



Monthly G.K Capsule

September 2021

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NATIONAL NEWS

1. Government launches AYUSH AAPKE DWAR campaign to distribute medicinal saplings

- As a part of 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 Union Minister of AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal from Mumbai on September 03, 2021, 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.

2. Arunachal Pradesh launches two schemes to boost agriculture & horticulture produce

- In Arunachal Pradesh, the state government has launched two ambitious schemes related to agriculture and horticulture sector.
- The scheme for agriculture sector is called 'AtmaNirbhar Krishi Yojna'. The state government has allocated Rs 60 crore to the scheme.
- The scheme for horticulture sector is named 'AtmaNirbhar Bagwani Yojna'. A similar amount of Rs 60 crore has been allocated to this scheme as well.
- Both the schemes are based on front-ended subsidies. The credit link for the same will be provided to beneficiaries by SBI, Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank and Arunachal Pradesh Cooperative Apex Bank.
- To avail the benefits of the schemes, beneficiaries will get the subsidy assistance in the following proportion: 45% (govt subsidy): 45% (bank loan): 10% (to be borne by the farmer).

3. Gujarat launches Vatan Prem Yojana

- The 1st meeting of the governing body of Vatan Prem Yojana was held at Gandhinagar under the chairmanship of CM Vijay Rupani.
- Works to the tune of Rs 1,000 cr has been proposed to be completed by December 2022.
- A project management unit has been formed for the smooth implementation of the scheme.
- It has also been made possible for donors to send money online.
- Under the scheme NRIs can contribute 60% of the cost of a village-level project, rest will be borne state govt.

4.India's 1st dugong conservation reserve to be in Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu govt declared 500 sq km of the biodiversity-rich waters in the Palk Bay as India's 1st dugong conservation reserve.
- The reserve will span the northern part of the Palk Bay from Adiramapattinam to Amapattinam.
- 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.
- It also found Gulf of Kutch and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

5.PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Shikshak Parv-2021

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the "Shikshak Parv-2021" and addressed the inaugural conclave through video conferencing on September 07, 2021.
- The theme of 'Shikshak Parv-2021' is "Quality and Sustainable Schools: Learnings from Schools in India".
- The event by Ministry of Education, will continue to be celebrated from September 07 to 17, 2021.
- Objective: 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.

6.Jal Shakti Ministry launches Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021

- Jal Shakti Ministry has virtually launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021 under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II at an event organized by Dept of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS)
- DDWS had commissioned Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) in 2018 and 2019 respectively.
- 17,475 villages in 698 Districts across India will be covered.
- Direct Observation of sanitation in villages including public places: 30%
- Service Level Progress on sanitation: 35%

7. Hyderabad gets India's first indigenous Coal Gasification based Plant

- India's first indigenously designed high ash coal gasification based Methanol Production Plant has been inaugurated at BHEL R&D Centre, Hyderabad.
- The plant was funded by Department of Science and Technology at the initiative of NITI Aayog, PMO-India and Ministry of Coal.
- It can create 0.25 ton per day (TPD) Methanol from high ash Indian coal using 1.2 TPD Fluidized bed gasifier.
- Purity of the crude methanol produced is between 98 and 99.5%.

8.PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Sardardham Bhavan in Ahmedabad

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sardardham Bhavan in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, via video conferencing on September 11, 2021.

- 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.
- Sardardham Bhavan: 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.

9.Uttarakhand gets India’s largest open-air fernery

- India’s largest open-air fernery has been inaugurated in Ranikhet, Uttarakhand
- It will serve the dual objective of conservation of fern species as well as creating awareness about their ecological role, promoting further research.
- It has around 120 different types of ferns, covering an area of over 4 acres of land at an altitude of 1,800m.
- Fernery has been developed under Govt’s Compensatory Afforestation Management Funds Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) scheme

10.Centre to set up seven new Ekalavya Vidyalayas in Assam

- Centre has decided to set up seven new Ekalavya Vidyalayas in Assam.
- Tribal Affairs Ministry will also set up 400 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras to promote tribal art and craft as well as to provide livelihood opportunities to the tribal population.
- Apart from this, Tribal Food Parks will also be set up in Assam.
- Tribal Affairs Ministry has awarded Van Dhan National Award 2021-22 to TRISSAM of Assam in the category of Collaborative Initiative for co-branding in Van Dhan Yojana.

11.PM Modi lays foundation stone of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh University

- PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh State University at Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh.
- It is being established in the memory and honor of noted figure, Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh, who was a great freedom fighter, educationist and social reformer.
- It will be spread over an area of over 92 acres at Lodha village and Musepur Kareem Jarouli village of Kol tehsil in Aligarh.
- It will provide affiliation to 395 colleges of the Aligarh division.

12. Sansad TV to be launched on 15th September

- VP M. Venkaiah Naidu, PM Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will jointly launch Sansad TV at Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe On 15 September.
- Sansad TV is being formed after merging Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV.

- Sansad TV programming will primarily be in 4 categories: functioning of Parliament and democratic institutions, governance- implementation of schemes/policies, history and culture of India and issues/interests/concerns of contemporary nature.

13.NITI Aayog, RMI, and RMI India launches ‘Shoonya’ Campaign

- NITI Aayog, with RMI and RMI India has launched ‘Shoonya Campaign’ to promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles by working with consumers and industry.
- Aim: To accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles in urban deliveries segment and create consumer awareness about zero-pollution delivery.
- As part of campaign, corporate branding and certification programme is being launched to recognize and promote the industry’s efforts towards transitioning to EVs for final-mile deliveries.

