
- 2021's Theme – “One Day. One Focus: Ending Polio - delivering on our promise of a Polio-free world!”
- [HQs of Rotary International – Illinois, United States](#) | [President – Shekhar Mehta](#)

**52.** In October 2021, World Development Information Day is celebrated annually on October 24. The day focuses on improving the dissemination of information & mobilizing public opinion. The theme for this year is “Action for Sustainable Development Goal”. In 1972, the United Nations General Assembly decided to institute World Development Information Day to draw the attention of world public opinion each year to development problems & the necessity of strengthening international cooperation to solve them. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 24 – World Development Information Day – by UNGA (since - 1972)
- 2021's Theme – “Action for Sustainable Development Goal”
- [HQs of UNGA – New York, USA](#) | [President – Abdulla Shahid](#) | [Member Countries – 193](#)

**53.** United Nations Day is observed every year on 24 October. The United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, A concert is held to mark UN Day in the General Assembly Hall of the Organization. This year, the concert was held under the theme “Building Back Together for Peace & Prosperity”. In 2021, it is 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations. On 24 October 2021, Expo (in Dubai) celebrated the United Nations Day as an Honor Day. The term ‘United Nations’ was coined by the USA President Franklin D. Roosevelt. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 24 – United Nations Day
- 2021's Theme – “Building Back Together for Peace & Prosperity”
- The term ‘United Nations’ coined by – Franklin D. Roosevelt
- [HQs of UN – New York, United States](#) | [Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres](#) | [Formed in – October 24, 1945](#)

**54.** ‘Global Media & Information Literacy Week’ is observed annually from October 24 to 31 to review & celebrate the progress achieved towards “Media & Information Literacy for All”. In 2021, the week is hosted by South Africa & Co-organised by UNESCO. This year marks the 10th anniversary of Global Media & Information Literacy Week. This year's theme is “Media & Information Literacy for the Public Good”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 24 to 31 – ‘Global Media & Information Literacy Week’
- Hosted by – South Africa & Co-organised by – UNESCO
- 2021's Theme – “Media & Information Literacy for the Public Good”
- [HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France](#) | [Director-General – Audrey Azoulay](#) | [Founded in – 1945](#)



**55.** 'The Vigilance Awareness Week' for this year was observed from October 26 to November 1 as per the guidelines of Central Vigilance Commission. The theme of Vigilance Awareness Week 2021 was "Independent India at 75; self-reliance with integrity". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 26 to November 1 – 'Vigilance Awareness Week'
- 2021's Theme – "Independent India at 75; Self-reliance with integrity"
- Present Central Vigilance Commissioner – Suresh N. Patel | CVC is appointed by – The President of India

**56.** In October 2021, On October 9, 1946, the Indian Foreign Service was established & In 1948, the first group of IFS officers was recruited. The IFS day is celebrated on October 9 every year since 2011. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 9 – Indian Foreign Service day (since - 2011)
- HQs of IFS – New Delhi | Established on – October 9, 1946
- Ministry of External Affairs: S. Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of External Affairs: Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, V. Muraleedharan & Meenakshi Lekhi

**57.** In October 2021, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> Raising Day on October 24. On this day, gallantry medals were awarded at a ceremony in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh to 20 personnel of the force guarding the India-China LAC by Nityanand Rai, Minister of State for Home Affairs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 24 – 60<sup>th</sup> Raising Day of ITBP
- HQs of ITBP – New Delhi | DG – Sanjay Arora | ADG – Manoj Singh Rawat | Established on – October 24, 1962

**58.** Every five years, "World Statistics Day" is marked on October 20. The day is celebrated to mark the importance of statistics in human lives. The day was first observed in 2010. In 2020, the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Statistics Day was observed with the theme of "Connecting the world with data we can Trust". And the next (4<sup>th</sup>) World Statistics Day will be celebrated in 2025. The UN's Statistical Commission was formed in the year 1947. But the Commission adopted the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in 1994 only. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 20, 2020 – 3<sup>rd</sup> World Statistics Day (observed once in 5 years) | First edition – in 2010
- 2020's Theme – "Connecting the world with data we can Trust"

**59.** "Occupational Therapy Day" is observed every year on October 27. It was first observed in 2010. The theme for this year is "Belong. Be You". On the occasion of World Occupational Therapy Day, the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) announced the introduction of 'Adaptive Clothing' to meet the needs of patients with physical, cognitive and sensory impairments and disabilities. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- October 27 – “Occupational Therapy Day” (since - 2010)
- 2021’s Theme – “Belong. Be You”
- HQs of NIMHANS – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Pratima Murthy

**60.** October 26 is celebrated as the ‘Accession Day’ in Jammu and Kashmir every year to commemorate the day when Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession in 1947, making Jammu & Kashmir an integral part of India. This day was officially made a public holiday in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 26 – ‘Accession Day’ – celebrated in Jammu & Kashmir
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**61.** “Infantry Day” is observed on 27 October in all army establishments to pay tribute & homage to infantry soldiers who had laid down their lives for India in the line of duty. It was on this day when the first Battalion of the Sikh Regiment reached Srinagar airbase & became ‘The Wall’ for the country to prevent it from the Pakistan Army, who had entered Kashmir in 1947. This year the 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Day was observed & IAF recalled the history of vintage aircraft ‘Parashurama’ on this occasion. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 27 – “Infantry Day” to pay tribute & homage to infantry soldiers
- IAF – recalled the history of vintage aircraft ‘Parashurama’
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh

**62.** “World Day for Audiovisual Heritage” is observed by United Nations every year on October 27 to raise general awareness of the need to take urgent measures and to acknowledge the importance of audiovisual documents. Audiovisual archives tell us stories about people’s lives and cultures from all over the world. “Your Window to the World” is the theme for this year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 27 – “World Day for Audiovisual Heritage” by – United Nations
- 2021’s theme – “Your Window to the World”
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres

**63.** India and Sweden celebrated the 8<sup>th</sup> Innovation Day on October 26, 2021 to discuss various aspects of climate change and the possible solutions to bring green transition. The online event themed “Accelerating India Sweden’s Green Transition” is hosted by India Unlimited in association with the Embassy of India in Sweden, Sweden-India Business Council, and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- October 26 – 8<sup>th</sup> Innovation Day – celebrated by India & Sweden
- 2021's Theme – “Accelerating India Sweden’s Green Transition”
- Sweden – Stockholm – Krona | PM – Kjell Stefan Lofven

**64.** Every year on October 28, “International Animation Day (IAD)” is marked and celebrated across the world. On this day, in the year 1892, the birth of animation took place as the first public performance of projected moving images at the renowned Emile Reynaud’s Theatre Optique in Paris. The day was introduced and initiated globally in 2002 by the International Animated Film Association (ASIFA), which is a member of the UNESCO. On June 7, 2021, the annual “ASIFA Prize 2021” was awarded to Germany’s Otto Alder at the opening ceremony of Animafest Zagreb. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 28 – “International Animation Day (IAD)” – by ASIFA (since - 2002)
- ASIFA – a member of the UNESCO
- “ASIFA Prize 2021” – awarded to Otto Alder ([Germany](#))

**65.** Every year on October 23, “Mole Day” is marked and celebrated across the world by chemists, chemistry enthusiasts, and students learning chemistry. Uniquely, this day is celebrated from 6:02 am to 6:02 pm, hence forming the date ‘6:02 10/23’ which denotes the ‘Avogadro Number’. This year, Mole Day comes during the “National Chemistry Week” which is observed between October 17 to 23. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 23 – “Mole Day” – celebrated by chemists & students learning chemistry (commemorates ‘Avogadro Number’)
- October 17 to 23 – “National Chemistry Week”

**66.** “World Stroke Day” is observed on October 29 every year. “World Stroke Day 2021” focuses on the “Precious Time” campaign which aims to raise awareness about stroke symptoms and the benefits of acting FAST (Facial drooping, Arm weakness, Speech difficulty and Timely emergency service) to identify a stroke and access emergency medical care. More than 13 million people will have a stroke each year and around 5.5 million will die as a result, according to the World Stroke Organization (WSO). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 29 – “World Stroke Day”
- This year’s focus is on the “Precious Time” campaign

**67.** “International Internet Day” is marked annually on 29 October. The day commemorates the anniversary of the first message “login” that was sent between two computers on 29 October, 1969 through ‘ARPANET’, the predecessor of the Internet. The number of active Internet users in India is expected to rise by 45% from 2020 to 2025. Internet penetration is highest in Maharashtra, Goa and Kerala while it is the lowest in Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. India ranked 122<sup>nd</sup> globally in terms of mobile Internet download speed as per data obtained in July, 2021. In terms of broadband internet speed, India ranked 68<sup>th</sup>. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- October 29 – “International Internet Day”
- The day commemorates the anniversary of the first message “login” sent between 2 computers on 29 October, 1969

**68.** “World Thrift Day” or “World Savings Day” is celebrated every year on October 31, across the world, but in India, the day is celebrated annually on October 30. This year, the theme is “Understanding the importance of Savings”. World Savings Day was established on October 30, 1924. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 31 – World Thrift Day or World Savings Day
- India celebrates World Thrift Day on – October 30
- Theme – “Understanding the importance of Savings”

**69.** “National Unity Day” or “Rashtriya Ekta Diwas” is celebrated on October 31 every year. The Government of India introduced the day in 2014 to mark the birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. 2021 marks Patel’s 146<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary. He was appointed as the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of independent India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 31 – “National Unity Day” or “Rashtriya Ekta Diwas” (since - 2014)
- The day marks the 146<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

**70.** Every year, World Cities Day is observed across the globe on October 31. This year’s general theme is “Better City, Better life”, and this year’s sub-theme is “Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience”. ‘Urban October’ was launched by UN-Habitat in 2014 to emphasize the world’s urban challenges. Sustainable Development Goal 11 deals with ‘Sustainable Cities & Communities’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 31 – World Cities Day
- 2021’s General Theme – “Better City, Better life”
- 2021’s Sub-Theme – “Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience”
- ‘Urban October’ was launched by UN-Habitat in 2014
- SDG 11 – ‘Sustainable Cities & Communities’



# Meetings, Conferences and Summits

1. In October 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually joined the G20 extraordinary leaders' summit that discussed a response to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan & the fight against terrorism. The summit was convened by Italy, which holds the rotating presidency of the G20. Earlier, Modi participated in a virtual format in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)- Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) outreach summit on Afghanistan. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – virtually joined “G20 Extraordinary Leaders’ Summit” (summit convened by – Italy)
- Italy – Rome – Euro | President – Sergio Mattarella | PM – Mario Draghi
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2021 – Italy | 2022 – Indonesia | 2023 – India | 2024 – Brazil

2. PM Narendra Modi chaired the 38<sup>th</sup> PRAGATI meeting and reviewed 8 projects worth Rs 50,000 Cr. The meeting is the ICT (Information and Communication Technology) based multi-modal platform for pro-active governance and timely implementation, involving Centre and State governments. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – chaired the 38<sup>th</sup> PRAGATI meeting & reviewed 8 projects worth Rs 50,000 Cr

3. Union minister Piyush Goyal has inaugurated India Pavilion at the “Dubai Expo 2020”. Among the 192 participating countries, India will have the biggest pavilion in the expo. 11 key themes will be represented at the India Pavilion. 15 states and 9 central ministries from India are participating in this 6-month-long expo, which will be ending on March 31, 2022. Moreover, EaseMyTrip has partnered with Indian Pavilion to send 50,000 Indians to “Dubai Expo 2020”. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – inaugurated India Pavilion at the “Dubai Expo 2020”
- 11 key themes will be represented at the India Pavilion | 6-month-long Expo will end on – March 31, 2022
- EaseMyTrip – partnered with Indian Pavilion to send 50,000 Indians to “Dubai Expo 2020”

4. PM Narendra Modi participated in a 3-day Urban Conclave Programme and inaugurated “Azadi@75 - New Urban India: Transforming Urban Landscape” Conference-cum-Expo in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. It was organised by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) from October 5 to 7, 2021. PM Modi digitally handed over the keys of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) houses to 75,000 beneficiaries in 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh. PM Modi laid the foundation stone of 75 Urban Development Projects of Uttar Pradesh under ‘Smart Cities Mission’ and ‘AMRUT’ Scheme, flagged off 75 buses under ‘FAME-II’ for 7 cities and released a Coffee Table Book encompassing 75 projects implemented under various Flagship Missions of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. He also announced the setting up of ‘Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Chair’ in Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (BBAU), Lucknow. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- PM Modi – inaugurated “Azadi@75 - New Urban India: Transforming Urban Landscape” Conference in Lucknow
- The Conference-cum-Expo was organised by – MoHUA
- PM Modi – laid the foundation stone of 75 Urban Development Projects of Uttar Pradesh
- PM Modi – flagged off 75 buses under ‘FAME-II’ for 7 cities of Uttar Pradesh
- PM Modi – announced the setting up of ‘Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Chair’ at BBAU in Lucknow, UP
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

5. On October 6, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal has addressed the Inaugural Session of the ICRIER’s (Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations) 13<sup>th</sup> Annual International G-20 Conference. During his address, he state that India is now world’s second largest manufacturer of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) after China. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Piyush Goyal – addressed the Inaugural Session of the ICRIER’s 13<sup>th</sup> Annual International G-20 Conference
- India – world’s 2<sup>nd</sup> largest manufacturer of PPEs | 1<sup>st</sup> – China
- HQs of ICRIER – New Delhi | Chairman – Pramod Bhasin | Director & Chief Executive – Deepak Mishra

6. With the support of the Ministry of AYUSH, the Indian Embassy in Croatia organized the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Yoga and Ayurveda in Zagreb, Croatia during 3-5 October, 2021. Theme of the Conference was “Ayurveda for Health and Wellness”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Yoga & Ayurveda – organised in Zagreb, Croatia
- Theme – “Ayurveda for Health & Wellness”
- Croatia – Zagreb – Kuna | PM – Andrej Plenkovic | President – Zoran Milanovic

7. On October 8, The 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the “India-US Defence Policy Group (DPG)” took place in Washington to review the progress on various defence cooperation issues between the two countries. The DPG meeting was co-chaired by Indian Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the “India-US Defence Policy Group (DPG)” – took place in Washington, US
- The DPG meeting was co-chaired by – Ajay Kumar (Defence Secretary)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris



**8.** In October 2021, India & UK held inaugural maritime dialogue in a virtual format which involved exchanges on cooperation in the maritime domain & the Indo-Pacific & regional or multilateral cooperation. India & UK agreed for this dialogue in the India-UK Roadmap 2030 in May 2021. In the dialogue, the consultations were led by the Foreign Ministries. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India & UK – held ‘Inaugural Maritime Dialogue’ in a virtual format for cooperation in the maritime domain
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

**9.** In October 2021, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav participated virtually in the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC) ministerial meeting titled “Preparations for COP 26 on Climate Change - Expectations & Challenges”. In the meeting, he called for rapid reduction in emissions by developed countries. The meeting was hosted by Bolivia. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bhupender Yadav – participated in LMDC meeting titled “Preparations for COP 26 on Climate Change - Expectations & Challenges” – hosted by Bolivia
- Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Bhupender Yadav | Constituency – Rajasthan
- MoS in Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Ashwini Kumar Choubey

**10.** On October 12, The 2-day “National conference for Zoo Directors & Veterinarians” was organized by Central Zoo Authority (CZA) at Sardar Patel Zoological Park, Kevadia, Gujarat. During the conference, three important publications of the Central Zoo Authority were also released - “Vision Plan (2021-2031)”, “WASH Manual for Zoos” & “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - A Compilation (Vol 1)”. The dignitaries also gave away the CZA constituted “Prani Mitra Awards” that are given every year under 4 categories. The winners of this year are mentioned below category-wise. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CZA organised “National Conference for Zoo Directors & Veterinarians” at Sardar Patel Zoological Park (Gujarat)
- CZA’s “Prani Mitra Awards” were given under 4 categories:
  - Outstanding Animal Keeper – Shrimati Lakhidevi
  - Outstanding Educationist/Biologist – Harpal Singh
  - Outstanding Veterinarian – Dr. Illiyaraja
  - Outstanding Director – Dr. Vibhu Prakash Mathur

**11.** On October 9, Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture (MoS) Meenakashi Lekhi is set to visit Belgrade from October 10-13 as the Special Envoy of PM Narendra Modi to attend the high-level commemorative meeting to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NAM Commemorative Meeting is being jointly co-hosted by Aleksander Vucic who is the President of Serbia and NAM Chair President Aliyev of Azerbaijan. The first NAM Conference was held in Belgrade in 1961. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Meenakashi Lekhi – participated in the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NAM Commemorative Meeting – at Belgrade, Serbia
- First NAM Conference was held in Belgrade in 1961
- Ministry of External Affairs: S. Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of External Affairs: Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, V. Muraleedharan & Meenakashi Lekhi

**12.** On October 14, Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting under the Italian Presidency held on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 in Washington D.C., US. She also participated in the 2021's Annual Meeting of the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund which was chaired by Magdalena Andersson, Minister for Finance of Sweden. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nirmala Sitharaman – participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> G20 FMCBG Meeting – under the Chairmanship of Italy
- Nirmala Sitharaman – also participated in the 2021's Annual Meeting of World Bank Group & IMF
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2021 – Italy | 2022 – Indonesia | 2023 – India | 2024 – Brazil

**13.** On October 12, Devusinh Chauhan, Minister of State for Communications, participated in the Ministerial Roundtable Session of the 50<sup>th</sup> edition of “International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Digital World 2021”, hosted by Vietnam. The topic for the deliberation was “Cutting the cost: can affordable access accelerate digital transformation?”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Devusinh Chauhan – participated in the Ministerial Roundtable Session of the 50<sup>th</sup> “ITU Digital World 2021”
- The session was hosted by – Vietnam
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Pham Minh Chinh | President – Nguyen Xuan Phuc
- Ministry of Communications: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Communications: Devusinh Chauhan

**14.** In October 2021, India has convened the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of BRICS Communications ministers. Minister of State Shri Devusinh Chauhan chaired this Meeting. The ministers adopted the Terms of References of Digital BRICS Task Force. They also adopted the proposal to host the Digital BRICS Forum annually to facilitate sharing of information & knowledge, practices, initiatives, etc. They also discussed to work together to develop multi-pronged approaches & reference models for affordable access to communications services & digital technologies to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of BRICS Communications Ministers – chaired by “Shri Devusinh Chauhan”
- BRICS Member Countries: 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | Chairmanship in 2021 – India
- Ministry of Communications: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Communications: Devusinh Chauhan



**15.** On October 20, Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajeev Chandrasekhar attended the inaugural session of the International Conference and Exhibition on Digital technologies “Future Tech 2021” organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) virtually from 19-27 October, 2021. The event will revolve around 5 theme pillars: Strategy, Growth, Resilience, Inclusiveness & Trust with a focused theme “Driving technologies for building the future, we all can trust”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajeev Chandrasekhar – attended the “Future Tech 2021” organised by the CII
- 5 Theme Pillars: Strategy, Growth, Resilience, Inclusiveness & Trust
- Focused theme – “Driving technologies for building the future, we all can trust”
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – T. V. Narendran | DG – Chandrajit Banerjee | Founded in – 1895

**16.** On October 22, The 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was held virtually between October 18 to 21, 2021. It was presided by Union Minister R. K. Singh. A total of 108 countries participated in the Assembly. UK and India will together bring the “Green Grids Initiative” and “One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)” at COP26. ISA is the nodal agency for implementing OSOWOG led by India. The ISA also announced a partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies to mobilize \$1 trillion in global investments for solar energy across ISA’s member countries. The two organizations will work with World Resources Institute (WRI) to develop a Solar Investment Action Agenda and a Solar Investment Roadmap, which will be launched at COP26. During the assembly, two new programmes were launched: ‘Management of Solar PV panels & Battery usage waste’, and ‘Solar Hydrogen programme’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- R. K. Singh – presided over the 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the ISA
- UK + India = to bring the “Green Grids Initiative” & “One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)” at COP26
- Nodal agency for India-led ‘OSOWOG’ – ISA
- ISA + Bloomberg Philanthropies = to mobilize \$1 trillion in global investments for Solar Energy across ISA’s members

**17.** On October 26, Lokmat Media Group organized the first-ever “National Inter-Religious Conference” in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The conference was addressed by Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari who was the Chief Guest of the event. The theme of this first of its kind conference was “Global Challenges to Communal Harmony and Role of India”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nitin Gadkari – addressed the first-ever “National Inter-Religious Conference” in Nagpur, Maharashtra
- The conference was organized by – Lokmat Media Group
- Theme – “Global Challenges to Communal Harmony and Role of India”



**18.** On October 26, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar addressed the leadership session of “WHO SEAR High-Level Meeting for Renewed TB Response” which was co-chaired by India. During the meeting, she highlighted the PM Narendra Modi’s commitment to eliminate TB in India by 2025, five years ahead of the global target. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bharati Pravin Pawar – addressed the leadership session of “WHO SEAR High-Level Meeting for Renewed TB Response”
- The meeting was co-chaired by – India
- Indian government’ target to eliminate TB – by 2025 | Global target – by 2030
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar

**19.** On October 26, Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) via video conference from New Delhi. This year’s Annual Meeting has been jointly organized by AIIB and the United Arab Emirates on the theme of “Investing Today and Transforming Tomorrow”. Nirmala Sitharaman shared her thoughts in the Governor’s Roundtable Discussion on the theme “COVID-19 Crisis and Post-COVID Support”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nirmala Sitharaman – participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of AIIB
- Theme – “Investing Today and Transforming Tomorrow”
- HQs of AIIB – Beijing, China | President – Jin Liqun | Established in – 2016 | Members – 104

**20.** On October 22, In view of the need for combating plastic pollution, NITI Aayog organized a National Policy Dialogue on “Plastic Free Cities and Oceans” under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. On World Environment Day in 2018, the PM had committed to eliminate 100% single-use plastic by 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NITI Aayog – organized a National Policy Dialogue on “Plastic Free Cities and Oceans”
- It was organised under the Chairmanship of – Dr. Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed on – August 15, 1969

**21.** On October 28, PM Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 18<sup>th</sup> “India-ASEAN Summit 2021” and welcomed Cambodia as the new chair of ASEAN for the year 2022. The ASEAN leaders highlighted the milestone of 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “India-ASEAN Partnership” and announced the year 2022 as “India-ASEAN Friendship Year”. India has contributed medical supplies worth \$200,000 to ASEAN’s humanitarian initiative for Myanmar and \$1 million for ASEAN’s Covid-19 Response Fund. PM Narendra Modi also participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit (EAS) 2021 which was hosted by Brunei. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – participated in the 18<sup>th</sup> “India-ASEAN Summit 2021”
- 2022 – announced as “India-ASEAN Friendship Year”
- India – contributed medical supplies worth \$200,000 to ASEAN’s humanitarian initiative for Myanmar
- India – contributed \$1 million for ASEAN’s Covid-19 Response Fund
- Narendra Modi – participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> “East Asia Summit (EAS) 2021” – hosted by Brunei
- [Chairmanship of ASEAN 2021 – Brunei](#) | [Secretariat of ASEAN – Jakarta, Indonesia](#) | [Members – 10](#)
- [Chairmanship of ASEAN 2022 – Cambodia](#)

**22.** In October 2021, Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav addressed the “Middle East Green Initiative Summit 2021” at Riyadh in Saudi Arabia. The summit was held with the theme of “Succeeding the Transition to Green Economies: The Role of Sustainable Finance”. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Bhupender Yadav – addressed the “Middle East Green Initiative Summit 2021” at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- Theme – “Succeeding the Transition to Green Economies: The Role of Sustainable Finance”

**23.** On October 29, The 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Prosecutors General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States was hosted by Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General of India. The SCO Prosecutors General signed a protocol to deal with human trafficking especially women and children. The next (20<sup>th</sup>) meeting of the Prosecutors General of the SCO Member States will be held in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Prosecutors General of the SCO Member States – hosted by Tushar Mehta (SGI)
- 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Prosecutors General of the SCO Member States – will be held in Kazakhstan (in 2022)
- [HQs of SCO – Beijing, China](#) | [SG – Vladimir Norov](#) | [Present Member Countries – 8](#) | [2021 Presidency – Tajikistan](#)

