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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Fumio Kishida to Become Japan's Next Prime Minister After Party Election Win

- Japan's former Foreign Minister, Fumio Kishida has won the ruling party's leadership election, virtually ensuring that he will become the country's next prime minister. Kishida won 257 votes in a runoff to defeat Taro Kono, a popular vaccines minister who previously held the positions of defence and foreign minister.
- The 64-year-old replaces outgoing party leader Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, who is stepping down after serving only one year since taking office last September. Kishida previously served as LDP policy chief and was foreign minister between 2012-17, during which he negotiated accords with Russia and South Korea, with whom Japan's relations are often frosty.

North Korea claims successful test of a hypersonic missile

- North Korea successfully tested a new hypersonic missile called Hwasong-8, in a bid to increase the nation's capabilities for self-defence. The missile was one of the five most important new weapons systems laid out by North Korea in the five-year military development plan. This was the country's third missile test in a month. Earlier it tested a new type of cruise missile, as well as a new train-launched ballistic missile system.
- Hypersonic missiles fly at lower altitudes compared to ballistic weapon systems and can attain more than five times the speed of sound, restricting the interception capabilities of adversaries.

WHO revises air quality guidelines for the first time

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has announced a tight revision in its air quality guidelines (AQG). This is the first revision in the global air quality by WHO since 2005. In the new guidelines, WHO has lowered the acceptable exposure levels to key pollutants, including ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and particulate matter (PM).
- WHO has lowered acceptable thresholds for several pollutants, including PM 2.5. Now, PM 2.5 concentrations must remain below $15\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- According to the new limits, average annual PM2.5 concentrations should not be higher than 5 micrograms per cubic meter.

Hungary: Statue honouring mysterious Bitcoin founder unveiled

- Hungary has unveiled the statue of Bitcoin founder Satoshi Nakamoto. The imposing bronze statue was unveiled in Hungary's capital, Budapest. This is the first such statue across the world to pay homage to the creator of Bitcoin digital currency. It has been constructed in a business park near the Danube River in Budapest. The bust sits atop a stone plinth and is also engraved with the name of Satoshi Nakamoto, who is the pseudonym of the mysterious developer of Bitcoin whose true identity is still unknown.
- Statue has been created by Reka Gergely and Tamas Gilly. They have portrayed a human form and have stayed true to the anonymity of Nakamoto, the person nobody knows how do they look like.

World's highest electric vehicle charging station inaugurated in India's northern Himachal state

- The world's highest electric vehicle charging station has been inaugurated in Kaza village of Lahaul and Spiti district in Himachal Pradesh. The electric vehicle charging station is set up at a height of 500 ft. The aim of this initiative is to check vehicular pollution and promote electric vehicles for a clean and green environment in the region. India is gaining good momentum in the electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem.
- There is a good response for battery-operated small electric vehicles like e-scooter, electric three-wheelers, e-rickshaws, e-carts, and e-bikes in the country. Both battery electric vehicle and fuel cell vehicle technologies are complementary to each other and are all set to overtake fossil-run automotive by 2050 in the country.

Apple Co-Founder Is Launching A Space Startup

- Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak speaks during a press conference on the sidelines of the World of Business Ideas forum in Bogota, Colombia, 06 June 2018. During the event Wozniak stated that digital privacy must be a priority for big tech companies for the security of users. EPA/MAURICIO DUENAS CASTANEDA
- Apple's co-creator Steve Wozniak has launched a new space start-up called Privateer Space, bringing potential competition to a field dominated by billionaires Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos and Richard Branson. Privateer will be represented at the Advanced Maui Optical and Space Surveillance Technologies Conference, scheduled to run from September 14-17 in Hawaii.
- The global space economy, which has attracted many top companies such as Tesla and Amazon, involves various activities such as research and development, space tourism and the utilisation of space. Bank of America predicts the space economy will have more than tripled in size by 2030, with a \$1.4 trillion market value.

Lunar Crater named after Matthew Henson by International Astronomical Union

- The International Astronomical Union has named a crater at the Moon's south pole after the Arctic explorer Matthew Henson, a Black man who in 1909 was one of the first people to stand at the very top of the world. The proposal to name the crater after Henson was put forward by Jordan Bretzfelder who is an Exploration Science summer intern with Lunar & Planetary Institute, in Houston.
- Artemis Programme was launched by NASA which aims to land the next slate of lunar explorers on the Henson Crater. They will be selected from NASA's increasingly diverse astronaut pool. Henson Crater is located between Sverdrup and de Gerlache craters at the south pole of the Moon. This program provides a cornerstone to study planetary processes as well as to create the infrastructure to advance human exploration at the Moon and on Mars.

107-Year-Old Japanese Sisters Are the World's Oldest Identical Twins

- Japanese Sisters, 107, are Officially World's Oldest Identical Twins Umeno and Koume Guinness World Records.
- Guinness World Records has certified two Japanese sisters as the world's oldest living identical twins at 107. Umeno Sumiyama and Koume Kodama were born the third and fourth of 11 siblings on Shodoshima island in western Japan on Nov. 5, 1913.
- Sumiyama and Kodama were 107 years and 300 days old as of Sept 1, breaking the previous record

set by famous Japanese sisters Kin Narita and Gin Kanie at 107 years and 175 days.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau wins 3rd term

- Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has won the third term to serve as the PM of the country, after his party won the 2021 parliamentary elections on September 20, 2021. However, the Liberal Party of the 49-year-old Justin Trudeau could only manage to win minority seats in the election. Justin Trudeau is in power since 2015.
- Trudeau's Liberals were leading or elected in 157 seats exactly the same number they won in 2019, 13 short of the 170 needed for a majority in the House of Commons.

The Islamic Republic of Iran becomes 9th member of the SCO

- Iran was officially admitted as a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The decision to admit Iran as a full member was declared in the 21st summit of the SCO leaders in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. At the end of the 21st Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the leaders of the eight main members of the organisation agreed to change the membership of the Islamic Republic of Iran from an observer member to a full member and signed the relevant documents.
- Accordingly, the technical process of Iran becoming one of the main members of the organisation has begun and Iran will henceforth cooperate and interact with member countries as the main member of the important regional organisation.

The Netherlands unveils its first national Holocaust monument

- A monument listing 102,163 Dutch victims of the Holocaust was unveiled by King Willem-Alexander in Amsterdam on Sunday, the first national memorial to be built in the Netherlands.
- The monument, designed by Daniel Libeskind, 75, who lost relatives in the Holocaust, lies in the centre of the Dutch capital and is a labyrinth of brick walls that, when seen from above, form Hebrew letters reading "in remembrance".

Taliban removes Uzbek from official language status

- Contrary to their pledges of forming an inclusive government and respecting all the ethnicities in its Islamic Emirate, the Taliban removed Uzbek from official language status.
- The law entitled "Fundamentals" indicates the official religion of Afghanistan Sunni Islam of the Hanafi madhhab, as well as its official Languages-Pashto and Dari. Earlier in Afghanistan, along with them, the Uzbek language had an official status, which is spoken by many residents of the northern provinces. In addition, there is a sizable Shiite community in the country, consisting mainly of Hazaras.

India-Australia holds inaugural 2+2 ministerial dialogue September 10-12

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with their Australian counterparts Peter Dutton and Marise Payne before the inaugural session of 2+2 ministerial dialogue in New Delhi on Saturday. UNI PHOTO-3U
- India and Australia are undertaking their first-ever 2+2 ministerial dialogue at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi. The high-level foreign and defence ministerial-level dialogue will further ramp up the overall defence and strategic cooperation between the two countries, including in the Indo-Pacific

cooperation amid China's increasing military assertiveness in the region.

El Salvador becomes World's 1st country to adopt Bitcoin as National Currency

- El Salvador has become the first country in the world to accept Bitcoin as legal tender. The government of El Salvador claimed that the move will give many citizens of the country access to bank services for the first time. In addition, trading in cryptocurrency will help the country save around \$400 million in fees that is levied by banks and financial institutions on the money sent home by expats.
- The acceptance of Bitcoin as a legal currency by El Salvador follows a law approved by the country's parliament in June. At the time, the country allowed Bitcoin to be accepted as tender for all goods and services. The bill was approved within 24 hours of being presented to Congress by President Nayib Bukele.

In world first, Cuba starts Covid jabs for toddlers

- Cuba became the first country in the world to vaccinate children from the age of two against C-19, using home-grown jabs not recognised by the World Health Organisation. The communist island of 11.2 million people aims to inoculate all its children before reopening schools that have been closed for the most part since March 2020.
- Countries such as China, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela have announced they plan to vaccinate younger children, but Cuba is the first to do so. The Cuban vaccines, the first developed in Latin America, have not undergone international, scientific peer review.

China launched Earth observation satellite that can obtain radioactive data

- China successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite, Gaofen-5 02, into space, aboard a Long March-4C rocket, from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in north China's Shanxi Province. The Gaofen-5 02 satellite is the 24th in the series of Gaofen Earth-observation satellites of China, to monitor environmental protection efforts and boost its natural resources surveillance.
- Gaofen-5 02 is a hyperspectral satellite that will be used for comprehensive environmental monitoring, to improve the country's hyperspectral observation capacity of the atmosphere, water and land.

World's Largest Carbon Capture Plant Opens in Iceland

- The world's largest plant designed to capture carbon dioxide out of the air began its operations in Iceland. The plant is named Orca, which means 'Energy' in Icelandic word. It will suck out up to 4,000 tons of CO₂ per year.
- The carbon dioxide captured directly from the air will be deposited underground at a depth of 1,000 metres, where it would be turned into rock.
- The facility has been developed by Icelandic carbon storage firm Carbfix, in partnership with Swiss start-up Climeworks AG, which specialises in capturing carbon dioxide directly from the air.
- The technology launched may become a major tool in the fight against climate change.

India becomes third largest startup ecosystem in the world

- Hurun Research Institute has released the Hurun India Future Unicorn List 2021, as per which India is the third-largest Unicorn/startup ecosystem in the world. The USA is on top followed by China on

second. India has 51 unicorns according to the list. The USA has 396 and China has 277 unicorns.

- Zilingo is the top unicorn in the ranking in India with funding of USD 310. The headquarters of Zilingo is in Singapore. Bengaluru is the top Indian city in terms of the number of Unicorns headquartered in a city. Bengaluru has 31 unicorns followed by Mumbai which has 12 unicorns.

Sri Lanka declared food emergency

- Sri Lanka has declared a state of emergency as the food crisis worsened after private banks ran out of foreign exchange to finance imports. With the country suffering a hard-hitting economic crisis, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said he ordered emergency regulations to counter the hoarding of sugar, rice and other essential foods. The Sri Lankan rupee has fallen by 7.5% against the US dollar this year.
- Rajapaksa has named a top army officer as “Commissioner General of Essential Services to coordinate the supply of paddy, rice, sugar and other consumer goods”. The move followed sharp price rises for sugar, rice, onions and potatoes, while long queues have formed outside stores because of shortages of milk powder, kerosene oil and cooking gas.

NATIONAL NEWS

Government of India started the work of developing ‘Parshuram Kund’ in Arunachal Pradesh

- The government of India has started work for the development of ‘Parshuram Kund’, a Hindu pilgrimage site on the Brahmaputra plateau in the lower reaches of the Lohit river in Arunachal Pradesh. The project costing Rs 37.88 crore was sanctioned under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism.
- The ‘National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive’ (PRASHAD) is a Central Sector Scheme launched in 2014-15 with complete financial assistance by the Government of India. It was targeted to develop tourism infrastructure to harness pilgrimage and heritage tourism destinations for its direct and multiplier effect upon employment generation and economic development.

Housing Minister Hardeep Puri launches seventh edition of Swachh Survekshan 2022

- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri has launched the 7th edition of Swachh Survekshan 2022. The seventh edition of the annual cleanliness survey in the urban areas, under which district rankings have been introduced for the first time. The voice of senior citizens and young adults will also be given priority.
- This survey will create a level playing field for smaller cities by introducing 2 population categories:- under 15,000 & btw 15,000-25,000. The scope of the survey has been expanded to now cover 100 per cent wards for sampling as compared to 40 per cent in previous years, according to the ministry.
- The Mission is also committed to continuously engage with citizens to improve the quality of public sanitation infrastructure and services. To this end, the ‘Sarvajanik Shauchalay Safai Jan Bhagidari Utsav’ will be facilitated to assess the quality of community and public toilets and capture citizen feedback for process improvement in future.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated 'Nidhi 2.0' scheme

- The Speaker of Lok Sabha, Om Birla has inaugurated the NIDHI 2.0 (National Integrated Database of Hospitality Industry) scheme, during an event organised by the Ministry of Tourism, on the occasion of 2021 World Tourism Day. The NIDHI 2.0 database will have more inclusivity, by not only including accommodation units, but also travel agents, tour operators, & others.
- The NIDHI scheme was launched by the Ministry of Tourism to facilitate the digitalization of the tourism sector and promote ease of doing business for the hospitality & tourism sector, by encouraging all accommodation units to register themselves on the platform to become part of the hospitality industry.
- As a part of the occasion, the Ministry of Tourism signed an MoU with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and The Responsible Tourism Society of India (RTSOI) to actively promote and support 'sustainability initiatives' in the tourism sector of each other.

Titled "जनCARE" launched by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh

- As a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh (Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology) launched the "AmritGrand Challenge Program" titled "जनCARE". The Grand Challenge aims to identify 75 Start-Up and entrepreneurs, who come out with Innovative Ideas and Solutions for India's healthcare challenges, that can work in Low Resource Settings, for strengthening Healthcare Delivery in India.
- The Challenge has been launched jointly by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), NASSCOM and NASSCOM Foundation, as a nationwide "Discover – Design – Scale" program.
- The "जनCARE" Amrit Challenge will recognise start-ups in fields like Innovations in Telemedicine, Digital Health, mHealth with BIG Data, AI, BlockChain and other technologies. The Challenge will end on December 31, 2021.

Chennai's MGR Railway Station gets powered by solar energy

- Dr MG Ramachandran Central (DRM) or Chennai Central railway station will get 100 per cent of energy through Solar Energy. The Chennai Central railway station comes under the South Central Railway (SCR) zone and which is going to become the world's largest green railway network. The station will now become the first Indian Railways station, which will get 100 per cent day energy through solar panels.
- The solar power capacity of the station is 1.5 MW and Solar panels are installed on the shelters of the station.
- South Central Railways has adopted the concept of 'energy neutral' railway stations and become the first Indian Railway zones to do so.
- India has targeted to become "net-zero carbon emission" before the year 2030.

Sojat Mehndi from Rajasthan and Judima rice wine from Assam gets GI tag

- Judima, homemade rice wine from Assam and Sojat Mehndi (Henna) from Rajasthan, has been awarded the geographical indication (GI) tag. A GI tag is awarded to products associated with a specific geographical origin. Award of a GI sign not only helps in tracing the origins of products but also helps in confirming authenticity and marketing of indigenous specialities.

- Judima is a local fermented drink made with rice, brewed by the Dimasa community in Assam. It derives its name from the words Ju which means wine and Dima means 'belonging to the Dimasa'. It is the first traditional brew in all of the northeast to bag GI tag.
- Sojat Mehendi, originating from Mehendi leaves grown in Sojat, is naturally cultivated using rainwater. Sojat tehsil of the Pali district in Rajasthan has a suitable geological structure, topography and drainage system, climate and soil for naturally cultivating the mehndi leave crop.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses first national cooperative conference

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah has inaugurated and addressed the first-ever National Cooperative Conference (Sehkarita Sammelan) at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. The minister outlined the government's vision and roadmap for the development of the Cooperative sector.
- This conference was India's first such cooperative conference, to provide a platform for accelerating and strengthening Indian cooperatives on the global stage.
- The conference was organised jointly by the IFFCO, National Cooperative Federation of India, Amul, Sahakar Bharti, NAFED, KRIBHCO and all cooperatives together.
- Over 2,100 representatives from different states and various cooperative sectors across the country participated in the conference to contribute towards realizing the dream of a self-reliant India.

Nagaland's "sweet cucumber" gets geographical indication tag

- Nagaland's "sweet cucumber" was awarded a geographical identification (GI) tag as an agricultural product under provisions of The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. The cucumber is one of the most important crops in the Northeast region. Nagaland has the fifth-highest cultivation of this fruit area-wise and ranks third in production.
- Naga cucumber is recognised for its sweetness and unique green colour. It is rich in potassium and has low calories. The cucumber is not the first product from the small state to receive a vaunted GI tag. Both the regional variants of tree tomato (tamarillo) and the famed Naga king chilli are also GI tagged.

First Palmetum of Uttarakhand inaugurated in Haldwani

- First Palmetum of Uttarakhand and the biggest Palmetum of North India developed by Research wing of Uttarakhand forest department was inaugurated on sunday in Haldwani of Nainital district in Uttarakhand.
- Sanjiv Chaturvedi, 2002 batch Indian Forest Services officer who heads the research wing of the state forest department said, "The Palmetum has around 100 different species of Palms with an aim of promoting conservation, further research and to create awareness about importance and ecological role of various palm species."
- Completed in a period of 3 years, it has been funded under CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) scheme of central government with an amount of 16 lakhs spanning in an area of approximately 3 acres.
- Canna garden with 40 different colours of Canna species is also one of the point of attraction adding to the aesthetic value of Palmetum.

Chennai Central station becomes first to fully powered by solar energy

- In a big leap towards becoming the world's largest green railway network, Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran Central (DRM) or Chennai Central railway station, under the South Central Railway (SCR) gets powered by Solar Energy.
- The Chennai Railway station has become the first Indian Railway station that meets the 100% day energy requirement target by solar panels installed on the platform shelters of the station.
- While tweeting a picture of the station, Union Railways Minister Ashwani Vaishnav informed that the station has installed a solar power capacity of 1.5 MW, and thereafter all the energy needs at the stations will be met by this solar power.

PM Modi to launch Ayushman Bharat Digital mission on September 27

- Prime Minister Narendra will, at 11am on Monday, launch the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission via video conferencing.
- The project, also known as Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission or the National Digital Health Mission, was announced by PM Modi from the ramparts of the Red Fort during his Independence Day speech last year, and is currently being implemented in a pilot phase in six Union territories, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) noted in a statement.

PM Modi addressed UNGA

- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has addressed the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in New York. He is the first world leader scheduled to address the UN General Assembly at 6.30 PM IST. Prior to this, PM Modi had addressed UN General Assembly in 2019.
- The theme of the 2021 UN General Assembly session was 'building resilience through hope – to recover from Covid-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalise the United Nations.

India Army kicks off 'Bijoya Sanskritik Mahotsav' in Kolkata

- Indian Army will organize "Bijoya Sanskritik Mahotsav" from 26 to 29 September in Kolkata. This Mahotsav will be observed to mark the golden jubilee of the India-Pak war 1971. The event will be inaugurated by Lieutenant General Manoj Pande, Army Commander, Eastern Command. Various cultural programs including a film screening, theatre plays, musical concerts, and band performances will be conducted during this event. It will be organized as part of the Swarnim Vijay Varsha celebrations to commemorate the golden jubilee of the India-Pak war.
- The war started on 3 December 1971 and ended on 16 December 1971. It was a military confrontation between India and Pakistan for the Independence of Bangladesh.
- The war started when Pakistan launched airstrikes on 11 Indian airbases. It was perhaps the first time in which India's all three forces fought in unison.

Defence ministry places order for 118 Arjun Mk-1A tanks worth ₹7,523 crore

- Ministry of Defence will procure 118 Main Battle Tanks, MBTs Arjun Mk-1A for the Indian Army. The order was worth Rs 7,523 crore with Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi to sharpen the army's combat edge. It will support the Make in India initiative in the defence sector and it will help in achieving the goal of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- The Main Battle Tank Mk-1A is a new variant of the Arjun Tank. It has been designed to enhance

firepower, mobility, and survivability.

- Arjun Tank has been part of the Indian Army for the last 15 years. It has been designed and developed by Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE).

PM Modi to announce nationwide rollout of Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will announce the nationwide roll-out of the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), which has been renamed as Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission (PM-DHM), on September 27. Under this, a unique digital health ID will be provided to the people, which will contain all the health records of the person. The id will be created using details such as Aadhaar and the user's mobile number.
- The initiative will be rolled out on the final day of Arogya Manthan, which was kicked off to mark the third anniversary of the government's flagship health insurance scheme — Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- The project is currently in its pilot phase in the Union territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry.

Pension regulator PFRDA has kickstarted a campaign under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'

- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) will observe October 01, 2021 as the National Pension System Diwas (NPS Diwas). This campaign has been started by PFRDA under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to promote pension and retirement planning for a carefree 'azad' retirement. PFRDA is promoting this campaign on its social media platforms with #npsdiwas.
- The pension regulator aims to encourage every citizen (working professionals and self-employed professionals) to plan towards creating a financial cushion to ensure for oneself a financially sound future after retirement. NPS subscribers will enjoy the benefits, power of compounding now and reap many of the benefits after retirement.