**24.** On October 28, Union Health Minister Mansukh L. Mandaviya addressed the inaugural session of “CII Asia Health Summit 2021” organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The theme of the summit was “Transforming Healthcare for a Better Tomorrow”. Indian government is focusing on the theme of “From Token to Total Health”. Moreover, the CII launched a report titled “Telemedicine Demystified - Necessity During the Pandemic, Boon for the Future”. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Mansukh L. Mandaviya – addressed the inaugural session of “CII Asia Health Summit 2021” – organised by CII
- Theme – “Transforming Healthcare for a Better Tomorrow”
- Indian government is focusing on the theme – “From Token to Total Health”
- “Telemedicine Demystified - Necessity During the Pandemic, Boon for the Future” report – released by CII
- [HQs of CII – New Delhi](#) | [President – T. V. Narendran](#) | [DG – Chandrajit Banerjee](#) | [Founded in – 1895](#)





**25.** The UN General Assembly designated 2021 as the “International Year of Fruits and Vegetables (IYFV)” to raise awareness on the important role of fruits and vegetables in human nutrition, food security and health. Narendra Singh Tomar addressed the National Conference on “International Year of Fruits and Vegetables” organized by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The conference was held under the theme “Awareness about the nutritional benefits of fruits and vegetables for balanced and healthy diet and lifestyle”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Singh Tomar – addressed the National Conference on “International Year of Fruits & Vegetables”
- The conference was organised by = MoAFW + UNFAO | IYFV was designated by – UNGA
- Theme – “Awareness about the nutritional benefits of fruits & vegetables for balanced and healthy diet & lifestyle”
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1945
- HQs of UNGA – New York, USA | President – Abdulla Shahid | Member Countries – 193

**26.** In October 2021, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh chaired the “Ambassadors’ Round Table for DefExpo 2022” in New Delhi. The Round Table was aimed to brief the Ambassadors of foreign missions about the planning, arrangements and other details of ‘DefExpo 2022’, which will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat between March 10-13, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajnath Singh – chaired the “Ambassadors’ Round Table for DefExpo 2022” in New Delhi
- ‘DefExpo 2022’ will be held in – Gandhinagar, Gujarat (in March 2022)

**27.** On October 29, Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs & Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Hardeep S. Puri virtually inaugurated the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of “Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference 2021”. The main theme of this year’s conference is “Mobility for All”. The urban population in 2020 accounted for 56% of the total global population, up from 30% in 1950, and is expected to increase to 60% by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Hardeep S. Puri – inaugurated the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of “Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference 2021”
- Theme – “Mobility for All”

**28.** On October 27, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh addressed the “Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2021” held virtually from October 27-29, 2021. The theme of IPRD 2021 is “Evolution in Maritime Strategy during the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Imperatives, Challenges and Way Ahead”. The IPRD is the apex international annual conference of the Indian Navy and was first conducted in 2018. India is fully determined to protect its maritime interests, while it supports the maintenance of rule-based maritime systems, as mandated under UN Convention on the Law of Seas (UNCLOS), 1982. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajnath Singh – addressed the “Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2021”
- Theme – “Evolution in Maritime Strategy during the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Imperatives, Challenges and Way Ahead”



**29.** On October 28, the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Heads of National Statistical Offices (NSO) of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) Countries was held virtually under the Chairship of India. Dr. G. P. Samanta, Chief Statistician of India and Secretary of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), chaired the meeting. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- G. P. Samanta – chaired the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Heads of NSO of BRICS
- BRICS Member Countries: 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | Chairmanship in 2021 – India
- NSO comes under – Ministry of Statistics & Program Implementation (MoS I/C – Rao Inderjit Singh)
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy

**30.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Rome, Italy and participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> 'G-20 Summit' from October 30-31 at the invitation of Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> 'G-20 Summit' from October 30-31 (summit convened by – Italy)
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2021 – Italy | 2022 – Indonesia | 2023 – India | 2024 – Brazil

**31.** The National Commission for Women (NCW), along with National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), launched a pan-India legal awareness programme called “Empowerment of Women through Legal Awareness” in Varanasi to impart practical knowledge about legal rights and remedies provided under various women-related laws. The programme aims to cover all the States and UTs across India through regular sessions to make women aware of the various machineries of the justice delivery system available for redressal of their grievances. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NCW + NALSA = launched “Empowerment of Women through Legal Awareness” programme in Varanasi, UP
- HQs of NCW – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rekha Sharma | Founded in – 1992
- HQs of NALSA – New Delhi | Executive Chairman – Uday U. Lalit | Founded in – 1995



# Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**1.** In October 2021, Tanzanian Novelist ‘Abdulrazak Gurnah’ has won 2021 Nobel Prize in literature. He was born in 1948 & grew up on the island of Zanzibar in the Indian Ocean but arrived in England as a refugee at the end of the 1960’s. His debut novel titled “Memory of Departure” was published in 1987. The Nobel Prize in literature is awarded by the Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 2021 Nobel Prize in literature – given to Novelist ‘Abdulrazak Gurnah’ (Tanzania)
- His debut novel – “Memory of Departure” (published in 1987)
- Nobel Prize in literature – awarded by the Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden
- Sweden – Stockholm – Krona | PM – Kjell Stefan Lofven
- Tanzania – Dodoma – Tanzanian shilling | President – Samia Suluhu Hassan | PM – Kassim Majaliwa

**2.** In October 2021, Microsoft CEO, ‘Satya Nadella’ along with Microsoft’s other top leaders received this year’s prestigious ‘C K Prahlad award’ for Global Business Sustainability Leadership. The award is given for their collaborative leadership aimed at transforming Microsoft into a carbon negative company by 2030 & to remove all its historical emissions by 2050. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Satya Nadella + Microsoft’s other top leaders = received “C K Prahlad Award”
- Microsoft aiming – to be a carbon negative company by 2030 & to remove all its historical emissions by 2050
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975

**3.** The shortlist for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Gaja Business Book Prize, selected by a nine-member jury headed by entrepreneur Manish Sabharwal, was announced. The Rs 15 lakh annual prize is awarded to Non-fiction books on contemporary Indian entrepreneurship. This year’s shortlist has four titles from the publishing house HarperCollins, including former Reserve Bank of India governor Urjit Patel’s book “Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver”, Pavan C. Lall’s “Yes Man: The Untold Story of Rana Kapoor”, “Azim Premji: The Man Beyond the Billions” by Sundeep Khanna and Varun Sood, and “Getting Competitive: A Practitioner’s Guide for India” by RC Bhargava. Former journalist Amit Raj’s “Indian Icon: A Cult called Royal Enfield” is also a part of the shortlist. The 2021 winner is scheduled to be announced on November 30. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Gaja Business Book Prize – to be announced on November 30 (Prize - Rs 15 lakh)
- Shortlist:
  - “Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver” – by Urjit Patel
  - “Yes Man: The Untold Story of Rana Kapoor” – by Pavan C. Lall
  - “Azim Premji: The Man Beyond the Billions” – by Sundeep Khanna & Varun Sood
  - “Getting Competitive: A Practitioner’s Guide for India” – by RC Bhargava



4. The Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development, a Yemeni humanitarian organization is the winner of the “2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award”. UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, announced the laureate. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development ([Yemen](#)) – winner of “2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award”
- [HQs of UNHCR – Geneva, Switzerland](#) | [Head – Filippo Grandi](#)

5. In October 2021, The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has named Meghalaya Environment & Forest Minister ‘James Pangsang Kongkal Sangm’ as the winner of the ‘Progressive Business Concept Award’ for promoting vegan pineapple leather. He also had plans to open a climate change museum & introduce climate change in the school curricula. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- James Sangm (Meghalaya Environment & Forest Minister) – received ‘Progressive Business Concept Award’
- [HQs of PETA – Virginia, USA](#) | [President – Ingrid Newkirk](#)
- [Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong](#) | [CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma](#) | [Governor – Satya Pal Malik](#)

6. Prominent Indian industrialists Shiv Nadar (Founder & Chairman Emeritus of HCL Technologies) and Mallika Srinivasan (MD & Chairman of Tractors and Farm Equipment Ltd) have been chosen by the US India Business Council (USIBC) as the recipients of its “2021 Global Leadership Award”. The two top leaders were honoured at the “2021 India Ideas Summit” held on October 6-7. While, “2021 Global Leadership Humanitarian Awards” was presented to Julie Sweet (CEO of Accenture), Arvind Krishna (Chairman and CEO of IBM) & Brad Smith (President and Vice-Chair of Microsoft) by the USIBC. Given annually since 2007, the Global Leadership Awards recognise top corporate executives from the United States and India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shiv Nadar + Mallika Srinivasan = winners of “2021 Global Leadership Award” – by USIBC
- Julie Sweet + Arvind Krishna + Brad Smith = received “2021 Global Leadership Humanitarian Awards” – by USIBC
- ‘Global Leadership Award’ – given by USIBC since 2007 to top Corporate Executives in India & the US
- [HQs of USIBC – Washington, D.C., US](#) | [President – Nisha Desai Biswal](#)

7. In October 2021, The “2021 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine” was jointly awarded to David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian for their discoveries of receptors for temperature and touch. The two researchers discovered the molecular mechanism by which our body senses temperature and touch. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- David Julius & Ardem Patapoutian – received the “2021 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine”

**8.** On October 5, The “2021 Nobel Prize in Physics” was awarded ‘for groundbreaking contributions to their understanding of complex physical systems’ with one half jointly to Syukuro Manabe and Klaus Hasselmann ‘for the physical modelling of Earth's climate, quantifying variability and reliably predicting global warming’ and the other half to Giorgio Parisi ‘for the discovery of the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems from atomic to planetary scales’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “2021 Nobel Prize in Physics” – conferred ‘for contributions to their understanding of complex physical systems’
  - Syukuro Manabe ([Japanese-American](#))
  - Klaus Hasselmann ([Germany](#))
  - Giorgio Parisi ([Italy](#))

**9.** The “Lasker Awards for 2021” were given by the Lasker Foundation to scientists whose work was crucial for Covid-19 vaccines, scientists who discovered how to control the firing of neurons with beams of light, and to a researcher whose influential work and leadership changed Medical Science. It is America’s top Biomedical Research Prize. The prize was given under 3 categories - Katalin Kariko received the “Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award”, Karl Deisseroth received the “Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award” & David Baltimore received the “Lasker-Koshland Special Achievement Award in Medical Science”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Lasker Awards for 2021” - America’s top Biomedical Research Prize was given under 3 categories:
  - Katalin Kariko – received “Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award”
  - Karl Deisseroth – received “Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award”
  - David Baltimore – received “Lasker-Koshland Special Achievement Award in Medical Science”

**10.** The “2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry” has been awarded to German scientist Benjamin List of the Max Planck Institute and Scotland-born scientist David W. C. MacMillan of Princeton University ‘for the development of asymmetric organocatalysis’. Developed by the duo in 2000, this novel technique of catalysis is an efficient, precise, cheap, fast and environmentally friendly way to develop new molecules. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry” – conferred ‘for the development of asymmetric organocatalysis’
  - Benjamin List ([Germany](#))
  - David W. C. MacMillan ([Scotland](#))

**11.** In October 2021, WHO has honoured the late Henrietta Lacks with WHO Director-General’s award, a recognition for the world-changing legacy of a black American woman whose cancer cells were taken as biopsies without her consent while she sought treatment. Her cells have led to crucial medical breakthroughs & provided the foundation for vast scientific inventions, including research about the coronavirus. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Henrietta Lacks – honoured with “WHO Director-General’s Award” (Posthumously)
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

**12.** On October 8, The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the “Nobel Peace Prize” for 2021 to Maria Ressa (Journalist from Philippines) and Dmitry Andreyevich Muratov (Journalist from Russia) for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression. Pakistan’s Malala Yousafzai is the youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate till date. She was awarded Nobel peace prize in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “2021 Nobel Peace Prize” – conferred ‘for their efforts to safeguard freedom of Expression’
- Maria Ressa (Journalist from Philippines)
- Dmitry Andreyevich Muratov (Journalist from Russia)

**13.** In October 2021, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has conferred Assam Government’s biennial “Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi Award” for National Integration & National Contribution to 3 recipients - eminent writer & scholar, ‘Shri Nirode Kumar Barooah’, Members of ‘Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust’ & Members of the ‘Shillong Chamber Choir’. Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi was the 1<sup>st</sup> Chief Minister of Assam. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- M Venkaiah Naidu presented – Assam Government’s biennial “Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi Award” to 3 recipients
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**14.** In October 2021, Vidyut Mohan, CEO & co-founder of ‘Takachar’ was named among the 5 winners of Prince William’s inaugural Earthshot Prize, dubbed the “Eco Oscars”, at a gala ceremony in London. He has won this prize for his cheap technology innovation to convert crop residues into sellable bio-products in the “Clean Our Air” category. The price was created by Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, to reward people trying to save the planet. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vidyut Mohan (CEO of Takachar) – won “Earthshot Prize” also known as “Eco Oscars” (in “Clean Our Air” category)

**15.** On October 11, The “2021 Nobel Prize for Economic Sciences” has been awarded in one half to Canadian-born David Card for his empirical contributions to labour economics and the other half jointly to Israeli-American Joshua D. Angrist and Dutch-American Guido W. Imbens for their methodological contributions to the analysis of causal relationships. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- “2021 Nobel Prize for Economic Sciences”:
  - David Card ([Canada](#)) – for his empirical contributions to Labour Economics
  - Joshua D. Angrist & Guido W. Imbens – for their methodological contributions to the analysis of Causal Relationships

**16.** On October 8, Pranshu Singhal has announced as the winner of the 12<sup>th</sup> Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award by the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship. He has been awarded for having founded ‘Karo Sambhav’, an organisation that works on improving recycling and waste management by helping a mostly informal workforce engaged in it have access to more formal mechanisms. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Pranshu Singhal – winner of the 12<sup>th</sup> Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award – for having founded ‘Karo Sambhav’

**17.** On October 9, ‘Mantharirile 20 Communist Varshangal’, a novel by Benyamin, has won the 45<sup>th</sup> “Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Literary Award”. Instituted by the Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Trust, the award commemorates the celebrated poet and lyricist. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Benyamin – won 45<sup>th</sup> “Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Literary Award” for ‘Mantharirile 20 Communist Varshangal’ novel
- Benyamin – an Indian Novelist & short story writer in Malayalam

**18.** On October 9, The Chairman of DRDO, Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy has been conferred the prestigious “Aryabhata Award” by Astronautical Society of India (ASI) for his outstanding life-time contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- G. Satheesh Reddy – conferred the prestigious “Aryabhata Award” by Astronautical Society of India (ASI)

**19.** On October 9, UNHCR has named Nikola Kovacevic as the winner of “UNHCR Regional Nansen Refugee Award” for Europe for his dedication to providing legal assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers in Serbia. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Nikola Kovacevic ([Serbian Lawyer](#)) – winner of “UNHCR Regional Nansen Refugee Award” for Europe
- HQs of UNHCR – Geneva, Switzerland | Head – Filippo Grandi

**20.** On October 8, Well-known Telugu filmmaker Bejawada Gopal has been chosen for the 4<sup>th</sup> Satyajit Ray Award for his overall contribution to the Indian cinema. The award is instituted by the Satyajit Ray Film Society Kerala. Eminent filmmaker Adoor Gopalakrishnan, actress Madhabi Mukherjee and producer Mohan G were the first three recipients of this award. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bejawada Gopal ([Telugu filmmaker](#)) – chosen for the 4<sup>th</sup> Satyajit Ray Award – by Satyajit Ray Film Society Kerala
- First 3 recipients: Adoor Gopalakrishnan, Madhabi Mukherjee & Mohan G.

**21.** On October 11, The Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu presented the 22<sup>nd</sup> Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence to eminent pulmonologist and Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Dr. Randeep Guleria. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- M. Venkaiah Naidu presented the 22<sup>nd</sup> 'Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence' to – Randeep Guleria
- [HQs of AIIMS – New Delhi](#) | [Director – Randeep Guleria](#)

**22.** On October 12, Indian American Satya Nadella, the Microsoft CEO, has been honoured with the 2021's "C. K. Prahlad Award" for Global Business Sustainability Leadership. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Satya Nadella – honoured with the 2021's "C. K. Prahlad Award" for Global Business Sustainability Leadership

**23.** In October 2021, Aadhyaa Aravind Shankar, a 7-year-old girl from Bengaluru has won "Global Peace Photo Award" (Children's Peace Image of the year). The photo is themed as the 'Lap of Peace'. The photo has won her award in the Children's category. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Aadhyaa Aravind Shankar ([Bengaluru](#)) – won "Global Peace Photo Award" – for her photo themed 'Lap of Peace'
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore](#) | [CM – Basavaraj Bommai](#) | [Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot](#)

**24.** In October 2021, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has felicitated the winners of the DRDO's "Dare to Dream 2.0" Contest in New Delhi. He gave away the awards to 40 winners - 22 in Individual category and 18 in Startup category. He also launched 'Dare to Dream 3.0' to promote innovators & startups and provide a platform for the young ignited minds in India. Shri Rajnath Singh also gave away "DRDO Young Scientists Award - 2019". Total 16 DRDO scientists, under the age of 35 years, were awarded for their outstanding contribution in areas of their expertise. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajnath Singh – felicitated the winners of DRDO's "Dare to Dream 2.0" Contest & "DRDO Young Scientists Award - 2019"
- [HQs of DRDO – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy](#) | [Established in – 1958](#)





**25.** In October 2021, National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC), a CPSE under Ministry of Steel has bagged Gold Award in Environmental Sustainability category. Also, Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine bagged Platinum Award in Environment Management category. The awards were presented in a conference organised by Sustainable Development Foundation, a unit of 'Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam' on "Environmental Management during COVID-19" in Dehradun. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NMDC – bagged Gold Award in Environmental Sustainability category
- Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine – bagged Platinum Award in 'Environment Management' category
- HQs of NMDC – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Sumit Deb | Founded in – 1958

**26.** In October 2021, Parambikulam Tiger Conservation Foundation, located in the Western Ghats has won the Earth Guardian Award for its efforts in supporting the conservation of tigers & biodiversity. Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is a protected area in palakkad district of Kerala. The award was instituted by NatWest Group India (formerly RBS India) at the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the NatWest Group Earth Heroes Awards. "Biodiversity - a resilient nature is the foundation on which all climate mitigation & adaptation efforts must be raised", was the theme for the 2021 awards. 8 winners were felicitated via a virtual ceremony that was attended by the Chief Guest, Ivonne Higuero, Secretary-General, Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora (CITES), Geneva, Switzerland. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "NatWest Group Earth Heroes Awards" given to 8 winners:

Winners	Award Category	Location
Nitish Kumar	Green Warrior	Odisha
Shilpa SL	Green Warrior	Karnataka
Satpura Tiger Reserve	Earth Guardian	Madhya Pradesh
Parambikulam Tiger Conservation Foundation	Earth Guardian	Kerala
Arunima Singh	Save the Species	Uttar Pradesh
Anil Bishnoi	Save the Species	Rajasthan
Karma Sonam	Inspire	Ladakh
Brij Mohan Singh Rathore	Lifetime Achievement	Madhya Pradesh

- 2021 Awards' Theme – "Biodiversity - a resilient nature is the foundation on which all climate mitigation & adaptation efforts must be raised"

- HQs of NatWest Group India – Gurugram, Haryana

**27.** In October 2021, Aleksei Navalny, Russia's most prominent opposition leader was awarded the "Sakharov Prize" for Freedom of Thought, the European Union's top Human Rights award. Mr. Navalny has accused President Vladimir Putin of subverting his country's post-Soviet democracy to remain in power & ordering his assassination. Mr. Navalny used street politics & social media to build the opposition movement. The Prize is named after the nuclear physicist & Nobel Peace laureate, Andrei D. Sakharov. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Aleksei Navalny (Russia) – awarded with “Sakharov Prize” for Freedom of Thought
- Sakharov Prize (European Union’s top Human Rights award) – named after Andrei D. Sakharov
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putins

**28.** In October 2021, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting announced that Hollywood veteran Martin Scorsese & Hungarian film-maker Istevan Szabo will be honoured with the “Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award” at this year’s International Film Festival of India (IFFI). It will be 52<sup>nd</sup> edition of IFFI which will be held in Goa. Istevan Szabo is known for his masterpieces like 1966’s ‘Father’ & 1981 movie ‘Mephisto’. Martin Scorsese is widely regarded as one of the greatest & most influential directors in film history. Also, IFFI has invited major OTT players to participate in the festival for the first time ever. The opening film of this edition of IFFI will be “The King of all the World”, directed by Carlos Saura. BRICS Film Festival will also be conducted alongside IFFI in which films from 5 BRICS nations will be showcased. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Martin Scorsese (America) & Istevan Szabo (Hungary) – to be honoured with “Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award”
- 52<sup>nd</sup> edition of IFFI will be held in – Goa
- Opening film of 2021’s IFFI – “The King of all the World” (directed by – Carlos Saura)
- Focus countries of 2021’s IFFI – BRICS
- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: Anurag Singh Thakur | Constituency – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: L. Murugan

**29.** In October 2021, Dr. Rajiv Nigam, Former Chief Scientist of CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography has been selected as 2022 recipient of “Joseph A. Cushman Award” which is the highest honor given by the “Cushman Foundation” for Excellence in Foraminiferal research. This award was established by USA based Cushman foundation in 1979. Dr. Rajiv Nigam is the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Citizen who is selected for this lifetime achievement award. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Rajiv Nigam – will be awarded “Joseph A. Cushman Award” in 2022 for Excellence in Foraminiferal research
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | President – Narendra Modi | DG – Shekhar C. Mande | Established in – 1942
- HQs of Cushman Foundation – Kansas, USA | President – Pamela Buzas Stephens | President-Elect – Ken Miller

**30.** On October 19, The UNCTAD has awarded investment promotion agencies (IPAs) from Costa Rica, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea for excellence in promoting investment in health sectors. The winners of the “United Nations Investment Promotion Awards” were announced at a special ceremony during UNCTAD’s 7<sup>th</sup> World Investment Forum (WIF), held virtually from 18 to 22 October. During the ceremony, special awards were also given to the Mauritius Economic Development Board and the Seychelles Investment Bureau for their work promoting investment in the Blue Economy. The UNCTAD Awards on Investment Promotion has been given since 2002. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- UNCTAD’s “United Nations Investment Promotion Awards” – awarded to IPAs from Costa Rica, Netherlands & Korea
- UNCTAD’s 7<sup>th</sup> World Investment Forum – held virtually from October 18 to 22
- Special awards for the ‘Blue Economy’ to: Mauritius Economic Development Board & Seychelles Investment Bureau
- [HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland](#) | [Secretary-General – Rebecca Grynspan](#)

**31.** On October 20, The European Parliament’s “2021 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought” has been awarded to Russian opposition politician and anti-corruption activist Alexei Navalny. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Alexei Navalny (Russia) – awarded with European Parliament’s “2021 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought”
- [HQs of European Parliament – Brussels, Belgium](#) | [President – David Maria Sassoli](#)

**32.** On October 20, The world-renowned Kung Fu Nuns of the Drukpa order of Buddhism have won the prestigious “Martial Arts Education Prize 2021” from the UNESCO International Centre for Martial Arts for their brave acts of service. Their efforts were honoured with several prestigious international awards. The nuns are recipients of the Atlantic Council’s prestigious Unsung Heroes Award 2020 and the Asia Society’s Game Changer Award 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kung Fu Nuns of the Drukpa order of Buddhism – won the prestigious “Martial Arts Education Prize 2021”
- The award was given by the UNESCO International Centre for Martial Arts
- [HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France](#) | [Director-General – Audrey Azoulay](#) | [Founded in – 1945](#)

**33.** In October 2021, Tamil drama Koozhangal (Pebbles), directed by filmmaker Vinothraj PS, has been selected as India’s official entry for the 94<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards. Koozhangal had won the Tiger Award for best film, at the 50<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR). The film will compete under the “Best International Feature Film” category. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Koozhangal (Tamil movie) – India’s official entry for the 94<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards | [Directed by – Vinothraj PS](#)