Govt sets up NARCL, big boost for Banking Sector

- The government has set up an asset management company (AMC) named India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL) with a paid-up capital of Rs. 80.5 lakh on an authorized capital of Rs 50 crore. IDRCL will work in tandem with the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) to clean up bad loans.
- Bank of Baroda (BoB), Punjab National Bank (PNB), Bank of India (BoI), Bank of Maharashtra, SBI, Union Bank of India, Canara Bank, Indian Bank and IDBI Bank are the shareholders of IDRCL.

Former ISRO chief K Kasturirangan to head education ministry's panel to develop new curriculum for schools

- The Union education ministry has formed a 12-member committee to develop new curriculums for school, early childhood, teacher and adult education. The panel tasked with developing four national curriculum frameworks (NCFs) will be headed by National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020) drafting committee chairperson K Kasturirangan.
- The committee will discuss "position papers" finalised by national focus groups on different aspects of the four areas drawing inputs from state curriculum frameworks. The NCFs serve as a guideline for syllabus, textbook and teaching practices for schools in India.

Assam govt to set up a tea Park at Chayygaon of Kamrup district

- Assam is setting up a tea Park at Chayygaon in Kamrup District. This tea garden will have rail and port connectivity, cargo and warehouse amenities, processing facilities like tea grinding, blending, packaging and other utility services under one roof.
- Tea garden companies using garden lands for plantation of Segun and agar or selling off the tea estates, the Minister stated that tea garden owners cannot sell off their estates as the leased land still belongs to Assam Government and instead asked them to focus on innovation and branding of Assam Tea.

The first edition of THFF will begin from 24 to 28 September at Leh

- The first edition of 'The Himalayan Film Festival-2021' (THFF) will begin from 24 to 28 September at Leh, Ladakh. The film festival is being organised by the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh in collaboration with the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.
- The film festival is being hosted in collaboration with the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh. The five-day film festival is a part of the celebration of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' commemorating 75 years of India's Independence.
- The film festival will have active participation from the local filmmakers and showcase talent from across the 12 Himalayan states and UTs. Popular films from the Himalayan states viz Assam, Sikkim, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh besides Indian Panorama selected films will be showcased during the festival.

Tamil Nadu's Kovalam beach, Puducherry's Eden get Blue Flag certification

- Two more beaches in India have been awarded "Blue Flag" certification, an international eco-level tag, taking the total number of such beaches in the country to 10. The two beaches to receive the certification this year are Kovalam in Tamil Nadu and Eden in Puducherry.
- The Foundation for Environment Education (FEE), Denmark, which accords the Blue Flag certification, has also given re-certification for eight nominated beaches – Shivrajpur-Gujarat, Ghoghla-Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri-Karnataka, Kappad-Kerala, Rushikonda- Andhra Pradesh, Golden-Odisha and Radhanagar- Andaman and Nicobar, which were awarded the Blue Flag certificate last year. These eight beaches got the Blue Flag certification on October 6, 2020.

CISF Official Geeta Samota Becomes 'Fastest Indian' to Summit Two Peaks

- CISF official Geeta Samota became the "fastest Indian" to summit two peaks located in Africa and Russia. Earlier this month, Sub Inspector Geeta Samota had scaled Mount Elbrus in Russia, the highest peak in Europe. While Mt Elbrus (5,642 mts) is in Russia, the Kilimanjaro peak (5,895 mts) is located in Tanzania and is Africa's highest peak.
- Samota works with the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), a central paramilitary force under the command of the Union home ministry. Geeta Samota joined CISF in 2011 and was in the unit in 2012. She has also scaled Mt Satopanth (7075 metres; located in Uttarakhand) and Mt Lobuche (in Nepal). She was also a team member of the Mt Everest expedition team of the CAPF.

India, Indonesia begin three-day naval exercise in Sunda Strait

- The 3rd edition of Bilateral Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' is scheduled from September 20 to Sep 22. Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmatt had already arrived in Jakarta, Indonesia in the preparedness of this one of a kind exercise aimed at improving bilateral ties between India and Indonesia. The Indian navy will be participating in Samudra Shakti with the Indonesian navy to enhance mutual understanding and interoperability in maritime operations between the two navies.
- The exercise that will also see the Indonesian Army take part in it, will provide an appropriate platform to share best practices and develop a common understanding of Maritime Security Operations.
- In pursuance of India's Act East Policy, Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' was conceived in 2018 as a bilateral IN-IDN exercise.

Uttar Pradesh govt to set up electronic park in 250 acres near Jewar Airport

- The Yogi Adityanath led Uttar Pradesh government has cleared a proposal to develop an 'Electronic Park', along the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) area, near Noida, to promote the electronics industry. The park is proposed to be developed in an area of 250 acres of the YEIDA near Jewar Airport.
- National and international companies manufacturing mobile phones, TVs and other electronic devices and accessories will establish their units in the park.
- The new Electronic Park will be built at an investment of around Rs 50,000 crore as well as generate employment for thousands of local youths.

Niti Aayog collaboration with ISRO,CBSE launch 'Space Challenge' for students

- Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission in collaboration with ISRO and CBSE has launched 'Space Challenge' for school students across India. This challenge has been designed for all the school students, mentors and teachers across the country who not only are associated with schools having Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) labs but for all the non-ATL schools as well.
- The aim of this challenge is to enable innovation among young school students to create something in the space sector that will not only help them learn about the space but create something that the space programme can use itself.

Metro train services in Agra and Kanpur to start operations by November

- In Uttar Pradesh, two more cities Agra and Kanpur will have Metro rail service later this year. It was informed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Gorakhpur yesterday while virtually unveiling the first prototype train for the two projects. These prototypes Metro trains were received from Vadodara in Gujarat.
- Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation is working on a war footing to provide Metro rail public transport service to people at Kanpur and Agra and Metro will start operations from nearby November 30th this year. He said efforts are being made to get the metro service launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Delhi government launches 'Music' Bus' to train students

- Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday launched a mobile music classroom and recording studio which aims to assist children of Delhi government schools in pursuing their passion in music.
- The Delhi government claimed that it is India's first 'Mobile Music Bus', and aims to train children through a media-based curriculum, including audio production and film production, to help them build sustainable careers in these fields.
- The project is likely to benefit 5,000 children.

Ration card related services now available at common services centre

- Services related to ration card, such as applying for a new card, updating details and seeding with Aadhaar, will now be available at over 3.7 lakh common services centres (CSC) across the country.
- The move is expected to benefit 23.64 crore ration card holders across the country.
- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has tied up with CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd, a special purpose vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics & IT, to streamline ration deliveries and strengthen public distribution system (PDS) in semi-urban and rural areas across the country.

India to become 3rd largest importer by year 2050

- With a growing middle class and its rising discretionary spending, India will become the world's third largest importer by 2050 with a share of 5.9% of global imports, right behind China and the US, a new report said.
- At present, India is ranked eighth among largest importing nations with a 2.8% import share and is set to become the fourth largest importer by 2030.

India, Nepal to hold joint military exercise 'Surya Kiran' from Sept 20

- The 15th edition of Indo-Nepal Joint Military Training Exercise Surya Kiran will be held from September 20, 2021, at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand. The previous edition of the Exercise Surya Kiran was conducted in Nepal in 2019. The exercise was called off in 2020, due to the C-19 pandemic.
- The Indian Army and Nepali Army would share their experiences of various counter-insurgency operations, and familiarise themselves with each other's weapons, equipment, tactics, techniques and procedures of operating in a counter-insurgency environment in mountainous terrain.
- The joint military training will help in improving bilateral relations and further strengthen the traditional friendship between the two nations.

Nagaland's first and India's 61st Software Technology Park of India (STPI) centre inaugurated

- Nagaland's first and India's 61st Software Technology Park of India (STPI) centre was inaugurated at Kohima. The inauguration of the STPI centre in Kohima is a fulfilment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of creating a technology ecosystem in the northeast to create opportunities for future generations in the region.
- The MoS urged the need to create real change in the technology ecosystem. In order to create job opportunities, he said, the state government must work towards creating an interconnection of institutions to create awareness about various opportunities available for the youth.

Manipur's Sirarakhong Chilli and Tamenglong Orange gets GI tag

- Two famous products of Manipur, Hathei chilli, which is found in Manipur's Ukhrul district and is known for its unique flavour, and Tamenglong mandarin orange have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This is a historic milestone in the history of Manipur and it will increase the income of farmers in Manipur.
- The Hathei chilly works as a good anti-oxidant and possesses high calcium and Vitamin C levels. It has an extremely high American Spice Trade Association (ASTA) colour value of 164. The extractable colour of chilli is usually expressed using ASTA values.

21st Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Meeting

- The 21st Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State was held in hybrid format on September 17, 2021, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of the President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon. This was the first SCO Summit held in a hybrid format and the fourth Summit in which India participated as a full-fledged member of SCO.
- The Indian delegation was led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who participated in the meeting via video-link and at Dushanbe, India was represented by External Affairs Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar. PM Modi has expressed India's support for the "central role" of the United Nations in the global deliberation regarding the current system in Afghanistan.

Manoj Sinha launched 'One Gram Panchayat-One DIGI-Pay Sakhi'

- In Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has launched a new mission called 'One Gram Panchayat-One DIGI-Pay Sakhi'. The mission was launched at Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Pampore. He outlined that DIGI-Pay Sakhi has introduced financial inclusion within the UT's Self Help Group (SHG) ecosystem, creating much needed financial access points with greater transparency even in the remotest of the areas.
- Initially, the DIGI-Pay facility will be provided in 2,000 remote villages of UT. In the first phase, 80 women from self-help groups from across the Jammu and Kashmir divisions have been selected as DIGI-Pay Sakhis.
- On the occasion, the Lt Governor distributed 80 Aadhaar Enabled Payment Systems (AEPs) among the DIGI-Pay Sakhis under the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM).

NITI Aayog Releases Report on 'Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India'

- NITI Aayog has launched a report titled 'Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India' which presents measures to ramp up urban planning capacity in India. The report was released on September 16, 2021, jointly by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar, CEO Shri Amitabh Kant and Special Secretary Dr K. Rajeswara Rao.
- The report has made several recommendations that can unblock bottlenecks in the value chain of urban planning capacity in India. Some of them include programmatic Intervention for the Planning of Health, Re-engineering of Urban Governance, Revision of Town and Country Planning Acts.
- The report suggests that every city must aspire to become a 'Healthy City for All' by 2030.
- The report has also recommended a Central Sector Scheme named '500 Healthy Cities Programme', for a period of 5 years. Under this priority cities and towns would be selected jointly by the states and local bodies.

Union Cabinet approved 100% FDI under automatic route in Telecom Sector

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved a number of structural and process reforms in the Telecom sector, to provide relief to ailing telecom service providers, struggling with high levels of debt. A total of 9 structural and 5 process reforms have been approved by the Union Cabinet.
- The relief package is expected to protect and generate employment opportunities, promote healthy competition, protect the interests of consumers, infuse liquidity, encourage investment and reduce the regulatory burden on Telecom Service Providers (TSPs).

Union Cabinet approved Rs 26,058 crore production linked incentive Scheme

- The Union Cabinet has approved a production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for auto, auto-components and drone industries to enhance India's manufacturing capabilities. The PLI scheme will incentivise the emergence of advanced automotive technologies' global supply chain in India. Incentives worth Rs. 26,058 crore will be provided to industry over five years, the minister told reporters after the Cabinet meeting.
- The PLI scheme for automobile and drone industries is part of the overall announcement of PLI schemes for 13 sectors made earlier during the Union Budget 2021-22, with an outlay of Rs. 1.97 lakh crore.
- The scheme for the auto sector envisages overcoming the cost disabilities to the industry for the manufacture of advanced automotive technology products in India.
- From the total budget of Rs 26,058 crores, an amount of Rs 25,938 crores has been sanctioned for the automobile industry and Rs 120 crores for the drone industry.

Prime Minister Modi launched Sansad TV along with LS Speaker Om Birla

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Sansad TV, which has been created by merging Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV, jointly with Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.
- Sansad TV programming will touch upon the functioning of the Parliament and democratic institutions, governance and implementation of schemes and policies, history and culture of India and issues of interest to the common man. The new channel adds another important chapter in the country's parliamentary system.

PM Narendra Modi lays foundation stone of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh University in Aligarh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh State University at Aligarh, in Uttar Pradesh. The Uttar Pradesh government is establishing the university in memory and honour of noted Jat figure, Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh, the great freedom fighter, educationist and social reformer.
- The University will be spread over an area of over 92 acres at Lodha village and Musepur Kareem Jarouli village of Kol tehsil in Aligarh and will provide affiliation to 395 colleges of the Aligarh division.

India to hold Global Buddhist Conference in November 2021

- India is set to host the first-ever Global Buddhist Conference on November 19 and 20, 2021, in Nava Nalanda Mahavihara campus, in Nalanda, Bihar. The academic conference, being organised by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), will become an annual feature. Four regional conferences in India (Telangana, Saranath, Gangtok and Dharamshala) and abroad (Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Cambodia) will be organised, in the run-up to the conference. The reports of these regional conferences will be presented at the inaugural Global Buddhist Conference.
- Global Buddhist Conference focuses on making India the center of Buddhism, by promoting Buddhist activities, like academic, cultural, seminars, people travelling for festivals like Buddha Purnima, Vesak.
- As a part of the event, an award for the promotion of Buddhist studies, which will be given on November 21 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, carrying a cash reward of \$20,000 (around Rs 14.7 lakh), a plaque, and a gold-plated medallion.

IIT Bombay launched AI-based translation 'Project Udaan'

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has launched 'Project Udaan', a language translator, to break the language barrier in education, which hampers the flow of messages. The Project Udaan, a donation-based project, is an end-to-end ecosystem, which can translate scientific and technical content from English to Hindi and all other Indian languages.
- Project Udaan uses an AI-based translation software ecosystem, to translate engineering textbooks and learning materials, and all main streams of higher learning, in the desired language, in one-sixth of the time taken by a team of domain and linguistic experts working manually on it.

India to hold biennial defence dialogue with African nations

- The Government of India has proposed to institutionalise the India-Africa Defence Dialogue, as a regular event, to be held on the sidelines of the biennial DefExpo military exhibition. The first India-Africa Defence Ministers Conclave (IADMC) was held at DefExpo in February 2020 in Lucknow.
- Following this, second India – Africa Defence Dialogue will be held on the sidelines of the DefExpo, scheduled to be held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat in March 2022. The theme of the 2nd India Africa Defence Dialogue will be 'India – Africa: Adopting Strategy for Synergizing and Strengthening Defence and Security Cooperation.

Peace Mission-2021: India takes part in SCO joint military exercise in Russia

- The Indian military contingent comprising of an all arms combined force of 200 personnel is participating in the Exercise PEACEFUL MISSION -2021, a Joint Counter Terrorism Exercise between Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states. The Exercise PEACEFUL MISSION- 2021 is being hosted by Russia in the Orenburg Region of South-West Russia from September 13 to 25, 2021. In 2021, the 6th edition of the biennial multilateral Exercise PEACEFUL MISSION is being undertaken.
- The aim of the exercise is to foster close relations between SCO member states and to enhance the abilities of the military leaders to command multi-national military contingents. The exercise will enable sharing of best practices between the Armed Forces of SCO nations. The exercise will also provide an opportunity to the Armed Forces of SCO Nations to train in Counter-Terrorism Operations in an urban scenario in a multinational and joint environment.

India and US launched the Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue

- India and the United States of America (USA) have launched the “Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD)”. It will strengthen India-US bilateral cooperation on climate and environment. The dialogue was launched by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Bhupender Yadav and Mr John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate (SPEC) in New Delhi.
- “Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD)” is one of the two tracks of the India-U.S. Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 partnership launched at the Leaders’ Summit on Climate in April 2021. The other track is Strategic Clean Energy Partnership.
- CAFMD will demonstrate how the world can align swift climate action with inclusive and resilient economic development, taking into account national circumstances and sustainable development priorities.

Chhattisgarh launches 'Millet Mission' for farmers, hopes to become Millet hub of India

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has announced the launch of ‘Millet Mission’, which aims to provide proper price rates to farmers for minor cereal crops. The initiative is also a step towards the Chief Minister’s vision for the state to become India’s millet hub. To implement the mission, the state government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR), Hyderabad and the collectors of 14 districts of the state.
- Other important benefits under the Millet Mission to farmers will include input assistance for millet, procurement arrangements, aid farmers in the processing of crops and ensure that the farmers get the benefit of the expertise of experts.

Haryana adjudged first in installation of solar pumps under PM-KUSUM

- Haryana has topped among all other states of the country in terms of installation of off-grid solar pumps under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahaabhiyaan (PM-KUSUM), as per the data by the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. Haryana has installed 14,418 pumps against 15,000 sanctioned pumps for the year 2020-21. Haryana was given a target of 15,000 pumps for the year 2020-21 with a total cost of Rs 520 crore.
- The centrally-sponsored PM-KUSUM scheme was launched in 2019 with the target to install 20 lakh standalone solar pumps.
- Under this scheme, farmers have to bear 40 per cent of the pump’s cost, while the central and state governments subsidize the remaining 60 per cent for solar pumps that have a capacity of up to 10 HP.
- However, Haryana and some other states have provided additional top-up on the subsidies, which has reduced the farmer’s share to less than 25 per cent.

Odisha: Nuakhai Juhar harvest festival celebrated in the state

- Nuakhai Juhar, the agrarian festival of Western Odisha, was celebrated with religious fervour and tradition. It is celebrated 1 day after the celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi.
- Nuakhai is a crop festival celebrated by people of Western Odisha and Southern Chhattisgarh, to welcome the new rice of the season. Nua means new and khai means food. So, the festival of nuakhai is a festival to celebrate newly harvested food by the farmers.

Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated food processing unit Madhya Pradesh

- The Centre on Sunday inaugurated a food processing unit in Madhya Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana on the last day of the celebration of Food Processing week.
- To commemorate 75 years of India's independence, the Government of India is celebrating the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.' As a part of the celebration, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is celebrating Food Processing Week from September 6-12 September under which the Ministry is organising various programmes.
- On the last day of the Food Processing Week, the Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries, Prahlad Singh Patel, inaugurated the Food Processing Unit of M/s Sahara Frozen Foods established in Morena, Madhya Pradesh, under the Cold Chain scheme of Central sector scheme – Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana.

India's largest open air fernery developed in Uttarakhand

- India is home to a plethora of plant and animal species. The geographical and weather condition of the country is apt for the growth and development of a variety of species. The natural forest of Uttarakhand has been known to host some of these. From unique black-bellied coral snakes to cryptogamic species, the forest is a secret hub for flora and fauna.
- In line with this, India's largest open-air fernery was inaugurated today, September 12 in Uttarakhand's Ranikhet. The fernery is home to a large number of fern species, some of which are endemic to the state, some hold medicinal value while some are threatened species that demand care and conservation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Sardardham Bhavan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Sardardham Bhavan in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, via video conferencing. He also performed the "Bhoomi Pujan" of the Sardardham Phase-II Kanya Chhatralaya (girls' hostel) project. Both these establishments are dedicated to the "Iron Man of India," Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The project is developed by the Vishwa Patidar Samaj.
- The state-of-the-art Sardardham Bhavan provides separate hostel facilities to girls and boys from rural areas who aspire for better career prospects.
- Phase I of the Sardardham Bhavan project is built over an area of 11,672 square feet at an estimated cost of Rs 200 crore, near the Vaishnodevi circle in the Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar border area. It will house 1,600 students, including 800 boys and 800 girls.
- The Phase II of the Sardardham project is expected to house around 2,000 girl students. The project will be built at the cost of another Rs 200 crore.

NPCI and Fiserv launch RuPay credit card stack for fintechs and banks

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in partnership with Fiserv Inc. to launch the plug-and-play RuPay credit card stack, 'nFiNi'. nFiNi is a ready stack of services required for fintechs and banks to issue RuPay credit cards and will enable fintech to co-create bank-sponsored credit cards. It is a BaaS (banking-as-a-service) programme.
- The nFiNi platform will power RuPay cards (including National Common Mobility Card) by offering access to needed services through the NPCI network combined with FirstVisionTM cloud-based open API integrations from Fiserv.

- This will bring significant efficiencies for banking and fintech institutions at various levels in terms of operations and customer management. The programme will further enable these institutions to expand their market base to new-to-credit customers.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs 13th BRICS summit

- Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has chaired the 13th BRICS Summit, through video conferencing. The theme of the India-led Summit was “BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus.” The theme chosen by India reflects the fifteenth anniversary of BRICS, being observed in 2021. PM Modi called for enhanced BRICS cooperation under the motto of ‘Build-back Resiliently, Innovatively, Credibly and Sustainably’.
- The Summit concluded with the adoption of the ‘New Delhi Declaration’. This was the third time that India hosted the BRICS Summit. Prior to this India held the Presidency of the BRICS in 2012 and 2016. Also, this is the second time that Prime Minister Modi has chaired the BRICS Summit. He had previously chaired the Goa Summit in 2016.