**34.** On October 23, The Zimbabwean author and filmmaker Tsitsi Dangarembga is the recipient of the “2021 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade” by the German Book Trade Association. She is the first Black woman to receive the €25,000 award from the German Book Trade Association. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tsitsi Dangarembga ([Zimbabwe](#)) – first Black woman to receive “2021 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade”
- [Zimbabwe – Harare – Dollar](#) | [President – Emmerson Mnangagwa](#)



**35.** On October 25, Actor Rajinikanth was conferred with the 51<sup>st</sup> “Dadasaheb Phalke Award” for the year 2019 by the Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu for his stupendous contribution to Indian cinema at 67<sup>th</sup> National Film Awards ceremony in Delhi. Amitabh Bachchan was the recipient of the 50<sup>th</sup> Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajinikanth – received the 51<sup>st</sup> “Dadasaheb Phalke Award” for the year 2019 – from M. Venkaiah Naidu
- 67<sup>th</sup> National Film Awards ceremony – held in New Delhi

**36.** On October 24, Kerala has won the award for the ‘City with the Most Sustainable Transport System’. The award has been given in recognition of the projects implemented like Kochi Metro, Water Metro and e-mobility, to enhance the transport facilities in Kochi. The formation of the ‘Kochi Open Mobility Network’ also helped to win the award. The award was presented in Delhi by Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kerala – won the award for ‘City with the Most Sustainable Transport System’ – for implementing projects in Kochi
- The award was presented by – Hardeep Singh Puri
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**37.** On October 21, TVS Motor Company has been recognised in the category ‘Outstanding Renewable Energy User’ at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of “India Green Energy Award 2020” by the Indian Federation of Green Energy (IFGE). The award was presented by Shri Nitin Gadkari. In 2020-21, renewable energy contributed to 84% of overall company power consumption. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of “India Green Energy Award 2020” – by the Indian Federation of Green Energy (IFGE)
- TVS Motor Company – won “India Green Energy Award 2020” in ‘Outstanding Renewable Energy User’ category
- The award presented by – Nitin Gadkari
- HQs of TVS Motor Company – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – K. N. Radhakrishnan

**38.** In October 2021, Harbhajan Singh and Javagal Srinath have been announced among the 18 new Honorary Life Members of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). Srinath has become an ICC match referee after retiring as an ace India pacer, while Harbhajan represents Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Harbhajan Singh + Javagal Srinath = among the 18 new Honorary Life Members of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)
- HQs of MCC – London, UK | CEO – Derek Brewer



**39.** In October 2021, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has won the “2021 Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) GreenLake Ecosystem Partner of the Year Award”. The Awards recognise HPE partners committed to customer excellence, strong performance, focus on growth, and dedication to mutual achievements. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- TCS – won the “2021 HPE GreenLake Ecosystem Partner of the Year Award”
- HQs of TCS – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Rajesh Gopinathan | Founded in – 1968



# Appointments & Resignations

**1.** In October 2021, Kangana Ranaut was named brand ambassador 'One District One Product' (ODOP) programme which was launched with the aim to create product-specific traditional industrial hubs across 75 districts of the state. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Kangana Ranaut – named as Brand Ambassador of UP's 'One District One Product' (ODOP) programme
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**2.** President Kais Saied has appointed a 63-year-old professor, Najla Bouden Romdhane as the Tunisia's first woman Prime Minister. She has replaced Hichem Mechichi. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Najla Bouden Romdhane – appointed as the PM of Tunisia (succeeding - Hichem Mechichi)
- Tunisia – Tunis – Dinar | President – Kais Saied | PM – Najla Bouden Romdhane

**3.** In October 2021, The 1989 batch IAS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, Rebecca Vanessa Suchiang is appointed as the new chief secretary of Meghalaya. She has become the first Khasi woman to be appointed as chief secretary of any state. She will succeed M S Rao who after his retirement will serve as the Chief Commissioner of the State Public Service Delivery Commission. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Vanessa Suchiang – appointed as the Chief Secretary of Meghalaya (first Khasi woman)
- She will replace – M. S. Rao
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

**4.** In October 2021, Cryptocurrency exchange CoinDCX has roped in actor Amitabh Bachchan as its first-ever brand ambassador. CoinDCX, established in 2018, is India's first crypto unicorn. CoinDCX wants to educate people about crypto and highlight the safety aspect and how the exchange complies with all regulations. CoinDCX also recently launched an awareness campaign and 'Happy Day Rewards' campaign. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Amitabh Bachchan – roped in as the first ever brand ambassador of CoinDCX
- CoinDCX – also launched an Awareness Campaign & 'Happy Day Rewards' campaign
- HQs of CoinDCX – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Sumit Gupta | Established in 2018

**5.** In October 2021, The International Finance Corporation (IFC), an arm of World Bank Group, has appointed Wendy Werner as the new country head for India. She will focus on growth and diversification of the India portfolio, helping maximise IFC's impact in the region. She will succeed Jun Zhang. India is the largest client country globally for the IFC with a commitment of \$1.7 billion for the fiscal year ending June 2021. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Wendy Werner – appointed as the country head for India by International Finance Corporation (succeeding Jun Zhang)
- HQs of IFC – Washington D.C., US | MD – Makhtar Diop | Established in – 1956 (an arm of World Bank)

6. Amrutanjan Healthcare has roped in weightlifter Mirabai Chanu and wrestler Bajrang Punia as brand ambassadors for its advanced body pain management products. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mirabai Chanu & Bajrang Punia – appointed as brand ambassadors of Amrutanjan Healthcare
- HQs of Amrutanjan Healthcare – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman & MD – S Sambhu Prasad

7. 'The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet' has extended the additional charge of 'PK Purwar' as Chairman & Managing Director of telecom firm MTNL for a period of one year. Purwar also holds the position of Chairman & Managing Director of BSNL. The government has announced the merger of BSNL & MTNL, which is yet to be firmed up. MTNL reported a total loss of Rs 2,554 Cr for 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PK Purwar – extended as Chairman & MD of MTNL for 1 year (addi. charge) | He is also CMD of BSNL
- HQs of MTNL – New Delhi | CMD – PK Purwar (additional charge) | Established in –1986

8. In October 2021, Indian smart wearable brand Fire-Boltt has roped in cricketer Virat Kohli as its brand ambassador. Fire-Boltt had recently brought on board Bollywood star Vicky Kaushal as its first brand ambassador. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Virat Kohli – roped in as brand ambassador of Indian smart wearable brand Fire-Boltt
- Vicky Kaushal – was appointed as 1<sup>st</sup> brand ambassador

9. Chairman of Competition Commission of India, Ashok Kumar Gupta has been given additional charge of the post of Chairperson of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) for a period of 3 months from October 1 by Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) because Rangachari Sridharan's three year term as NFRA Chief has ended. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ashok Kumar Gupta – appointed as the Chairperson of NFRA for 3 months (addi. charge)
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka
- HQs of NFRA – New Delhi | Chairperson – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Founded in – 2018



**10.** In October 2021, Guinea’s military junta named ‘Mohamed Beavogui’, a former civil servant as Prime Minister. He has served as the first Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity. Also, ‘Colonel Mamadi Doumbouya’ has been sworn in as Guinea’s interim President replacing Alpha Conde. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mohamed Beavogui – named as Guinea’s Prime Minister
- Colonel Mamadi Doumbouya – sworn in as Guinea’s interim President
- [Guinea – Conakry – Guinean franc](#) | [PM – Mohamed Beavogui](#) | [President – Colonel Mamadi Doumbouya \(Interim\)](#)

**11.** In October 2021, Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal launched the “Desh Ke Mentors” programme under which 9 lakh students of classes 9 to 12 in Delhi government schools will be connected with noteworthy citizens who will offer them career & general guidance. Actor Sonu Sood had been appointed as the brand ambassador for the programme. Desh ke Mentors App was developed by a team from Delhi Technological University (DTU) for this programme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arvind Kejriwal launched – “Desh Ke Mentors” programme (for students of classes 9 to 12)
- Desh ke Mentors App – developed by a team from DTU
- Sonu Sood – appointed as the brand ambassador for the programme
- [New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal](#) | [Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal](#) | [Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev](#)

**12.** In October 2021, Arun Kumar Mishra has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL). EESL, which works under the Ministry of Power, is a joint venture between NTPC Ltd, Power Finance Corporation, REC & PowerGrid. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arun Kumar Mishra – appointed as the CEO of EESL
- EESL works under – Ministry of Power
- [HQs of EESL – New Delhi](#) | [CEO – Arun Kumar Mishra](#) | [Chairman – K. Sreekant](#)
- [Ministry of Power and Ministry of New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh](#) | [Constituency – Arrah, Bihar](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Power: Krishan Pal](#)

**13.** In October 2021, Rajnish Kumar, former chairman of SBI, has been appointed as chairman of BharatPe. BharatPe & Centrum Capital have received an in-principle nod from the Reserve Bank of India to set up a small finance bank. Recently, Rajnish Kumar wrote his memoir “The Custodian of Trust”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajnish Kumar – appointed as the Chairman of BharatPe
- BharatPe + Centrum Capital = received approval from RBI to set up an SFB
- Rajnish Kumar’s memoir – “The Custodian of Trust”
- [HQs of BharatPe – New Delhi](#) | [Founder & CEO – Ashneer Grover](#)
- [HQs of Centrum Capital – Mumbai, MH](#) | [Executive Chairman – Jaspal Singh Bindra](#)





**14.** CavinKare Chairman & Managing Director, C. K. Ranganathan has been appointed as President of All India Management Association (AIMA) for a period of one year. Ranganathan has taken over from Harsh Pati Singhania. AIMA is the national apex body of the management profession in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- C. K. Ranganathan – appointed as President of All India Management Association (AIMA) for 1 year
- HQs of AIMA – New Delhi | President – C. K. Ranganathan

**15.** On October 1, The Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC) has appointed automobile industry veteran Vinod Aggarwal as its president. Aggarwal, who is currently the managing director and CEO of VE Commercial Vehicles Ltd (VECV), replaces Nikunj Sanghi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vinod Aggarwal – appointed as the President of Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC)
- He replaced Nikunj Sanghi
- HQs of ASDC – New Delhi | President – Vinod Aggarwal

**16.** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra as the Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). He has been holding the additional charge of CBDT chairman since May 31. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- J. B. Mohapatra – appointed as the Chairman of CBDT
- HQs of CBDT – New Delhi | Chairman – Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra | Formed in – 1944

**17.** On October 1, BC Patnaik has taken charge as Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). Prior to taking charge as Managing Director of LIC, Patnaik was Secretary General, Council for Insurance Ombudsmen, (CIO) Mumbai. Patnaik has joined in place of Mukesh Gupta. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BC Patnaik – appointed as the MD of the LIC (replacing - Mukesh Gupta)
- 4 MDs of LIC: B. C. Patnaik, Raj Kumar, Siddhartha Mohanty & Mini Ipe
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”

**18.** In October 2021, Vice Admiral Adhir Arora has taken charge as the Chief Hydrographer to the Govt of India from Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar who superannuated on 30 Sep 21. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vice Admiral Adhir Arora – appointed as the Chief Hydrographer of India (replacing - Vinay Badhwar)



**19.** The government has appointed Captain Alok Mishra as the managing director of India Ports Global Ltd which is the state-owned entity tasked with developing and running the strategically important and India-funded Chabahar port in Iran. Mishra will have a 5-year tenure in the role. Chabahar is also being built as a gateway to the East and West of the Caspian Sea as part of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) which is a 7,200-km-long Multi-Modal Network of sea, rail and road route for moving freight. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Alok Mishra – appointed as the MD of India Ports Global Ltd – for 5 years
- Chabahar port – located in Iran
- HQs of India Ports Global Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD – Alok Mishra

**20.** Parle Agro has launched a new TV campaign for 'B Fizz' and appointed Arjun Kapoor as its brand ambassador. The brand has launched a 360-degree campaign for its malt flavoured fruit drink. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arjun Kapoor – appointed as brand ambassador of Parle Agro flavored fruit drink 'B Fizz'
- HQs of Parle Agro – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Schauna Chauhan

**21.** On October 1, Air Marshal B. R. Krishna assumed charge of Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC). He was awarded Shaurya Chakra for gallantry in 1986 and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal for distinguished service in 1987. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- B. R. Krishna – assumed charge as Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, CISC

**22.** In October 2021, UCO Bank CEO Atul Kumar Goel has been appointed as chairman of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for 2021-22 succeeding Union Bank of India CEO Rajkiran Rai. He will also take over as Punjab National Bank (PNB) CEO from January 2022. IBA members also elected SBI chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, Canara Bank CEO L V Prabhakar & IDBI Bank CEO Rakesh Sharma as deputy chairmen of the IBA. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Atul Kumar Goel – appointed Chairman of IBA for 2021-22 (succeeding - Rajkiran Rai)
- Elected Deputy Chairmen – Dinesh Kumar Khara, L V Prabhakar & Rakesh Sharma
- HQs of IBA – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Atul Kumar Goel | Established in – 1946

**23.** On October 5, Mankind Pharma has roped in Vijay Sethupathi as its brand ambassador to represent the brand in the southern market. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vijay Sethupathi – roped in as the brand ambassador of Mankind Pharma
- HQs of Mankind Pharma – New Delhi | Founder & Chairman – R. C. Juneja | CEO – Sheetal Arora



**24.** Sanjay Bhargava will head Elon Musk's Starlink satellite broadband venture in India. Sanjay joined SpaceX as Starlink's country director (India), effective October 1, 2021. Sanjay had worked with Elon Musk as part of a team that had founded electronic payment firm, PayPal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sanjay Bhargava – appointed as Starlink's Country Director (India) – to head Starlink satellite broadband venture in India
- [HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S.](#) | [CEO – Elon Musk](#) | [Founded in – 2002](#)

**25.** On October 7, Eric Braganza (President of Haier India) has taken over as the new President of the Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA) for the 2021-23 period. The consumer durables industry is expected to almost double in the next 5-6 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Eric Braganza – appointed as President of Consumer Electronics & Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA)
- [HQs of CEAMA – Noida, Uttar Pradesh](#) | [President – Eric Braganza](#)

**26.** In October 2021, Crisil's president and chief operating officer Amish Mehta will take over as the MD & CEO. He will be replacing Ashu Suyash. CRISIL, India's first credit rating agency, was incorporated in 1987. In April 2005, US based credit rating agency S&P acquired the majority shares of company. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amish Mehta – appointed as MD & CEO of CRISIL (replacing - Ashu Suyash)
- The majority shares of CRISIL were acquired by S&P Global Ratings in April 2005
- [HQs of CRISIL – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [MD & CEO – Amish Mehta](#) | [Established in – 1987](#)

**27.** In October 2021, The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as the Managing Director & CEO of Axis Bank, with effect from January 1, 2022 till December 31, 2024. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amitabh Chaudhry – re-appointed as MD & CEO of Axis Bank (tenure extended for 3 years)
- [HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai](#) | [MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry](#) | [Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”](#)

**28.** In October 2021, Navrang Saini, who is a Whole Time Member of IBBI, has been given the additional charge as the Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) for 3 months. The post fell vacant after M.S. Sahoo retired after five-year tenure on September 30. IBBI is a key institution in implementing the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), which came into force in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Navrang Saini – appointed as the Chairperson of the IBBI (addi. charge) | [Replacing – M.S. Sahoo](#)
- [HQs of IBBI – New Delhi](#) | [Chairperson – Navrang Saini](#) | [Established in – 2016](#)

**29.** In October 2021, “Jonas Gahr Store” assumed the office of Prime Minister of Norway. He is from Norway’s Labor Party. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jonas Gahr Store (The Labor Party) – became new PM of Norway (replacing - Erna Solberg)
- Norway – Oslo – Krone | PM – Jonas Gahr Store

**30.** In October 2021, Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen swore in Alexander Schallenberg, currently the Foreign Minister, as Chancellor after Sebastian Kurz resigned amid corruption allegations. Alexander Schallenberg served as the Austria’s Foreign Minister since 2019. Diplomat Michael Linhart became the Austria’s new Foreign Minister. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Alexander Schallenberg – appointed as chancellor of Austria (Replacing Sebastian Kurz)
- Michael Linhart – became Austria’s new Foreign Minister
- Austria – Vienna – Euro | President – Alexander Van der Bellen | Chancellor – Alexander Schallenberg

**31.** In October 2021, World Steel Association (WSA) has elected Sajjan Jindal, Chairman & Managing Director of JSW Steel Ltd, as Chairman for the year 2021-22. He is the 1<sup>st</sup> representative from India to serve as Chairman of the WSA. Also, Yu Yong is appointed as the vice-chairman. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sajjan Jindal (CMD of JSW Steel Ltd) – appointed as Chairman of WSA for 2021-22 (1<sup>st</sup> representative from India)
- Yu Yong – appointed as the Vice-Chairman of WSA
- HQs of JSW Group – Mumbai, MH | CMD – Sajjan Jindal
- HQs of WSA – Brussels, Belgium | Chairman – Sajjan Jindal

**32.** In October 2021, Alok Sahay has been appointed as new Secretary-General and Executive Head of Indian Steel Association (ISA). Alok succeeded Bhaskar Chatterjee. Sahay has represented India at the Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity (GFSEC) held in Paris in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Alok Sahay – appointed as new Secretary-General of Indian Steel Association (succeeding - Bhaskar Chatterjee)
- HQs of ISA – New Delhi | Secretary-General – Alok Sahay

**33.** In October 2021, Sahdev Yadav has been elected as the president of the ‘Indian Weightlifting Federation’ (IWLF) unanimously. Earlier, he was holding the post of Secretary General. Also, Anande Gowda has been appointed as Secretary General. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sahdev Yadav – elected as the President of ‘Indian Weightlifting Federation’
- Anande Gowda – appointed as Secretary General of ‘Indian Weightlifting Federation’
- HQs of IWFL – New Delhi | President – Sahdev Yadav | Secretary General – Anande Gowda

**34.** In October 2021, Karnataka Bank Ltd has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India to appoint Pradeep Kumar Panja as part-time non-executive Chairman for a period of three years. He will succeed P Jayarama Bhat. Currently he is an Independent Director of the Karnataka Bank. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pradeep Kumar Panja – appointed as Non-executive Chairman of Karnataka Bank for 3 years
- HQs of Karnataka Bank – Mangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Mahabaleshwara M. S.

**35.** On October 8, Leading crypto asset trading platform CoinSwitch Kuber has roped in Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh as its first ever brand ambassador. The move is aimed to connect with millennials and Gen-Z users by featuring Ranveer Singh in its 'Kuch Toh Badlega' campaign. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ranveer Singh – appointed as the first ever Brand Ambassador of CoinSwitch Kuber
- HQs of CoinSwitch Kuber – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Ashish Singhal

**36.** On October 8, Home care and surface hygiene brand 'MaxKleen' has appointed Amitabh Bachchan as its brand ambassador. With this campaign, the brand highlights the key message of "keeping floors protected with MaxKleen". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amitabh Bachchan – appointed as Brand Ambassador of MaxKleen

**37.** On October 7, Anshu Malik won the Silver medal at the World Wrestling Championships in Oslo, Norway and became the first Indian woman to silver at World Championships. Anshu was the third Indian to reach the final of the World championships after 2010 champion Sushil Kumar and 2018 silver medallist Bajrang Punia. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Anshu Malik ([Wrestler](#)) – won the Silver medal at the World Wrestling Championships in Oslo, Norway
- With this, she became the first Indian woman to win a silver medal at World Championships

**38.** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways for appointment of Polamraju Lakshmi Haranadh as Chairperson of Paradip Port Trust under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways for a tenure up to his superannuation on August 31, 2026. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Polamraju Lakshmi Haranadh – appointed as Chairperson of Paradip Port Trust – till August 31, 2026
- Location of Paradip Port Trust – Odisha | Chairperson – Polamraju Lakshmi Haranadh



**39.** On October 9, President Ram Nath Kovind has approved the appointment of chief justices to 8 High Courts in India. The President also approved transfer of 5 Chief Justices to different high courts. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- President Ram Nath Kovind approved the appointment of chief justices to 8 High Courts:

Name	From	To
<b>New Appointments</b>		
Prakash Shrivastava	-	Calcutta HC
Ranjit V. More	-	Meghalaya HC
Ritu Raj Awasthi	-	Karnataka HC
Rajesh Bindal	-	Allahabad HC
Satish Chandra Sharma	-	Telangana HC
R. V. Malimath	-	Madhya Pradesh HC
Aravind Kumar	-	Gujarat HC
Prashant Kumar Mishra	-	Andhra Pradesh HC
<b>Transfer</b>		
A. A. Kureshi	Tripura HC	Rajasthan HC
Indrajit Mahanty	Rajasthan HC	Tripura HC
Mohammad Rafiq	Himachal Pradesh HC	Madhya Pradesh HC
Biswanath Somadder	Meghalaya HC	Sikkim HC
A. K. Goswami	Andhra Pradesh HC	Chhattisgarh HC

**40.** On October 13, Yardley recently announced the launch of their new campaign 'Nature Like Freshness,' with Kriti Sanon as its new brand ambassador. Yardley is one of the world's oldest living brands in the personal care category. It was founded in 1770 in the UK. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kriti Sanon – appointed as Brand Ambassador of 'Yardley' - a personal care brand

**41.** On October 12, As part of a bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre, senior bureaucrats Meera Mohanty has been appointed as the joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Ritesh Chauhan is appointed as the CEO of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). While, Uma Nanduri will be the Joint Secretary in the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Secretariat under the Ministry of Culture. Besides, other secretaries were also appointed as given below. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Meera Mohanty – appointed as the Joint Secretary in PMO
- Ritesh Chauhan – appointed as the CEO of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
- Uma Nanduri – appointed as the Joint Secretary in 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Secretariat' under 'Ministry of Culture'

**42.** On October 12, Former bureaucrat Amit Khare has been appointed as Advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for 2 years on contract basis. Mr. Khare, a 1985 batch (retired) IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre, had superannuated on September 30. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amit Khare – appointed as Advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for 2 years



**43.** On October 14, S. V. Zaregaonkar has resigned as the Chief Financial Officer of IndusInd Bank with effect from 30 September, 2021. In his place, Gobind Jain has been appointed as the new CFO. IndusInd Bank had reported a 99% year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit at ₹1,016 Cr for the quarter ended June 30, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gobind Jain – appointed as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of IndusInd Bank (replacing - S. V. Zaregaonkar)
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – “We Make You Feel Richer”

**44.** On October 13, Infinity Learn by Sri Chaitanya has appointed Indian cricketer Rohit Sharma as its Brand Ambassador. Learn Infinity is a personal growth education platform dedicated to help you transform yourselves in a holistic way through online live courses. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rohit Sharma – appointed as Brand Ambassador of ‘Infinity Learn by Sri Chaitanya’
- HQs of Infinity Learn – Hyderabad, Telangana | CEO – Ujjwal Singh

**45.** On October 13, Hospitality firm Oravel Stays Ltd (OYO) has appointed Paralympian Deepa Malik as an Independent Director on the company's board. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Deepa Malik (Paralympian) – appointed as an Independent Director on OYO's board
- HQs of OYO – Gurgaon, Haryana | CEO – Ritesh Agarwal

**46.** E. R. Sheikh assumed charge as first Director General of the Ordnance Directorate (Co-ordination and Services) which is the successor organization of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB). Moreover, the Defence Ministry has recently dissolved the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) into 7 DPSUs from 41 Ordnance Factories. By 2024, the Ministry of Defence has set a target of achieving a turnover of Rs 1.75 lakh Cr in aerospace and defence goods and services, including exports of Rs 35,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- E. R. Sheikh – assumed charge as first Director General of the Directorate of Ordnance
- Ministry of Defence's target: To achieve a turnover of Rs 1.75 lakh Cr in aerospace and defence goods & services
- HQs of Directorate of Ordnance – Kolkata, West Bengal | DG – E. R. Sheikh

**47.** On October 16, L&T EdutTech, the recently launched virtual learning subsidiary of Larsen & Toubro, has appointed Sabyasachi Das as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sabyasachi Das – appointed as the CEO of L&T EdutTech
- HQs of L&T – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – S. N. Subrahmanyam | Group Chairman – A. M. Naik



**48.** In October 2021, A. Balasubramanian, CEO of Aditya Birla Sun Life Asset Management has been elected Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). He has taken over from Nilesh Shah, MD of Kotak Mutual Fund. Also, Radhika Gupta, CEO of Edelweiss Asset Management has been elected as the Vice-Chairperson of AMFI. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A. Balasubramanian – appointed as Chairman of AMFI
- Radhika Gupta – appointed as the Vice-Chairperson of AMFI
- [HQs of AMFI – Mumbai](#) | [Chairman – A. Balasubramanian](#) | [CEO – N. S. Venkatesh](#) | [Incorporated in – 1995](#)

**49.** In October 2021, Bangla Tigers has named former India captain Mohammad Azharuddin as the brand ambassador for the franchise for the upcoming ‘Abu Dhabi T10 League’. The tournament is scheduled to be held at the Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi from November 19 and is being staged under the aegis of the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mohammad Azharuddin – appointed as the brand ambassador of ‘Bangla Tigers’ for the ‘Abu Dhabi T10 League’
- [Zayed Cricket Stadium – Abu Dhabi, UAE](#) | [‘T10 League’ – in UAE](#)

**50.** In October 2021, German sportswear company Adidas has roped in Deepika Padukone as its global brand ambassador. She will join an already dense line-up of female brand ambassadors associated with Adidas in India — including Mirabai Chanu, Lovlina Borgohain, Nikhat Zareen, Simranjeet Kaur, Hima Das & Dipika Pallikal. Recently Levi’s also announced Padukone as its global brand ambassador. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Adidas – roped in Deepika Padukone as its Global Brand Ambassador
- Other female brand ambassadors of Adidas: Mirabai Chanu, Lovlina Borgohain, Nikhat Zareen, Simranjeet Kaur, Hima Das & Dipika Pallikal
- Deepika Padukone – is also global brand ambassador of Levi’s
- [HQs of Adidas – Herzogenaurach, Germany](#) | [CEO – Kasper Rorsted](#)

**51.** In October 2021, Realme has announced the appointment of Team India cricketer KL Rahul as its brand ambassador. Rahul will endorse realme’s smartphone category. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Realme – roped in Indian cricketer ‘K. L. Rahul’ as its brand ambassador for smartphone category

**52.** In October 2021, The Sports Authority of India (SAI) appointed Commodore PK Garg as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of its Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). He will replace Commander Rajesh Rajagopalan. Commodore Garg was a High-Performance Director with SAI till June 2021 & is an Arjuna Awardee recipient (1990) in Sailing & Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna awardee in 1993-94. He represented India in 5 Asian Games from 1986 to 2002 in Enterprise Class Sailing events & is a 5-time national champion. He has also served in Indian Navy for 34 years. [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- P. K. Garg – appointed as the CEO of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme of SAI (replacing - Rajesh Rajagopalan)
- PK Garg – 5 time National Champion in Enterprise Class Sailing events
- PK Garg – won Arjuna Award in 1990 (Sailing) & Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna in 1993-94
- HQs of SAI – New Delhi | Director General – Sandip Pradhan

**53.** In October 2021, The governor general of Barbados, Sandra Mason has become the country's 1<sup>st</sup> president. She will replace Queen Elizabeth II who was holding the position since 1950s. She will be sworn in on Nov. 30, making Barbados a republic on the 55th anniversary of its independence from Britain. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Sandra Mason – elected as the 1<sup>st</sup> President of Barbados (replacing - Queen Elizabeth II)
- Barbados – Bridgetown – Barbados Dollar | PM – Mia Mottley | President – Sandra Mason

**54.** On October 19, Amit Rastogi took over as Chairman & Managing Director of National Research Development Corporation (NRDC). He was earlier, Director, Electrical Engineering at Integrated Headquarters, Ministry of Defence for five years and Additional General Manager Tech Services at Naval Dockyard for two years. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Amit Rastogi – took over as Chairman & MD of National Research Development Corporation
- HQs of NRDC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Amit Rastogi

**55.** On October 18, Cryptocurrency exchange CoinDCX has roped in actor Ayushmann Khurrana for its 'Future Yahi Hai' campaign which is designed to spread awareness and information about crypto investments. India's first crypto unicorn CoinDCX was established in 2018 and its products include CoinDCX, CoinDCX Pro, DCX Learn, Cosmex. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- CoinDCX – roped in Ayushmann Khurrana for its 'Future Yahi Hai' campaign
- HQs of CoinDCX – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Sumit Gupta | Established in 2018

**56.** On October 20, The 49-year-old prominent Indian-American economist and Gita Gopinath has announced to leave the Chief Economist Post at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in January, 2021 and return to the prestigious Harvard University's Economics Department. She made history as the first female Chief Economist of the IMF. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Gita Gopinath – announced to leave the Chief Economist Post at the IMF in January, 2021
- She will return to the prestigious Harvard University's Economics Department
- She made history as the first female Chief Economist of the IMF



**57.** On October 20, OnePlus has announced the appointment of Navnit Nakra as its India CEO and Head of the OnePlus India region. Since 2020, the company has been actively investing in its India workforce. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Navnit Nakra – appointed as the Head of the OnePlus India region
- HQs of OnePlus – Shenzhen, China | CEO – Pete Lau

**58.** On October 20, Director-producer Imtiaz Ali has been roped in as the ambassador of the Russian Film Festival in India. As part of the festival, ten notable Russian films of various genres will be premiered for Indian audiences. Sarfaraz Alam is the festival director of Russian Film Festival. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Imtiaz Ali (Indian film director) – roped in as the ambassador of the “Russian Film Festival in India”

**59.** In October 2021, FloBiz, a fast-growing neobank for Indian SMBs, has roped in Padma Shri awardee actor Manoj Bajpayee as the brand ambassador to accelerate its outreach to the SMB sector and promote the adoption of its flagship product myBillBook - a simple to use GST billing and accounting software. FloBiz is also running a campaign “Business Ko Le Seriously”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manoj Bajpayee – roped in as the brand ambassador of ‘FloBiz’
- HQs of FloBiz – Bengaluru | CEO – Rahul Raj

**60.** In October 2021, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has been re-elected for a 2<sup>nd</sup> five-year term. He swept to victory with 80.1% of the vote in the election. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shavkat Mirziyoyev – re-elected as the President of Uzbekistan (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
- Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So’m | President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev

**61.** In October 2021, Ms. Nagma Mohamed Mallick, presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Poland, has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Lithuania. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nagma Mohamed Mallick – appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Lithuania
- Lithuania – Vilnius – Euro | President – Gitanas Nauseda

**62.** In October 2021, Toshiba India announced the appointment of Shuichi Ito as its Managing Director effective from October 1, 2021. He will succeed Tomohiko Okada, and lead Toshiba India's energy and social infrastructure businesses in India. Toshiba India Private Limited (TIPL) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Toshiba Corporation, Japan. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Shuichi Ito – appointed as the MD of Toshiba India (succeeding - Tomohiko Okada)
- HQs of Toshiba India – New Delhi | MD – Shuichi Ito

**63.** On October 23, The makers of renowned herbal medicine Zinda Tilismath in Hyderabad has launched an ointment Zinda Balm, with international tennis star Sania Mirza as Brand Ambassador. The launch of Zinda Balm celebrates its 100th anniversary. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sania Mirza – appointed as Brand Ambassador of 'Zinda Balm' - newly launched by Zinda Tilismath (Hyderabad)

**64.** On October 23, The rating agency ICRA has announced the appointment of Ramnath Krishnan as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer from 23 October 2021. Krishnan succeeds N. Sivaraman. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ramnath Krishnan – appointed as MD & CEO of 'ICRA' (succeeding - N. Sivaraman)
- HQs of ICRA – Gurgaon, Haryana | President – Ramnath Krishnan | CEO – Ramnath Krishnan

**65.** On October 25, World champion and double Olympics medallist P. V. Sindhu has been roped in as a brand ambassador of Spinny, a full-stack online-to-offline retail platform for buying and selling used cars. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- P. V. Sindhu – roped in as a brand ambassador of 'Spinny' - a retail platform for buying & selling used cars

**66.** On October 24, Sunil Paliwal has assumed charge as Chairperson of the Chennai Port Trust. He was holding the post of CMD at the Kamarajar Port Ltd. Paliwal, a 1993-batch Tamil Nadu Cadre IAS Officer, succeeded P. Raveendran. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sunil Paliwal – assumed charge as Chairperson of the Chennai Port Trust (succeeding - P. Raveendran)

**67.** On October 22, K. Madhavan has been re-elected as the President of the Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF) for the second consecutive term. India TV Chairman Rajat Sharma, Rahul Joshi and Shashi Vempati have been elected as Vice Presidents of the IBDF which was formerly known as the Indian Broadcasting Foundation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- K. Madhavan – re-elected as the President of the Indian Broadcasting & Digital Foundation (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
- Rajat Sharma + Rahul Joshi + Shashi Vempati = elected as the Vice Presidents of the IBDF

**68.** On October 28, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited appointed Dr. Subhash Chandra Khuntia as the part-time Chairman. A 1981-batch IAS officer, Dr. Khuntia has earlier worked as Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka, Secretary to Government of India and was the Chairman of IRDAI. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Subhash Chandra Khuntia – appointed as the part-time Chairman of Jana Small Finance Bank
- HQs of Jana SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Ajay Kanwal | Chairman (part-time) – S. C. Khuntia

**69.** On October 28, Jammu & Kashmir Bank has approved the appointment of Baldev Prakash as its next MD and CEO for a period of 3 years from the date of taking charge or April 10, 2022, whichever is earlier. Presently, Rajesh Kumar Chhibber is the Chairman and Managing Director of J&K Bank, who assumed charge of the bank in June 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Baldev Prakash – to take charge as the next MD & CEO of Jammu & Kashmir Bank
- HQs of J&K Bank – Sri Nagar, J & K | MD & Chairman – R. K. Chhibber

**70.** On October 26, Kapiva has roped in Malaika Arora as the brand ambassador. As part of the association, Arora will also be a wellness mentor at the 'Kapiva Academy of Ayurveda'. Kapiva offers the best quality modern ayurvedic nutrition products with natural ingredients and supplements online to improve your lifestyle. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Malaika Arora – appointed as the brand ambassador of 'Kapiva'
- Malaika Arora – will be a wellness mentor at the 'Kapiva Academy of Ayurveda'

**71.** On October 26, Eicher Motors has approved the re-appointment of Siddhartha Lal as the company's Managing Director for a period of 5 years. Lal was credited with reviving the brand image of Royal Enfield since he took charge as MD in 2006-07. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Siddhartha Lal – reappointed as the MD of Eicher Motors – for 5 years
- HQs of Eicher Motors – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Siddhartha Lal

**72.** On October 29, The Central government appointed senior IAS officer Renu Sharma as the new Chief Secretary of Mizoram. Renu Sharma replaced Lalnunmawia Chuaungo. The appointment of Sharma coincided with the Mizoram government appointing state additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister J. C. Ramthanga. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Renu Sharma – appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Mizoram (replacing - Lalnunmawia Chuaungo)
- J. C. Ramthanga – appointed as additional Chief Secretary to the CM of Mizoram
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – B. D. Mishra (addi. charge)



**73.** On October 29, The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the reappointment of Shaktikanta Das as the Governor of the RBI for a period of 3 years beyond December 10, 2021, or until further order. He was first appointed in 2018 replacing Urjit Patel. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shaktikanta Das – reappointed as the RBI Governor – for further 3 years
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**74.** Indian-origin Canadian politician Anita Anand is appointed as Canada’s new Defence Minister in a Cabinet reshuffle by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Ms. Anand will replace long-time Defence Minister Indian-origin Harjit Sajjan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Anita Anand (Indian-origin Canadian) – appointed as new Defence Minister of Canada
- Canada – Ottawa – Canadian Dollar | PM – Justin Trudeau

**75.** In October 2021, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet abolished the post of CEO for Development of Museums and Cultural Spaces, and accepted the resignation of retired IAS officer Raghvendra Singh from the post. The Government had created the post in 2019 by upgrading the post of the Director of the National Museum and Mr. Singh, who had retired as Culture Secretary, was appointed for a 3-year term till September 2022. Culture Ministry Additional Secretary Partha Sarthi Sensharma was given additional charge of the post of Director General of National Museum, and Joint Secretary Lily Pandeya was given additional charge of the post of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library director. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Appointments Committee of the Cabinet – abolished the post of CEO for Development of Museums & Cultural Spaces
- It happened after the resignation of ‘Raghvendra Singh’ from the post | This post was created in 2019
- Partha Sarthi Sensharma – given additional charge of the DG of National Museum
- Lily Pandeya – given additional charge of the Director of Nehru Memorial Museum & Library
- Minister of Culture: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Minister of Culture: Arjun Ram Meghwal

**76.** In October 2021, Isha Ambani has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of Smithsonian’s National Museum of Asian Art, for a 4-year term. The Smithsonian’s National Museum of Asian Art is part of the Smithsonian Institution, the world’s largest museum, education and research complex, based in Washington, D.C, US. This museum was opened as the Freer Gallery of Art in 1923. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Isha Ambani – appointed to the Board of Trustees of Smithsonian’s National Museum of Asian Art for a 4-year term
- Smithsonian’s National Museum of Asian Art – the world’s largest museum (Washington, D.C, US)

**77.** In October 2021, The government has appointed Justice Ashok Bhushan (former judge of the Supreme Court) as Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) for a period of 4 years. Besides, it has appointed Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar (former Chief Justice of Manipur High Court) as President of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). The appellate tribunal NCLAT will now have a permanent Chairperson after a gap of almost 19 months. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ashok Bhushan – appointed as Chairperson of the NCLAT for a period of 4 years
- Ramalingam Sudhakar – appointed as President of the NCLT

**78.** In October 2021, Coca-Cola India has extended partnership with former Indian skipper and BCCI President Sourav Ganguly as its ambassador for another 3 years. Ganguly had earlier signed a pact with Coca-Cola in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sourav Ganguly – reappointed as the ambassador of Coca-Cola India for another 3 years
- HQs of Coca-Cola India – Gurugram, Haryana
- President Coca-Cola India and South West Asia – Sanket Ray
- CEO of Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages (HCCB) – Neeraj Garg

**79.** In October 2021, Tae-Jin Park, Executive Director and Chief Sales & Business Strategy Officer (CSBO) has assumed the role of Managing Director and CEO of Kia India. He has been associated with Kia India since January 2020. T. J. Park succeeded Kookhyun Shim. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tae-Jin Park – appointed as the MD & CEO of Kia India (succeeding - Kookhyun Shim)
- HQs of Kia India – Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh | MD & CEO – Tae-Jin Park

# Amount & Agreements

**1.** In October 2021, NABARD has sanctioned Rs 303 Cr for construction of 24 bridges in Odisha. These projects have been approved under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). The cumulative sanction under the RIDF 2021-22 has reached Rs 1,796 Cr so far. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NABARD – has sanctioned Rs 303 Cr for construction of 24 bridges in Odisha (Under RIDF)
- The cumulative sanction under the RIDF – reached Rs 1,796 Cr (For 2021-22)
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Govinda Rajulu Chintala | Founded in – 1982
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**2.** In October 2021, The Government of India, Meghalaya and the World Bank signed a \$40 million health project for the north-east state of Meghalaya. The project will improve the quality of health services and strengthen capacity of the state to handle future health emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic. The \$40 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a maturity of 14.5 years, including a grace period of 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- World Bank – approved \$40 million loan to improve the quality of health services in Meghalaya
- Maturity period – 14.5 years | Grace period – 5 years
- IBRD – a lending arm of World Bank
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

**3.** On October 2, On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the government launched “Waste to Wealth” portal to bring together technology providers, government stakeholders and urban local bodies to find solutions to India's waste problems. This Mission is one of the 9 scientific missions of the “Prime Minister’s Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PMSTIAC)”. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Government launched “Waste to Wealth” portal to find solutions to India's waste problems
- PMSTIAC – Prime Minister’s Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council

**4.** On October 1, The World Bank will give \$150 million loan to support the Government of Tamil Nadu’s “Chennai City Partnership: Sustainable Urban Services Programme”. This programme will support the Tamil Nadu Government in its efforts to transform the city into a ‘world-class city’. The \$150 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) is a variable spread loan that has a final maturity of 16.5 years, including a grace period of 5.5 years. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- World Bank – to provide \$150 million loan to support Tamil Nadu’s “Chennai City Partnership: Sustainable Urban Services Programme”
- Maturity period – 16.5 years | Grace period – 5.5 years
- IBRD – a lending arm of World Bank
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

5. In October 2021, The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced to deliver climate financing of \$100 billion to its developing member countries (DMCs) from 2019-2030. In 2018, ADB committed to ensuring at least 75% of the total number of its operations support climate action and its own climate finance resources reach at least a cumulative \$80 billion by 2030. The additional \$20 billion will provide support for the climate agenda in five main areas: 1) New avenues for climate mitigation. 2) A scale-up of transformative adaptation projects. 3) An increase in climate finance in ADB’s private sector operations. 4) Support for a green, resilient, and inclusive recovery from COVID-19. 5) Support to advance reforms in DMCs to unlock actions through policy-based lending. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- ADB – to deliver climate financing of \$100 billion to its developing member countries from 2019-2030
- Additional \$20 billion will provide support for the climate agenda in 5 main areas
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966

6. On October 14, India and the US reaffirmed their commitment to raise \$100 billion annually from public and private sector sources to help develop the two countries’ efforts to tackle climate change. The Climate Crisis was the first topic of discussion at a meeting of the India-US Economic and Financial Partnership under the leadership of India’s finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and US treasury secretary Janet Yellen. India-US Economic and Financial Partnership was launched in 2010. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India + US = to raise \$100 billion annually from public & private sector sources to fight Climate Change
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

7. On October 19, Sri Lanka has taken a \$500 million credit line from India to pay for its crude oil purchases amid a severe foreign exchange crisis in the island nation. The move came few days after energy minister Udaya Gammanpila warned that the current availability of fuel in Sri Lanka can be guaranteed only till January 2021. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Sri Lanka – took a \$500 million credit line from India to pay for its Crude Oil purchases
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa



**8.** In October 2021, NABARD has sanctioned Rs 608 Cr to government of India for different infrastructure projects in rural areas in Assam under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) - XXVII. The infrastructure projects include roads, bridges, flood protection projects & soil conservation projects. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NABARD – sanctioned Rs 608 Cr to Assam for infrastructure projects in Rural areas
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Govinda Rajulu Chintala | Founded in – 1982
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**9.** On October 26, Neom Tech and OneWeb have signed a \$200 million joint venture (JV) agreement to bring high-speed satellite connectivity to Neom, Saudi Arabia and the wider West Asia and neighbouring East African countries. Neom Tech & Digital Holding Company and OneWeb expect to complete ground infrastructure in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Neom Tech (Saudi Arabia) + OneWeb = \$200 million JV agreement to bring high-speed satellite connectivity
- HQs of OneWeb – London, UK | CEO – Adrian Steckel | Executive Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal
- OneWeb – co-owned by Bharti Global & the UK

**10.** On October 26, The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$4.5 million project readiness financing (PRF) loan to support Aizawl Sustainable Urban Transport Project in Mizoram. Ministry of Finance's Department of Economic Affairs Additional Secretary Rajat Kumar Mishra and ADB Country Director for India Takeo Konishi signed the agreement. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ADB + Gol = \$4.5 million PRF loan to support Aizawl Sustainable Urban Transport Project in Mizoram
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – B. D. Mishra (addi. charge)
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966

**11.** On October 27, The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide a \$100 million (around Rs 749 Cr) loan to promote agribusiness network to boost farm incomes and reduce food losses in Maharashtra. ADB will also provide a \$500,000 (\$0.5 million) technical assistance (TA) grant from its Technical Assistance Special Fund and \$2 million from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction on a grant basis to promote Maharashtra Agri-business Network Project (MAGNET). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ADB – will provide \$100 million (Rs 749 Cr) to promote Maharashtra Agri-business Network Project (MAGNET)
- \$0.5 million from ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund & \$2 million from Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR)
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966



**12.** In October 2021, S. Jaishankar arrived as part of his 4-day visit to Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Armenia with an aim to further expand bilateral ties with the three Central Asian countries. India has agreed to a \$200 million Line of Credit support for development projects in Kyrgyzstan. During his visit to Kazakhstan, EAM addressed the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures (CICA) 2021 in Nur-Sultan. EAM visited Armenia from October 12 to 13 which was the first ever visit of an Indian EAM to Armenia. During his visit, he visited the National Gallery of Armenia, which contains fresco versions of select Ajanta Cave paintings. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- S. Jaishankar – was on 4-day visit to Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Armenia in October, 2021
- India – agreed to a \$200 million Line of Credit support for development projects in Kyrgyzstan
- S. Jaishankar – addressed the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial meeting of the ‘CICA 2021’ in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
- S. Jaishankar – visited the National Gallery of Armenia
- Kyrgyzstan – Bishkek – Som | President – Sadyr Nurgojoevich Japarov
- Kazakhstan – Nur-Sultan – Tenge | President – Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
- Armenia – Yerevan – Dram | President – Armen Sarkissian | PM – Nikol Pashinyan



# Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**1.** In October 2021, 'Henley Passport Index' ranks the passports of countries according to the number of destinations their holders can visit without a prior visa. India's rank has slipped by six places from last year to 90<sup>th</sup> position with its passport holders allow to travel visa-free to 58 countries. India shares the rank with Tajikistan & Burkina Faso. Japan & Singapore hold the 1<sup>st</sup> rank on the index with a score of 192. 2<sup>nd</sup> position is shared by South Korea & Germany with a score of 190. Finland, Italy, Luxembourg & Spain are at the 3<sup>rd</sup> position with a Score of 189. Afghanistan's passport is least powerful & got a score of 26. The index is based on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) & enhanced by Henley & Partners' research team. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- "Henley Passport Index" – by IATA & Henley & Partners
- India's rank – 90<sup>th</sup> (Tajikistan & Burkina Faso also ranked the same)
- Countries: 1<sup>st</sup> – Japan & Singapore | 2<sup>nd</sup> – South Korea & Germany | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Finland, Italy, Luxembourg & Spain
- HQs of IATA – Montreal, Canada | DG & CEO – Alexandre de Juniac
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob
- HQs of Henley & Partners – London, UK | CEO – Dr. Juerg Steffen

**2.** According to the latest "Bloomberg Billionaires Index" released in October 2021, Tesla & SpaceX CEO, Elon Musk is now the World's Richest Person overtaking Amazon's founder Jeff Bezos. At present, Elon's net worth is \$222 billion, while Bezos's net worth is \$190.8 billion. While Bernard Arnault stood at the third spot. Currently, Reliance Industries Limited Chairman Mukesh Ambani ranks 11 while Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani ranks 13 in the Index. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Bloomberg Billionaires Index: 1<sup>st</sup> – Elon Musk | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jeff Bezos | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Bernard Arnault (as on Oct, 2021)
- Mukesh Ambani (11<sup>th</sup>) – topped among Indians | Gautam Adani – 13<sup>th</sup>

**3.** On October 1, NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and WHO India, has released a performance assessment report of district hospitals in India, titled "Best Practices in the Performance of District Hospitals". Overall, 75 district hospitals across 24 States and Union Territories emerged as top performers. In India, district hospitals have 24 beds per 1 lakh population on an average. Bihar has the lowest average of 6 beds while Puducherry has the highest of 222. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NITI Aayog – released a report titled "Best Practices in the Performance of District Hospitals"
- The report was released in collaboration with = Ministry of Health & Family Welfare + WHO India
- District hospitals have 24 beds per 1 lakh population on an average | Top – Puducherry & Lowest – Bihar
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