Indian Air Force's first Emergency Landing Field on National Highway inaugurated in Rajasthan

- Union Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh and Union Highways Minister, Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the Emergency Landing Facility on a National Highway in Rajasthan. This emergency landing facility has been constructed on the Satta-Gandhav stretch of National Highway (NH) 925A in Barmer, Rajasthan. This is the first time that a national highway (NH-925) will be used for the emergency landing of IAF aircraft. The project will cost ₹765.52 crores under the Bharatmala Pariyojana.
- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has developed a 3-km section of the Satta-Gandhav stretch of NH-925A, as an emergency landing facility (ELF) for the IAF.
- It is part of a newly developed two-lane paved shoulder of the Gagariya-Bakhasar and Satta-Gandhav section having a total length of 196.97 km.

India will host the G-20 summit in 2023 for the first time

- India will hold the G20 presidency from December 1, 2022, and will convene the G20 leaders’ summit in 2023 for the first time.
- Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Minister has been appointed as India’s Sherpa for the G20 in 2023 (18th edition). A sherpa is a diplomat who undertakes preparatory work prior to a summit conference. The 2021 edition of the G20 meet will be held in Rome, Italy. The 2022 G20 meet will be held in Bali, Indonesia.

Gujarat rolls out ‘Vatan Prem Yojana’ for rural development

- The Government of Gujarat announced, that it plans on undertaking public welfare projects worth Rs. 1,000 crores jointly with non-resident Gujaratis by December 2022. The projects will be under the state government’s ‘Vatan Prem Yojana’. The Yojana was launched in Gujarat focusing on rural development through public and state contributions.
- The state government will undertake various rural development projects and activities.
- This scheme will be undertaken with 40% state government’s contribution and 60% contribution from the general public.
- The state government has invited Non-Resident Gujaratis and NRIs are also invited to contribute.

Chandigarh railway station fifth to get 5-star 'Eat Right Station'

- The Chandigarh Railway Station(CRS) was awarded a 5 star 'Eat Right Station' certification for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers. The certification was awarded by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) upon the conclusion of the FSSAI-empanelled third-party audit agency. CRS was selected to upgrade on the pattern of the World Class Railway Station.
- The certification is part of the 'Eat Right India' movement- a large-scale effort by FSSAI to transform the country's food system to ensure safe, healthy and sustainable food for all Indians.
- According to IRSDC, Eat Right India adopts a judicious mix of regulatory, capacity building, collaborative, and empowerment approaches to ensure that our food is suitable both for the people and the planet.

Ramesh Narayan to be inducted into AFAA's Hall of Fame at AdAsia 2021

- Indian advertising doyen Ramesh Narayan will be inducted into the Asian Federation of Advertising Associations (AFAA) Hall of Fame at AdAsia 2021. The AFAA Hall of Fame sets out to recognise the best of the very best. It's for those who've defined a generation of advertising.
- Ramesh has been honoured with AAAI Lifetime Achievement Award, the International Advertising Association Global Champion Award, the Public Relations Society of India Special Award, the Association of Business Communicators of India Lifetime Achievement Award, and an induction into the Hall of Fame of the India chapter of the IAA.

India's first Dugong Sanctuary to be set up in Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu state government has announced to set up India's first dugong conservation reserve at the northern part of the Palk Bay. Dugong are commonly known as sea cows. According to Wildlife Institute of India (WII) estimates, only 200-250 Dugongs are left in the wild, of which 150 are found in the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu.
- The reserve will span the northern part of the Palk Bay from Adiramapattinam to Amapattinam. The reserve will cover an area of more than 500 sq km.
- Marine biologists and conservationists have long demanded a reserve as the population of dugongs, as known as sea cows, in Indian waters has been dropping to dangerous levels.
- According to Wildlife Institute of India (WII) estimates, only 200-250 Dugongs are left in the wild, of which 150 are found in the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu, among the last surviving natural habitats for dugongs in the world.

IAF chief attends three day-long Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium

- Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria attended a three-day-long Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii. The event themed "Enduring Cooperation towards Regional Stability" was attended by air chiefs from countries in the Indo-Pacific region. Bhadauria was nominated as the Dean for the symposium.
- India, the US, Australia, Japan and many other like-minded countries are working towards ensuring a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. The symposium saw deliberations through panel discussions, tabletop exercises and keynote addresses on topics ranging from aspects of regional security to cooperation amongst air forces for humanitarian and disaster relief operations.

PM Modi inaugurates 'Shikshak Parv' conclave

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the “Shikshak Parv-2021” and addressed the inaugural conclave through a video conference. The theme of ‘Shikshak Parv-2021’ is “Quality and Sustainable Schools: Learnings from Schools in India”. The event was organised by the Ministry of Education, will continue to be celebrated from September 07 to 17, 2021.
- The objective of the Shikshak Parv-2021 is to encourage innovative practices to ensure not only continuity of education at all levels but to improve quality, inclusive practices and sustainability in the schools across the country as well.
- As a part of the event, PM launched five key schemes under the National Education Policy, NEP 2020.

Atmanirbhar Corner to be set up by TRIFED in 75 missions

- Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, is setting up an Atmanirbhar Bharat corner in 75 Indian Missions/ Embassies across the world in the next 3 months. The first such Atma Nirbhar Bharat corner was successfully inaugurated at Indian Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand on August 15, 2021. Apart from this, TRIFED will also be establishing Atmanirbhar corners in 75 embassies of foreign countries set up in India.
- As India moves ahead with its strategy for India@75 and focuses on converting development into a mass movement, TRIFED is working with its roots in ground realities and emphasizing the welfare both in design and implementation. With the focus on “Vocal for Local” and building an “Atmanirbhar Bharat”, TRIFED is undertaking several activities, while re-dedicating its efforts towards tribal empowerment.

Manipur CM Launched 'Go to Hills 2.0' outreach campaign

- Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Monday launched an outreach programme “Go To Hills 2.0” to ensure that people in remote places avail benefits of various welfare schemes at their doorsteps. The campaign was rolled out at a programme at Peace Ground, Tuibong in Churachandpur district.
- The launch of the initiative was marked by the inauguration of 30 projects worth Rs 37.34 crore under various departments such as works, tribal affairs and hills and health. “It gives me immense pleasure to officially launch the ‘Go To Hills 2.0’ today. In our effort to take governance further to the doorsteps, the mission aims to strengthen ties amongst our people through rigorous development,” the CM said on Twitter. Under the outreach programme, the state administration provided assistance and equipment worth Rs 51.52 crore for several departments such as agriculture, horticulture, health, social welfare and education.

28th edition of Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise

- The 28th edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) took place from September 02 to 04, 2021. The SIMBEX-2021 annual bilateral maritime exercise was hosted by the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) in the southern fringes of the South China Sea.
- The Indian Navy was represented by Guided Missile Destroyer INS Ranvijay with a shipborne helicopter, ASW Corvette INS Kiltan and Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora and one P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

- The exercise aimed to strengthen the bilateral defence ties between both countries. This year's edition of SIMBEX is also a special occasion as it takes place during the ongoing celebrations of the 75th year of India's independence.
- The success of SIMBEX-2021 is yet another demonstration of the mutual resolve on both sides to strengthen the bilateral partnership further in the years ahead.

Government launched AYUSH AAPKE DWAR

- As a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration, the Ministry of AYUSH has launched a campaign titled 'AYUSH AAPKE DWAR', which aims to distribute medicinal plant saplings to 75 lakh households in one year. The campaign was inaugurated by the Union Minister of AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal from Mumbai, during which he distributed medicinal plant saplings to citizens.
- Subsequently, the campaign was launched from more than 45 locations across the country. The medicinal plants being distributed include Tejpatta, Stevia, Ashoka, Giloy, Ashwagandha, Lemongrass, Tulsi, Sarpagandha and Amla. Under this campaign, it is proposed to undertake the cultivation of medicinal plants across 75,000 hectares in one year.

Mansukh Mandaviya participates in G-20 Health Minister Meeting 2021

- Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya participated in G-20 Health Ministers Meeting 2021 hosted by Italian Presidency on the theme – People, Planet and Prosperity. Yesterday during the meeting, he shared India's response to monitor Global Health Impact of C-19 pandemic with a detailed assessment of its consequences in implementing Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs.
- Mr Mandaviya is on a four day visit to Rome in Italy from 4th of this month to attend G- 20 Health Ministers' meeting. In a tweet, Mr Mandaviya also said that he had an excellent discussion with Minister of Health for Brazil Marcelo Queiroga for better cooperation in healthcare. They also talked about One Health and the introduction of Nano-Urea for better results.

Delhi government declares Raj Kumar as 'Face of DoE'

- To honor Teacher's day, the Delhi government decided to give a new face to the Directorate of Education (DoE). A music teacher from the Delhi government's School Of Specialized Excellence will be the new 'Face of Directorate of Education (DoE)'.
- The music teacher is Mr. Raj Kumar who was awarded Guinness World Record for playing Sitar for 32 hours.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman chairs 24th meeting of FSDC

- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has chaired the 24th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC). Finance Minister is the chairperson of FSDC. It must be noted that FSDC Sub-Committee is chaired by the Governor, RBI.
- Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) is the apex level forum set up by the Government of India for strengthening and institutionalizing the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development.
- The Council also, inter alia, discussed issues relating to the management of stressed assets, strengthening institutional mechanism for financial stability analysis, financial inclusion, the framework for resolution of financial institutions and issues related to IBC processes, banks' exposure

to various sectors and Government, data sharing mechanisms of government authorities, internationalisation of Indian Rupee and pension sector related issues.

India becomes first Asian nation to launch 'Plastics Pact'

- India has become the first country in Asia to launch a Plastics Pact, a new platform to promote a circular system for plastics. The India Plastic Pact platform was launched on September 03, 2021, by the British High Commissioner to India, Alexander Ellis, at the 16th Sustainability Summit hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- The new platform 'India Plastic Pact' is a joint effort of the World-Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF India) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and envisions to create a world where plastic is valued and does not pollute the environment.
- The Pact targets the businesses to transition towards a circular economy for plastics by 2030.
- The initiative is supported by UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) and WRAP, a global NGO based in the UK, and endorsed by the British High Commission in India.

Maharashtra Government to set up 'Rajiv Gandhi Science City'

- The Maharashtra Government has decided to set up a world-class science city at Pimpri-Chinchwad near Pune to develop a scientific outlook among the students and prepare them to become students in future. To be named as 'Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Science Innovation City', a science Centre will be developed on one acre area in an eight-acre complex in the PCMC area.
- The Centre has granted an assistance of Rs 191 crore to build the Science city in the PCMC area.

Women and Child Development Minister inaugurates NUTRI GARDEN at All India Institute of Ayurveda

- The Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated NUTRI GARDEN to mark the beginning of Poshan Maah – 2021 at All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA). Plantation of Shigru (Sahijan) and Amla saplings were also carried out. AIIA, New Delhi under the direction of the Ministry of Ayush initiated the celebration of Poshan Maah – 2021.
- Nutri kitchen garden/Nutri garden is a method of planting and harvesting nutrient-rich crops in residential houses or in their vicinity to meet the requirements of the family all year round.
- In urban areas, Nutri kitchen gardening can be promoted in the form of rooftop gardening, terrace gardening, vertical gardening and container gardening.
- In rural areas, Nutri kitchen gardens can be promoted in the backyard of the houses.

I&B Ministry constitutes Committee to review existing guidelines of Journalist Welfare Scheme

- • The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has decided to form a committee to review the existing guidelines of the Journalist Welfare Scheme (JWS). The 12-member committee, with Ashok Kumar Tandon, Member, Prasar Bharati Board, as its chairperson, will revise the quantum of ex-gratia payment in case of death as well as in other cases under the scheme. The terms of reference (ToR) of the committee include examining the need for such a revision of the quantum of ex-gratia payment.
- • The committee will look into the aspect of differentiation or parity between accredited and non-accredited journalists for availing benefits under the scheme. The committee shall give its recommendations within two months and all secretarial assistance for convening its meetings will be provided by the Press Information Bureau (PIB).

Gujarat to host 12th Defence Expo-2022 in Gandhinagar

- The next Defence Expo will be hosted by Gujarat in 2022. This was announced by chief minister Vijay Rupani. The Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Department of Defence Production and the Gujarat Government in this regard. About 100 countries are expected to participate in this biannual event.
- Defence Expo-2022 will be held in Gandhinagar from 10th to 13th March next year. The aim of Defense Expo 2022 is to move from Make in India to make for the world. The Defence Expo-2022 will focus on making India a Defence manufacturing hub.

PM's Virtual-Address at 6th Eastern Economic Forum 2021

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the plenary session of the 6th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF), organised in Vladivostok, Russia. An Indian delegation led by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri and comprising leading Indian oil and gas companies are participating in the EEF Summit 2021 in Russia.
- On the sidelines of EEF, Petroleum Minister will also have meetings with Russian Energy Minister Nikolay Shulginov to review bilateral energy cooperation in the energy sector and with the Russian Minister for Development of Far East and Arctic Alexei Chekunkov to discuss the collaboration between Indian and Russian companies in that region. Petroleum Minister will also co-chair India-Russia Business Dialogue.

J&K LG Manoj Sinha inaugurates initiative for women

- In Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has launched a Rural Enterprises Acceleration Programme titled 'Saath' for Self Help Group (SHG) women. The programme aims to transform the lives of women and make them independent and strong in social and financial aspects, by mentoring the women associated with SHGs and create market linkages of products created by these women.
- Jammu and Kashmir already has 48000 SHGs, with around four lakh women connected to these SHGs. The J&K administration further aims to create 11000 more SHGs in the coming year. This will transform the lives of these women and make them independent and strong in social and financial aspects.

Ladakh announces snow leopard as state animal, black-necked crane as state bird

- The Union Territory of Ladakh has declared snow leopard (*Panther unica*) as the new state animal and black-necked crane (*Grus nicricollis*) as the new state bird. The notification in this regard was released by Shri Radha Krishna Mathur, Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh on August 31, 2021.
- The decision was taken keeping in view bifurcation of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh into separate administrative divisions in 2019. In the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, the black-necked crane and Kashmir stag (Hangul) were the state bird and animal respectively.

PM Modi releases special Rs 125 coin on ISKCON founder's

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually unveiled a special commemorative coin of Rs 125 to mark the 125th birth anniversary of ISKCON founder Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. In July 1966,

Prabhupada founded the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) commonly known as the 'Hare Krishna movement'. The spiritual leader was born as Abhay Charan De on September 1, 1896, in Calcutta and later came to be known by the honorific A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

Sarbananada Sonowal launched 'Y-Break' application

- The Union AYUSH Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal has launched 'Y Break' Yoga protocol mobile application in New Delhi. The app has been developed by Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY). The app was launched as a part of the week-long activities and campaigns organised by the Ministry of Ayush to commemorate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav from August 30 to September 5, 2021.
- The Y-Break (or the "Yoga Break") mobile application is a unique five-minute Yoga protocol app, designed especially for working professionals to de-stress, refresh and re-focus at their workplace to increase their productivity, and consists of Asanas, Pranayam and Dhyana.
- While on one hand the app will facilitate doing yoga and meditation with ease anywhere in just 5 minutes, it will also bring awareness about different Yoga practices.

Assam decided to remove Rajiv Gandhi's name from Orang national park

- The Assam cabinet has decided to remove the name of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi from the Orang National Park. Since the name Orang is associated with the sentiments of the Adivasi and tea-tribe community, the cabinet has decided to rename the Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park as Orang National Park.
- Located on the North Bank of Brahmaputra, Orang National Park spread over 78.80 sq km is the oldest forest reserve in the state. It was named a wildlife sanctuary in 1985 and declared a national park in 1999.

IIT Ropar developed world's first 'Plant based' smart air-purifier

- Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), Ropar and Kanpur and Faculty of Management Studies of Delhi University have jointly launched a living-plant based air purifier named "Ubreathe Life". This air purifier will boost the air purification process in indoor spaces, such as hospitals, schools, offices and Homes. It is the world's first, state-of-the-art 'Smart Bio-Filter' that can make breathing fresh.
- The Ubreathe Life technology works through the air-purifying natural leafy plants. The room air interacts with leaves and goes to the soil-root zone where maximum pollutants are purified.

Maharashtra government launched "Mission Vatsalya" for women's who lost their husbands to C-19

- Maharashtra government launched a special mission called "Mission Vatsalya" in order to help women who lost their husbands to C-19. Mission Vatsalya will provide several services and some 18 benefits under one roof to those women. It been designed for widows, with a special focus on widows coming from rural areas, poor backgrounds and deprived sections. Under this mission, schemes like Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana and Gharkul Yojana will benefit those for women.
- Under this scheme, 8,661 women have applied for the Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Anudan Yojana, 405 for the Shraavanbal Seva State Pension Scheme and 71 for the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme.

Indian Navy ship INS Tabar participates in maritime exercise

- The Indian Naval Ship, INS Tabar, is on her goodwill visit to the number of ports in Africa and Europe since June 2021 till September 2021. As a part of this visit, INS Tabar took part in the Maiden Maritime Partnership Exercise with Algerian Navy, off the Algerian coast, in the Mediterranean Sea. The Algerian Naval Ship ANS Ezzadger participated in the exercise.
- The objective of the exercise was to enhance interoperability, understand the concept of operations followed by each other, and opened the possibility of increasing interaction and collaboration between the two navies in the future.
- INS Tabar is a Talwar-class stealth Frigate built in Russia for the Indian Navy. The ship is a part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet, based in Mumbai.

NPS entry age limit may be raised to 70 years, exit to 75

- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has increased the entry age for the National Pension System (NPS) from 65 years to 70 years. Earlier the eligible age to invest in NPS was 18-65 years which has now been revised to 18-70 years. As per the revised norms, any Indian Citizen, resident or non-resident and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) between the age of 65-70 years can join NPS and continue or defer their NPS Account up to the age of 75 years.
- If a person joins NPS after 65 years, then the Normal Exit shall be after 3 years. Exit before 3 years will be considered premature exit. There is also a limit on the amount that can be exposed to equity in case the NPS is open after 65 years. The maximum equity exposure is 15% and 50% under Auto and Active Choice respectively.

SPORTS

Ostrava Open 2021: Sania Mirza & Zhang Shuai Win Doubles Title

- India's Sania Mirza and her Chinese partner Zhang Shuai won the women's doubles title in the women's doubles final at the Ostrava Open in Ostrava, Czech Republic. The second-seeded Indo-Chinese duo defeated the third seeded pair of American Kaitlyn Christian and New Zealander Erin Routliffe 6-3 6-2 in the summit clash in one hour and four minutes.
- This was Sania's second final of the season, following a runner-up finish at the WTA 250 Cleveland event in the US last month with Chirstina Mchale.

England's All-rounder cricketer Moeen Ali announced retirement from Tests cricket

- England cricket all-rounder Moeen Ali has announced his retirement from the Test match career. The 34-year-old Ali made his debut in Test cricket in 2014 and represented England in 64 Test matches.
- He took 195 Test wickets including 5 five-wicket hauls and scored five-Test match centuries during his Test career. Moeen, however, will continue to play limited-overs cricket for England.

Hamilton wins 100th Formula One race with victory in Russian GP

- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain), has won the F1 Russian Grand Prix 2021. This is his 100th Grand Prix win. It was Hamilton's fifth win of the season and his first since the British Grand Prix in July. Max Verstappen (Red Bull-Netherlands) came second while Carlos Sainz Jr. (Ferrari-Spain) came third in the Russian Grand Prix 2021.

India's Visnu Shivraj Pandian wins bronze at IOSC

- India's Visnu Shivaraj Pandian won the bronze medal in the 10m air rifle event at the International Online Shooting Championship (IOSC) on Sunday. The 17-year-old Visnu was the only Indian in the final after shooting the fifth highest qualification score of 621.1.
- The gold was won by Mireia Rossello of Spain with a score of 250.7 (625.9) while the silver was bagged by Ukraine's Tetyana Halkina with 247.9 (619.3).
- World No. 41 Etienne Germond of France, who shot the best qualification score of 628.4 on Saturday, decided to skip the final.
- The two-day competition was organised by former India shooter Shimon Sharif.

Odisha to host FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2021

- Odisha will host the Men's Hockey Junior World Cup at the Kalinga Stadium here from November 24 to December 5. Hockey India had recently approached the Odisha government to support them for the Men's Junior World Cup to be held in two months time. Patnaik also unveiled the logo and the trophy for the event. Lucknow had hosted the tournament's last edition in 2016 where India claimed the honours.
- At the upcoming event, 16 nations will vie for the title. The participating teams are India, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Africa, Egypt, Belgium, England, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, USA, Canada, Chile and Argentina.