4. In October 2021, India remained at the 3<sup>rd</sup> position in the 58<sup>th</sup> edition of Ernst & Young's Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI), which ranks the world's top 40 markets (nations). US has got the 1<sup>st</sup> position, Mainland China & India remain unchanged in the ranking at 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> position, respectively. A new PPA Index - introduced in this edition of RECAI - focuses on the attractiveness of renewable power procurement & ranks the growth potential of a nation's corporate PPA market. India is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> among the top 30 PPA markets. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 58<sup>th</sup> edition of EY's RECAI | 1<sup>st</sup> – USA | 2<sup>nd</sup> – China
- India – ranks 6<sup>th</sup> among top 30 PPA markets
- HQs of EY – London, UK | CEO – Carmine Di Sibio
- HQs of EY India – New Delhi | Chairman – Rajiv Memani

5. On October 5, The World Trade Organization (WTO) has upgraded its forecast for Global Merchandise Trade Volume to an increase of 10.8% in 2021 from the 8% increase projected in March, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- WTO's forecast for 'Global Merchandise Trade Volume' – 10.8% in 2021 [{Dynamic News}](#)
- HQs of WTO – Geneva, Switzerland | 7<sup>th</sup> DG – Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria) | Countries – 164

6. On October 5, 41 Industrial Parks have been assessed as 'Leaders' in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the "Industrial Park Ratings System Report (IPRS)" or "IPRS 2.0" released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). 90 Industrial Parks have been rated as under 'Challenger' category while 185 have been rated as under 'Aspirers'. The report was launched by was launched by the Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Som Prakash. The IPRS was launched in 2018 by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> "Industrial Park Ratings System Report (IPRS)" or "IPRS 2.0" released by the DPIIT (under Ministry of C&I)
- 'Leaders' - 41 Industrial Parks | 'Challenger' - 90 Industrial Parks | 'Aspirers' - 185 Industrial Parks
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash

7. On October 5, Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare released UNICEF's global flagship publication - "The State of the World's Children 2021; On My Mind: promoting, protecting and caring for children's mental health". The report details the significant impact of COVID-19 pandemic on children's mental health. The 'State of the World's Children 2021' has found that around 14% of 15 to 24-year-olds in India, or 1 in 7, reported often feeling depressed or having little interest in doing things. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mansukh L. Mandaviya – released UNICEF's "The State of the World's Children 2021" report
- 14% of 15 to 24-year-olds in India (or 1 in 7) – reported often feeling depressed
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, US | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946



**8.** In October 2021, Only 25 of the total central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) in India have been tagged as “Excellent” in a performance review conducted by the department of public enterprises (DPE) for 2019-2020, down by 10 from last year’s figure. 28 units were marked as “Poor”. Of the remaining, 18 have been categorised as “Very Good”, 66 as “Good” & 30 as “Fair”. CPSEs are companies in which 51% or more of the direct holding belongs to the central government. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DPE conducted – performance review of CPSEs
- No. of CPSEs got ratings as: Excellent – 25 | Very Good – 18 | Good – 66 | Fair – 30 | Poor – 28

**9.** On October 7, Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani retained the title of richest Indian as he added \$4 billion to his net worth (which has now reached \$92.7 billion), according to Forbes magazine’s “100 Richest Indians List”. It is the 14<sup>th</sup> year in a row since 2008 that Mukesh Ambani has been named the wealthiest man in India. On number two is Gautam Adani who is now a close second with a \$74.8 billion net worth. Shiv Nadar (Founder and Chairman of HCL technologies) retained his third spot with net worth of \$31 billion. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Forbes magazine’s “100 Richest Indians List” (as on October 7, 2021)
- 1<sup>st</sup> - Mukesh Ambani (\$92.7 billion) | 2<sup>nd</sup> - Gautam Adani (\$74.8 billion) | 3<sup>rd</sup> - Shiv Nadar (\$31 billion)
- Mukesh Ambani – named the wealthiest man in India for the 14<sup>th</sup> year in a row since 2008

**10.** On October 7, The World Bank’s latest South Asia Economic Focus titled “Shifting Gears: Digitization and Services-Led Development” projects the region to grow by 7.1% in 2021 and 2022. India’s economy, which South Asia’s largest, is expected to grow by 8.3% in the fiscal year 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Shifting Gears: Digitization and Services-Led Development” report – released by World Bank
- South Asia region’s GDP – to grow by 7.1% in 2021-22 [{Dynamic News}](#)
- India’s GDP – to grow by 8.3% in 2021-22 [{Dynamic News}](#)
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

**11.** In October 2021, According to a report titled “The State of Climate Services 2021: Water” released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), 3.6 billion people had inadequate access to water at least one month per year in 2018. And more than 5 billion people globally are expected to face a shortage of water by 2050. Climate Change increases the global risk of water-related hazards like floods and droughts. According to the report, the biggest losses are occurring in Antarctica and Greenland. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “The State of Climate Services 2021: Water” report – released by World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- 3.6 billion people had inadequate access to water at least one month per year in 2018
- Globally, 5 billion people are expected to face a shortage of water by 2050
- HQs of WMO – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Petteri Taalas | Established in – 1950

**12.** On October 8, The UNESCO has released “State of the Education Report (SOER)-2021 for India: No Teachers, No Class”. This year, the report has focused on the theme of “Teachers, Teaching and Teacher Education”. For this report, UNESCO analysed two data sets: Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE+) 2018-19 round and the Periodic Labour Force Survey 2018-19. In 2018-19, the overall Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) at senior secondary schools has improved to 26:1 from 31:1. While in elementary schools, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) increased from 81.6 in 2001 to 102.1 in FY20. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “State of the Education Report (SOER)-2021 for India: No Teachers, No Class” report – released by UNESCO
- Theme – “Teachers, Teaching and Teacher Education”
- Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) improved to 26:1 in 2018-19 (from 31:1)
- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) increased to 102.1 in FY20 (from 81.6 in 2001)

**13.** On October 6, Union ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Jitendra Singh jointly launched a “Heli-borne Survey” for water management in arid areas of India. The survey is the outcome of an agreement between the Central Groundwater Board, Jal Shakti Ministry and the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gajendra Singh Shekhawat & Jitendra Singh – launched a “Heli-borne Survey” for water management

**14.** In October 2021, As per the “Global TB report” released by the World Health Organization (WHO), the COVID-19 pandemic has reversed years of global progress in reducing the number of people who die from TB & India has been the worst-hit. TB was ranked the 13<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death globally till 2019. It is now estimated to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause after COVID-19. From 2016-2019, the number of new cases rose continuously, but fell dramatically to 20% in 2020. 41% of the total number of cases that dropped in 2020, as compared to 2019, came from India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Global TB report” – released by the WHO
- 41% of the total number of cases that dropped in 2020 – came from India
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

**15.** On October 6, The “2021 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)” report was released digitally and it was produced by the UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). The report examined the level and composition of multidimensional poverty across 109 countries covering 5.9 billion people. 1.3 billion People are multidimensionally poor and half (644 million) of them are children under age 18. Nearly 85% of multidimensionally poor live in Sub-Saharan Africa (556 million) or South Asia (532 million). The report highlighted that India has a maximum number of people (381 million) living in multidimensional poverty. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- “2021 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)” report – prepared by UNDP + OPHI
- 1.3 billion People are multidimensionally poor (half are Children - 644 million)
- India has a maximum number of people living in multidimensional poverty – 381 million
- HQs of UNDP – New York, US | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965

**16.** On October 13, The Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP) has released the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the “Ecological Threat Report 2021: Understanding Ecological Threats, Resilience and Peace”, recently. As per the report, around 1.26 billion people across 30 countries are suffering from both extreme ecological risk and low levels of resilience. The number of people displaced by conflict has been steadily rising with 23.1 million people from hotspot countries living outside their home country in 2020. Europe was hosting the largest number of displaced people. Since 2014, the number of people without access to adequate food globally has risen every year, increasing by 44%. By 2050, the global demand for food is expected to increase by 50%. As a region, South Asia is the worst-placed with water and food risks. The report reveals that by 2040 over 5.4 billion people will live in countries facing extreme water stress. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the “Ecological Threat Report 2021: Understanding Ecological Threats, Resilience and Peace” – by IEP
- Around 1.26 billion people across 30 countries are suffering from extreme ecological risk & low levels of resilience
- Global demand for food is expected to increase by 50% by 2050
- South Asia – the worst-placed region with water & food risks
- 5.4 billion people will live in countries facing extreme water stress by 2040
- HQs of IEP – Sydney, Australia

**17.** In October 2021, Reliance Industries Ltd has topped Indian corporates in the World’s Best Employers rankings 2021 published by Forbes. Reliance was placed at 52 in the overall ranking of 750 global corporates. The global ranking was topped by South Korean giant Samsung Electronics. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Reliance – topped Indian corporates in the Forbes’ “World’s Best Employers Rankings 2021” (Overall rank – 52)
- List is topped by – Samsung Electronics (South Korea)
- HQs of FORBES – Jersey City, New Jersey

**18.** On October 12, International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) report titled “Recovery During a Pandemic Health Concerns, Supply Disruptions and Price Pressures”, retained India’s GDP at 9.5% in the current fiscal 2021-22 (FY22) and 8.5% for FY23. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- “Recovery During a Pandemic Health Concerns, Supply Disruptions and Price Pressures” report – released by IMF
- IMF projected India’s GDP: 9.5% for FY22 & 8.5% for FY23 {Dynamic Data}
- HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., US | President – Kristalina Georgieva | Member countries – 190

**19.** The “Global Hunger Index 2021” has ranked India at 101 position out of a total 116 countries with a score of 27.2. India is also among the 31 countries where hunger has been identified as ‘Serious’. Only 15 countries fare worse than India. India is also behind most of the neighbouring countries. Pakistan was placed at 92<sup>nd</sup> rank, Nepal at 76 and Bangladesh also at 76. Somalia has the highest level of hunger with a score of 50.8. GHI 2021 is prepared by European NGOs of Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe. {Read more}

### Key Points:

- “Global Hunger Index 2021” – prepared by Concern Worldwide & Welthungerhilfe
- India – 101<sup>st</sup> (score – 27.2) | Worst – Somalia (50.8)
- India’s level of hunger is identified as ‘Serious’

**20.** On October 13, The Global Debt has increased by \$27 trillion (compared to 2019) to a new high of \$226 trillion with India's dues projected to rise to 90.6% in 2021, as per the report titled “Fiscal Monitor: Strengthening the Credibility of Public Finances” released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). {Read more}

### Key Points:

- “Fiscal Monitor: Strengthening the Credibility of Public Finances” report – released by IMF
- Global Debt increased by \$27 trillion to \$226 trillion (in 2020)
- India’s debt is projected to rise to 90.6% in 2021 {Dynamic Data}
- HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., US | President – Kristalina Georgieva | Member countries – 190

**21.** India needs to increase its solar power capacity to 5630 GW in order to become a Net-zero Emissions Nation by 2070, according to a report titled “Implications of a Net-zero Target for India’s Sectoral Energy Transitions and Climate Policy” released by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). The government has set an ambitious target to scale up its total renewable energy capacity to 450 GW by 2030. {Read more}

### Key Points:

- “Implications of a Net-zero Target for India’s Sectoral Energy Transitions & Climate Policy” report – released by CEEW
- India needs to increase its solar power capacity to 5630 GW to become a Net-zero Emissions Nation by 2070
- HQs of CEEW – New Delhi | CEO – Arunabha Ghosh





**22.** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released the “Global Financial Stability Report-2021”. The report mainly discusses the opportunities and challenges of the crypto ecosystem. The report stated ‘Bitcoin’ as the most dominant Crypto-currency. But Bitcoin’s market share sharply fell from 70% to less than 45% in 2021. The report stated that Bitcoin could lead to instability because it is extremely volatile. It was trading above \$65,000 just about earlier this year, and then it came down to below \$30,000. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Global Financial Stability Report-2021” – released by IMF
- Most dominant Crypto-currency in the market – Bitcoin
- HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., US | President – Kristalina Georgieva | Member countries – 190

**23.** On October 13, Almost \$4 trillion investment into Clean Energy is required by 2030 to meet the Paris Agreement pledge to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, according to the “World Energy Outlook 2021” report released by the International Energy Agency (IEA). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “World Energy Outlook 2021” report – released by the IEA
- Almost \$4 trillion investment into Clean Energy is required by 2030 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol | Member countries – 30

**24.** On October 19, States such as Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Assam, and Kerala have seen a gradual uptick in the adoption of electric cooking (eCooking) devices, according to an independent study released by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). Overall, just 5% of the total households across India have shifted to eCooking. Delhi & Tamil Nadu lead India's switch to electric cooking with 17% adoption. The CEEW study also found that 93% of e-Cooking adopters still rely on LPG as the primary cooking fuel and use eCooking devices as a backup. The study is based on the “India Residential Energy Survey (IRES) 2020”, conducted in collaboration with the Initiative for Sustainable Energy Policy (ISEP). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “India Residential Energy Survey (IRES) 2020” – conducted by CEEW + ISEP
- Only 5% of the total households across India have shifted to eCooking
- New Delhi & Tamil Nadu lead India’s transition to eCooking with 17% adoption
- HQs of CEEW – New Delhi | CEO – Arunabha Ghosh

**25.** On October 19, As per the “Article IV Consultation Report on India” released by the IMF, a persistent negative impact of covid-19 on investment, human capital, and other growth drivers could impact medium-term growth and prolong the recovery. The IMF pared down India’s potential growth forecast by 25 basis points to 6% due to the impact of the pandemic. Moreover, India’s GDP accounts for around 7% of the world and 80% of the South Asia total in purchasing-power parity (PPP) terms. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- “Article IV Consultation Report on India” – released by the IMF
- IMF slashed India’s potential GDP forecast by 25 bps to 6% [{Dynamic Data}](#)
- India’s GDP accounts for around 7% of the world & 80% of the South Asia (in terms of PPP)
- HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., US | President – Kristalina Georgieva | Member countries – 190

**26.** On October 19, The Indian pension system ranked 40<sup>th</sup> on overall index ranking out of 43 systems, and had the lowest rank in the adequacy sub-index, as per the “2021 Mercer CFA Global Pension Index” (MCGPI) survey. MCGPI uses 3 sub-indices like Adequacy, Sustainability & Integrity to ensure adequate retirement income system of any country. India scored 33.5, 41.8 and 61.0 in adequacy, sustainability and integrity respectively. Iceland topped the ranking with an overall index value of 84.2. India had an overall index value of 43.3. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “2021 Mercer CFA Global Pension Index” (MCGPI) survey
- India – 40<sup>th</sup> | Top – Iceland
- MCGPI uses 3 sub-indices: Adequacy, Sustainability & Integrity

**27.** On October 19, A report by United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) has underlined the importance of cleaning up the Transport Sector in order to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and contain global warming. The transport sector accounted for 16% of all GHG emissions in the world. There is need of much larger investment costs estimated at \$49.9 trillion by 2040 for transition to green mobility like electric and hydrogen fuel vehicles. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- UNOPS’s report underlined the importance of cleaning up the ‘Transport Sector’ in order to reduce GHG emissions
- Transport sector accounted for 16% of all GHG emissions in the world
- Need of estimated \$49.9 trillion by 2040 for transition to Green Mobility
- HQs of UNOPS – Copenhagen, Denmark | Executive Director – Grete Faremo

**28.** On October 14, India ranked 79<sup>th</sup> out of 139 countries, dropping 3 positions, in the “Rule of Law Index 2021” report released by the World Justice Project. India placed 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 6 in the South Asia region. India’s overall rule of law score decreased 1.9% in this year’s Index. Globally, the top three performers were Denmark, Norway, and Finland. Regionally, South Asia’s top performer in the Index is Nepal, followed by Sri Lanka and India. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Rule of Law Index 2021” report – released by World Justice Project
- Globally: India – 79<sup>th</sup> | Top three – Denmark, Norway & Finland
- In South Asia region: India – 3<sup>rd</sup> | Top two – Nepal & Sri Lanka



**29.** On October 19, India ranked at 71<sup>st</sup> position with an overall score of 57.2 points among 113 countries in the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the “Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021” released by Economist Impact and Corteva Agriscience. Ireland, Australia, the UK shared the top rank with the overall GFS score in the range of 77.8 and 80 points on the index. In the region of Asia Pacific, Japan topped the index followed by Singapore and New Zealand, while India ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in the region. Burundi ranked the lowest at 113. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 10<sup>th</sup> “Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021” report – released by Economist Impact & Corteva Agriscience
- Globally: India (57.2 points) – 71<sup>st</sup> | Top three – Ireland, Australia & UK | Lowest at 113 – Burundi
- In Asia Pacific region: India – 14<sup>th</sup> | Top three – Japan, Singapore & New Zealand

**30.** In October 2021, After final rounds of the UEFA Nations League & qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, in “FIFA Rankings 2021”, India has moved one spot ahead to the 106<sup>th</sup> position. Brazil remains 2<sup>nd</sup> while Belgium is holding top position. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – ranked 106<sup>th</sup> in the latest FIFA Rankings | 1<sup>st</sup> – Belgium, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Brazil, 3<sup>rd</sup> – France
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino

**31.** On October 20, According to the “Production Gap Report 2021” released by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the world’s governments plan to produce around 110% more fossil fuels (more than double the requirement of the fossil fuels globally) in 2030 than would be consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C, and 45% more than consistent with 2°C. The production gap to achieve the Climate Goal is the widest for coal. Global gas production is projected to increase the most between 2020 and 2040 based on governments’ plans. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that the world must be Net Zero by 2050 and halve the Emissions by 2030 over its 2010 levels to stay below 1.5°C. Moreover, Countries have directed over \$300 billion in new funds towards fossil fuel activities since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. While, India plans to expand coal production by nearly 60% from 730 million tonnes in 2019 to 1,149 million tonnes in 2024. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Production Gap Report 2021” – released by UNEP
- World’s governments plan to produce around 110% more fossil fuels in 2030 to limit global temperature to 1.5°C
- India plans to expand Coal production by nearly 60% from 730 million tonnes in 2019 to 1,149 million tonnes in 2024
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen | Founded in – 1972

**32.** On October 23, “From Pollution to Solution: A global assessment of marine litter and Plastic Pollution” report, released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), reveals the impact of marine litter and plastic pollution in the environment and their effects on the health of ecosystems, wildlife and humans. Plastics are the largest, most harmful and most persistent fraction of marine litter, accounting for at least 85% of total marine waste. Plastic Waste entering the aquatic ecosystem is expected to triple by 2040. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- “From Pollution to Solution: A global assessment of marine litter and Plastic Pollution” report – released by UNEP
- Plastics accounts for 85% of total Marine Waste | Plastic Waste is expected to triple by 2040
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen | Founded in – 1972

**33.** On October 19, India is ranked at the top in Emissions related to crop burning, accounting for 13% of total Global Emissions for the 2015-2020 period, according to a new report released by climate tech startup Blue Sky Analytics. The Indian climate tech startup Blue Sky Analytics which is founded by an IIT alumnus, also pointed towards a 12.2% contribution by India to cropland fire emissions in 2020. Blue Sky Analytics is also part of global coalition “Climate TRACE”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – ranked at the top in Emissions related to Crop burning (13% of total Global Emissions during 2015-2020)
- India’s contribution to cropland fire emissions in 2020 – 12.2%

**34.** On October 23, According to the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of “Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020” report by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), global warming has killed 14% of the world’s coral reefs in a decade from 2009 to 2018. Coral reefs cover just under 1% of the ocean floor but support more than 25% of marine life. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 6<sup>th</sup> edition of “Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020” report – by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
- Global warming has killed 14% of the world’s coral reefs in a decade from 2009 to 2018

**35.** On October 27, India is estimated to have suffered an average annual loss of about \$87 billion from extreme weather events such as tropical cyclones, floods and droughts, according to the “State of the Climate in Asia 2020” report released by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). China, India and Japan experienced the majority of this loss, approximately \$238 billion in China and \$87 billion in each India & Japan. In India, in West Bengal, 13.6 million people were affected and damage amounted to approximately USD 14 billion due to the cyclone. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “State of the Climate in Asia 2020” – released by WMO
- India – suffered an average annual loss of about \$87 billion from extreme weather events
- China (\$238 billion) – experienced the majority of this loss | Followed by India & Japan (\$87 billion in each)
- HQs of WMO – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Petteri Taalas | Established in – 1950



**36.** On October 25, the “Global Threat Assessment report 2021”, released by WeProtect Global Alliance stated that COVID-19 had contributed to a significant spike in child sexual exploitation and abuse online. The report featured a survey of technology companies that showed most were using tools to search child sexual abuse material, but only 37% currently use tools to search online grooming. During the COVID-19 lockdown in India, there was a 95% rise in searches for child sexual abuse material. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Global Threat Assessment report 2021” – released by WeProtect Global Alliance
- 95% rise in searches for child sexual abuse material in India during the COVID-19 lockdown

**37.** On October 25, According to the “National Intelligence Estimate on Climate” report released by the US-based National Intelligence Council, India is among the 11 countries which have been identified by United States intelligence agencies as ‘countries of concern’ with regard to Climate Change. The report has been released ahead of the 26<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “National Intelligence Estimate on Climate” report – released by National Intelligence Council (US)
- India is among the 11 countries identified as ‘countries of concern’ with regard to Climate Change

**38.** On October 27, Four Indian universities led by IISc Bangalore make it to the “Times Higher Education’s World University Rankings 2021”. IISc Bangalore climbed into the top 100 (91-100 band), leading among the Indian institutes. IIT Bombay climbed two ranking bands to 126-150th. IIT Madras retained its place in the 176-200 band while IIT Delhi (176-200) appeared in the list for the first time. Harvard University in the US retained its position at the very top of the list, followed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US. China’s Tsinghua University that ranked 10<sup>th</sup>, is the only Asian university in the top 10. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Times Higher Education’s World University Rankings 2021” – topped by Harvard University (US)
- IISc Bangalore – topped among Indian universities | Other 3 universities: IIT Bombay, IIT Madras & IIT Delhi
- Tsinghua University (China) – the only Asian university in the top 10

**39.** On October 26, India ranked at the 9<sup>th</sup> spot globally for Climate Tech Investment, according to a report titled “Five years on: Global climate tech investment trends since the Paris Agreement” by London & Partners, and Dealroom.Co. India’s climate tech firms received \$1 billion in venture capital funding between 2016 and 2021. Global climate tech venture capital investment soared from \$6.6 billion in 2016 to \$32.3 billion in 2021. The list was topped by the US (\$48 billion), followed by China (\$18.6 billion) & Sweden (\$5.8 billion). Europe is the fastest-growing region globally for climate tech. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Five years on: Global climate tech investment trends since the Paris Agreement” report – by L&P + Dealroom.Co
- India ranked 9<sup>th</sup> for Climate Tech Investment | 1<sup>st</sup> – US (\$48 billion)
- Europe – the fastest-growing region globally for Climate Tech



**40.** On October 26, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Bihar are the most vulnerable to extreme climate events such as floods, droughts and cyclones in India, according to a first-of-its-kind report titled “Mapping India’s Climate Vulnerability - A District-level Assessment” released by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). The report analysed 640 districts in India and found 463 are vulnerable to extreme floods, droughts and cyclones. More than 80% of Indians live in districts are vulnerable to Climate Risks. The report further states that more than 45% of these districts have undergone unsustainable landscape and infrastructure changes. The CEEW study also indicated that only 63% of Indian districts have a District Disaster Management Plan (DDMP). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Mapping India’s Climate Vulnerability - A District-level Assessment” – released by CEEW
- 463 out of 640 districts in India are vulnerable to extreme floods, droughts & cyclones
- More than 80% of Indians live in districts are vulnerable to Climate Risks
- [HQs of CEEW – New Delhi](#) | [CEO – Arunabha Ghosh](#)

**41.** On October 29, The World Bank has released the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of “The Changing Wealth of Nations 2021: Managing Assets for the Future” report. The report provides an updated database and rich analysis of the world’s wealth accounts spanning 146 countries, annually from 1995 to 2018. Due to air pollution, South Asia suffered the most loss in the world on human capital, as per the report. For the first time, the report introduced Blue Natural capital to the core accounts, such as marine fisheries and mangroves. And the report also applied Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) prices to wealth for the first time. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 4<sup>th</sup> edition of “The Changing Wealth of Nations 2021: Managing Assets for the Future” report – by World Bank
- South Asia – suffered the most loss in the world on human capital
- [HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA](#) | [Member Countries – 189](#)
- [President – David Malpass](#) | [MD & CFO – Anshula Kant](#)