India's D. Gukesh wins Norway Chess Open 2021

- India's D Gukesh won his second consecutive tournament of this month, the Norway Chess Open 2021 Masters section.
- Gukesh scored an unbeaten 8.5/10 and finished a full point ahead of the competition to win the tournament. Iniyar secured sole second position with 8.5/10 points, finishing a half point ahead of top seed Dmitrij Kollars (Germany) and Valentin Dragnev (Austria).

Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics unveiled its official motto, "Together for a Shared Future"

- The Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics unveiled its official motto, "Together for a Shared Future", during a ceremony at the city's Capital Museum. The motto was chosen after a lengthy process that included a total of 79 different proposals. This motto embodies the Olympic spirit, the Chinese way of revealing the Olympic spirit.
- That's because 'together' embodies a type of unity, cohesion and a way of overcoming difficulties. The Games will be held from February 4-20, with Beijing set to become the first city to host both the Summer and Winter Olympics.

National Open Athletics: Harmilan Kaur Bains sets national record in 1500m

- Harmilan Kaur Bains of Punjab has created a new national record in the women's 1500m race by clocking 4:05.39 to bag the gold at the 60th National Open Athletics Championships in the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Hanamkonda in Telangana.
- With this achievement, the 23-year-old athlete has erased the 19-year-old record held by Sunita Rani in 1500m at the 2002 Asian Games in Busan by clocking 4:06.03.

Raja Rithvik becomes India's 70th Grandmaster

- India's R Raja Rithvik became chess Grandmaster after he crossed the ELO Rating of 2500. The 17-year-old achieved this GM title in Vezerkepzo Grandmaster Chess Tournament at Budapest, Hungary. He thus became the 70th Grandmaster from the country. A native of Warangal, Rithvik has been undergoing advanced coaching at RACE Chess Academy under reputed coach N.V.S. Rama Raju.

Virat Kohli to step down as RCB captain after IPL 2021

- Royal Challengers Bangalore on Sunday announced that Virat Kohli will step down as RCB captain after the end of Indian Premier League 2021 season. "Hello everyone, the whole RCB family, the amazing fans of Bangalore and to all those who have supported us. I have an announcement to make," Kohli said in a video uploaded on RCB's official Twitter handle.
- "This will be my last IPL as captain of RCB. I'll continue to be an RCB player till I play my last IPL game. I thank all the RCB fans for believing in me and supporting me," Kohli said.

India's Pankaj Advani wins Asian Snooker Championship 2021

- India's Pankaj Advani won the Asian Snooker Championship 2021 by defeating Amir Sarkhosh. He has won this title for a second consecutive time. He is the winner of the last Asian Snooker Championship held in 2019.
- In 2019, Pankaj also became the only player who won the titles in all forms of billiards, snooker, 6Reds, and 10Reds competitions. Yasin Merchant (1989, 2001), Alok Kumar (2004), Aditya Mehta (2012) were the other Indians who won the championship.

Zimbabwe's wicket-keeper batsman Brendan Taylor announced retirement from International Cricket

- Former Zimbabwe skipper and wicket-keeper batsman, Brendan Taylor has announced his retirement from international cricket.
- He made the announcement while playing the third final ODI match on September 13, 2021, against Ireland. The 34-year batsman made his ODI debut for Zimbabwe in 2004 against Sri Lanka. He has scored 6677 runs from 204 ODI matches in his 17-year ODI career.

England's Joe Root, Eimear Richardson named ICC Players of the Month for August 2021

- England Test skipper Joe Root and Ireland's Eimear Richardson have been voted as the winners of the ICC Players of the Month for August 2021. Root was voted the ICC Men's Player of the Month for August for his consistent performances in the Test series against India that was part of the next cycle of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC).
- In women's cricket, Ireland's Eimear Richardson has had a sensational August as well and was adjudged the ICC Women's Player of the Month for August 2021. During the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Europe qualifier, Richardson won the Player of the Tournament award for her superb performance with the bat and the ball, starting off against Germany, she returned figures of 2/6, as the Irish cruised home to a comfortable 164-run victory.

Srilankan Pacer Lasith Malinga announced retirement from all forms of cricket

- Lasith Malinga has announced his retirement from T20 cricket after 295 matches where he picked 390 wickets. He had already retired from Tests in 2011 and from ODIs in 2019. The Sri Lanka pacer had

also announced his retirement from franchise cricket in January this year after being released by Mumbai Indians.

- Malinga was the first bowler to bag 100 T20I wickets before ending with 107 scalps. He finishes fourth in the highest wicket-taker category in the list behind Dwayne Bravo, Imran Tahir and Sunil Narine.
- Malinga, one of the best T20 bowlers of all time, was a crucial figure in the teams he represented in the Indian Premier League, Big Bash League, Caribbean Premier League, and other franchise tournaments. He was part of four of the five IPL championship wins with Mumbai Indians but had opted out of the 2020 tournament.

International Olympic Committee Suspended North Korea From Beijing Olympics

- North Korea was formally suspended from the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on 10th Sept as punishment for refusing to send a team to the Tokyo Games citing the C-19 pandemic.
- IOC president Thomas Bach said the North Korean national Olympic body will also now forfeit money it was due from the previous Olympics. The unspecified amount — potentially millions of dollars — had been withheld because of international sanctions.

MS Dhoni will be mentor Indian team for the upcoming T20 World Cup 2021

- BCCI announced that the former India captain MS Dhoni will mentor the team for the tournament, which will be played in UAE and Oman in October and November. He announced his retirement from international limited-overs cricket on August 15, 2020.
- Dhoni had last played for India in the 2019 ICC World Cup semi-final against New Zealand. Dhoni, who leads Chennai Super Kings, is a three-time IPL-winning captain and has brought home three major ICC trophies — World T20, Champions Trophy and World Cup.

India's Jeev Milkha Singh becomes first golfer in world to be granted Dubai Golden Visa

- Star Indian golfer Jeev Milkha Singh has become the first professional golfer in the world to receive the prestigious 10-year Dubai Golden Visa in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sport. The 49-year-old Jeev has had a long association with Dubai, having featured in several tournaments and making many friends in the city.
- During the 2001 Dubai Desert Classic, Jeev had established a world record at that time when he completed the four rounds with just 94 putts while finishing tied sixth. Jeev, winner of four titles on the European Tour, four on Japan Golf Tour and six on the Asian Tour, has received the 10-year 'Gold card' for being an elite professional athlete.

Daniel Ricciardo wins Italian Grand Prix at Monza in McLaren

- Daniel Ricciardo (McLaren, Australian-Italian) has won the Formula One Italian Grand Prix 2021 title held at Autodromo Nazionale Monza track, Italy.
- This is the first victory for McLaren in 9 years. Lando Norris came second while Valtteri Bottas came third in the F1 race. Lewis Hamilton and Max Verstappen crash out of Italian Grand Prix 2021 due to collision.

Daniil medvedev beats Novak Djokovic in 2021 US open Men's final

- Daniil Medvedev lifted his first Grand Slam trophy on Monday after defeating Novak Djokovic 6-4, 6-4,

6-4 in two hours and sixteen minutes in the US Open men's singles final at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York.

- While Djokovic failed to become the third man after Don Budge (1938) and Rod Laver (1962, 1969) to sweep all four majors in the same year, Medvedev capped off a stellar US Open outing with a memorable win.

Guinness World Records recognise Ronaldo for most goals scored in international football by an individual

- Portuguese captain Cristiano Ronaldo has broken the world record for most goals scored in men's international football. Ronaldo surpassed Iranian striker Ali Daei's long-held record of 109 international goals by scoring a brace against Ireland in a World Cup Qualifier. Ronaldo at 36 years of age is now a Guinness world record holder of most international goals of all time with 111 goals.
- The Guinness world book of records has recognised Cristiano Ronaldo as a world record breaker for the most goals scored in international football (soccer) matches scored by an individual (male). Ronaldo achieved the feat scoring goals for his native Portugal between 2003 and 2021 proactively over a span of 18 years with a career still going strong as he looks to overcome yet another new challenge after his move away from Turin with a year left on his contract with the Bianconeri.

130th edition of Durand Cup kicks off in West bengal

- The 130th edition of the Durand Cup kicked off at the Vivekananda Yubabharati Krirangan in Kolkata. West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee kicked the ball and inaugurated the tournament. 16 teams are playing in this edition of the oldest club football tournament in Asia while two clubs East Bengal and Mohun Bagan are not participating. The final match will be held on 3rd October.
- The Durand Cup is a prestigious football tournament. It was first held in 1888, at Dagshai in Himachal Pradesh. This tournament has been named after Mortimer Durand. He was the then Foreign Secretary in charge of India.

Puducherry ropes in former Australian pacer Shaun Tait as bowling coach

- Former Australia pacer Shaun Tait has been roped in as the bowling coach of the Puducherry cricket team, sources in the Cricket Association of Pondicherry. Tait joins a coaching team that includes head coach Dishant Yagnik and manager and strength and conditioning coach Kalpendra Jha. The former Australia player had recently been appointed bowling coach of the Afghanistan team for a period of five months.
- Tait, who featured in three Tests, 35 ODIs and 21 T20 Internationals for Australia, had also turned out for Rajasthan Royals in the IPL during his playing career. The pacer had played a significant role in Australia's World Cup triumph in the West Indies in 2007, claiming 23 wickets.

India win record 19 medals in Tokyo Paralympics 2020

- India finished their campaign at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020 with an all-time high of 19 medals which includes five gold, eight silver, and six bronze. This is the best medal tally for India a single edition of the Paralympic Games. India is placed at 24th position in the overall medal tally out of a total of 162 nations.
- Javelin thrower Tek Chand was the flag bearer at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Paralympics.

- Shooter Avani Lekhara was India's flag-bearer at the closing ceremony.

Max Verstappen wins Dutch Grand Prix F1

- Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) has won the formula one Dutch Grand Prix 2021. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) came second while Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) came third.
- The Red Bull driver's leading seventh win of the season and 17th of his career moved him three points ahead of the defending champion, who finished second but softened the blow with a bonus point for fastest lap.

Tokyo Paralympics: Shooter Manish Narwal wins Gold

- Indian shooters Manish Narwal and Singhraj Adhana clinched the gold and silver medal respectively in the P4 – Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 final at Asaka Shooting Range. The 19-year-old Manish created the Paralympic record as he amassed 218.2 points to clinch the gold while Singhraj grabbed his second medal of the Tokyo Paralympics with 216.7 points. The Russian Paralympic Committee's (RPC) Sergey Malyshev won the bronze medal.
- India's medal tally now stands at 15 at these Paralympics. It has now won three golds, seven silvers and five bronze medals. This is India's best tally at a single edition of the Para Games. It had won four medals at Rio 2016 and four at the 1984 Paralympics.

Paralympics 2020: Archer Harvinder Singh won Bronze

- In Paralympics 2020, India's ace archer Harvinder Singh has won the bronze medal in the men's individual recurve open. The 31-year old has become India's first-ever archer to win a medal in the Paralympics. With this win, India's medal haul at the ongoing Paralympics Games in Tokyo has reached 13 [2G,6S,5B].
- Harvinder defeated South Korea's Kim Min Su 6-5 in a shoot-off to win India's third medal of the day at Tokyo 2020, taking India's tally to 13. Earlier, United States of America's (USA) Kevin Mather defeated Harvinder by 6-4 in the semi-final.

Tokyo Paralympics: Avani Lekhara won two medals

- Avani Lekhara won the bronze medal in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions SH1 event with a score of 445.9 to become the first Indian woman to win two medals at the Paralympics. Lekhara had also won gold in the 10m air rifle standing SH1 event.
- India's medal tally now stands at 12 at these Paralympics. It has now won two golds, six silvers and four bronze medals. This is India's best tally at a single edition of the Para Games. It had won four medals at Rio 2016 and four at the 1984 Paralympics.

Tokyo Paralympics: Praveen Kumar wins silver medals

- Praveen Kumar became India's fourth medallist in men's high jump and 11th medallist overall at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020 as he won silver with an Asian record jump of 2.07m. Praveen cleared the Asian record with a 2.07m jump, finishing behind Great Britain's Jonathan Broom-Edwards, who managed the best jump of 2.10m on a rain-soaked track at the Olympic Stadium.
- Praveen is India's fourth medallist in men's high jump at Tokyo Games after Nishad Kumar, Mariyappan Thangavelu, and Sharad Kumar.

South African cricketer Dale Steyn announced retirement from all forms of cricket

- South African cricketer Dale Steyn has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket with immediate effect on August 31, 2021, ending his 20 years long cricket journey. The 38-year-old Proteas (South Africa national cricket team) pacer last played for South Africa in T20 vs Australia in February 2020. He had also played for Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- Since making his international debut in 2004, He played 93 Tests, 125 ODIs and 47 T20Is. The right-arm pacer, who holds the record for the fastest bowler to 400 Test wickets (80 matches), bagged 439 wickets in the longest format, 196 wickets in the ODIs and 64 wickets in T20 internationals.

Indian All-rounder Stuart Binny announced retirement from all forms of cricket

- Indian all-rounder cricketer, Stuart Binny has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket on August 30, 2021. He had represented Team India in six Tests, 14 ODIs and three T20Is, scoring a total of 459 runs and 24 wickets. Binny is the son of Roger Binny, a former India selector who was part of the 1983 world cup winning squad.
- In the Indian Premier League, he played for the Rajasthan Royals. Binny holds the record of the best bowling figures in ODI format. He produced a sensational spell taking 6/4 in just 4.4 overs as India bowled out Bangladesh for 58 after having themselves being shot out for 105 in a low-scoring affair.

Paralympics 2020: Singhraj Adhana wins bronze medal

- At the ongoing Tokyo Paralympics 2020, Indian shooter Singhraj Adana has won the bronze medal in the P1 Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1 final on August 31, 2021. Adana shot a total of 216.8 to finish at third place.
- China dominated the finals with defending champion Chao Yang (237.9 — Paralympic record) and Huang Xing (237.5) winning the gold and silver medals respectively.

Paralympics 2020: Devendra Jhajharia Wins silver medal

- At the ongoing Tokyo Paralympics 2020, India's greatest paralympian, Devendra Jhajharia won the silver medal in the men's javelin throw – F46 final event on August 30, 2021. The 40-year-old Devendra performed his best throw of 64.35, for the silver.
- In the same event, Sundar Singh Gurjar won the bronze medal, with his best throw of 64.01. With this, the total medal tally of India at the Paralympics 2020 Games reaches to seven.

Paralympics 2020: Yogesh Kathuniya wins silver medal

- India's discus thrower Yogesh Kathuniya has clinched the silver medal at the ongoing Tokyo Paralympics in the men's Discus Throw F56 final event.
- Yogesh claimed the second spot with a throw of 44.38m. Batista dos Santos from Brazil won gold, setting a Paralympic record with a throw of 45.59m. L. Diaz Aldana from Cuba bagged bronze.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Skyroot Aerospace first spacetech startup to formally sign up with ISRO

- A Hyderabad-based Space technology startup, Skyroot Aerospace has become the first private company to formally enter into an agreement with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The Framework MoU will allow the company to undertake multiple tests and access facilities at various ISRO centres and avail the technical expertise of ISRO for testing and qualifying their space launch vehicle systems and subsystems.
- The agreement was signed by R Umamaheswaran, scientific secretary at ISRO and chairman at Interim IN-SPACe Committee, and Pawan Chandana, who is the CEO of Skyroot Aerospace.

OBITUARY

Kamla Bhasin, noted activist and author, passes away at 75

- Women's rights activist and noted author, Kamla Bhasin, has passed away battling cancer. She started working on developmental issues in the 1970s and her work focused on gender, education, human development and the media.
- The noted poet and author has authored several books, especially on gender theory and feminism, many of which have been translated into more than 30 languages.

Ex-Delhi police chief, who handled Batla House case, passes away at 70

- Former Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and Commissioner of Delhi Police, Yudhvir Singh Dadwal, has passed away. Dadwal, a 1974-batch IPS officer, was the 16th police commissioner of Delhi from July 2007 to November 2010.
- After retirement, he was appointed as the Director-General of the Central Paramilitary Force, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) in November 2010. In 2016, Dadwal was appointed as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh.

Akhara Parishad chief Mahant Narendra Giri passed away in UP

- President of the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad, Mahant Narendra Giri has passed away. It was in 2016 that Giri first took over as chief of the Akhara Parishad. It was during his tenure that the Parishad released a list of allegedly "fake saints". In 2019, Giri was elected chief of the Parishad for a second time.
- Last year, a year after the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayodhya title suit, a meeting of the Akhara Parishad, chaired by Giri, had passed a resolution saying they would initiate a campaign on the lines of Ram Janmabhoomi movement to "free the Hindu temples" in Varanasi and Mathura. Recently, Giri had also demanded the inclusion of the Akhara Parishad in the Ram Janmabhoomi Trust.

Padma Shri awardee Thanu Padmanabhan passed away

- Renowned Theoretical physicist and cosmologist Professor Thanu Padmanabhan passed away. He was a distinguished professor at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA). He had authored over 300 research papers and several books, with important contributions in areas of gravitation, quantum gravity, and structure and formation of the universe.

Veteran journalist, columnist KM Roy, passed away

- Noted journalist and columnist KM Roy passed away at his residence in Kochi on Saturday, September 18, at the age of 84.

- He died due to an age-related illness. Roy was the recipient of Swadeshabhmani Kesari award, the highest honour that journalists receive from the Kerala government.

Former Indian player Bhabani Roy passed away

- Former India footballer and Mohun Bagan captain, Bhabani Roy passed away. He was joined Bagan in 1966 and played for the club till 1972.
- He represented India in the 1969 Merdeka Cup and played in three matches. Bhabani Roy helped Mohun Bagan win the Rovers Cup in 1968, 1970, 1971 and 1972 (Joint Winner). At the domestic level, he was part of the West Bengal team that won the Santosh Trophy in 1968 and 1971.

Eminent Writer Aziz Hajini passed away

- Noted writer and former secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages Aziz Hajini passed away. Hajini, born as Abdul Aziz Parray in north Kashmir's Bandipora, was appointed Secretary J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages in 2015. He has over twenty books in Kashmiri to his credit including poetry and criticism.
- Hajini won the Sahitya Akademi Award (criticism) in 2016 for his book 'Aane Khane' written in Kashmiri. He has also won the Sahitya Akademi Translation Award in 2013 for Za Gaz Zameen, Kashmiri translation of Abdul Samad's Urdu novel Do Gaz Zameen.

Olympic Gold Medalist Yuriy Sedykh passed away

- Double Olympic hammer throw gold medallist Yuriy Sedykh, a Ukrainian track and field athlete who represented the Soviet Union until 1991, has passed away. He set the world record for the hammer throw with a throw of 86.74 metres at the European Championships in Stuttgart in 1986 which is still not broken.
- He won his first gold medal at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal and his second gold at the 1980 Olympics in Moscow.

Sahitya akademi winner Aziz Hajini passed away

- Eminent writer and former secretary of the Academy of Arts, Culture and Languages of Jammu and Kashmir, Aziz Hajini, died here late on Saturday night. He was 64 years old and had been ill for some time.
- Hajini, a resident of Sonwari in Bandipur district of North Kashmir, held several important positions besides secretary of the Academy of Arts, Culture and Languages of Jammu and Kashmir and wrote several books.

BBC's first Hindi news reader Rajni Kaul dies at 93

- Rajni Kaul who was the first News Broadcaster for BBC Hindi passed away in Faridabad, Haryana. She was 93.
- She was not only the first woman to join BBC Hindi as a staff member but she also became the first woman to read a news bulletin in Hindi on the network in 1961. She was well-known for her programme Indradhanush.

Former France Footballer Jean-Pierre Adams Passes Away after 39 years in coma

- Former France footballer Jean-Pierre Adams, who had been in a coma for 39 years, has passed away. In 1982, Adams slipped into a coma following a medical error, during his routine knee surgery.

- He made a total of 22 appearances for the France National Football Team from 1972–1976. At club level, Adams played as a defender for Paris Saint-Germain, Nîmes and Nice.

Former President of International Olympic Committee Jacques Rogge passes away

- Former President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Jacques Rogge has passed away.
- He had spent 12 years as president of IOC, from 2001 to 2013, overseeing three summer Games and three winter Games, as well as creating the Youth Olympics. He was then succeeded by Thomas Bach. He was the 8th President of IOC.

Senior Journalist and former Rajya Sabha MP Chandan Mitra passes away

- Former Rajya Sabha MP and senior journalist Chandan Mitra has passed away. He was the Editor and Managing Director of The Pioneer newspaper in New Delhi. Mitra was nominated as a member of the Rajya Sabha from August 2003 to 2009.
- In June 2010, Mitra was elected to another term in the Rajya Sabha by BJP from Madhya Pradesh. His term ended in 2016. In July 2018, he resigned from the BJP and joined the Trinamool Congress (TMC).