**42.** On October 28, Kerala emerged on top in the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the “Public Affairs Index 2021” launched by Bengaluru-based Public Affairs Centre (PAC). Kerala was followed by Tamil Nadu and Telangana in the large states category. In the smaller states category, Sikkim emerged first, followed by Goa and Mizoram. Puducherry achieved top rank among Union Territories, followed by Jammu and Kashmir and Chandigarh. Uttar Pradesh ranked first from the bottom as the worst performing large state, Manipur among small states and Andaman and Nicobar Islands in UTs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the “Public Affairs Index 2021” – launched by Public Affairs Centre ([Bengaluru, Karnataka](#))
- Large states: 1<sup>st</sup> - Kerala, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Tamil Nadu, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Telangana | Worst - Uttar Pradesh
- Smaller states: 1<sup>st</sup> - Sikkim, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Goa, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Mizoram | Worst - Manipur
- UTs: 1<sup>st</sup> - Puducherry, 2<sup>nd</sup> - J & K, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Chandigarh | Worst - Andaman & Nicobar Islands



**43.** On October 28, Union Health Minister Mansukh L. Mandaviya launched the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the “National Formulary of India (NFI)” published by Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) to promote rational use of medicines in India. The ‘NFI 2021’ would act as a guidance document for all the healthcare professionals such as clinicians, pharmacists, nurses, dentists. It will play a crucial role in daily clinical practices. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mansukh L. Mandaviya – launched the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the “National Formulary of India (NFI)” published by IPC
- ‘NFI 2021’ will act as a Guidance Document for all the Healthcare Professionals
- [HQs of IPC – Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh](#)

**44.** On October 28, Rajasthan has ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> after Karnataka in India in terms of energy efficiency as per the “State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2020” released by the Ministry of Power. Karnataka topped the index with the score of 70. SEEI 2020 was developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE). Rajasthan is the only state to have constituted an Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) Cell in its Public Works Department (PWD). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2020” – released by Ministry of Power | Prepared by = BEE + AEEE
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Karnataka | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Rajasthan
- Rajasthan – the only state to have constituted an ECBC Cell in its Public Works Department
- [Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh](#) | [Constituency – Arrah, Bihar](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Power: Krishan Pal](#)

**45.** On October 30, Wipro’s Azim Premji tops the “EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021” for the second consecutive year, retaining ‘India’s most generous’ title with a donation of Rs 9,713 Cr during fiscal 2020-21. Hurun India and EdelGive released the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the list, ranking the most generous people in India based on the value of their donations between April 1 2020 and March 31, 2021. Among the philanthropists, education is the most favoured cause drawing a total of Rs 9,659 Cr from 72 donors. Azim Premji was followed by Shiv Nadar (Rs 1,263 Cr) & Mukesh Ambani (Rs 577 Cr). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 8<sup>th</sup> edition of “EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021” – released by Hurun India & EdelGive
- 1<sup>st</sup> - Azim Premji (Rs 9,713 Cr) | 2<sup>nd</sup> - Shiv Nadar (Rs 1,263 Cr) | 3<sup>rd</sup> - Mukesh Ambani (Rs 577 Cr)

**46.** NITI Aayog released a comprehensive report titled “Health Insurance for India’s Missing Middle”, which brings out the gaps in the health insurance coverage across the Indian population and offers solutions to address the situation. The “Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana” (AB PMJAY) - a flagship scheme towards Universal Health Coverage, provides comprehensive hospitalization cover to the bottom 50% of the population. Around 20% of the population is covered through social health insurance, and private voluntary health insurance. While remaining 30% of the population, devoid of health insurance, is termed as the “missing middle”. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- “Health Insurance for India’s Missing Middle” report – released by NITI Aayog
- 50% population is provided with a comprehensive hospitalization cover under ‘AB PMJAY’
- 20% population is covered through social & private voluntary health insurance
- 30% population, devoid of health insurance, is termed as the “missing middle”
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Rajiv Kumar

**47.** On October 29, Delhi’s Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia announced that the Sex Ratio has improved in Delhi, from 920 females per 1,000 males in 2019 to 933 females per 1,000 males in 2020, according to the annual report of the “Directorate of Economics and Statistics” of the Delhi government. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Directorate of Economics and Statistics” of the Delhi government:
- Sex Ratio in Delhi increased to 933 females per 1,000 males in 2020 (against 920 females per 1,000 males in 2019)
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**48.** On October 29, Microsoft, with a market valuation of \$2.46 trillion, became the World’s Most Valuable Company replacing Apple Inc whose market capital stands at \$2.41 trillion. Microsoft's stock has surged more than 45% this year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Microsoft – became the World’s Most Valuable Company (mcap - \$2.46 trillion)
- Apple Inc – the 2<sup>nd</sup> Most Valuable Company in the world (mcap - \$2.41 trillion)
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975





# Arts & Cultural Affairs

1. On October 4, The 40<sup>th</sup> edition of India International Trade Fair (IITF) will be held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi from November 14-27, with 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' as its theme. The India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) organizes this mega event, which was first held in 1979. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 40<sup>th</sup> edition of India International Trade Fair (IITF) – to be held in New Delhi from November 14-27
- The IITF is organised by – India Trade Promotion Organisation (First held in - 1979)
- HQs of ITPO – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – L. C. Goyal



# Acquisitions & Mergers

**1.** In October 2021, 'Metlife International Holdings' is looking to acquire the combined 15.27% shareholding of 'IGE (India) Private Limited' & 'Elpro International Limited' in 'PNB Metlife India Insurance company' for a cash consideration of Rs 1,906 Cr. Upon the completion of this transaction, Metlife's shareholding in 'PNM Metlife Life Insurance Company' will increase to 47.325%, making it the largest shareholder. In FY21, PNB Met Life had a solvency ratio of 190%, against the regulatory requirement of 150%. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Metlife International Holdings – to acquire 15.27% stake in PNB Metlife India Insurance (for Rs 1,906 Cr)
- HQs of PNB Metlife – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Ashish Kumar Srivastava | Established – 2001
- HQs of Metlife – New York, USA | President & CEO – Michel A. Khalaf | Established – 1868

**2.** In October 2021, 'Tata Sons' have won the bid to acquire 100% shareholding in Air India by offering Rs 18,000 Cr. Tata Sons' bid for Air India which was higher than reserve price of Rs 12,906 Cr set by government. Tata Sons beat SpiceJet to bag Air India. The transaction does not include non-core assets including land and building, valued at Rs 14,718 Cr, which are to be transferred to GoI's Air India Asset Holding Limited (AIAHL). Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoy (JRD) Tata founded the airline in 1932. Air India was nationalised in 1953. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 'Tata Sons' – beat 'SpiceJet' to win a bid to acquire 'Air India' by offering Rs 18,000 Cr
- JRD Tata – founded the airline in 1932
- HQs of Tata Sons – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- HQs of Air India – New Delhi | CMD – Rajiv Bansal

**3.** In October 2021, The Adani Group has acquired 10% stake in the 'CSC Grameen eStore' through its financial services arm, Adani Finserve. CSC Grameen eStore which was launched in April 2020, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of 'CSC e-Governance Services'. This investment of Adani Group is after similar investments from HDFC Bank & Tata Digital which bought a 1.5% & 5% holding respectively in CSC Grameen eStore. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Adani Group – acquired 10% stake in the CSC Grameen eStore through Adani Finserve
- CSC Grameen eStore – wholly-owned subsidiary of CSC e-Governance Services
- In CSC Grameen eStore: HDFC Bank acquired 1.5% & Tata Digital acquired 5%
- HQs of Adani Group – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Chairman – Gautam Adani | Managing Director – Rajesh Adani
- MD of CSC Grameen eStore – Dinesh Tyagi



4. In October 2021, Reliance New Energy Solar Ltd (RNE SL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) executed definitive agreements with Shapoorji Pallonji & Company Private Ltd (SPCPL), Khurshed Daruvala & Sterling & Wilson Solar Ltd (SWSL) to acquire 40% stake post-money in SWSL through a series of transactions. RNE SL will also make public announcement to public shareholders of SWSL to acquire up to 4.91 Cr equity shares (25.9%) of SWSL. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RNE SL – to acquire 40% stake in Sterling & Wilson Solar Ltd (SWSL)
- HQs of RNE SL – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- HQs of Reliance Industries Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani | Founded in – 1973

5. Paytm has acquired 100% stake in digital lending startup ‘CreditMate’ for an undisclosed amount. Founded by Jonathan Bill, Ashish Doshi, Swati Lad and Aditya Singh in 2016, the Mumbai-based startup is a collection platform that helps lenders to collect overdue payments from borrowers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Paytm – acquired 100% stake in digital lending startup ‘CreditMate’
- HQs of CreditMate – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Founded in – 2016
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010

6. In October 2021, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of Global Content Alpha Partners Holdco (GCAPH) by Starnmeer B.V. (Starnmeer). Starnmeer is owned & controlled by funds affiliated with Baring Private Equity Asia (BPEA). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CCI approved acquisition of GCAPH – by Starnmeer B.V.
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003

7. In October 2021, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of worldwide healthcare BPO services business of Hinduja Global Solutions by Betaine B.V. Betaine has been recently incorporated in the Netherlands & it is owned & controlled by funds affiliated with Baring Private Equity Asia Pte. Ltd. (BPEA). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CCI approved acquisition of worldwide healthcare BPO services business of Hinduja Global Solutions – by Betaine B.V.
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003



**8.** In October 2021, Ola has acquired GeoSpoc, a geospatial services provider without disclosing the cost of acquisition. GeoSpoc provides niche location-based solutions, services & products to verticals such as BFSI, retail, precision agriculture & consumer goods/FMCG. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ola – acquired geospatial services provider “GeoSpoc”
- HQs of Ola – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Bhavish Aggarwal
- HQs of GeoSpoc – Pune | CEO – Dhruva Rajan

**9.** In October 2021, Tech Mahindra Ltd has acquired two companies – US-based Infostar LLC (Lodestone) & London-based We Make Websites Ltd (WMW), for \$105 million & 9.4 million pounds (approx. \$13 million) respectively. The acquisition will bolster Tech Mahindra’s digital engineering capabilities to effectively utilize data strategy & address machine learning challenges. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tech Mahindra Ltd – acquired Lodestone (US) for \$105 million
- Tech Mahindra Ltd – acquired We Make Websites Ltd (London) for 9.4 million pounds (approx. \$13 million)
- HQs of Tech Mahindra – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Chander Prakash Gurnani

**10.** In October 2021, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of 4.99% shareholding in HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company by HDFC Bank. HDFC ERGO is a joint venture between HDFC & ERGO International AG & offers a complete range of general/non-life insurance products. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HDFC Bank – to acquire 4.99% shareholding in HDFC ERGO General Insurance
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”
- HQs of HDFC ERGO General Insurance – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Ritesh Kumar
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003

**11.** In October 2021, The CCI has approved the acquisition of 100% of the equity shareholding of Parexel International Corporation by Phoenix Parentco Inc. The Parexel International Corporation provides biopharmaceutical outsourcing services to biopharmaceutical companies. Phoenix Parentco is a special purpose investment vehicle that is jointly controlled by EQT Fund Management S.A.R.L & The Goldman Sachs Group Inc. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Phoenix Parentco – to acquire 100% shareholding of Parexel International Corporation
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003



**12.** On October 25, The government has signed the share purchase agreement (SPA) with Tata Sons for the sale of national carrier Air India for Rs 18,000 Cr. The government is divesting its 100% ownership of Air India and Air India Express along with its 50% stake in Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited (AISATS). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government + Tata Sons = signed share purchase agreement for the sale of Air India for Rs 18,000 Cr
- Government is divesting its 100% ownership of Air India and Air India Express & 50% stake in AISATS

**13.** On October 27, Paytm Insuretech Private Limited (PIT) has entered into a strategic partnership with Swiss Re, one of the world's leading providers of reinsurance. Swiss Re will invest Rs 920 Cr to acquire 23% stake in Paytm Insuretech Limited (PIT). Gross written premium for non-life insurance is expected to increase from \$27 billion as of FY2021 to \$50-60 billion by FY 2026, as per RedSeer data. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Swiss Re + Paytm Insuretech = a strategic partnership to acquire 23% stake in Paytm Insuretech for Rs 920 Cr
- HQs of Swiss Re – Zurich, Switzerland | CEO – Christian Mumenthaler



# MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**1.** On October 1, NITI Aayog, Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Intel have come together to establish a new experience studio at the NITI Aayog Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Centre (CIC). The Studio will help showcase the potential of technologies such as AI, ML, IoT, AR and VR, blockchain, and robotics to accelerate their application. NITI Aayog Frontier Technologies CIC was established in October 2020 as part of the AWS Cloud Innovation Centers Global Program. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NITI Aayog + AWS + Intel = to establish a new experience studio at the NITI Aayog Frontier Technologies CIC
- HQs of Intel – California, USA | CEO – Patrick P. Gelsinger | Founded on – July 18, 1968
- HQs of AWS – Seattle, Washington, US | CEO – Adam N. Selipsky
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

**2.** In October 2021, U GRO Capital has signed a co-lending agreement with IDBI Bank, on the occasion of the bank's 58th Foundation Day. The agreement will work towards providing formal credit to underserved MSMEs at affordable rates. U GRO Capital is building its "GRO - Xstream" platform, which integrates with banks on one side and with FinTechs, Payments platforms, NBFCs and other digital platforms on the other. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- U GRO + IDBI Bank = Co-lending agreement to provide formal credit to underserved MSMEs
- U GRO Capital platform – building its "GRO - Xstream" platform
- HQs of U GRO Capital – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Abhijit Ghosh
- HQs of IDBI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD CEO – Rakesh Sharma | Chairman – M R Kumar | Established in – 1964

**3.** In October 2021, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has inked an MoU with North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) to assist in developing renewable projects and raising funds. IREDA will undertake techno-financial due diligence of renewable energy and energy efficiency & conservation projects for NEEPCO. The MoU will contribute in achieving the government's target of reducing carbon emission to 33% by 2030. IREDA and NEEPCO are under Ministry of New & Renewable Energy and Ministry of Power, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- IREDA + NEEPCO = MoU to assist NEEPCO in developing renewable projects and raising funds
- HQs of IREDA – New Delhi | CMD – Pradip Kumar Das
- HQs of NEEPCO – Shillong, Meghalaya | MD & Chairman – Vinod Kumar Singh
- Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Power: Krishan Pal



4. In October 2021, The Maharashtra government has signed an MoU with Causis E-Mobility Pvt Ltd, a UK-based automobile firm, for setting up of a zero-emission electric vehicle-manufacturing facility under the recently announced “Maharashtra Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2021” which aims to electrify 10% of all the vehicles by 2025. The facility will come up at Talegaon, Pune. The firm will make an investment of ₹2,823 Cr and is expected to generate 1,250 jobs. The MoU was signed for phase-1 to manufacture three-wheelers for passenger transport. In phase-2, the automobile firm will set up its battery Gigafactory. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maharashtra + Causis E-Mobility Pvt Ltd (UK based) = to set up of a zero-emission electric vehicle-manufacturing facility
- The facility will come up at Talegaon, Pune
- Maharashtra EV Policy 2021 – aims to electrify 10% of all the vehicles by 2025
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

5. In October 2021, FSSAI has signed an MoU with Ministry of Food Processing Industries to support micro-level food entrepreneurs and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). The MoU aims to support Self Help Groups (SHGs) and producers cooperatives to improve the standard of their food businesses. There will be two areas of collaboration - food safety training and registration of micro enterprises. Micro enterprises will be provided support to obtain FSSAI licence and registration and training on understanding of good hygiene, food testing process and other regulatory requirements. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- FSSAI + Ministry of Food Processing Industries = an MoU to support FPOs, SHGs & micro-level food entrepreneurs
- HQs of FSSAI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rita Teatonia | CEO – Shri Arun Singhal
- Ministry of Food Processing Industries: Pashu Pati Kumar Paras | Constituency – Hajipur, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Food Processing Industries: Prahalad Singh Patel

6. In October 2021, Regional Ayurveda Research Institute (RARI) has signed an MoU with Sikkim Manipal University (SMU) to promote relations and mutual understanding between the two institutions to recognise their strengths in research and education in one or more disciplines of science, medical and allied health sciences. Also, RARI will open a unit at Central Reference Hospital of Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences in Gangtok. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RARI + SMU = to promote relations & mutual understanding in research & education
- SMU Vice Chancellor – Dr. (Lt Gen) Rajan S Grewal

7. In October 2021, AirAsia India partnered with KSU Aviation, the exclusive operator of the Taxibot in India & has become the first Airbus operator in the world to start TaxiBot services with passengers onboard with a modified Airbus fleet. The aircraft engineering modifications were done by AirAsia India's engineering team. Taxibot is used for towing an aircraft from the terminal gate to the take-off point & return it to the gate after landing without utilising the aircraft engines. GMR-run Delhi Airport was the first aviation facility in the world to introduce Taxibot operations way back in 2019. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- AirAsia India – became the first Airbus operator in the world to start TaxiBot services with passengers onboard
- AirAsia India + KSU Aviation = partnership for the same
- HQs of AirAsia India – Bengaluru | MD & CEO – Sunil Bhaskaran | Established in –2013
- MD of KSU Aviation – Ashwani Khanna

8. In October 2021, Electricite de France S.A. (EDF), headquartered in Paris, & NTPC Ltd have signed an MoU to explore potential power project development opportunities in the Middle East, Asia, Europe & Africa. NTPC was ranked as the number 2 Independent Power Producer in Platts Top 250 Global Energy Company Rankings. The MoU was signed by Ujjwal Kanti Bhattacharya, Director (Projects) from NTPC in the presence of Jawed Ashraf (Ambassador of India to France) & Emmanuel Lenain (Ambassador of France to India). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- EDF (France) + NTPC = an MoU to explore potential power project development opportunities
- Ambassador of India to France – Jawed Ashraf | Ambassador of France to India – Emmanuel Lenain
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

9. In October 2021, Federal Bank tied up with CredAvenue for portfolio management of its securitisation book. This arrangement will help digitally monitor its asset-backed securities (ABS) & mortgage-backed securities (MBS) pool assets more efficiently through the technology platform. Federal Bank, with this partnership, has implemented 'CredPool' & effectively automated the end-to-end processes for direct assignments of retail portfolio. 'CredPool' is an institutional debt platform of CredAvenue. The platform helps banks & non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) meet existing & new regulatory guidelines pertaining to securitisation & direct assignment. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Federal Bank + CredAvenue = for portfolio management of bank's securitisation book by using 'CredPool' platform
- 'CredPool' – an institutional debt platform of CredAvenue
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – "Your Perfect Banking Partner"
- HQs of CredAvenue – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Gaurav Kumar

10. In October 2021, Visa, in partnership with Juspay, has launched India's first "Card-on-File (CoF) tokenization service" in line with the recently issued RBI guidelines. The RBI's recent CoF tokenization guidelines mandate replacing the actual card data with encrypted digital tokens, which are then used to facilitate & authenticate transactions. This will make card-based digital payments more secure & frictionless. CoF tokenization provides two key benefits - Consumer & Ecosystem Security & an Enhanced Checkout Experience. [{Read more}](#)





**Key Points:**

- Visa + Juspay = launched India's first "CoF tokenization service"
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly | Founded in – 1958
- HQs of Juspay – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Vimal Kumar

**11.** In October 2021, Bangalore-based solar module manufacturer 'Emmvee' has signed a MoU with Karnataka government to set up a 3 GW manufacturing facility in Dobaspet, Karnataka. The MoU for latest addition by the company follows last year's announcement about expansion of annual manufacturing capacity to 3 GW from 0.5 GW, with a production capacity of 9 MW per day. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Emmvee + Karnataka = to set up a 3 GW manufacturing facility in Dobaspet, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot
- HQs of Emmvee – Bangalore | MD – D V Manjunatha

**12.** In October 2021, Tata Power has signed a three-year commercial agreement with BluWave-ai, the world's first renewable energy AI company. India recently put measures in place to mandate accurate energy scheduling. Electricity distribution companies now face strict penalties for deviation from planned energy usage. The leadership demonstrated by Tata Power and BluWave-ai was recognised with an India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF) top-level "Diamond Trophy" in the Utility Distribution category. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tata Power + BluWave-ai = a commercial agreement to use AI in power scheduling
- BluWave-ai – world's first renewable energy AI company
- This initiative was recognised with an ISGF top-level "Diamond Trophy" in the Utility Distribution category
- HQs of Tata Power – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Praveer Sinha | Established – 1915
- HQs of BluWave-ai – Ottawa, Canada | CEO – Devashish Paul | Founded – 2017

**13.** In October 2021, India & Croatia have signed an agreement for academic collaboration in traditional medicine systems, especially in the field of ayurveda. The MoU was signed between the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) & Croatia's Kvarner Health Tourism Cluster. AIIA is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Ayush. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India+Croatia = an agreement for academic collaboration in traditional medicine systems, especially in Ayurveda
- MoU was signed between – AIIA & Croatia's Kvarner Health Tourism Cluster
- Ministry of AYUSH: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of AYUSH: Munjapara Mahendrabhai
- HQs of AIIA – New Delhi | Director – Tanuja Nesari
- Croatia – Zagreb – Kuna | PM – Andrej Plenkovic | President – Zoran Milanovic
- India's Ambassador to Croatia – Raj Shrivastava



**14.** In October 2021, Bharti Group backed 'OneWeb' has entered an arrangement with New Space India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO, to launch its satellite in India from 2022. The arrangement is made to use Indian-built PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) & the heavier GSLV-MkIII (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle) as potential platforms to launch OneWeb's satellites. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- OneWeb + NSIL = an arrangement to use Indian-built PSLV & GSLV & to launch OneWeb's satellites
- HQs of OneWeb – London, UK | CEO – Adrian Steckel | Executive Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal
- HQs of NewSpace India – Bangalore, Karnataka | CMD – G. Narayanan | ED – Radhakrishnan Durairaj

**15.** In October 2021, India & Nepal signed two agreements aimed at boosting cross-border train services & reviewed ongoing railway projects. The signing of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for starting passenger train services on the Jaynagar-Kurtha section will help finalise the technical aspects of running passenger trains in this region. The officials of the two countries reviewed progress on the Raxaul-Kathmandu railway link & discussed several phase-II railway link projects. An MoU was also signed for a final location survey (FLS) for a proposed broad gauge railway line between Raxaul & Kathmandu. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Nepal = signed two agreements to boost cross-border train services
- MoU was signed – for FLS for a broad gauge railway line between Raxaul & Kathmandu (Raxaul in Bihar)
- SOPs were signed – to start passenger train services on the Jaynagar-Kurtha section
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba

**16.** In October 2021, National Mission of Clean Ganga (NMCG) has signed an MoU with Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) Institute to conduct a series of trainings to enhance the quality of service of officials in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). This MoU will efficiently address Faecal Sludge & Septage Management (FSSM) issues in towns & cities of the Ganga basin. The project will be funded by USAID & supported by 'The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NMCG + WASH Institute = an MoU to enhance the quality of service of officials in ULBs & address FSSM issues
- Project funded by – USAID | Supported by – The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- HQs of USAID – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Samantha Power | Founded in – 1961
- DG of NMCG – Rajiv Ranjan Mishra

**17.** In October 2021, 'Software Technology Parks of India' (STPI), an organisation under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), 'AIC STPINEXT Initiatives' (STPINEXT) have signed a tripartite non-financial MoU with 'SINE-IIT Bombay' for fostering entrepreneurship & nurturing tech start-ups. STPI MOTION is a domain specific state-of-the-art facility for startups working in Autonomous, Connected, Electric & Shared (ACES) mobility at Pune. SINE-IIT Bombay is an umbrella organization at IIT Bombay. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- STPI + STPINEXT + SINE (IIT Bombay) = signed an MoU for fostering entrepreneurship & nurturing tech start-ups
- HQs of STPI – New Delhi | Director General – Dr. Omkar Rai
- Director of IIT Bombay – Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri
- Chairman of SINE-IIT Bombay – Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnav | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