Indian Actor & Bigg Boss 13 winner Sidharth Shukla passed away

- Bigg Boss 13 winner actor Sidharth Shukla has passed away. He has been a part of films like Humpty Sharma Ke Dulhania. The actor's last screen outing was Ekta Kapoor's popular show 'Broken But Beautiful 3' in which he played the role of Agastya.
- He is known for his roles in daily soaps such as "Balika Vadhu" and "Dil Se Dil Tak". He is also popular for his tints in reality shows such as "Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 6", "Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi" and "Bigg Boss 13".

Veteran Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Geelani passed away

- Veteran Kashmiri separatist leader and former chief of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Syed Ali Shah Geelani passed away. He was 91 years old.
- Syed Ali Gilani was born on September 29, 1929, to Syed Peer Shah Gilani of Zoori Munz village in Tehsil Bandipora. Gilani received his early education at Sopore and finished his studies at the Oriental College, Lahore Pakistan.

Former Indian cricket coach Vasoo Paranjape passed away

- Former India cricketer and coach, Vasoo Paranjape has passed away. He was considered a mentor of stalwarts like Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar and Rohit Sharma to name a few. He also gave Gavaskar the nickname 'Sunny'.
- Paranjape was born on November 21, 1938, in Gujarat, Paranjape was a former Ranji Trophy player and a coach at the National Cricket Academy. He was the father of former India and Mumbai cricketer Jatin Paranjape.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

CavinKare CMD CK Ranganathan named as the new AIMA president for One year

- Chairman & managing director CavinKare Pvt Ltd, CK Ranganathan has been appointed president of All India Management Association (AIMA) for a period of one year till the National Management Convention is held in September 2022. He takes over from Harsh Pati Singhania, vice chairman & managing director, JK Paper Ltd. Under his leadership, technology will drive AIMA's services and the new initiatives would include face recognition tools for admission and recruitment testing services and remotely proctored semester examination for education institutes.
- AIMA is the national apex body of the management profession in India. It works closely with industry, government, academia and students to further the cause of the management profession in India.

Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh takes charge as 34th Director-General of NCC

- Lieutenant General Gurbirpal Singh has taken charge as the 34th Director-General of the National Cadet Corps (NCC). He succeeds Lt Gen Tarun Kumar Aich. He was commissioned into the PARACHUTE REGIMENT in 1987.
- An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Indian Military Academy, Dehradun as well as NCC, he attended the Defence Services Staff College in Wellington and the National Defence College Course in New Delhi. Lt Gen Singh has been a Company Commander in the counter-insurgency environment in Nagaland and the Siachen Glacier.

India beats Germany, UK, Russia to bag prestigious IAEA Auditor

- India has been elected as the external auditor to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a prestigious institution that promotes peaceful use of nuclear energy, for a period of six years from 2022 to 2027 after beating Germany and the United Kingdom among other countries. India's comptroller and auditor general GC Murmu was selected as the external auditor of IAEA and the ministry of external affairs (MEA).
- In the first round of voting for the post, Germany got 36 votes, India 30, the UK eight, Russia 11, Turkey 9, Egypt 20, Republic of Korea 2 and the Philippines 7 votes. The second round boiled down to the race between India and Germany with India managing to beat the European country.

UBL's Debabrata Mukherjee elected Chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations for 2021-2022

- The chief marketing officer of United Breweries, Debabrata Mukherjee, was unanimously elected chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for 2021-2022. Mukherjee, who has over 27 years of experience, was responsible for managing brands such as Kingfisher, Heineken and Amstel. A publisher member on the council, Pratap G. Pawar of Sakal Papers, was unanimously elected deputy chairman for the year.
- ABC is a non-profit circulation-auditing organisation. It certifies and audits the circulations of major publications, including newspapers and magazines in India.

Gordon Brown appointed WHO Ambassador for Global Health Financing

- The WHO announced the appointment of The Rt Hon Gordon Brown, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, as WHO Ambassador for Global Health Financing. He is widely credited with preventing a second Great Depression through his stewardship of the 2009 London G20 summit. He mobilized world leaders to commit an additional \$1.1 trillion to restore credit, growth and jobs.
- Mr Brown has tirelessly called on wealthy nations as well as the private sector to ensure the equitable

distribution of C-19 vaccines, advocating for a concerted global effort — rooted in science and sound economics – to save lives, end the pandemic and restore livelihoods the world over.

Air India chief Rajiv Bansal appointed as Civil Aviation Secretary

- Rajiv Bansal appointed as Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Bansal is currently Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Air India. He is a 1988-batch IAS Nagaland cadre, Bansal was serving as additional secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas before Air India. He will replace the current Aviation Secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola, who retires on 30 September.
- Last year in February, Bansal was appointed as the chairman and managing director of Air India for a second time. His appointment came just days after the government announced 100% stake sale of the debt-ridden Air India.

RN Ravi resigns as Naga peace talks interlocutor

- The government of India accepts RN Ravi's resignation as interlocutor for Naga peace talks. Ravi has negotiated for several years with key insurgent groups for the signing of the Naga Peace Accord. Recently, R N Ravi has been appointed as governor of Tamil Nadu. Akshay Mishra is likely to be appointed as the new peace talks interlocutor. He is serving in the Intelligence Bureau.
- In recent years, the Naga peace process has derailed due to the deteriorating relationship between the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-(Isak Muivah) with the Centre, and Ravi.
- The Nagaland Peace Accord framework was signed on 3 August 2015 by the Government of India, and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN).

Facebook India appoints former IAS Officer Rajiv Aggarwal as Head of Public Policy

- Facebook India has appointed former IAS officer Rajiv Aggarwal as the Director of Public Policy. He succeeds Ankhil Das, who quit the company in October last year. She was embroiled in a controversy for opposing the enforcement of hate-speech rules against right-wing leaders in the country. In his new role, Aggarwal will define and lead important policy development initiatives for Facebook in India on an agenda that covers user safety, data protection and privacy, inclusion and internet governance.
- Aggarwal has over 26 years of experience as an Indian Administrative Officer (IAS) and worked as a District Magistrate in nine districts across Uttar Pradesh.

UN General Assembly 2021: Kailash Satyarthi appointed as Sustainable Development Goals advocate

- Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi has been appointed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as a Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocate in the 76th UN General Assembly. Guterres appointed Satyarthi, STEM activist Valentina Munoz Rabanal, Microsoft President Brad Smith and K-pop superstars BLACKPINK as new SDG Advocates. With this, the UN now has total of 16 SDG Advocates.
- The SDG Advocates use their considerable spheres of influence to reach new constituencies to act now and keep the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals for people and for the planet.
- The UN said climate action, bridging the digital divide, gender equality and the promotion of the rights of children are key issues to be championed by the new SDG Advocates.
- The SDG Advocates are prominent leaders in the world who work to mobilise action to deliver the 17 SDGs by 2030, using their considerable spheres of influence.

Air Marshal VR Chaudhari to be IAF's next Chief of Air Staff

- Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force Air Marshal, Vivek Ram Chaudhari has been appointed the next Chief of Air Staff. The current Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria is set to retire on September 30. Chaudhari had taken over as the vice chief on July 1 this year, after Air Marshal HS Arora retired. He is a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and the Vayu Sena Medals.
- He was commissioned in the fighter stream of the IAF in December 1982, he has a flying experience of more than 3,800 hours on a wide variety of fighter and trainer aircraft, including missions flown during Operation Meghdoot, the Air Force's support to capture the Siachen glacier in the 1980s, and Operation Safed Sagar (the support provided by the IAF during the Kargil conflict in 1999).
- An alumnus of the National Defence Academy and Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, Chaudhari has commanded a frontline fighter squadron and a fighter base during his career.

Alka Nangia Arora appoints as the new CMD of National Small Industries Corporation Ltd

- Alka Nangia Arora has been appointed as the Chairman cum Managing Director (CMD) of the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC). She has taken the additional charge of the post on September 14, 2021. She is a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.
- The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) is a Mini Ratna company established in 1955. It falls under the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises of India and serves as a nodal agency for several schemes of the Ministry of MSME.

Charanjit Singh Channi will be the next chief minister of Punjab

- The Congress party has elected Charanjit Singh Channi, the outgoing technical education minister, as the new chief minister of Punjab after Captain Amarinder Singh resigned from the post. He has been elected as the leader of the Punjab Congress Legislative Party (CLP). He is an MLA from the Chamkaur Sahib assembly constituency. He will become Punjab's first Dalit chief minister
- Captain Amarinder Singh, who resigned as the chief minister of Punjab on Saturday following months of infighting between him and Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) chief Navjot Singh Sidhu.

Indu Malhotra appointed as DDCA Ombudsman

- Former Supreme Court judge, Justice (Retired) Indu Malhotra will be the new Ombudsman cum Ethics Officer of Delhi and Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) for a period of one year was made. The DDCA's general body, headed by its president Rohan Jaitley, decided on 65-year-old Justice (Retd) Malhotra's appointment.
- In 2007, Malhotra was designated senior advocate by the Supreme Court and she became only the second woman to be designated by the apex court after a gap of three decades. She has been appointed amicus curiae by different benches of the Supreme Court in some matters. After serving as legal counsel in the Supreme Court for 30 years, she was unanimously recommended for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court.

Former Olympic shooter R. R. Singh appointed acting president of Olympic Council of Asia

- India's Raja Randhir Singh has taken over as acting president of the Olympic Council of Asia as Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah appeals a guilty verdict in a Swiss forgery trial. A five-time Olympic shooter

and an Asian Games gold medallist in 1978, Singh was promoted to the role from his position as an honorary life vice president.

- During the interim period, Raja Randhir Singh will carry out the duties and responsibilities of the OCA President, starting with the OCA Executive Board Meeting scheduled to be held on 13th September 2021." Singh had been part of OCA as secretary-general for 24 years since 1991 and is the longest-serving executive board member. He is also an honorary member of the International Olympic Committee.

Prativa Mohapatra appointed as Vice President, Managing Director at Adobe India

- US tech giant Adobe has announced the appointment of Prativa Mohapatra as vice president and managing director for Adobe India. In this role, Mohapatra will lead Adobe's India business across Adobe Experience Cloud, Adobe Creative Cloud and Adobe Document Cloud, reporting to Simon Tate, Adobe's president for the Asia Pacific (APAC).
- Mohapatra's career spans over 25 years in the technology industry. She joins Adobe from tech firm IBM, where she served as vice president of digital sales for APAC. Prior to that, she led sales for IBM India and South Asia where she was responsible for driving revenue for the company's portfolio of solutions and services.

NCLAT gets third Acting Chairperson since Mar 2020

- Justice M. Venugopal has been named as the new Acting Chairperson of the appellate tribunal, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). This is the third time in a row that an Acting Chairperson is at the helm of the NCLAT, after the retirement of permanent Chairperson Justice S J . Mukhopadhaya on March 14, 2020.
- Justice Bansi Lal Bhat was the first Acting Chairperson from March 15, 2020, followed by Justice A I S Cheema from April 19, 2021, and subsequently Justice M. Venugopal from September 11, 2021.
- He is a former judge of the High Court of Madras. He had joined as a Sub-Judge in Tamil Nadu State Judicial Service on June 5, 1997, and later was elevated to Madras High Court in November 2007, where he had served for eleven-and-a-half years.

Aziz Akhannouch appointed as the new PM of Morocco

- Aziz Akhannouch has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Morocco by the country's King Mohammed VI. Akhannouch's National Rally of Independents (RNI) party secured 102 out of the 395 seats in the parliament election, held on September 10, 2021.
- Prior to this appointment, the 60-year-old was the Minister of Agriculture from 2007 to 2021.
- The announcement came after Akhannouch's National Rally of Independents (RNI) party triumphed in Wednesday's parliamentary polls. The pro-business RNI managed to secure 102 out of the 395 seats in parliament, toppling the moderate Islamist Justice and Development Party (PJD), which won a paltry 13 seats.

Bhupendra Patel is the new Chief Minister Gujarat

- Bhupendra Patel has been chosen as the new Chief Minister of Gujarat at the BJP legislature meeting. He is a BJP MLA from the Ghatlodia assembly seat in Ahmedabad. This comes after the resignation of

Vijay Rupani from the post of CM of Gujarat.

- Bhupendra Patel holds a diploma in Civil Engineering and has held positions in Patidar trusts and organisations, including Sardar Dham and World Umiya Foundation, among others. He has been a standing committee chairman in the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and chairman of the Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (AUDA).

Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura takes charges as the chairman of National Commission for Minorities

- Former IPS officer Iqbal Singh Lalpura has been appointed chairman of the National Commission for Minorities. He hails from Punjab and has authored several books on Sikh philosophy. He has also won several awards such as the president's police medal, police medal for meritorious services, Shiromani Sikh Sahitkar Award and Sikh scholar award.
- Lalpura, during his tenure as IPS officer, served as SSP Amritsar, SSP Tarantaran, and Additional inspector general CID Amritsar. He joined BJP in 2012 after retirement. Lalpura has written nearly 14 books on Sikh philosophy and history, such as 'Jajji Sahib ek vichar', 'Gurbaani ek vichar', and 'Raj Karega Khalsa'.

Vijay Rupani quits as Gujarat Chief Minister

- Vijay Rupani has resigned as the Chief Minister of Gujarat. He submitted his resignation to governor Acharya Devvrat. The resignation comes following a flurry of developments in Gujarat following a meeting in Gandhinagar. He reached the Raj Bhavan shortly after PM Modi inaugurated Sardardham Bhavan in Gujarat's Ahmedabad and performed 'bhoomi puja' of Sardardham Phase-II Kanya Chhatralaya (girls' hostel) through video conferencing.
- Mr Rupani is the fourth BJP chief minister to step down in recent months; in July BS Yediyurappa resigned as Chief Minister of Karnataka in July and the double whammy in Uttarakhand, where Tirath Singh Rawat quit barely four months after replacing Trivendra Rawat.

CAG of India gets elected as ASOSAI chairman

- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, GC Murmu was elected as the chairman of the assembly of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) for a period of three years from 2024 to 2027. Murmu was elected by the 56th governing board of ASOSAI and approval for the same was conveyed by the 15th assembly of ASOSAI. India will host the 16th assembly of ASOSAI in 2024.
- The CAG, as the chairman, will be the chief executive of ASOSAI and represent ASOSAI in its dealings with national and international organisations. After the election, the CAG assured the members that during SAI India's three-year term as chair of the ASOSAI, they will focus on the areas of environmental audit and leveraging emerging technologies for audit.
- The ASOSAI is one of the regional groups of the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) which aims to promote understanding and cooperation among member institutions through the exchange of ideas and experiences in the field of public audit.

President Ram Nath Kovind Appointed new governors of Uttarakhand, Punjab, & Tamil Nadu

- President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Lt Gen Gurmit Singh, who retired as the deputy chief of Army, governor of Uttarakhand, a post which fell vacant after Baby Rani Maurya tendered her

resignation. According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique, President Ram Nath Kovind accepted the resignation of Maurya and appointed Singh as the governor of the state.

- The President also appointed Banwarilal Purohit, currently the Governor of Tamil Nadu, as the Governor of Punjab.
- R.N.Ravi, presently the Governor of Nagaland, has been made the Governor of Tamil Nadu.
- Professor Jagdish Mukhi, Governor of Assam is appointed to discharge the functions of the Governor of Nagaland in addition to his own duties until regular arrangements are made.
- The President's office, in an official release, mentioned that the new appointments will take effect from the dates they assume charge of their respective offices.

N. S. Rai Appointed as the new CMD of National Fertilizers Ltd

- State-owned fertiliser firm National Fertilizers Ltd (NFL) has Nirlep Singh Rai has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of the company. In a regulatory filing, NFL informed that Nirlep Singh Rai, Director (Technical), has been appointed as Chairman & Managing Director, on the Board of the company with effect from the date of his assumption of charge.
- Rai, who was born in August 1962, is a B.E (Instrumentation & Control) from Thapar University. Prior to his appointment as Chairman & Managing Director, he was holding the position of Director (Technical) in NFL. Rai had also held the position of Chief Executive Officer at Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd and he had also headed the Nangal Unit of NFL as Chief General Manager.

Andhra Pradesh Government appointed Rajnish Kumar as economic advisor

- The Andhra Pradesh government has appointed Rajnish Kumar as its economic advisor. A former SBI chairman, Rajnish Kumar's tenure in the cabinet rank position is for two years. Rajnish Kumar who had retired as SBI chairman in October 2020, is an independent non-executive director at the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. He joined SBI as a Probationary officer in 1980.
- The appointment comes amid the growing concerns over the state's financial situation which has been badly hit by the Covid pandemic, even as the opposition has been critical over the sops and freebies being distributed by the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy-led state government. Rajnish Kumar's appointment is expected to help the state government steer through the financially tough juncture.

Neeraj Chopra appointed as the brand ambassador of Tata AIA Life names

- Tata AIA Life Insurance has announced the signing of a multi-year brand partnership with Indian athlete and Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra, as its brand ambassador. This association also marks the very first brand partnership to be signed with the champion javelin thrower, post his historic win at the recent Tokyo Olympics.
- Neeraj Chopra closely embodies Tata AIA's vision of enabling dreams and inspiring healthier and happier lives and its core value of passion for excellence. He has consistently set high benchmarks and pioneered change through dedication to his sport. Over the next few years, Neeraj will support Tata AIA's efforts in offering solutions to its consumers across the country.

Central Government appointed G.S Pannu as Officiating ITAT President

- The Central Government has appointed G.S. Pannu as President of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal. G. S. Pannu is presently a Vice-President, ITAT, New Delhi and will be Officiating President of ITAT with effect from September 6, 2021, till the appointment of regular President.

- Mr. Pannu was born on 01 Aug 1962 at Hoshiarpur (Punjab), he is a C.A and joined Government Service 14 September 2000. Presently posted as Vice-President at ITAT, New Delhi. Before joining ITAT, practised as a Chartered Accountant at New Delhi from 1986-2000.

Ashoka Buildcon MD Satish Parekh Appointed

- Ashoka Buildcon Managing Director and promoter Satish Parekh has taken over as the president of the India Chapter of the International Road Federation (IRF). The governing council of the International Road Federation unanimously endorsed Satish Parakh as President, IRF-IC.
- He takes over from Subhmay Gangopadhyay, former director of Central Road Research Institute. The Geneva-based global road safety body IRF is working for better and safer roads worldwide.

Harsha Bhupendra Bangari appointed as MD- Exim Bank

- The government has appointed Harsha Bhupendra Bangari as the new Managing Director (MD) of the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank). Before this Bangari was posted as deputy managing director at EXIM Bank.
- She has been appointed for a period of three years or until further orders of the government. He will replace the incumbent MD David Rasquinha, who was appointed for five years on July 20, 2014.

S.L. Tripathy appointed as CMD of United India Insurance company Ltd

- The central government has selected S.L.Tripathy as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of United India Insurance Company Limited.
- He is currently General Manager and Director at The New India Assurance Company Limited. He is appointed as CMD of United India from the date of assumption of charge of the office and up to the date of attaining the age of superannuation.

Ashoka Buildcon MD Appointed as IRF India president

- Ashoka Buildcon Managing Director and promoter Satish Parekh has taken over as the president of India Chapter of International Road Federation (IRF).
- The governing council of the International Road Federation on September 4, 2021, unanimously endorsed Satish Parakh as President, IRF-IC.
- He takes over from Subhmay Gangopadhyay. former director of Central Road Research Institute (CRRI).

Equitas Small finance Bank appoints Rani Rampal & Smriti Mandhana as brand ambassadors

- Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB) has roped in Indian women hockey player, Rani Rampal and cricketer Smriti Mandhana as the brand ambassadors of the company. The announcement was made during the 5th anniversary of the ESFB on September 5, 2021.
- Rampal holds the record for being the youngest player to play in the national hockey team while Mandhana was recognised as the Best Women's International Cricketer by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Cyrus Poncha elected Asian Squash Federation vice-president

- Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) Secretary-General, Cyrus Poncha has been unanimously elected as Vice-President of the Asian Squash Federation (ASF), during the 41st annual general meeting of ASF. The Dronacharya Awardee has been elected for a period of the four-year term.
- David Mui of Hong Kong was elected unopposed as the President of ASF for a second term. Apart

from Cyrus Poncha, Mr Fayez Abdullah S.Al-Mutairi of Kuwait and Tae-sook Hee of Korea have been also elected as the Vice-Presidents of ASF.

Iovlina Borgohain named brand ambassador of SSA Assam

- Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain has been roped in as the brand ambassador for Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) of Assam, state Education Minister Ranoo Pegu said on Sunday.
- “Her role as the brand ambassador is on a completely honorary basis at her insistence. It is a very good gesture on her part,” Korati said. The 23-year-boxer hailing from Golaghat district had scripted history at the Tokyo Games by becoming the first Assamese to win a medal in the Olympics when she had clinched the bronze medal in the women’s welterweight (64-69kg) category.