**18.** In October 2021, Adani Group signed a \$700-million Build Operate Transfer (BOT) agreement with Sri Lanka's largest listed company John Keells Holdings and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) to jointly develop the Colombo West International Container Terminal (CWICT) at the strategically advantaged Colombo Port. As per the 35 year-long BOT agreement, the Adani Group will have majority 51% stake, while John Keells would hold 34% and the SLPA would hold 15% stake. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Adani Group + John Keells Holdings + SLPA = a \$700-million Build Operate Transfer (BOT) agreement to jointly develop the Colombo West International Container Terminal (CWICT)
- HQs of Adani Group – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Chairman – Gautam Adani | MD – Rajesh Adani
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

**19.** In October 2021, An MoU has been signed among Chennai Port Trust (CPT), the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) & Government of Tamil Nadu to develop a multimodal logistic park (MMLP) at Mappedu. The MMLP project will be developed at an estimated cost of Rs 1,045 Cr. India has taken a novel initiative to develop 35 Multi-Modal Logistic Parks (MMLP) under 'Bhartmala Pariyojana'. Also, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched "PM GatiShakti-National Master Plan", which seeks to address the issue of a lack of coordination among various agencies. All departments will have visibility of each other's projects through a centralised portal & the multi-modal connectivity will provide integrated & seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods & services. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- CPT + NHAI + Tamil Nadu = to develop a multimodal logistic park (MMLP) at Mappedu (Cost – Rs 1045 Cr)
- India will develop – 35 Multi-Modal Logistic Parks (MMLP) under Bhartmala Pariyojana
- Narendra Modi launched – PM GatiShakti-National Master Plan for infrastructure development
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi
- HQs of NHAI – New Delhi | Chairman (addi.) – Aramane Giridhar | Founded in – 1988



**20.** In October 2021, Karnataka State Higher Education Council has entered into an MoU with NASSCOM for providing industry-aligned skill development experiences to students of higher education. This MoU will make skill development courses available on the 'Future Skills Prime' platform of NASSCOM to all students & faculty members of higher education institutions in Karnataka. 3 courses of Digital Fluency, Artificial Intelligence, & Cyber Security will become part of the curriculum. All universities in the state are covered under this MoU. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NASSCOM + Karnataka = an MoU for providing skill development experiences to students of Higher Education
- HQs of NASSCOM – New Delhi | President – Debjani Ghosh
- Chairman – Rekha M. Menon | Vice-Chairman – Krishnan Ramanujam
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

**21.** In October 2021, U GRO Capital & Kinara Capital have entered into a strategic co-origination partnership to offer collateral-free business loans to small business entrepreneurs in India. Together, both companies plan to disburse ₹100 crores by the end of FY22 to MSMEs in manufacturing, trading & services sectors. Available financing for MSMEs will range from ₹1 lakh to ₹30 lakh with tenure ranging from 12-60 months. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- U GRO Capital + Kinara Capital = to offer collateral-free business loans to MSMEs (₹1 lakh - ₹30 lakh for 12-60 months)
- HQs of U GRO Capital – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Abhijit Ghosh
- HQs of Kinara Capital – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Founder & CEO - Hardika Shah

**22.** In October 2021, PayPal has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) to help increase knowledge base of Indian MSMEs. The partnership is aimed at launching the India Digital Trade Facilitation Forum (IDTFF) for micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs). The IDTFF will facilitate education, training & capacity building to empower MSMEs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PayPal + IIFT = to help increase knowledge base of Indian MSMEs & launch IDTFF
- HQs of PayPal – California, USA | CEO – Daniel Schulman | Founded in – 1998
- HQs of IIFT – New Delhi | Vice-Chancellor – Professor Manoj Pant | Established in – 1963
- Ministry of MSME – Narayan Rane | Constituency – Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Maharashtra)

**23.** On October 2, The Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IFCCI) signed an MoU with the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) to facilitation investments from France into Maharashtra. The agreement was signed at IFCCI's 44<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IFCCI + Maharashtra = an MoU to facilitation investments from France into Maharashtra
- Ambassador of France to India – Emmanuel Lenain | Ambassador of India to France – Jawed Ashraf
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

**24.** In October 2021, The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, IISc-incubated startup L2MRail and the Society for Innovation & Development (SID) have signed an MoU with Kerala Rail aimed at enhancing rail safety, especially in vulnerable terrains. The L2M Rail team and IISc have pioneered 'Fibre Bragg Grating (FBG)' sensing technology, to develop a Structural Health Monitoring System (SHMS) which will monitor civil engineering structures of Kerala Rail's Silverline project. Through this FBG-sensor driven monitoring system, rail corporations will be able to embed or attach sensors in rail structures, enabling both on-demand and continuous data, as well as 24/7 warning alerts in case of damage detection. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IISc + L2MRail + SID + Kerala Rail = signed an MoU to enhance rail safety
- L2M Rail + IISc = pioneered 'FBG sensing technology' to develop SHMS
- Director of IISc, Bangalore – Govindan Rangarajan | Established in – 1909
- HQs of L2M Rail – Bangalore | Chairman – Prof. S. K. Sinha | MD & CEO – Sreenivasa Rao Ganapa | Founded in – 2016

**25.** In October 2021, India and Russia signed a long-term Memorandum of Understanding on DAP fertiliser supply to stabilise prices and minimize dependence on countries such as Jordan, Morocco, China, etc. India has investigated other sources for procuring DAP. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Russia = an MoU on DAP fertiliser supply
- Rs 79,600 Cr – allocated by Central Gov for fertilizer subsidy in the budget for FY22
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

**26.** In October 2021, 'Sona BLW Precision Forgings' has collaborated with 'FutureSkills Prime' to reskill/upskill graduates & professionals in emerging technologies to make India a global digital talent nation. FutureSkills Prime is the first-of-its-kind public-private cooperation between the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) & NASSCOM to create a digital skilling ecosystem for India's citizens. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sona BLW Precision Forgings + FutureSkills Prime = to upskill graduates & professionals in emerging technologies
- 'FutureSkills Prime' – an initiative between MeitY + NASSCOM – to create a Digital Skilling Ecosystem in India
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnav | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar
- HQs of NASSCOM – New Delhi | President – Debjani Ghosh
- Chairman – Rekha M. Menon | Vice-Chairman – Krishnan Ramanujam

**27.** On October 7, An MoU was signed between Germany's Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Ministry of Textiles, supported by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW), on Implementation Agreement of Indo German Technical Cooperation Project on 'Sustainability and Value Added in the Cotton Economy'. It is focusing on 4 majorly cotton producing states- Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. India is the largest cotton producer in the world and also the 2nd largest consumer of cotton in the world. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Germany + Mini. of Textiles = an MoU to implement projects on 'Sustainability & Value Added in Cotton Economy'
- Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- Ministry of Textiles: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Textiles: Darshana Vikram Jardosh

**28.** In October 2021, The BSE has signed a pact with Business Leadership League (BLL) for the benefit of small & medium enterprises by providing them with adequate knowledge & educating them on a wide range of topics. BLL is a membership forum for SMEs to discuss business challenges, ideate & strategize about innovative solutions & to get prepared for listing on BSE SME platform. BSE SME will serve as a knowledge partner to BLL. BLL will help in spreading awareness about the benefits of listing. BSE launched the SME Platform in March 2012 & the Startup Platform in December 2018. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- BSE + BLL = to provide SMEs with adequate knowledge & to prepare them for listing on BSE SME platform
- BSE launched – SME Platform in March 2012 & the Startup Platform in December 2018
- HQs of BSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Justice Vikramajit Sen | MD & CEO – Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan
- BSE is Asia's 1<sup>st</sup> Stock Exchange Company

**29.** In October 2021, Union Minister of Steel, Ram Chandra Prasad Singh has signed an MoU with Russia for collaboration in the mining & steel sectors, with special focus on coking coal. Coking coal accounts for 40% of total cost of production of steel. This MoU is part of India's "National Steel Policy 2017" under which the country is aiming to reach 300 million tonne steel production by 2030. India imports its coking coal largely from Australia. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India + Russia = for collaboration in the mining & steel sectors, with special focus on coking coal
- India's aim to reach 300 million tonne steel production – by 2030 (as per India's 'National Steel Policy 2017')
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

**30.** In October 2021, RailTel Corporation has signed an MoU with the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) to work together in diverse areas of telecom for boosting modernisation & expansion of communication networks in India. It will help in providing affordable broadband services to the masses in the rural areas by lowering the cost of equipment. C-DOT is a premier research centre under the Department of Telecommunications whereas RailTel works under the Ministry of Railways. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- RailTel + C-DOT = an MoU for modernisation & expansion of communication networks in India
- HQs of RailTel – New Delhi | CMD of RailTel – Puneet Chawla
- HQs of C-DoT – New Delhi | Executive Director – Rajkumar Upadhyay
- Ministry of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Railways: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao & Darshana Vikram Jardosh
- Ministry of Communications: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Communications: Devusinh Chauhan

**31.** In October 2021, The J&K government has signed an MoU with Dubai for real estate development, industrial parks & super-speciality hospitals. The investment will pour in from the entire globe & different entities from Dubai have shown keen interest in investment. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- J&K + Dubai = an MoU for real estate development, industrial parks & super-speciality hospitals
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

**32.** In October 2021, Vodafone Idea (VIL) has joined hands with Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for a pilot project to test 5G-based smart city solutions. The pilot project would be set up in Pune to visualise & analyse smart city applications. VIL has been allocated 26 GHz & 3.5 GHz spectrum in the mmWave band by the Telecom Department. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Vodafone Idea + L&T = partnership to test 5G-based Smart City Solutions
- VIL has been allocated – 26 GHz & 3.5 GHz spectrum for 5G
- HQs of Vi Ltd – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Ravinder Takkar | Non-Executive Chairman – Himanshu Kapania

**33.** In October 2021, National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) in collaboration with Bengaluru-based startup Chainflux has launched “NSE-Shine”, a blockchain platform for gold bullion to provide a data framework for bullion bar integrity for settlement of Gold derivatives contracts. The India Gold Policy Centre (IGPC) at the Indian Institute of Management - Ahmedabad (IIM-A) & the Indian Bullion & Jewellers’ Association (IBJA) have worked with the NSE & Chainflux to develop this blockchain-based platform. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- NSE + Chainflux = launched a blockchain platform “NSE-Shine”
- NSE-Shine Developed by = NSE + Chainflux + IGPC + IBJA
- HQs of Chainflux – Bengaluru | CEO – Abhinav Ramesh
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi | MD & CEO – Vikram Limaye



**34.** In October 2021, NITI Aayog has launched the Geospatial Energy Map of India. NITI Aayog, in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed a broad Geographical Information System (GIS) Energy Map of India with support from Energy Ministers of the Indian Government. The map identifies & locates all primary & secondary sources of energy & provides a complete image of all resources of the country through 27 thematic layers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NITI Aayog + ISRO = developed a “GIS Energy Map of India”
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed on – August 15, 1969

**35.** On October 9, Denmark’s PM Mette Frederiksen visited India for the first time to enhance the friendly relationship with India. India and Denmark agreed on measures to take forward their unique “Green Strategic Partnership” and created 5-year Action Plan from 2021 to 2026. Both sides signed 4 agreements aimed at boosting cooperation in green technologies and management of Natural Resources such as groundwater. Besides, Denmark-based pump manufacturer Grundfos signed an MoU with TATA Projects to cooperate and explore projects in environment, sustainability and water. Moreover, India and Denmark also signed two agreements on research in Climate Change, while another MoU on setting up a ‘Green Hydrogen’ Electrolyser plant was signed between Reliance Industries and Danish company Stiesdal Fuel Technologies for Zero-Carbon Hydrogen in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Denmark = 4 agreements to boost “Green Strategic Partnership” & created 5-year Action Plan (2021-2026)
- Grundfos + TATA Projects = to explore projects in Environment, Sustainability & Water
- India + Denmark = two agreements on research in Climate Change
- Reliance Industries + Stiesdal Fuel Technologies (Denmark) = an MoU to set up ‘Green Hydrogen Electrolyser Plant’
- Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen

**36.** On October 12, To stabilize prices of Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP) fertiliser and reduce dependency on the countries like Jordan, Morocco, China, etc, India signed a long-term MoU with Russia on DAP fertiliser supply. Recently, the government has increased the subsidy to 140% on DAP fertiliser in order to retain the selling price for farmers at the current level. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Russia = an MoU for Di-ammonium Phosphate fertiliser supply
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin



**37.** In October 2021, Digital business-to-business payment startup for small & medium enterprises (SMEs) Rupifi has announced a partnership with non-banking finance company (NBFC) Muthoot Finance to help SMEs access instant credit. Rupifi allows SMEs to flexibly repay their dues as & when required with a per-day interest pricing but without any monthly EMIs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rupifi + Muthoot Finance = to help SMEs access instant credit
- HQs of Muthoot Finance – Kochi, Kerala | MD & CEO – George Alexander Muthoot
- HQs of Rupifi – Bengaluru | CEO – Anubhav Jain

**38.** In October 2021, STPI (Software Technology Park of India) FinBlue has signed an MoU with ASEAN Financial Innovation Network Ltd (AFIN) to explore cross border collaboration. The MoU will strengthen collaboration for leveraging the expertise & knowledge to empower start-ups incubated at STPI FinBlue to develop World Class Products. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- STPI + AFIN = an MoU to explore cross-border collaboration & empower start-ups incubated at STPI FinBlue
- HQs of STPI – New Delhi | Director General – Dr. Omkar Rai
- Chairmanship of ASEAN 2021 – Brunei | Secretariat of ASEAN – Jakarta, Indonesia | Members – 10

**39.** In October 2021, Goa has signed an MoU with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to provide essential skills like computational thinking, coding & communication to children aged 8-14 years. In addition, a letter of intent was also signed with the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), India & Google CS Education. The aim is to prepare youth, especially from the weaker sections of society, for employment by upgrading them with the required skill set. In the 1<sup>st</sup> phase, they will provide training required for employment. The 2<sup>nd</sup> programme is planned to further help college students to improve employability & communication skills under TCS' Youth Employment Programme (YEP). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Goa + TCS + Google = an MoU to launch a programme for skill training of children aged 8-14 years
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

**40.** In October 2021, VEM Technologies has signed an MoU with the Telangana government to set up an integrated defence systems facility at Yelgoi in Telangana. An investment of around Rs 1,000 Cr will be done for the same. VEM supplies 'Centre Fuselages' to India's Tejas production programme. Also, VEM is one of the largest production partners for Akash, Astra & BrahMos missile programmes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- VEM Technologies + Telangana = an MoU to set up an Integrated Defence Systems Facility at Yelgoi, Telangana
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- HQs of VEM Technologies – Hyderabad | CMD – V Venkata Raju



**41.** In October 2021, Uttar Pradesh's Amethi-based Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) & New Delhi-based Drone Destination have jointly signed an initial pact with the Haryana Government's initiative 'DRIISHYA' to commence drone training in Haryana. Also, IGRUA will provide professional drone training in Haryana. The Drone Imaging & Information Service of Haryana Ltd (DRIISHYA) initiative aims at speedy implementation of various types of surveys and imaging work using drones as manual surveys which are conducted at regular intervals are very time consuming, costly & require more manpower. The efficiency of surveys gets increased exponentially with the help of drones. IGRUA is an autonomous body which works under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IGRUA + Drone Destination + 'DRIISHYA' initiative = to commence drone training in Haryana
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

**42.** In October 2021, Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) of India and Auditor General of Maldives have signed an MoU to strengthen the audit process of public finance. The MoU was signed by Girish Chandra Murmu, CAG of India & Hussain Niyazy, Auditor General of Maldives They also agreed to conduct training programmes in their respective countries for their staff on a need basis and explore other means of capacity development support, and cooperate on mutually beneficial areas. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Maldives = an MoU to strengthen the audit process of public finance
- CAG of India – Girish Chandra Murmu
- Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat | President – Myint Swe | PM – Min Aung Hlaing

**43.** On October 23, Newly launched airline Flybig has entered into an agreement with IRCTC to facilitate travellers to book tickets for any of its northeast destinations through the latter's 'Air' platform. The partnership is launched in line with 'Dekho Apna Desh' to promote NE sectors' flora, fauna and culture. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Flybig + IRCTC = an agreement to facilitate travellers to book tickets for any of the NE destinations
- HQs of Flybig – Gurugram, India | CEO – Sanjay Mandavia Srinivas Rao
- HQs of IRCTC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Mahendra Pratap Mall

**44.** On October 27, Google has partnered the Ministry of Electronics and IT's Startup Hub to launch "Appscale Academy", a growth and development program to train early to mid-stage startups across India on building high-quality apps for the world. 100 startups will be selected based on defined qualitative and quantitative parameters. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Google + MeitY Startup Hub = partnership to launch a growth & development program - "Appscale Academy"
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar



**45.** On October 28, Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has signed an MoU with the Government of Chhattisgarh to spread awareness about the benefits of listing SMEs in the state. BSE will provide intellectual and manpower support to create awareness. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BSE + Chhattisgarh = an MoU to spread awareness about the benefits of listing SMEs in the state
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey
- HQs of BSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Justice Vikramajit Sen | MD & CEO – Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan
- BSE is Asia's 1<sup>st</sup> Stock Exchange Company

**46.** On October 28, The Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) partnered with Truecaller to provide passengers with greater trust in communication. Truecaller verified identity will aim to reduce fraud by assuring people that critical communication such as booking details and PNR status are being delivered by IRCTC. With this, the integrated National Railways Helpline 139 'used by lakhs of Indians daily' will now be verified by Truecaller Business Identity solutions. IRCTC started the 139 Enquiry and Helpline Services in 2007 with Bharat BPO Services Limited as its technical partner in the project. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IRCTC + Truecaller = to provide passengers with greater trust in communication
- 'National Railways Helpline - 139' – will now be verified by Truecaller Business Identity solutions
- HQs of IRCTC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Mahendra Pratap Mall
- HQs of Truecaller – Stockholm, Sweden | CEO & Co-founder – Alan Mamedi



# Books & Authors

**1.** In October 2021, Entrepreneur and writer Jaithirth Rao's book "Economist Gandhi: The Roots and the Relevance of the Political Economy of the Mahatma" examines Mahatma Gandhi's economic philosophy, shedding light on why he needs to be looked at as a management guru and explains his positive approach toward business. This book is published by Penguin Random House India. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- "Economist Gandhi: The Roots and the Relevance of the Political Economy of the Mahatma" book – by Jaithirth Rao
- [Publisher – Penguin Random House India](#)

**2.** In October 2021, Memoir of former SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar "The Custodian of Trust" was published. The book was published by 'Penguin Random House India'. He served as the chairman of the SBI from October 2017-October 2020. He currently works as a director on the boards of HSBC Asia Pacific, L&T InfoTech Ltd & Lighthouse Communities Foundation. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- "The Custodian of Trust" – memoir of 'Rajnish Kumar' (Former SBI Chairman)
- [Publisher – Penguin Random House India](#)
- [HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara](#)
- [MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty](#) | [Ashwani Bhatia](#) | [Ashwini Kumar Tewari](#) | [Swaminathan Janakiraman](#)

**3.** In October 2021, Sujeet Sarkar has recently authored a book named "Quest for a Stable Afghanistan: A View from Ground Zero". The book is published by Rupa. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- "Quest for a Stable Afghanistan: A View from Ground Zero" book – authored by Sujeet Sarkar
- [Publisher – Rupa Publications](#)

**4.** Historian Manu S. Pillai's new book, "False Allies", seeks to examine the erstwhile age of Indian royalty as one of political sophistication. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- "False Allies" book – authored by Manu S. Pillai

**5.** Former ambassador to Nepal Ranjit Rae's book "Kathmandu Dilemma: Resetting India-Nepal Ties" stands out for its vision of future ties that go beyond the political relationship. The book covers a gamut of bilateral issues in the 21st century such as the political mainstreaming of the Maoists, the 2020 Kalapani territorial dispute, the economic possibilities and lost opportunities. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- “Kathmandu Dilemma: Resetting India-Nepal Ties” book – authored by Ranjit Rae (Former Ambassador to Nepal)

6. In October 2021, Harry Potter-fame author, J.K. Rowling has authored a children’s fantasy book titled “The Christmas Pig”. The book is published by ‘Nimble Books’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “The Christmas Pig” book – authored by J.K. Rowling
- Publisher – Nimble Books

7. Wole Soyinka’s “Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth” is his first novel in 48 years and only the third in his long career. This book is at once political satire and murder mystery, and a lament for the spirit of his native Nigeria. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth” novel – authored by Wole Soyinka

8. In October 2021, A new book “Sir Syed Ahmad Khan: Reason, Religion & Nation” has been authored by ‘Professor Shafey Kidwai’ who won Sahitya Academy Award for Urdu in 2019 for his book “Sawaneh-e-Sir Syed: Ek Bazadeed” which is a biography of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. The book is published by ‘Routledge India’. Professor Shafey Kidwai is a professor at ‘Aligarh Muslim University’ (AMU). Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was the founder of Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College that later grew into Aligarh Muslim University. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Sir Syed Ahmad Khan: Reason, Religion & Nation” book – authored by Professor Shafey Kidwai
- Publisher – ‘Routledge India’
- Sir Syed Ahmad Khan – founder of Aligarh Muslim University
- Chancellor of AMU – Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin

9. In October 2021, Defence minister Rajnath singh has recently aunched a book titled “Veer Savarkar: The Man Who Could Have Prevented Partition” which is authored by Veteran journalist & political analyst Uday Mahurkar along with co-author Chirayu Pandit. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Veer Savarkar: The Man Who Could Have Prevented Partition” book – authored by Uday Mahurkar & Chirayu Pandit
- Book launched by – Rajnath singh



**10.** In October 2021, Recently a book titled “The Stars in My Sky: Those Who Brightened My Film Journey” has been authored by Divya Dutta. The book is published by Penguin Random House India. It is her 2<sup>nd</sup> book. Her debut book was “Me & Ma” which was released in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “The Stars in My Sky: Those Who Brightened My Film Journey” book – authored by Divya Dutta
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India

**11.** In October 2021, A new book “The Origin Story of India’s States” has been written by author Venkataraghavan Subha Srinivasan. The book presents the incredible origin stories of each of India’s 28 states & eight union territories. The book is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “The Origin Story of India’s States” book – authored by Venkataraghavan Subha Srinivasan
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India

**12.** On October 11, A recent book, “Forgotten Kashmir, The Other Side of the Line of Control”, by former Ambassador Dinkar P. Srivastava seems to prepare the ground for a change in policy. He examines the policy of Pakistan towards Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) and Gilgit-Baltistan over the last 70 years. The book was published by Harper Collins. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Forgotten Kashmir, The Other Side of the Line of Control” book – authored by Dinkar P. Srivastava
- Publisher – Harper Collins India

**13.** In a new book “Harsh Realities: The Making of Marico, Mariwala” details the difficulties he faced when he proposed financial separation from the family-run business, a prospect that also paved the way for the growth of Brand Marico. The book is authored by Harsh Mariwala and Ram Charan.