Vartika Shukla assumes charge as CMD of Engineers India

- Vartika Shukla took charge as the first woman Chairperson and Managing Director of public sector enterprise Engineers India Ltd. She spearheaded the company’s innovative energy programmes, including biofuels, coal gasification, waste to fuel and hydrogen energy, among others.
- A graduate in Chemical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, Shukla joined EIL in 1988 and has extensive consulting experience comprising design, engineering, and implementation of complexes in refining, gas processing, petrochemicals and fertilisers.

PPK Ramacharyulu appointed RS secretary general

- Rajya Sabha Chairman, M Venkaiah Naidu has appointed Dr PPK Ramacharyulu, who is the secretary in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat since 2018, as the secretary general. He succeeds Desh Dipak Verma, who demitted office as secretary-general after serving the top post for four years. Ramacharyulu is the first insider to have risen from the ranks of the secretariat to the top post in the about 70 years of the Rajya Sabha.
- Ramacharyulu joined the Rajya Sabha Secretariat in 1983 after serving in the Lok Sabha Secretariat for a year. Ramacharyulu had served as special secretary, Andhra Pradesh Legislature. Ramacharyulu has about 40 years of experience of handling various aspects of the functioning of Parliament.

Govt appoints Atul Bhatt as CMD of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd

- Atul Bhatt has been appointed as chairman and managing director (CMD) of disinvestment-owned steel company Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL). He was the CMD of state-owned consultancy firm MECON, which offers a full range of services required to set up a project from concept to commissioning including turnkey execution. PK Rath retired as CMD RINL on May 31, after serving the company for 38 years.
- RINL is a special steel-making player based in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The company, without any captive iron ore mines, owns and operates a 7.3-million tonne (MT) steel plant in the state. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had given in-principle approval for 100 per cent disinvestment of government stake in RINL, along with the company’s stake in subsidiaries/ joint ventures through strategic disinvestment by way of privatisation.

IPS officer Pankaj Kumar Singh takes charge as new BSF chief

- Pankaj Kumar Singh, a 1988-batch IPS officer from the Rajasthan cadre, has taken charge as the new

Director General (DG) of the Border Security Force (BSF). Prior to this, he was serving as the special DG at the BSF headquarters in Delhi. The 58-year-old Pankaj Singh replaces IPS officer and Indo-Tibetan Border Police Director General (DG) SS Deswal who was holding the additional charge of BSF DG since July 2021.

- Apart from this, Sanjay Arora, a 1988-batch IPS officers from Tamil Nadu cadre, has taken over as the new DG of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

JB Mohapatra appointed as the Central Board of Direct Taxes chairman

- IRS officer JB Mohapatra was appointed as the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes. His appointment was approved today by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). He has already served as the acting chairman of the CBDT.
- A 1985-batch IRS officer, Mohapatra was given the additional charge as CBDT chairman after the tenure of incumbent PC Mody ended this year in May. Earlier, Mohapatra had served as the principal chief commissioner of Income Tax for the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana region.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Translation Day 2021: 30th September

- Every year, International Translation Day is marked on 30 September. The International Federation of Translators (FIT) organise the day ever since it was set up in 1953. The day aims to celebrate the work of language translation professionals which facilitates dialogue, understanding and cooperation, contributing to the development and strengthening of world peace and security. International Translation Day 2021 theme: "United in translation".
- The International Federation of Translators (FIT) organise the day ever since it was set up in 1953. The first official celebration of ITD was held in 1991. The day also marks the feast of St. Jerome, the Bible translator who is considered the patron saint of translators.

World Maritime Day 2021: 30th September

- World Maritime Day 2021 is observed globally on 30th September. The exact date of celebrating World Maritime Day is left to the individual governments but is usually celebrated during the last week in September. The theme of World Maritime Day 2021 is "Seafarers at the core of shipping's future".
- The theme for this year reflects a clear need to raise awareness of seafarers' crucial role in world trade and increase their visibility. The World Maritime theme for 2021 will provide the opportunity to focus on seafarers as the people at the heart of shipping, while also allowing for activities to delve into specific topics relevant to the role of the seafarer in safety, maritime security, environmental protection and seafarers' well-being; and the future of seafaring against a backdrop of increased digitalization and automation.

World Heart Day 2021: 29th September

- World Heart Day is celebrated on 29 September annually to draw people's attention to heart illness and the range of associated health issues. The day which is celebrated annually creates awareness of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) including heart disease & stroke and highlights the preventive and control measures. The day was created by the World Heart Federation, to raise awareness about

cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke.

- This year, the theme of World Heart Day is “Use Heart to Connect”.

International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste 2021: 29th September

- International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste is celebrated on September 29, since 2020, to promote and implement global efforts to resolve the issue of food wastage. The United Nations General Assembly designated 29 September as the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste in 2019.
- The theme for 2021 is Stop food loss and waste. For the people. For the planet. The main objective of this day is to take steps towards responsible consumption and production as well as zero hunger, along with working towards addressing the problem of climate change through sustainable food habits.

World Rabies Day 2021: 28th September

- World Rabies Day is celebrated annually on September 28 to raise awareness about the impact of rabies on humans and animals, provide information and advice on how to prevent the disease and take efforts to control rabies. 2021 is the 15th edition of World Rabies Day.
- The theme for the WRD in 2021 is ‘Rabies: Facts, not Fear’. The day also marks the death anniversary of the French chemist and microbiologist, Louis Pasteur, who developed the first rabies vaccine.

International Day for Universal Access to Information 2021: 28th September

- The International Day for the Universal Access to Information (commonly known as Access to Information Day) is observed globally on 28th September every year. Universal access to information means that everyone has the right to seek, receive and impart information for healthy and inclusive knowledge societies.
- The International Day for Universal Access to Information 2021 highlights the importance of expanding access to information laws, and their implementation worldwide to build back strong institutions for sustainable development and to uphold the vision of information as a public good, as well as to strengthen international cooperation in the field of implementing the right to information as a fundamental right. Furthermore, the global discussions on “building back better” remain context-adaptive to the C-19 pandemic.

World Tourism Day 2021: 27th September

- World Tourism Day is observed globally on 27th September every year. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness on the role of tourism within the international community and to demonstrate how it affects social, cultural, political and economic values worldwide. In the ongoing pandemic times, it is important to raise awareness about the tourism sector given that 90% of world heritages sites closed as a result of the pandemic last year and young people in rural communities were unemployed.
- The theme for World Tourism Day 2021 is “Tourism for Inclusive Growth”. UNWTO has designated it as an opportunity to look beyond tourism statistics and acknowledge that, behind every number, there is a person.

World Environmental Health Day 2021: 26th September

- The International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) declared to observe World Environmental Health Day on 26 September every year. This day is celebrated to shed the light on important work of environmental health around the world. The day is important in the current situation as most parts of the world continue to recover from the ongoing coronavirus pandemic situation. In such times, the importance of the Environmental Health workforce has been highlighted more than ever before.
- The theme for the 2021 World Environmental Health Day: Prioritizing Environmental Health for healthier communities in the global recovery.
- In 2011, the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) declared to observe World Environmental Health Day on 26 September. The day was started by the Federation during a meeting in Indonesia on this day in 2011.

World Rivers Day 2021: 26th September

- World Rivers Day is celebrated every year on the “Fourth Sunday of September” since 2005, to raise global awareness of the need to support, protect and preserve the rivers around the world. In 2021, World Rivers Day is being celebrated on 26 September. The theme for World Rivers Day 2021 is “Waterways in our communities” with a specific emphasis on the need to conserve and repair urban waterways, which are frequently under stress.
- Mark Angelo, a well-known river environmentalist, addressed the United Nations in 2005 during its Water for Life campaign, a decade-long effort to raise awareness about vulnerable water supplies throughout the world. Angelo called for an annual World Rivers Day to help the cause gain traction.

International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons 2021: 26th September

- The United Nations observes 26 September every year as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. The aim of the day is to enhance public awareness about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination. It provides an opportunity to educate the public and their leaders about the real benefits of eliminating such weapons, and the social and economic costs of perpetuating them.
- The General Assembly declared the International Day in December 2013, in its resolution 68/32 as a follow-up to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament held on 26 September 2013, in New York. This was the latest in a series of efforts by the General Assembly to raise public awareness and to seek deeper engagement on nuclear disarmament matters.

Antyodaya Divas 2021: 25th September

- In India, the Antyodaya Diwas is observed every year on September 25, to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. Antyodaya means “uplifting the poorest of the poor” or “rise of the last person”. The day was declared by the Modi Government on September 25, 2014, and officially celebrated since 2015.
- Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, born in Mathura in 1916 was one of the key leaders of Bharatiya Jana Sangh from which the BJP later emerged. He was the leader of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh from 1953 to 1968.
- Deendayal Upadhyaya was a humanist, economist, journalist, philosopher and abled statesman.
- Deendayal Upadhyaya was introduced to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) by his classmate

named Baluji Mahashabde.

World Pharmacist Day 2021: 25th September

- World Pharmacist Day is observed globally on 25th September every year. This day is celebrated to create awareness about the role of a pharmacist in improving health. The day was an initiative of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) along with the council of this organization. This year's theme is "Pharmacy: Always trusted for your health".
- The day was designated in 2009 by the FIP Council (International Pharmaceutical Federation or Federation Internationale Pharmaceutique) at the World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Istanbul, Turkey. The purpose of the day is to draw attention to pharmacies and the positive benefits they offer when it comes to health and FIP encourages all its members to participate to make the event a success.

International Day of Sign Languages 2021: 23rd September

- The International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL) is celebrated annually across the world on 23 September. This day is celebrated to raise awareness of sign languages and strengthen the status of sign languages. The theme for the 2021 International Day of Sign Languages is "We Sign For Human Rights" highlighting how each of us – deaf and hearing people around the world – can work together hand in hand to promote the recognition of our right to use sign languages in all areas of life.
- The proposal for the Day came from the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), a federation of 135 national associations of deaf people, representing approximately 70 million deaf people's human rights worldwide. The choice of 23 September commemorates the date that the WFD was established in 1951. The International Day of Sign Languages was first celebrated in 2018 as part of the International Week of the Deaf.

World Rhino Day 2021: 22nd September

- World Rhino Day is observed globally on 22 September every year. This day provides the opportunity for cause-related organizations, NGOs, zoos, and members of the public to celebrate rhinos in their own unique ways. This day is celebrated to raise awareness of the need to protect all the five existing species of Rhinoceros, which are: Black Rhino, White Rhino, Greater one-horned Rhino, Sumatran Rhino and Javan Rhinos.
- World Rhino Day was first announced by World Wildlife Fund-South Africa in 2010 and is being observed internationally since 2011.

World Alzheimer's Day 2021: 21st September

- World Alzheimer's Day is observed globally on September 21 every year. The day aims to raise awareness about the stigma that runs around Alzheimer disease and related dementia. World Alzheimer's Day was launched at the opening of ADI's annual conference in Edinburgh on 21 September 1994 to celebrate our 10th anniversary.
- The theme for World Alzheimer Day 2021 is "Know Dementia, Know Alzheimer's".
- Alzheimer's is a progressive disease, where dementia symptoms gradually worsen over a number of years. In its early stages, memory loss is mild, but with late-stage Alzheimer's, individuals lose the ability to carry on a conversation and respond to their environment. This disease is a degenerative

brain disease that causes memory loss and makes it difficult or nearly impossible, to think clearly.

International Day of Peace 2021: 21 September

- Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.
- The 2021 theme for the International Day of Peace is “Recovering Better for an Equitable and Sustainable World.” Celebrate peace by standing up against acts of hate online and offline, and by spreading compassion, kindness, and hope in the face of the pandemic, and as we recover.
- The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.

International Red Panda Day 2021: Third Saturday of September

- The International Red Panda Day (IRPD) is celebrated on the third Saturday of September every year to raise public awareness and support for red panda conservation issues. In 2021, the IRPD is being observed on 18 September 2021. The day was launched by the Red Panda Network in 2010. The first international red Panda day was celebrated on 18th September 2010.
- There are two distinct species of red pandas *Ailurus fulgens* is commonly known as Himalayan Red Panda and *Ailurus fulgens styani* commonly known as Chinese Red Panda, these are mostly found in the Eastern Himalayan region and southwestern China. Genetically the red pandas belong to the order of Carnivora, but mostly eat bamboo shoots, mushrooms etc and also eat birds, eggs, and insects. The average lifespan of these red pandas is 23 years and the female pandas stop breeding after the age of 12.

International Equal Pay Day 2021: 18th September

- International Equal Pay Day is celebrated on 18 September. The inaugural edition of the day was observed in the year 2020. The day aims to achieve equal pay for work of equal value and break the walls against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls.
- The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to observe September 18 as International Equal Pay Day, on November 15, 2019, which was introduced by the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC). The resolution was co-sponsored by a total of 105 member states. As well as recognising the contribution of workers’ and employers’ organizations, and businesses, the resolution also acknowledged the work and contribution of EPIC to achieving equal pay.

World Bamboo Day 2021: 18th September

- World Bamboo Day is observed every year on 18 September to raise awareness of the benefits of bamboo and to promote its use in everyday products. Bamboos are used for various purposes mainly in East and Southeast Asia. Bamboo is a tall, tree-like grass of the family Poaceae. It comprises more than 115 genera and 1,400 species.
- The theme for the 12th edition of WBD 2021 is ‘#PlantBamboo: It Is Time To Plant Bamboo’
- WBD was officially declared by the World Bamboo Organization on September 18 at the 8th World Bamboo Congress held in Bangkok in 2009. The aim of the WBO is to bring the potential of bamboo to

more elevated exposure, to promote new cultivation of bamboo for new industries in regions across the world, and also to promote traditional uses locally for community economic development, etc.

World Water Monitoring Day 2021: 18th September

- The World Water Monitoring Day is observed every year on September 18 since 2003 to increase public awareness and involvement in water monitoring and protecting water resources around the world. This day is celebrated to increase public awareness and involvement in water monitoring and protecting water resources around the world. World Water Monitoring Day engages people of all ages in monitoring the condition of local rivers, streams, estuaries and other water bodies. The theme of World Water Day 2021 is valuing water.
- The day was established in 2003 by America's Clean Water Foundation (ACWF) as a global educational outreach program by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies. The event is now coordinated by the Water Environment Federation and the International Water Association.

International Coastal Clean-Up Day 2021: 18th September

- The International Coastal Cleanup Day is traditionally held on the third Saturday in September. In 2021, the day is being held on 18 September. The theme of International Coastal Clean-Up Day 2021: "Keep trash in the bin and not in the ocean". Coastal Cleanup Day was established by the Ocean Conservancy, an organization that works to help protect the ocean from the challenges it faces every year.
- The first International Coastal Cleanup Day was observed in 1986. The day aims to increase public awareness about the accumulation and negative impacts of litter in oceans, on coastlines and on beaches.

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2021 :16th September

- The International Day for the preservation for the Ozone layer (World Ozone Day) is observed annually on September 16 to spread awareness of the depletion of the Ozone Layer and search for solutions to preserve it. The ozone layer, a fragile shield of gas, protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet.
- The theme for 2021 World Ozone Day: 'Montreal Protocol – keeping us, our food and vaccines cool.'

World Lymphoma Awareness Day 2021: 15 September

- The World Lymphoma Awareness Day (WLAD) is observed globally on September 15 every year. The day is dedicated to raising awareness about lymphoma and the particular emotional and psychosocial challenges facing patients and caregivers suffering from different forms of lymphoma.
- World Lymphoma Day was initiated in 2002 by the Lymphoma Coalition(link is external), a worldwide network of 83 lymphoma patient groups based in Ontario, Canada, whose mission is enabling global impact by fostering a lymphoma ecosystem that ensures local change and evidence-based action. One of their key activities is to provide a centralised hub of reliable current information and a platform for member organisations to share resources, best practices, policies and procedures.

National Engineer's Day 2021 : 15 September

- In India, Engineer's Day is celebrated on September 15 every year. The day is celebrated to recognise

the contribution of engineers in the development of the nation. The day marks the birth anniversary of the engineering pioneer of India, Sir Mokshagundam Vishweshvaraya, (popularly known as Sir MV). He was awarded 'Bharat Ratna' for his exceptional contribution to the building of India in 1955. He has also conferred the British knighthood and served as Diwan of Mysore from 1912 to 1918.

- In 1968, the Indian government declared Sir M Visvesvaraya's birth anniversary as Engineers' Day. Sir MV was regarded as the "Father of Modern Mysore". Since then, this day is celebrated to honour and acknowledge all engineers who have contributed and still do so to build a modern and developed India.

International Day of Democracy 2021: 15 September

- International Day of Democracy is observed globally on 15th September every year. It was established through a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly in 2007, for promoting and upholding the principles of democracy and provide an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world.
- The theme for 2021 International Day of Democracy is "Strengthening democratic resilience in the face of future crises".

Hindi Diwas 2021:14th September

- Hindi Diwas or Hindi Day is observed every year on 14 September to mark the popularity of Hindi as an official language of India. The language was adopted under Article 343 of the Indian Constitution. The first Hindi day was celebrated on 14th September 1953.
- Later, Pt Jawaharlal Nehru announced this day to be celebrated as Hindi Diwas in the country.
- There are 22 Scheduled languages of India, of which, two are officially used at the Union government of India level: Hindi and English.
- Hindi is the fourth most spoken language in the world.
- Hindi Divas is celebrated on 14 September because, on this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India had adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the Republic of India.

United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation 2021: 12th September

- International Day for South-South Cooperation is observed globally on 12th September every year. The day celebrates the economic, social and political developments made in recent years by regions and countries in the south. It also highlights the UN's efforts to work on technical cooperation among developing countries.
- The history of the South-South cooperation begins in 1949 with the establishment of the UN technical aid programme by the Economic and Social Council and the creation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1969. In the year 1978, the conference of the Global South on TCDC adopted the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) for promoting and implementing technical cooperation among developing countries. This was one of the main pillars for South-South cooperation.

World First Aid Day: 11th September

- World First Aid Day is observed on the second Saturday of September every year. In 2021 the day is being observed on September 11, 2021. The day is an annual campaign aimed at promoting the importance of first aid training and increasing its accessibility to save more lives in a crisis. When a person suffers from minor or serious injury or illness, the first and immediate assistance given to the patient is termed as 'First Aid'.

- The theme for World First Aid Day 2021 is 'First aid and road safety', according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).
- In 2000, World First Aid Day was established by the IFRC and for more than 100 years, this organisation has been providing first aid services to people. The history of this day dates back to 1859 when a young businessman, Henry Dunant, saw the carnage at the battle of Solfrino.

Himalayan Day organized every year on 09 September

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga organized Himalayan Diwas on September 09, 2021, in association with Naula Foundation. This year's theme is 'Contribution of Himalayas and our responsibilities'. The event was part of the ongoing celebration of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- Himalaya Diwas is celebrated every year on 9th September in the state of Uttarakhand. It is celebrated with the aim to conserve the Himalayan ecosystem and region. It was officially declared as Himalaya Day in 2015 by the then Chief Minister.

World Suicide Prevention Day 2021: 10 September

- International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) observes World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) on 10 September every year. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness around the globe that suicide can be prevented. The theme for the 2021 World Suicide Prevention Day is "Creating hope through action".
- The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) collaborates with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) to host World Suicide Prevention Day with various activities around the world since 2003.

International Day to Protect Education from Attack 2021: 09 September

- International Day to Protect Education from Attack is observed globally on 9th September. In proclaiming the International Day to Protect Education from Attack to be celebrated for the first time in 2020. The purpose of the day is to raise awareness regarding the importance of safeguarding schools as places of protection and safety for students and educators and the need to keep education at the top of the public agenda.
- The day was established by a unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly, calling on UNESCO and UNICEF to raise awareness of the plight of millions of children living in countries affected by conflict. The resolution proclaiming the Day was presented by the State of Qatar and co-sponsored by 62 countries.

International Literacy Day 2021: 08 September

- International Literacy Day is observed globally on 8th September every year. The day spread awareness about the importance of literacy for individuals, communities, and societies and the need for intensified efforts towards more literate societies. The theme of 55th International Literacy Day is Literacy for a human-centred recovery: Narrowing the digital divide.
- The 8th of September was proclaimed International Literacy Day by UNESCO in 1966 to remind the international community of the importance of literacy for individuals, communities and societies, and the need for intensified efforts towards more literate societies. It was celebrated for the first time in 1967.