**Key Points:**

- “Harsh Realities: The Making of Marico, Mariwala” book – authored by Harsh Mariwala & Ram Charan

**14.** In October 2021, Poet-lyricist Gulzar has recently authored a book titled “Actually... I Met Them: A Memoir”. The book is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Actually... I Met Them: A Memoir” book – authored by Gulzar
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India

**15.** In October 2021, Chidanand Rajghatta, journalist & author has recently written a book titled “Kamala Harris: Phenomenal Woman”. The book is published by HarperCollins India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Kamala Harris: Phenomenal Woman” book – authored by Chidanand Rajghatta
- Publisher – HarperCollins India

**16.** On October 19, A new book titled “Hitler and India: The Untold Story of his hatred for the Country and its People” has been authored by Vaibhav Purandare and published by Westland Publication. He points out bluntly how Hitler considered Indians as an inferior race. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Hitler and India: The Untold Story of his hatred for the Country and its People” book – authored by Vaibhav Purandare
- Publisher – Westland Publication

**17.** In October 2021, A new anthology titled “Writing for My Life: The Very Best of Ruskin” has been published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI). It contains some of the most exemplary stories, essays, poems and memories by Ruskin Bond. It comes 25 years after the publication of his another anthology, “The Best of Ruskin Bond”. The anthology is edited by Premanka Goswami. Ruskin Bond was born in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh. He is the recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award, Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar, Padma Shri & Padma Bhushan among other prestigious awards. His 1<sup>st</sup> novel, “The Room on the Roof”, written when he was 17, received the “John Llewellyn Rhys Memorial Prize” in 1957. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Writing for My Life: The Very Best of Ruskin” book – authored by Ruskin Bond
- Edited by – Premanka Goswami | Publisher – Penguin Random House India

**18.** In October 2021, Former Union minister Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ gifted a copy of a book to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The book, titled “AIIMS Mein Ek Jang Ladte Hue” was written by him during his battle with COVID-19 in AIIMS Hospital. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “AIIMS Mein Ek Jang Ladte Hue” book – authored by Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’
- Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ gifted this book to – PM Narendra Modi

**19.** A new book titled “John Lang: Wanderer of Hindoostan, Slanderer of Hindoostanee, Lawyer for the Ranees” revisits the life of John Lang, the Australian writer-lawyer settled in India in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The book, authored by Amit Ranjan, is about Lang's life, his exploits and his literary works. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “John Lang: Wanderer of Hindoostan, Slanderer of Hindoostanee, Lawyer for the Ranees” book – Amit Ranjan

**20.** In October 2021, Famous writer Amitav Ghosh’s new book “The Nutmeg’s Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis” was released. The book reveals the remarkable ways in which human history is shaped by non-human forces. Other books written by the author include, “Shadow Lines”, “The Glass Palace”, “The Hungry Tide”, “Gun Island” and Ibis Trilogy - “Sea of Poppies”, “River of Smoke” and “Flood of Fire”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “The Nutmeg’s Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis” book – authored by Amitav Ghosh

# Obituaries

1. In October 2021, Abolhassan Banisadr, Iran's first president after 1979 revolution, died at a hospital in Paris after a long illness. He was 88. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Abolhassan Banisadr – 1<sup>st</sup> President of Iran – passed away
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ali Khamenei

2. In October 2021, Abdul Qadeer Khan, a scientist known as father of Pakistan's clandestine nuclear programme, passed away after a brief illness. He was 85. He was born in 1936 in Bhopal & migrated to Pakistan after the Partition in 1947. In a book "Pakistan's Nuclear Bomb: A Story of Defiance, Deterrence & Deviance", Pakistani-American scholar 'Hassan Abbas' has highlighted Khan's involvement in nuclear proliferation in Iran, Libya & North Korea. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Abdul Qadeer Khan (Bhopal) – a Scientist – passed away (father of Pakistan's Clandestine nuclear programme)
- "Pakistan's Nuclear Bomb: A Story of Defiance, Deterrence & Deviance" book – authored by – Hassan Abbas
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

3. On October 4, Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah's Nattu Kaka actor Ghanshyam Nayak passed away following a long battle with cancer. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Ghanshyam Nayak (Nattu Kaka) – Indian Film Actor – passed away

4. On October 6, Cartoonist Chackalethu John Yesudass passed away due to a heart attack. He was 83. He was one of the leading cartoonists in Kerala. He is also the author of a few books including 'Pradhmadrishtya', 'Aniyara', 'Post-Mortem', 'Varayile Nayanar' and 'Varayile Leader'. The Indian Institute of Cartoonists had bestowed him with the "LifeTime Award" in 2001. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Chackalethu John Yesudass (Kerala) – a Cartoonist – passed away ("LifeTime Award" in 2001)
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

5. On October 6, Veteran actor Arvind Trivedi passed away recently due to heart attack. He was 82. He was best known for playing the role of 'Raavan' on the popular 1986 mythological show "Ramayan". [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Arvind Trivedi – a Actor – passed away





**6.** On October 8, Vallilath Madhathil Madhavan Nair, the oldest living former diplomat of India, passed away. Mr. Nair joined the Indian Civil Service or the ICS in 1942 and was allotted to the Bihar Cadre. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vallilath Madhathil Madhavan Nair – Oldest living former diplomat of India (Bureaucrat) – passed away

**7.** On October 11, Nedumudi Venu, one of Malayalam cinema's most versatile character actors, passed away. He was 73. He made his film debut with G. Aravindan's Thambu in 1978. In a career spanning more than four decades and over 500 films, Venu has portrayed a wide range of characters and also won three National awards. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nedumudi Venu – a Malayalam Actor – passed away (winner of 3 National Awards)

**8.** On October 17, Afghanistan's former Prime Minister Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai passed away at the age of 78. Ahmadzai served as prime minister of Afghanistan from 1995 to 1996 soon before the Taliban took control of the country. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai – Former PM of Afghanistan – passed away

**9.** On October 16, Former international hockey player Saranjeet Singh passed away. He was 59 year old. He was former State Bank of India hockey player who played for Coronation Club in local league. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Saranjeet Singh – Former International Hockey Player – passed away

**10.** In October 2021, South Korean former president Roh Tae-woo, a decorated war veteran who played a pivotal but controversial role in the transition to democratic elections from rule by authoritarian leaders, has passed away. He was 88. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Roh Tae-woo – South Korean former President & war veteran – passed away
- [South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won](#) | [President – Moon Jae-in](#)

**11.** On October 18, Bandula Warnapura passed away at the age of 68. He played in two World Cups and led Sri Lanka in its first cricket test in 1982 but later received a ban for participating in a rebel tour to South Africa. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bandula Warnapura – a Sri Lankan Cricketer – passed away



**12.** On October 20, Former Tamil Nadu top-order batsman R. C. Vasanth Kumar passed away following a heart attack. He was 45. Vasanth was the Secretary of Magnet Cricket Club. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- R. C. Vasanth Kumar ([Tamil Nadu](#)) – a Cricketer – passed away

**13.** On October 29, Noted Oncologist and founder director of Regional Cancer Centre (RCC) in Thiruvananthapuram, Dr. M. Krishnan Nair passed away. He was 81. He was credited with setting up the first Paediatric Oncology Section in a hospital in India. The country honoured him with Padma Shri in 2001. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. M. Krishnan Nair ([Kerala](#)) – a renowned Oncologist – passed away (recipient of Padma Shri - 2001)
- He was founder director of Regional Cancer Centre (RCC) in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- [An oncologist is a doctor who treats Cancer](#)

**14.** On October 29, Actor Puneeth Rajkumar passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest. He was 46 years old and was associated with the Kannada film industry. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Puneeth Rajkumar – a Kannada Actor – passed away

**15.** In October 2021, Two former Australian cricketers passed away within a day of each other. Alan Keith Davidson (nick named 'The Claw'), an all-rounder known for his ability to swing the ball both ways, passed away at age 92. Off-spinner Ashley Mallett died at age 76 after a long battle with cancer. Alan was the first player to score 100 runs and take 10 wickets in a Test match. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Alan Keith Davidson ([Australia](#)) – a Cricketer – passed away (Nickname - 'The Claw')
- Ashley Mallett ([Australia](#)) – a Cricketer – passed away
- Alan Keith Davidson – the first player to score 100 runs & take 10 wickets in a Test match
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar](#) | [PM – Scott Morrison](#)



# Person in News

**1.** On October 13, Actor William Shatner soared aboard a Blue Origin rocketship on a suborbital trip and landed in the Texas desert to become the oldest person ever to reach space at the age of 90. Shatner was one of four passengers to journey to the edge of space aboard the New Shepard spacecraft which is developed by Blue Origin as a commercial system for suborbital space tourism. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- William Shatner ([Canadian Actor](#)) – became the world’s oldest space traveler at the age of 90
- He traveled in Blue Origin’s ‘New Shepard spacecraft’
- HQs of Blue Origin – Washington, US | CEO – Bob Smith | Founder – Jeff Bezos | Founded in – 2000

**2.** On October 22, Kumar Mangalam Birla is set to partner with Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Managing Director of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) and invest in ‘Zand’, the UAE’s first digital only independent bank. Zand will be led by Olivier Crespin, former Citi head of operations private bank. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Kumar Mangalam Birla + Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan = to invest in “Zand” UAE’s first digital only independent bank
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan



**Smartkeeda**  
The Question Bank



# Science & Technology

**1.** In October 2021, Russia has successfully test launched “Tsirkon” (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missile from a submarine for the first time. Severodvinsk submarine had fired the missile in the Barents Sea, successfully hitting its chosen target. Russia tested firing the Tsirkon missile from a warship in July. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Russia – launched “Tsirkon” (Zircon) a hypersonic cruise missile for the first time from a submarine – in the Barents Sea
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)

**2.** In October 2021, India’s first & only chain of observatories, “Starscapes Experiences Pvt Ltd” has launched its second public observatory in Bhimtal, Uttarakhand. The tourists will witness a holistic astronomical experience in the observatory followed by a number of activities that will take place all day & night. The first observatory was launched in Kausani, Uttarakhand. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Starscapes Experiences Pvt Ltd – launched its 2<sup>nd</sup> public observatory in Bhimtal, Uttarakhand
- 1<sup>st</sup> observatory was launched in – Kausani, Uttarakhand
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain](#) | [CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami](#) | [Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh](#)
- [HQs of Starscapes Experiences Pvt Ltd – Gurgaon, Haryana](#) | [CEO – Paul Savio](#) | [Founded – 2015](#)

**3.** In October 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the ‘Indian Space Association’ (ISpA) to boost space technology in India. Jayant Patil is appointed as the first Chairman of the newly set up IspA. ISpA is a private industry body focused on space policy & growth. ISpA will act as a single-window & independent agency on matters related to space technology. Its founding members include OneWeb, Bharti Airtel, Mapmyindia, Walchandnagar, Skyroot Aerospace, Astrome Technologies & Pixxel etc. These companies will work with ISRO on capacity building & to create space economic hubs. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – launched “Indian Space Association (ISpA)” to boost space technology in India
- First Chairman of ISpA – Jayant Patil | ISpA members will work with – ISRO
- [HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka](#) | [Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan](#) | [Formed on – August 15, 1969](#)

**4.** On October 1, ISRO’s commercial arm, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) has announced its first ‘demand-driven’ communication satellite mission as part of Space reforms announced by the Government in June, 2020. As part of this initiative, NSIL is undertaking its 1<sup>st</sup> demand driven communication satellite mission named “GSAT-24”, a 4-tonne class Ku-band satellite. NSIL is getting this satellite built by ISRO and will be launching it using ‘Ariane-5’ launcher operated by Arianespace. GSAT-24 will be leased to its committed customer M/s Tata Sky for meeting their DTH application needs. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- NSIL (ISRO) – announced its first ‘demand-driven’ communication satellite mission “GSAT-24” for Tata Sky
- Satellite is being built by – ISRO & will be launched using ‘Ariane-5’ launcher operated by Arianespace
- HQs of NSIL – Bangalore, Karnataka | CMD – G. Narayanan (an arm of ISRO)

5. NASA has launched a first-of-its kind mission by sending “Lucy” spacecraft to study Jupiter’s Trojan asteroids. Lucy's mission is a 12-year expedition to study a record number of asteroids. It will be the first to explore the Trojans . [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NASA – launched a first-of-its kind space probe named “Lucy” to study Trojan asteroids of Jupiter
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded on – July 29, 1958

6. On October 1, A new species of the blind swamp eel belonging to the genus *Rakthamichthys* has been discovered from a well in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The new species is named ‘Hypogean Freshwater eel’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ‘Hypogean Freshwater eel’ a new species of the blind swamp eel – discovered in Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

7. Amazon has launched its first household robot named “Astro”, powered by its Alexa smart home technology. It can be remote-controlled when not at home, to check on pets, people, or home security. It can also patrol a home automatically and send owners a notification if it detects something unusual. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amazon – launched its first household robot named “Astro” – powered by its ‘Alexa’ smart home technology
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle, USA | CEO – Andy Jassy | Incorporated in – 1994

8. In October 2021, Researchers from the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS); Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES), Indian Institute of Science; and the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru, have discovered 12 new species of geckos from the Western Ghats. The researchers have named one of the new species after Jackie Chan as ‘*Cnemaspis jackieii*’ or ‘Jackie’s Day Gecko’ for its ability to move rapidly and sneak into the smallest crevices to escape. The study was published in the international journal ‘Zoological Research’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Researchers discovered 12 new species of geckos from the Western Ghats
- Researchers named one of the new species after Jackie Chan as ‘*Cnemaspis jackieii*’ or ‘Jackie’s Day Gecko’
- The study was published in – international journal ‘Zoological Research’



**9.** In October 2021, The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has launched a 'One Health' consortium for surveillance of important bacterial, viral and parasitic infections of zoonotic as well as transboundary pathogens in India. It is First 'One Health' project of the DBT. 'One Health Consortium' consisting of 27 organisations led by DBT-National Institute of Animal Biotechnology, Hyderabad. One Health Consortium is one of the biggest health programmes launched by the government in post-Covid times. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DBT – launched 'One Health' consortium for surveillance of important bacterial, viral & parasitic infections
- 'One Health Consortium' consists of 27 organisations – led by DBT-NIAB, Hyderabad
- [Secretary of Department of Biotechnology – Dr Rajesh S Gokhale](#)

**10.** In October 2021, China launched its first sun observation satellite, Xihe to monitor solar eruptions. The satellite was sent by a Long March 2D rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre into a 571 km-altitude orbit, where it is expected to monitor the sun for three years. China also launched Shenzhou-13 spacecraft carrying 3 Chinese astronauts docked Saturday at its space station. The spacecraft was launched by a Long March-2F rocket. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China – launched its first sun observation satellite - Xihe (by 'Long March 2D' rocket)
- China – also launched 'Shenzhou-13' spacecraft carrying 3 Chinese astronauts
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)

**11.** On October 14, OneWeb confirmed its successful launch of 36 satellites by Arianespace from the Vostochny Cosmodrome. This latest successful launch brings OneWeb's total in-orbit constellation to 358 satellites, over half of OneWeb's entire 648 LEO satellite fleet that will deliver high-speed, low-latency global connectivity. OneWeb is now over the halfway point toward delivering global service by 2022. Besides, OneWeb partnered with Canada-based Galaxy Broadband to deliver OneWeb's high-speed, low-latency communications services across Canada and the wider Arctic Region. OneWeb has also completed the acquisition of the company formerly known as 'TrustComm', now OneWeb Technologies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- OneWeb – launched new 36 satellites by Arianespace from the Vostochny Cosmodrome (in Russia)
- Now, OneWeb's total in-orbit constellation – 358 satellites
- OneWeb + Galaxy Broadband (Canada) = partnership to deliver OneWeb's high-speed services across Canada
- OneWeb – completed the acquisition of 'TrustComm' (currently known as 'OneWeb Technologies')
- [HQs of OneWeb – London, UK | CEO – Adrian Steckel | Executive Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal](#)

**12.** On October 19, A plant or onion species discovered in the border area of Malari village, in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand in 2019 has been newly confirmed as a new species of Allium. The new species has been named "Allium Negianum" and it is described in journal PhytoKeys. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- “Allium Negianum” a new species of Allium (staple foods such as onion & garlic) – discovered in Chamoli, Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

**13.** In October 2021, European commercial drone & software developer FIXAR has collaborated with Paras Aerospace to enter Indian unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) market. As a first step towards this partnership, FIXAR will launch its flagship fixed wing drone FIXAR007 in India. The initial agreement targets delivery of 150 drones to the operators in India. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- FIXAR + Paras Aerospace = partnership to enter FIXAR in Indian UAV market
- FIXAR will launch – Fixed wing drone FIXAR007 in India
- HQs of Paras Aerospace – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Pankaj Akula

**14.** In October 2021, A micro snail species named “Georissa mawsmiensis” has recently been discovered from Mawsmi, a limestone cave in Meghalaya. The discovery has been reported in the ‘Journal of Conchology’. The last time a species of the Georissa genus was discovered in India was 170 years ago in 1851. The researchers involved in the discovery are Nipu Kumar Das & NA Aravind of the ‘Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology & the Environment’ (ATREE), Bengaluru. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- A micro snail species “Georissa mawsmiensis” – discovered from Mawsmi, a limestone cave in Meghalaya
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik
- HQs of ATREE – Bengaluru, Karnataka

**15.** In October 2021, South Korea unsuccessfully test launches 1<sup>st</sup> domestically made space rocket, Nuri from Naro Space Centre. The rocket reached its desired altitude but failed to deliver a dummy payload into orbit in its first test launch. Nuri is powered by liquid propellants but the South Koreans plan to develop a solid-fuel space launch rocket by 2024. Also, South Korea is hoping to send a probe to the moon by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- South Korea – unsuccessfully test launched 1<sup>st</sup> domestically made space rocket - “Nuri”
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Moon Jae-in

**16.** In October 2021, Bellatrix Aerospace & Dhruva Space have each signed an MoU with Larsen & Toubro for the joint development of products & manufacturing to service demand for private space access. The agreements were signed on the sidelines of the Expo 2020 event in Dubai. Dhruva is a developer of satellites & launch platforms. Bellatrix is world’s 1<sup>st</sup> firm to develop a Microwave Plasma Thruster that uses only water as a fuel. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Bellatrix Aerospace + Dhruva Space + Larsen & Toubro = an MoU to develop products for Private Space access
- Bellatrix – world’s 1<sup>st</sup> firm to develop ‘Microwave Plasma Thruster’ that uses only water as a fuel
- HQs of Bellatrix Aerospace – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Ganapathy | Established in – 2015
- HQs of Dhruva Space – Hyderabad | CEO – Sanjay Nekkanti

**17.** In October 2021, The Department of Zoology of ‘Dera Natung Government College’ of Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh has discovered three new species of fish of genus *Aborichthys* of family Nemachelidae. They have been named “*Aborichthys uniobarensis*”, “*Aborichthys barapensis*” & “*Aborichthys palinensis*”. The Eastern Himalaya region is one of the four major biodiversity hotspots of India. It is endemic to more than 20% fauna of India, including the fish species. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 3 new species of fish – found in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh (Genus – *Aborichthys* & Family – Nemachelidae)
- The 3 species are named : *Aborichthys uniobarensis*, *Aborichthys barapensis* & *Aborichthys palinensis*
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra

**18.** In October 2021, China has successfully launched a new satellite named ‘Shijian-21’ to test & verify space debris mitigation technologies. It was launched from the ‘Xichang Satellite Launch Centre’ by a Long March-3B carrier rocket. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China – launched a satellite ‘Shijian-21’ – to test space debris mitigation technologies
- Satellite ‘Shijian-21’ – launched by ‘Long March-3B’ carrier rocket
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**19.** In October 2021, France has successfully launched a state-of-the-art satellite named Syracuse 4A that is designed to allow all of France’s armed forces across the globe to communicate swiftly & securely. Also, the satellite is designed to resist military aggression from the ground & in space, as well as interference. The satellite can survey its close surroundings & move itself to escape an attack. The satellite was launched by the ‘Ariane 5’ rocket from French Guiana. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- France – launched satellite ‘Syracuse 4A’ to allow its armed forces across the globe to communicate securely
- Satellite ‘Syracuse 4A’ – launched by ‘Ariane 5’ rocket from French Guiana
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex



**20.** In October 2021, The U.S. Navy & Army has successfully conducted three tests for Hypersonic Weapon Component Prototypes. The Sandia National Laboratory ran the tests from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia. The Navy & Army will conduct a flight test of the common hypersonic missile in fiscal 2022. Hypersonic weapons travel in the upper atmosphere at more than five times the speed of sound, or about 3,853 miles per hour (6,200 kph). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- U.S. Navy & Army – successfully conducted 3 tests for Hypersonic Weapon Component Prototypes
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**21.** On October 23, Tata Power has signed an MoU with IIT Delhi to collaborate in areas such as Smart Grid Technology & Clean Energy Solutions. They also agreed to explore a possibility to develop Tata Power Virtual Centre of Excellence towards complementing and supplementing various technologies, labs and infrastructure.

[{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tata Power + IIT Delhi = an MoU to collaborate in areas such as Smart Grid Technology & Clean Energy Solutions
- HQs of Tata Power – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Praveer Sinha | Established – 1915
- Director of IIT Delhi – V. Ramgopal Rao

**22.** On October 21, Intel has launched the “Intel Unnati Program” to help equip engineering students in India with industry-relevant data-centric skills. The company plans to setup 100 Intel Unnati Data Centric Labs by 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Intel – launched the “Intel Unnati Program” to set up 100 Data Centric Labs in a year
- HQs of Intel – California, USA | CEO – Patrick P. Gelsinger | Founded on – July 18, 1968

**23.** On October 20, Microsoft launched a new 10-week programme called “Microsoft AI Innovate” for nurturing and scaling startups that are leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI). Both B2B and B2C startups from various industries can participate in the Quarterly cohorts of this programme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Microsoft – launched a new 10-week programme called “Microsoft AI Innovate” for nurturing & scaling startups
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975

**24.** On October 27, China successfully launched an optical remote sensing satellite called “Jilin-1 Gaofen 02F” from a low-cost small, solid-fuel carrier rocket named ‘Kuaizhou-1A’ (KZ-1A). It was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in the northwestern Gansu Province, China. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- China – launched an optical remote sensing satellite called “Jilin-1 Gaofen 02F” by ‘Kuaizhou-1A’ carrier rocket
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**25.** On October 28, The DRDO successfully test-fired surface-to-surface ballistic missile “Agni-5” that can strike targets at ranges up to 5,000 km with a very high degree of accuracy. The test-firing was carried out from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DRDO successfully test-fired surface-to-surface ballistic missile “Agni-5” | Strike range – up to 5,000 km
- The missile was test-fired from – APJ Abdul Kalam Island (*Odisha*)

**26.** On October 30, An Indian Air Force (IAF) team and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested India’s first indigenously developed Long-Range Bomb (LRB) from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha. The bomb is part of the class of weapons with a range of 50 to 150 km. The bomb has been designed and developed by DRDO’s Research Centre Imarat (RCI) laboratory in Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IAF + DRDO = flight-tested India’s 1<sup>st</sup> indigenously developed Long-Range Bomb (LRB) – from Chandipur, Odisha
- The bomb is developed by – DRDO’s Research Centre Imarat lab (*Hyderabad*) | Bomb range – 50 to 150 km
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

**27.** In October 2021, for the first time, scientists at NASA’s Chandra X-ray Observatory have discovered an Exoplanet outside the Milky Way galaxy. The potential exoplanet, called ‘M51-ULS-1b’, lies 28 million light-years away in the spiral galaxy ‘Messier 51’ (M51), also known as the ‘Whirlpool galaxy’. Exoplanets are planets outside our solar system known as ‘Milky Way’. The first exoplanet was discovered in 1992 and, since then, most exoplanets found have been less than 3,000 light-years from Earth. Andromeda Galaxy is the closest galaxy to our solar system. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Scientists at Chandra X-ray Observatory have discovered an Exoplanet outside the Milky Way galaxy (1<sup>st</sup> time)
- The potential exoplanet ‘M51-ULS-1b’ lies 28 million light-years away in ‘Whirlpool galaxy’ (‘Messier 51’ galaxy)
- The first exoplanet was discovered in – 1992
- Andromeda Galaxy – the closest galaxy to our Solar System



# Ordinance, Bills and Acts

**1.** On October 3, The Union Ministry of Power has promulgated the “Electricity (Transmission System Planning, Development and Recovery of Inter-State Transmission Charges) Rules 2021”. The rules underpin a system of transmission access which is termed as a “General Network Access” in the inter-state transmission system. The rules will also empower state power distribution and transmission companies to determine their transmission requirements and build them. Central Electricity Authority, Central Transmission Utility and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission are the agencies involved in Plan Preparing and to bring out detailed regulations on GNA in interstate transmission system. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Union Ministry of Power – promulgated the “Electricity Rules 2021”
- The rules underpin a system of transmission access termed as a “General Network Access” (GNA)
- Agencies involved: Central Electricity Authority, Central Transmission Utility & Central Electricity Regulatory Commission
- Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Power: Krishan Pal





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