International Day of Clean Air for blue skies 2021: 07th September

- The International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is observed globally on September 07 to promote and facilitate actions to improve air quality. It is an UN-recognised day that aims to raise public awareness at all levels (individual, community, corporate and government) that clean air is important for health, productivity, the economy and the environment.
- The 2021 theme for the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is “Healthy Air, Healthy Planet” which emphasizes the health aspects of air pollution, especially considering the C-19 pandemic. This year’s focus is on prioritizing the need for healthy air for all while keeping the conversation broad enough to encompass other critical issues such as climate change, human and planetary health as well as the Sustainable Development Goals. The day serves as a rallying call to action to align our efforts and claim our right to clean air. #HealthyAirHealthyPlanet.

National Teachers’ Day: 05 September

- The 5th of September is celebrated as teacher’s day all over India. This day is celebrated as the teacher’s day to mark the birthday of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan who was the former president of our country. He was a philosopher, a scholar, and the Bharat Ratna Awardee. He was the second President of India (1962 to 1967) and the first Vice President of India (1952–1962). The Ministry of Education presents the National Teachers Awards on this occasion every year. In 2021, the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind will confer National Awards on 44 teachers from across the country.
- In 1962, Dr. Radhakrishnan became the second President of Independent India. The main significance to celebrate this day is that Dr Radhakrishnan’s students approached him to allow them to celebrate his birthday as a special day. He was surprised and happy by the respect which is given to him by the students even after he was not their teacher.

International Day of Charity: 05 September

- The International Day of Charity is observed annually on September 05. It was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012. September 5 was chosen in order to commemorate the death anniversary of Mother Teresa, who had always been engaged in charitable work. Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for “work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitute a threat to peace.”
- The prime purpose of the International Day of Charity is to raise awareness and provide a common platform for charity related activities all over the world for individuals, charitable, philanthropic and volunteer organizations for their own purposes on the local, national, regional and international level.

SUMMITS AND MOU’S

HAL signs pact with Alliance Air for deployment of aircraft in AP

- Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) on Sunday said it has signed a lease agreement with Alliance Air Aviation Limited for the supply of two Civil Do-228 aircraft for regional operations in Arunachal Pradesh, aimed at giving boost to India's Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS). The HAL Do- 228 is a versatile aircraft well-suited for operations in the North East and has the capabilities of short take-off

and landing, ability to land and take-off from semi-prepared runways, the company said in a release.

- This development opens a new vista in civil aviation for HAL, it said, adding the company is keen to increase its footprint in the regional civil aviation by engaging more numbers of HAL Do-228 by air operators of the country.

Zee to merge with Sony; Punit Goenka will be CEO & MD of combined entity

- The Board of Directors of ZEE Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL) has unanimously approved the merger of the company with Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI). As a part of the merger, shareholders of SPNI will also infuse growth capital into SPNI, which will make them the majority stakeholder in the merged entity. The merged entity will be listed on the Indian stock exchanges.
- Zee Entertainment will hold 47.07 per cent stake, while Sony India will hold a 52.93 per cent stake in the combined company.
- Following the merger, Sony India will have the right to appoint the majority of directors to the merged company.
- Puneet Goenka, the CEO of Zee Entertainment, will be the MD and CEO of the merged entity for a period of 5 years.

India, US ink pact to develop air-launched

- The Ministry of Defence, the Government of India and US Department of Defence have signed a Project Agreement (PA) for Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALUAV). This agreement is signed under the Joint Working Group Air Systems in the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI).
- The PA for ALUAV is part of the Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation (RDT&E) Memorandum of Agreement, which was first signed between the Ministry of Defence and the US Department of Defence, in January 2006 and renewed in January 2015. The RDT&E aims at deepening defence technology collaboration between the two nations through the co-development of defence equipment.

India to host International Climate Summit 2021 today

- India is all set to host a key conference as part of the International Climate Summit (ICS) 2020-21 to build a dialogue for India's transition to clean energy. Policymakers, regulators, industry leaders, experts, and scientists from across the globe are going to be a part of the climate summit.
- Director of CSIR, National Chemical Laboratory, Dr Ashish Lele has underlined the importance of the conference for the future mitigation strategies of climate change. The need to adopt these strategies and the problems arose due to dependence on conventional fuels.

India Hosted 8th Meeting of Agricultural Experts of BIMSTEC Countries

- India hosted the 8th Meeting of Agriculture Experts of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Countries through video conferencing. The meeting was chaired by Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research & Education & Director General of ICAR. BIMSTEC comprise of seven Member States including five from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka), and two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and

Thailand.

- During this meet, Chairman highlighted the UN Food System Summit 2021 and transformational aspects that are happening across agriculture and food systems globally. The BIMSTEC Member States also appreciated the greater engagement of India in offering six slots of scholarships for Master and PhD programmes in agriculture and other initiatives for capacity development & training.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Yemeni humanitarian organization wins 2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award

- A humanitarian organization from Yemen has been declared as the winner of the 2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award. The organisation named “Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development”, founded in 2017 by Ameen Jubran has won the prestigious honour to support and provide a lifeline to tens of thousands of Yemenis people displaced by the country’s conflict.
- The UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award honours individuals, groups or organizations for going above and beyond the call of duty to protect refugees, other displaced and stateless people.

IUCAA scientist among 2021 Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar winners

- Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for science and technology 2021, were announced during the 80th foundation day of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Every year, CSIR presents this award to scientists below 45 years of age for their contributions in biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, medicine, engineering and earth, atmosphere, ocean and planetary sciences. The award comprises a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh.
- During the ceremony, vice president M Venkaiah Naidu advised CSIR to reinvent itself and turn futuristic while pursuing the science of the highest order.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka bags 2021 Global Goalkeeper Award

- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced its annual Goalkeepers ‘Global Goals Awards’ 2021, as part of its annual Goalkeepers campaign. Goalkeepers is the foundation’s campaign to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (Global Goals). By sharing stories and data behind the Global Goals through an annual report, we hope to inspire a new generation of leaders— Goalkeepers who raise awareness of progress, hold their leaders accountable, and drive action to achieve the Global Goals.
- Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, former United Nations under-secretary-general and executive director of UN Women. She has been honoured for fighting for gender equality and her continued advocacy to address the Covid-19 pandemic’s disproportionate impact on women and girls. This award recognises a leader who has driven progress on a global scale toward achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Military Nursing Service dy DG wins National Florence Nightingale Award for 2020

- Brigadier SV Sarasvati, the Deputy Director-General of Military Nursing Service has been honoured with the National Florence Nightingale Award 2020. The National Florence Nightingale Award, the highest national distinction a nurse can achieve. President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the award in a virtual ceremony on Brig Saraswati for her contribution as a nurse administrator.
- Brig Saraswati is from the Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh and was commissioned into the MNS on

December 28, 1983. She has served in the MNS for more than three and half decades, especially in perioperative nursing.

- As a renowned operation theatre nurse, she has assisted in more than 3,000 lifesaving and emergency surgeries and has trained residents, operation room nursing trainees and auxiliary staff in her career.

73rd Emmy award announced

- The 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards ceremony was held on September 19, 2021, in Los Angeles, California. The award honoured the best in U.S. prime time television programming from June 1, 2020, until May 31, 2021, as chosen by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. The 73rd edition of the Television Academy's top honours is being hosted by Cedric the Entertainer on CBS.

Winners of the 2021 Emmy Awards:

- Outstanding Drama Series: The Crown
- Outstanding Comedy Series: Ted Lasso
- Outstanding Variety Talk Show: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver
- Outstanding Limited Series: The Queen's Gambit
- Outstanding Actor–Comedy: Jason Sudeikis (Ted Lasso)
- Outstanding Actor–Drama: Josh O'Connor
- Outstanding Actor–Limited Series or Movie: Ewan McGregor (Halston)
- Outstanding Actress–Comedy: Jean Smart (Hacks)
- Outstanding Actress–Drama: Olivia Colman (The Crown)
- Outstanding Actress–Limited Series or Movie: Kate Winslet (Mare of Easttown)
- Outstanding Supporting Actor–Comedy: Brett Goldstein (Ted Lasso)
- Outstanding Supporting Actor–Drama: Tobias Menzies (The Crown)
- Outstanding Supporting Actor–Limited Series or Movie: Evan Peters (Mare of Easttown)
- Outstanding Supporting Actress–Comedy: Hannah Waddingham (Ted Lasso)
- Outstanding Supporting Actress–Drama: Gillian Anderson (The Crown)
- Outstanding Supporting Actress–Limited Series or Movie: Julianne Nicholson (Mare of Easttown)
- Outstanding Director–Comedy: Lucia Aniello (Hacks)
- Outstanding Director–Drama: Jessica Hobbs (The Crown)
- Outstanding Director–Limited Series, Movie or Dramatic Special: Scott Frank (The Queen's Gambit)
- Outstanding Writing–Comedy: Lucia Aniello, Paul W Downs and Jen Statsky (Hacks)
- Outstanding Writing–Drama: Peter Morgan (The Crown)
- Outstanding Writing–Limited Series, Movie Or Dramatic Special: Michaela Coel (I May Destroy You).

Ayaan Shankta from Mumbai named as "2021 International Young Eco-Hero"

- A 12-year-old environmental activist from Mumbai, Maharashtra, Ayaan Shankta has been named as "2021 International Young Eco-Hero".
- He won the 3rd prize under the Age Group: 8-14 for his project "Conservation and Rehabilitation of Powai Lake" and became one of the 25 global winners of the Young Eco-Hero Award 2021. The award presented by "The Action for Nature", San Francisco based NGO, recognize young people (8 to 16 years old) for their environmental achievements.

Unesco awards NIOS for innovation in education

- National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), run by the education ministry, has bagged global recognition from UNESCO for its innovative approach towards education. The recognition is for educating differently-abled people through technology-enabled inclusive learning material. The NIOS move has a specific focus on Indian sign language-based content.
- By awarding NIOS the King Sejong Literacy Prize, the jury has recognized the value of providing for the unique educational and language needs of PwD learners by developing teaching content in sign language through digital mode. The award-winning programme focuses on the use of digital tools and local language to help persons with disabilities the option to access Indian Sign Language (ISL)-based content.

Florence Nightingale Award will be given to a nurse, Bhanumati Gheewala, from Sir Sayajirao General Hospital

- The Florence Nightingale Award will be given to a nurse, Bhanumati Gheewala, from Sir Sayajirao General Hospital, Gujarat. She has been in charge of C-19 positive pregnant women's deliveries as well as infant care. She worked in the gynaecology department as well in the paediatric ward. In 2019, when the wards of the hospital were waterlogged due to flood. She carried her duty in the gynaecology department and the pediatric ward.
- The Florence Nightingale Award is given by the Indian Nursing Council. This is a statutory agency under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to recognise the contributions of healthcare workers.

Anand Kumar(Mathematician) Awarded with Swami Brahmanand Award 2021

- Mathematician Anand Kumar was conferred with the Swami Brahmanand Award 2021 for his contribution in the field of education through his 'Super 30' initiative, which prepares underprivileged students for the IIT entrance exam. He received the award from professor Roop Kishore Shastri, the vice-chancellor of Haridwar's Gurukula Kangri deemed university, at a function in the Rath area of Hamirpur district of Uttar Pradesh.
- The award carrying Rs 10,000 in cash, a bronze medal, a bronze statue of Swami Brahmanand and a certificate is given every year to people who have done special work in the education sector or for the welfare of the cow.
- 'Super 30' is a coaching programme of Kumar's Patna-based Ramanujan School of Mathematics. It hunts for 30 meritorious students from among economically backward sections of the society and shapes them to clear the test to get into the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT).

Hyderabad: ICRISAT conferred "AFRICA FOOD PRIZE 2021"

- Hyderabad-based International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has been awarded the Africa Food Prize for 2021 for improving food security in sub-Saharan Africa. The Tropical Legumes Project developed 266 varieties of improved legumes and half a million tons of seeds for a range of legume crops, including cowpeas, pigeon peas, chickpea, common bean, groundnut, and soybean. The improved seeds benefitted over 25 million farmers in climate-resilient approaches and to control pest outbreaks across the region.

- ICRIASAT is a non-profit, non-political public international research organisation that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with a wide array of partners throughout the world.

Susanna Clarke wins Women's Prize for Fiction 2021

- Author Susanna Clarke won the Women's Prize for Fiction 2021 for her novel 'Piranesi'. Novelist and Booker-winner Bernardine Evaristo chaired the Women's Prize judging panel this year.
- 'Piranesi' is narrated by a man living in a labyrinthine, statue-filled house — alone except for a visitor known as the Other — that comprises his whole universe. Susanna Clarke: English author known for her debut novel Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell.

Hyderabad: Trichy Workshop bags best Energy Efficient Unit Award

- The Golden Rock Railway Workshop (GOC), Tiruchchirappalli has bagged 22nd National Award for Excellence in Energy Management from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for having adopted and implemented various energy conservation measures. GOC Workshop is the only workshop of Indian Railways to have received the award this year.
- The National Awards for Excellence in Energy Management is instituted by CII, to catalyze significant and innovative practices in the energy efficiency sector. CII conducts this annual event to recognize and award excellence in energy management among the industrial sector and railway workshops across the country and facilitate sharing of information on best practices & technologies.

Author Namita Gokhale honoured with 7th Yamin Hazarika Woman of Substance Award at virtual event

- Writer Namita Gokhale has been chosen as the recipient of the seventh Yamin Hazarika Woman of Substance Award. She was conferred upon the honour recently in a virtual ceremony. She is a co-founder and co-director of the Jaipur Literature Festival, Gokhale also mentors Himalayan Echoes and the Kumaon Festival of Literature and the Arts.
- The award was organised by a collective of women professionals from the year 2015, the annual award honours Yamin Hazarika, the first woman from Northeast India to be selected for DANIPS, a federal police service that administered Delhi and the Union Territories in 1977.

Indian biologist Shailendra Singh has been awarded the Behler Turtle Conservation Award

- Indian biologist Shailendra Singh has been awarded the Behler Turtle Conservation Award for bringing three critically endangered turtle conservation species back from the brink of extinction. Shailendra Singh was named to lead the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA)/ Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) India turtle programme.
- The award has been bestowed by several global bodies involved in turtle conservation such as Turtle Survival Alliance, IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, Turtle Conservancy, and Turtle Conservation Fund.
- The Behler Turtle Conservation Award was established in 2006 to recognise outstanding achievements, contributions and leadership excellence in international turtle conservation and biology.

National Teachers' Award 2021: 44 unique teachers awarded by President

- National Teachers' Award 2021 was awarded by President Ram Nath Kovind, September 5, 2021. President Kovind gave the awards to 44 finest teachers in the country for their dedicated contribution. The award is contributed to those who improve the quality of education for students and also inspire, enrich their lives. This year, the Ministry of Education released the name of 44 teachers, who would be conferred the National Teachers' Award. Out of the total 44 teachers, 9 of the awardees are women.
- Due to the prevailing C-19 situation, President Kovind addressed the teachers virtually. While highlighting the role and importance of teachers in one's life, President Kovind expressed his gratitude to all the teachers who received the awards. The award was also bestowed upon Pramod Kumar Shukla of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS), Chhattisgarh. It is the second award in a row for an EMRS established under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

'Super 30' Founder Anand Kumar Gets Award

- 'Super 30' founder and mathematician Anand Kumar was conferred the 'Sarabhai Teacher Scientist National Honorary Award 2021' by the National Council of Teacher Scientist (NCTS) for making mathematics easy to learn and coaching the underprivileged students to succeed in the IIT exams, the organisers said here on Monday.
- Kumar, a native of Bihar, who has been coaching underprivileged students for nearly two decades for JEE-Advanced, the entrance exam for the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), was also awarded the life membership of the organisation during a virtual event held on the occasion of the Teachers' Day on Sunday, NCTS Chairman Chandramouli Joshi said in a statement.

Alejandro Prieto wins Bird Photographer of the Year 2021

- Mexican photographer Alejandro Prieto has emerged as the winner of the Bird Photographer of the Year (BPOTY) 2021. He has won for capturing a photograph of a greater roadrunner staring up at the barbed-wire-clad border wall between the USA and Mexico, with what almost looks like a sense of bewilderment.
- The image has been given the title as 'Blocked'. The Bird Photographer of the Year comes with a cash prize of £5,000. He was chosen from among 22,000 entries from 73 countries.

RANKING

Mansukh Mandaviya releases FSSAI's 3rd State Food Safety Index

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Mansukh Mandaviya has released the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)'s 3rd State Food Safety Index (SFSI) to measure the performance of States across five parameters of food safety. The Minister felicitated nine leading States/UTs based on the ranking for the year 2020-21 for their impressive performance.
- Minister also flagged off 19 Mobile Food Testing Vans (Food Safety on Wheels) to supplement the

food safety ecosystem across the country taking the total number of such mobile testing vans to 109.

Global Innovation Index 2021: Switzerland Top & India ranks 46th

- India has been ranked at 46th place in the Global Innovation Index 2021 released by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). India has jumped 2 spots from last year's ranking. Under the Lower middle-income category group, India has been ranked at the second spot after Vietnam. The Global Innovation Index 2021 captures the innovation ecosystem performance of 132 economies and tracks the most recent global innovation trends.

Rank	Country
1st	Switzerland
2nd	Sweden
3rd	United States of America
4th	United Kingdom
5th	Republic of Korea
46th	India

University of Oxford tops Times World University Rankings 2022

- The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2022 has been announced. The University of Oxford is at the top of the list, followed by the California Institute of Technology and Harvard University at the second and third positions, respectively. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, is placed between the 301-350 position. Incidentally, it is also the only university in the top 350 rankings.
- The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022 includes record 1,662 universities from 99 countries and territories. The ranking is based on 13 balanced performance indicators.

Rabobank 2021 Global Dairy Top 20 Report : Amul ranks 18th

- Amul, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) has dropped two places to rank 18th in Rabobank's 2021 Global Top 20 Dairy Companies list. Amul was placed at 16th spot in 2020. Amul has achieved an annual turnover of \$5.3 billion.
- French-based dairy company Lactalis has topped the list as the world's largest dairy company with a turnover of US \$23.0 billion. It has unseated Switzerland-based global behemoth Nestle, which dominated the list for decades.
- Rabobank's Global Dairy Top 20 Report is released annually to rank the dairy industry upon their sales data and financial statements.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Book “The Battle of Rezang La” written by Kulpreet Yadav

- A new book has titled “The Battle of Rezang La” written by Kulpreet Yadav. A new book tells the story of 120 Indian soldiers who put up a valiant fight against the 5,000-strong Chinese military troops in the 1962 Indo-China war, preventing a possible occupation of the entire Ladakh region.
- The Battle of Rezang La”, published under Penguin Random House’s “Veer” imprint, is written by ex-naval officer and author Kulpreet Yadav.

Book “The Fractured Himalaya” authored by former Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao

- A book titled “The Fractured Himalaya: How the Past Shadows the Present in India-China Relations”, authored by Nirupama Rao.
- The book traces how the origins of the dispute between India and China form part of a living history that shapes their fractious relationship today. Understanding this complex panorama yields lessons for all of us who seek a wider perspective on China and its profile in the Indo-Pacific. Nirupama Rao is a former Foreign Secretary.

Book The Long Game: How the Chinese Negotiate with India by former foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale

- A book titled “The Long Game: How the Chinese Negotiate with India” authored by Vijay Gokhale. In this new book, former foreign secretary of India, Vijay Gokhale, unpacks the dynamics of India-China relations through the prism of six historical and recent events.
- The book gives a practitioner’s insight into strategies, tactics, and tools that China uses for diplomatic negotiations. His 1st book is “Tiananmen Square: The Making of a Protest” was published earlier this month.

Audiobook ‘Jungle Nama’ released by Amitav Ghosh

- Amitav Ghosh’s “Jungle Nama” has now been released as an audiobook with music and voice of US-based Ali Sethi. Jungle Nama evokes the wonder of the Sundarban through its poetry, accompanied by stunning artwork by the renowned artist Salman Toor. This is an illuminated edition of a fabulous folk tale that every book lover will want to possess.
- Jungle Nama is Amitav Ghosh’s verse adaptation of an episode from the legend of Bon Bibi, a tale popular in the villages of the Sundarban, which also lies at the heart of the novel The Hungry Tide. It is the story of the avaricious rich merchant Dhona, the poor lad Dukhey, and his mother; it is also the story of Dokkhin Rai, a mighty spirit who appears to humans as a tiger, of Bon Bibi, the benign goddess of the forest, and her warrior brother Shah Jongoli.

‘400 Days’ is the new book of Chetan Bhagat

- Chetan Bhagat will release his new novel titled ‘400 Days’ on October 08, 2021. He has released the cover for the same. It is the third novel in the Keshav-Saurabh series, after ‘The Girl in Room 105’ and ‘One Arranged Murder’.
- The novel is a tale of suspense, human relationships, love, friendship, the crazy world we live in and, above all, a mother’s determination to never give up.

Book “The Three Khans: And the Emergence of New India” by Kaveree Bamzai

- A book has titled “The Three Khans: And the Emergence of New India” authored by Kaveree Bamzai.

- In the book, senior journalist, Kaveree Bamzai has juxtaposed the careers of the 3 Khans, Aamir, Shah Rukh, & Salman, with the most tumultuous times in the history of the republic. Art often responds to social and political dimensions, & in a country short of role models, film stars often play double roles.

Book 'Shining Sikh Youth of India' launched by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

- The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has released a book titled 'Shining Sikh Youth of India' in New Delhi, as a part of the commemoration of the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Guru of Sikhs.
- The book has been authored by Dr Prabhleen Singh, administrative officer at the Punjabi University, Patiala. It covers 100 inspirational and motivational success stories of Sikh youth in India who have done exemplary work in their respective fields.

Book 'Translating Myself and Others' by Jhumpa Lahiri

- The Pulitzer Prize-winning noted fiction writer, Jhumpa Lahiri, is set to launch her new book titled 'Translating Myself and Others', which will highlight her work as a translator. The new book is planned to be out in Spring 2022.
- It will be a collection of essays that reflect Lahiri's experiences on the meaning of translation, translating her own writing, and writing across languages. The book will be published by Princeton University Press.

Book 'Human Rights and Terrorism in India' by Subramanian Swamy

- A book has titled 'Human Rights and Terrorism in India' authored by BJP MP Subramanian Swamy. He has come out with a book "Human Rights and Terrorism in India" which traces how the combating of terrorism can be harmonised with human and fundamental rights within reasonable restrictions that are permitted by the Constitution and upheld by the Supreme Court.
- It is the thesis of this study that to deter terror, India as a nation must foster a concept of identity. The release of three dreaded terrorists in exchange for hijacked Indian Airlines passengers in Afghanistan's Kandahar in 1999 is the "worst capitulation" to terrorists in India's modern history.

Book "Bullets Over Bombay: Satya and the Hindi Film Gangster" written by Uday Bhatia

- A new book has titled "Bullets Over Bombay: Satya and the Hindi Film Gangster" authored by Uday Bhatia. The Book deals with the testimonies from Ram Gopal Varma, Anurag Kashyap, Manoj Bajpayee, Vishal Bhardwaj, Saurabh Shukla.
- Uday Bhatia is a film critic with Mint Lounge in Delhi. He has previously worked with Time Out Delhi and The Sunday Guardian. His writing has appeared in The Caravan, GQ, The Indian Quarterly, The Indian Express and The Hindu Business Line.

Book titled 'Haryana Environment and Pollution Code' by Smt. Dheera Khandelwal

- Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal released the book 'Haryana Environment and Pollution Code' compiled by former IAS officer and famous poet Smt. Dheera Khandelwal.
- The book will prove useful to the entrepreneurs, who were deprived of complete knowledge of laws and regulations related to the environment for setting up new ventures. Students, law researchers and practitioners will also benefit from this book.

Book “Gita Govinda: Jaydeva’s Divine Odyssey” by Utpal K. Banerjee

- Union Minister of Culture Shri Kishan Reddy Gangapuram has launched a book titled “Gita Govinda: Jaydeva’s Divine Odyssey” authored by Dr Utpal K. Banerjee. The book is the first-ever fully-rhymed translation of the book GeetaGovindam by great 12th-century poet Jayadeva.
- Union Minister also launched a programme named ‘BujurgonkiBaat–DeshKeSaath’ that aims at enhancing the interaction between the youth and the elder persons who are 95 years and above and thus have spent around 18 years in India before independence.

Book “A Rude Life: The Memoir” by Vir Sanghvi

- Vir Sanghvi, one of India’s most recognised journalists, has come out with a memoir titled A Rude Life. ‘A Rude Life: The Memoir’ has been published by Penguin Random House. Through this book, the author has shared his views and experience of the most eventful careers in Indian journalism, including his personal life, stories of and about celebrities and politicians, middlemen and behind-the-scene actors.
- Vir Sanghvi is an Indian print and television journalist, author, columnist and talk show host, who worked with Hindustan Times from 1999 to 2007, after which he continued at the paper as a columnist.

Book Know Your Rights and Claim Them: A Guide for Youth by Angelina Jolie

- Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie has recently announced her upcoming book, titled “Know Your Rights and Claim Them: A Guide for Youth”. The book has been written jointly by Angelina Jolie, Amnesty International and human rights lawyer Geraldine Van Bueren QC.
- This book will be helpful to young people and children from around the world in making them aware of their rights and how to claim these rights decided years ago based on what would make them healthy, balanced, safe and stable adults.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

NPCI launches 'RuPay On-the-Go' with YES BANK in partnership with Neokred and Seshaasai

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has partnered with private sector lender YES Bank to launch first-of-its-kind ‘RuPay On-the-Go’ contactless payments solutions. The RuPay On-the-Go contactless solution is mainly a wearable payment solution, launched to enable customers to make small and large value transactions from accessories that they wear every day.
- The solution would eliminate the need to carry a physical card, and customers can use the solution at RuPay contactless-enabled PoS at retail outlets and pay up to Rs 5,000 without the need for a PIN. The solution is based on a simple ‘Tap, pay, go’ mechanism. It has been launched in association with fintech infrastructure partner Neokred and manufacturing partner Seshaasai.

Reserve Bank of India sets Rs 50,000 cr as WMA limit

- The Reserve bank of India has set the limit for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for the second half of the financial year 2021-22 i.e October 2021 to March 2022 at Rs. 50,000 crore.
- The Reserve Bank may trigger fresh floatation of market loans when the Government of India utilises

75 per cent of the WMA limit. The Reserve Bank retains the flexibility to revise the limit at any time, in consultation with the Government of India, taking into consideration the prevailing circumstances.

The Cryptotech Industry Could Add \$184B Of Economic Value

- The crypto industry in India has the potential to add \$184 billion of economic value, in the form of investments and cost savings, by 2030, according to a report from the country's premier trade body for the tech industry. The report, entitled "Crypto Industry in India," was published by the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) in conjunction with Binance-owned crypto exchange WazirX.
- The "CryptoTech" industry – companies involved in trading, payments, remittances, retail and more – is expected to reach a size of \$241 million in India by 2030, and \$2.3 billion globally by 2026. The industry currently employs 50,000 people in India, a number which NASSCOM expects to grow to over 800,000 by the end of the decade.

HDFC Bank most outstanding company in India : Asiamoney

- According to Asiamoney 2021 Poll, HDFC Bank has received the most votes among listed companies in India, leading to the bank being awarded the 'Overall Most Outstanding Company in India. This is in addition to the bank being voted 'Most Outstanding Company in India – Banking Sector,' for the 4th consecutive year, since the inception of the poll in 2018. The poll aims to identify and recognise publicly listed companies by country and sector.
- The poll, known as Asia's Outstanding Companies Poll, is designed to acknowledge listed companies that have excelled in areas such as financial performance, management team excellence, investor relations, and CSR initiatives.
- Further, the poll aims to identify and recognise publicly listed companies in 2 categories: by country and by sector, in which it operates.

1 crore, minimum ticket size to issue securitisation notes: RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines regarding the Securitisation of Standard Assets. As per the guidelines, the minimum ticket size for the issuance of securitization notes will be Rs. 1 crore.
- Securitisation involves transactions where credit risk in assets are redistributed by repackaging them into tradeable securities with different risk profiles which may give investors of various classes access to exposures which they otherwise might be unable to access directly. It means securities issued by the special purpose entity as a part of a securitization.

RBI allows banks to sell 'fraud loans' to ARCs

- The Reserve Bank of India has allowed lenders/banks to transfer of loans that have been classified as fraud by these lenders to Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs). Stressed loans including fraud loans that are in default for more than 60 days or classified as NPA are permitted to be transferred to ARCs. This comes in the wake of banks reporting frauds aggregating Rs 3.95-lakh crore between FY19 and FY21.
- Under the new guidelines, loans can be transferred only after a minimum holding period (MHP) of three months in case of loans with tenor up to 2 years, and six months for those with the tenor of more than 2 years.

- In case of loans where the security does not exist or cannot be registered, the MHP shall be calculated from the date of the first repayment of the loan.

Bharat Petroleum, SBI Card Launch Co-Branded RuPay Credit Card

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and SBI Card have joined hands to launch the 'BPCL SBI Card co-branded RuPay Contactless Credit Card, offering fuel and other benefits. The card will provide rewarding fuel savings and other benefits to the customers. Cardholders will also get accelerated savings on other categories of spends, which include groceries, departmental stores, dining, and movies.
- As per the details revealed, users of BPCL SBI Card RuPay will get 13X reward points on every ₹100 spent on fuel purchases at BPCL petrol pumps and 1% fuel surcharge waiver on every transaction up to ₹4,000.
- This will translate to a 4.25% value back. Customers using this card will earn 2,000 activation bonus reward points worth ₹500 on payment of the joining fee.

Federal Bank partners with OneCard to launch mobile-based credit card

- Federal Bank has announced a tie-up with OneCard for a mobile-first credit card that targets the country's young, tech-savvy population. The launch comes ahead of the festive season as Federal Bank aims to cash in on consumer credit demand, which is expected to peak around the festive season on the back of economic revival.
- The credit card will be issued through the OneCard app in under three minutes, as per the company, and can be activated and used instantly in virtual format until the physical card gets delivered.
- Users can control their cards through the app—from tracking spends and rewards to setting transaction limit on the card and more.

Yes bank partners with VISA for credit cards

- Yes Bank has partnered with Visa to offer credit cards to its customers, following the regulatory ban on Mastercard by RBI. The Visa co-branded cards come with nine credit card variants covering all segments, consumer cards, business cards, and corporate cards across YES First, YES Premia and YES Prosperity.
- YES Bank earlier had an exclusive tie-up with Mastercard. However, its credit card issuances had been impacted after the Reserve Bank of India barred Mastercard from onboarding new customers on its domestic card network.
- Yes Bank has achieved the transition to Visa as a payment network within a record time of fewer than 60 days, post the bank imposed on Mastercard from July 22, 2021. The private sector lender is also in the process of completing technology integration with NPCI and plans to issue Rupay branded credit cards in due course.

HDFC Bank, Paytm to launch co-branded credit cards

- HDFC Bank has announced its partnership with leading payments company Paytm, to offer co-branded credit cards on the Visa platform to businesspersons, millennials and merchants. The HDFC Bank-Paytm co-branded credit cards will be launched in October during the festive season to tap into the high consumer demand for credit cards, equated monthly instalments (EMIs), and buy now pay

later (BNPL) options and the full suite of products will be offered by the end of December 2021.

- The collaboration between HDFC Bank and Paytm is part of the strategies of the HDFC Bank to regain its lost market share in the credit card space due to the ban imposed on it by RBI for eight months as a penalty, following several outages in its digital offerings.
- HDFC Bank and Paytm will also collaborate to introduce business credit cards, which will offer a host of benefits for merchant partners from the smaller cities and towns of India and enable them to get easier access to credit with instant and paperless approvals.

LIC Launched Mobile App 'PRAGATI'

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a new mobile app 'PRAGATI' for the exclusive use of its Development Officers. PRAGATI stands for "Performance Review Application, Growth And Trend Indicator". LIC has been taking a lot of customer-centric and digital initiatives for ease of operations for its customers and field force.
- The Pragati app will help the Development Officers to get near real-time information about the performance of their agency force in critical areas of business performance like premium collection, agency activation, prospective outperformers, etc apart from monitoring their team on activities such as usage of agents mobile app and NACH validation. The app also provides development officers with a calculator to measure their cost ratio.

RBI Innovation Hub as CTO

- Global Deputy CTO of State Bank of India, Amit Saxena has joined RBI Innovation Hub as the Chief Technology Officer (CTO). The Reserve Bank announced that it would set up Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) to promote innovation across the financial sector by leveraging on technology and creating an environment that would facilitate and foster innovation.
- The RBIH shall create an ecosystem that would focus on promoting access to financial services and products. This will also promote financial inclusion.
- The Hub will collaborate with financial sector institutions, the technology industry, and academic institutions and coordinate efforts for the exchange of ideas and development of prototypes related to financial innovations.

DBS Bank tie-up with SWIFT

- DBS Bank has launched real-time online tracking for cross-border payments for its corporate clients, in partnership with SWIFT Global Payments Innovation (GPI). The service can be availed using the bank's corporate online banking platform 'DBS IDEAL'. DBS is the first bank in India and Asia-Pacific to offer this service to corporate clients, at no additional cost.
- The new inbound tracking service by DBS Bank will allow corporates customers to see when a payment is on its way and when it is arriving at the beneficiary, which in turn will reduce operational costs and inefficiencies.
- The initiative is expected to benefit around 4,000 corporate and small business clients in India, Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Indonesia and Vietnam.

India, ADB sign \$300 million loan to expand rural connectivity in Maharashtra

- The government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a USD 300 million loan as additional financing to scale up the improvement of rural connectivity to help boost the rural economy in the state of Maharashtra. This is in addition to USD 200 million financings, approved by ADB in August 2019.
- The additional financing for the ongoing Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project will help improve an additional 1,100 rural roads and 230 bridges for a total length of 2,900 kilometres (km) in 34 districts. The ongoing project with \$200 million financings, approved in August 2019, is already improving and maintaining the condition and safety of 2,100 km of rural roads across Maharashtra.

Vaidyanathan is re-appointment of IDFC FIRST Bank as MD & CEO

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted its approval for the re-appointment of V. Vaidyanathan as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer ('MD & CEO') of the IDFC First Bank.
- Vaidyanathan has been appointed for a further period of three years, which will be effective from December 19, 2021. He first took charge as the MD & CEO of IDFC FIRST Bank in December 2018, after the merger of IDFC Bank and Capital First.

Government appoints 10 merchant bankers to manage IPO of LIC

- The government of India has appointed 10 merchant bankers for managing the Initial Public Offering of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). The IPO of LIC is likely to be launched in the January-March quarter of 2022. The role of merchant bankers in the case of IPO is of Issue management, Promotional activities, Credit syndication, Project counselling, and Portfolio management, etc.

Ten merchant bankers:-

- Goldman Sachs (India) Securities
- Citigroup Global Markets India
- Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities India
- SBI Capital Market
- JM Financial
- Axis Capital
- BofA Securities
- JP Morgan India
- ICICI Securities
- Kotak Mahindra Capital Co Ltd.

RBI removes restrictions on UCO Bank, lending curbs removed after 4 years

- Reserve Bank of India has taken public sector lender UCO Bank out of the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework on improvement in financial and credit profile. This decision gives the bank more freedom for lending, especially to corporations and grow the network, subject to prescribed norms. The Kolkata-based lender was placed under PCA in May 2017 on account of high Net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and negative Return on Assets (RoAs).
- Following UCO Bank's exit, two banks — Indian Overseas Bank and Central Bank of India — remain under PCA. The central bank uses the PCA framework to rein in banks that have breached certain

regulatory thresholds in bad loans and capital adequacy. PCA entails curbs on high-risk lending, setting aside more money on provisions and restrictions on management salary.

HDFC Bank Signed A MoU With NSIC To Offer Credit Support To MSMEs

- HDFC Bank has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) for providing credit support to the micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) sector. The branches of HDFC bank will extend support to the MSME projects in the areas they are located in and to other important industrial sectors across the country. Under this, the country's largest private sector bank will also provide MSMEs with a set of specially-tailored schemes to enhance their competitiveness.
- National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), is an ISO 9001:2015 certified Government of India Enterprise under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

Karnataka Bank launches 'WisePOSGo' a new POS device in collaboration with Mswipe Technologies Pvt Ltd

- The Karnataka Bank has launched an all-in-one Point-of-Sales (POS) swiping machine dubbed as 'WisePOSGo', for its merchant customers to process business payments. The private sector lender has rolled out this POS device in collaboration with Mswipe Technologies Pvt Ltd. The introduction of 'WisePOSGo' is yet another step in the direction of expanding the digital payment infrastructure in the country and promote a cashless economy.
- WisePOSGo is a compact, lightweight and user-friendly device, designed to keep in view the specific cost-centric requirements of the bank's MSME customers.
- Apart from processing payments, merchants can also make calls using the WisePOSGo swiping machine.

BOBaroda tops the MeitY Digital Payment Scorecard for 2020-21

- Bank of Baroda, announced that the bank has Ranked #1 with a total of 86% marks on the scorecard issued by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for the month of February and March 2021. The scorecard ranks 44 banks (Public Sector Banks, Private Banks, Foreign Banks, Payments Banks, Small Finance Banks) on various parameters on the digital business. In the same period last year, BOB was rated "Average" by Meity, which has now been upgraded as "Good".
- The exceptional growth of digital payment transactions achievement (129% of 137 Cr. Digital transactions target)
- Achievement of 6 times the target for merchant acquiring in Rural geography target (16,100)

PhonePe launched digital payment interactive geospatial platform "Pulse platform"

- PhonePe has launched a platform named PhonePe Pulse. Pulse is India's first interactive platform with data insights and trends on digital payments. The platform shows more than 2000 crore digital transactions by customers on an interactive map of India. PhonePe also launched the Pulse Report, an in-depth study on the evolution of digital payments over the past 5 years. The report also has insights about how digital payment adoption across India has evolved since 2016 and includes detailed geographical and category-specific trends.
- The insights on the website and in the report have been drawn from two key sources – the entirety of

PhonePe's transaction data combined with merchant and customer interviews.

- The report is available as a free download on the PhonePe Pulse website. This new product is relevant to multiple ecosystem stakeholders including the government, policymakers, regulatory bodies, media, industry analysts, merchant partners, startups, academic institutions and students.
- The rich data set along with insightful trends and stories can be used by these partners to understand consumer and merchant behaviour and identify new opportunities for growth.

LIC buys 3.9% stake in Bank of India

- Life Insurance Corporation of India has bought 3.9 per cent (15,90,07,791 shares) of the Bank of India through open market acquisition. Before this acquisition, LIC held about 3.17 per cent stake in the Bank of India.
- After this acquisition, LIC now has 7.05 per cent, equivalent to 28,92,87,324 shares of Bank of India. This information was shared by the Bank of India to SEBI. As per SEBI guidelines, companies have to inform the stock exchanges when an entity holds more than 5 per cent shares in a listed company.

HDFC Life to acquire Exide Life Insurance for ₹6,687 crore

- HDFC Life has announced to acquire a 100 per cent stake in Exide Life Insurance Company in a stock and cash deal, for Rs 6,887 crore. Subsequently, Exide Life will be merged with HDFC Life, subject to regulatory approvals. Exide Life is a wholly-owned subsidiary of battery maker Exide Industries. This acquisition will mark one of the first and the largest acquisitions in the life insurance space.
- From the total deal value of Rs 6,887 crore, HDFC Life will pay Rs 725 crore in cash, while the balance amount will be in form of shares.
- HDFC Life will issue 87.02 million equity shares of the face value of Rs 10 at a price of Rs 685 per share to Exide Industries Limited.
- Post the acquisition, Exide Industries will hold a 4.1 per cent stake in merged HDFC Life and mortgage lender HDFC Ltd will hold 47.9 per cent. Currently, HDFC Ltd. holds a 49.9 per cent stake in HDFC Life.

IMF increases India's quota of Special Drawing Rights (SDR)

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has made an allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) 12.57 billion to India. (approx USD 17.86 billion). With this, the total SDR holding of India has gone upto SDR 13.66 billion (equivalent to around USD 19.41 billion).
- SDR is one of the components of the Foreign Exchange Reserves (FER) of India. Hence the Foreign Exchange Reserves (FER) has also increased now. IMF has allocated a total of SDR 456 billion to all its member countries out of which India has got SDR 12.57.

RBI to set up five-member panel on NUE licences

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will set up a committee to scrutinize applications and give recommendations on New Umbrella Entity (NUE) licenses. The 5 member committee will be headed by Shri. P. Vasudevan. The committee will be responsible for looking into several aspects of NUE, from the macroeconomic impact of such a step to the security risks. The committee's recommendations will be taken into consideration before doling out the licences.
- NUEs will establish their own payment infrastructure to compete with the National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI). The government hopes to build a settlement system similar to the unified payments

interface (UPI) with the NUEs. The system will be focused on small and medium enterprises, merchants and consumers. The RBI had in August 2020 issued guidelines for creating “for-profit NUEs”.

Axis Bank partnered with BharatPe for PoS business

- Axis Bank has partnered with BharatPe for the point of sale (PoS) business of BharatPe named BharatSwipe. Under the partnership, Axis Bank will be the acquiring bank for BharatSwipe and will provide acceptance of credit and debit cards for merchants associated with BharatPe. The partnership will help BharatPe to expand its merchant acquiring business in India.
- BharatPe’s PoS machine BharatSwipe has an installed base of 100,000 across 16 cities, processing around Rs 1,400 crore per month. BharatPe clocked an annualised transaction value of \$2 billion on PoS terminals at the end of FY21. The company has set a target of \$6 billion in transaction processed value (TPV) by FY22.