14.Minister Nitin Gadkari launches AI-powered road safety project ‘iRASTE’

- Union Minister, Nitin Gadkari has launched an Artificial Intelligence-powered project, titled as ‘iRASTE’ to help reduce road accidents, understand the factors responsible for these events and come up with solutions to mitigate them.
- iRASTE: Intelligent Solutions for Road Safety through Technology and Engineering.
- The project is launched jointly by Centre, Intel, INAI, IIIT-Hyderabad, CSIR-CRRI, Mahindra & Mahindra and Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC).

15.India to organize first-ever Global Buddhist Conference in November 2021

- India is set to host first-ever Global Buddhist Conference in Nava Nalanda Mahavihara campus, in Nalanda, Bihar on November 19 and 20, 2021.
- It is being organized by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- It focuses on making India the centre of Buddhism, by promoting Buddhist activities.
- Theme: Buddhism in Literature.
- Conference will be conducted at Dharamsala, Gangtok, Sarnath, and Telangana in India and overseas in Cambodia, Japan, South Korea, and Thailand.

16.Ministry of Law and Justice launches “Ek Pahal” campaign for Justice Delivery at doorstep

- Department of Justice under the Ministry of Law and Justice has launched the “Ek Pahal /एक पहल” campaign to encourage mass registration under Tele-Law.
- Tele-Law means the use of communications and information technology for the delivery of legal information and advice. Department of Justice has partnered with NALSA and CSC e-Governance Service India Limited for mainstreaming legal aid to the marginalized communities through Common Services Center (CSC).

- This e-interaction between lawyers and people would be through the video-conferencing infrastructure available at the CSCs.
- The Ek Pahal campaign will run across the country from 17th September till 2nd October.

17. Centre forms GoM for better implementation of schemes meant for SC, ST, OBC, minorities, women

- The Centre has constituted a group of ministers (GoM) to look into better implementation of various welfare schemes meant for the Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), minorities and women, and to improve their implementation and effectiveness.
- The GoM will be chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- The basic objective of this GoM is to work for the empowerment and prosperity of backward classes and minorities.
- The panel comprises of top Union Ministers as members including Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and other Union ministers namely Ashwini Vaishnaw, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Arjun Munda, Kiren Rijiju and Virendra Kumar.

18. Charanjit Singh Channi to be next CM of Punjab

- The Congress on Sunday (September 19, 2021) named Charanjit Singh Channi as Captian Amarinder Singh's successor for the new Punjab Chief Minister. The Punjab Congress Legislative Party (CLP) elected Channi as the leader paving his way for appointment as the chief minister.
- The development comes a day after Singh's unexpected resignation amid a bitter battle for power with state Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu just months ahead of the state Assembly polls.
- AICC general secretary Harish Rawat made the announcement via a tweet. He wrote: "It gives me immense pleasure to announce that Charanjit Singh Channi has been unanimously elected as the Leader of the Congress Legislature Party of Punjab."

19. India will become 3rd largest importer by 2050: UK report

- As per the latest Global Trade Outlook issued by the UK's Department of International Trade, India will become the world's 3rd largest importer by 2050.
- With a share of 5.9% of global imports, India will be right behind China and the US.
- At present, India is ranked 8th among largest importing nations with a 2.8% import share.
- As per the report it is set to become the fourth-largest importer by 2030.
- Increasing middle-class spending will help the country have a share of 5.9%.

20. Sikkim declares 'Katley' as State fish

- The Sikkim has declared 'Copper Mahseer' locally named 'Katley' (*Neolissochilus hexagonolepis*) as the State fish.

- In Sikkim, Katley is found in varied altitudes covering the entire state predominantly confined in Teesta and Rangit rivers and their tributaries.
- In the year 1992, ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBFGR), Lucknow had categorized Katley fish as endangered species.
- Later on, in the year 2014 the fish was also categorized as endangered by IUCN.

21.India ranked 46th in Global Innovation Index 2021

- India has been ranked at 46th place in Global Innovation Index (GII) 2021, that captures the innovation ecosystem performance of 132 economies and tracks the most recent global innovation trends.
- India was ranked 48th in GII 2020.
- Under the Lower middle-income category group, India has been ranked at the second spot after Vietnam.
- Released by: World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
- Top performers: Switzerland, Sweden, U.S., U.K. and Republic of Korea.

22.FSSAI releases 3rd edition of State Food Safety Index 2020-21

- Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has released the third State Food Safety Index (SFSI) of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for evaluating food safety across all States/UTs in 2020-21.
- Top state in larger states category: Gujarat, followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- Top states in smaller states category: Goa, Meghalaya and Manipur.
- Top UT: Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and New Delhi.
- He also flagged off 19 Mobile Food Testing Vans.

23.Kovalam and Eden beaches get Blue Flag Certification

- Kovalam in Tamil Nadu and Eden in Puducherry beaches has been globally recognized and coveted International eco-label 'Blue Flag Certification'.
- Foundation for Environment Education in Denmark (FEE) has also given re-certification for 8 nominated beaches Shivrajpur-Gujarat, Ghoghla-Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri-Karnataka, Kappad-Kerala, Rushikonda- Andhra Pradesh, Golden-Odisha and Radhanagar- A&N.
- Blue Flag is indication of 100% compliance to 33 stringent criteria.

24.Ministry of Education forms National Steering Committee for Curriculum

- Ministry of Education has formed National Steering Committee for development of National Curriculum Frameworks under K Kasturirangan chairmanship.
- Other members: Mahesh Pant, Govind Prasad Sharma, Najma Akhtar, TV Kattimani, Michel Danino, Milind Kamble, Jagbir Singh, Manjul Bhargava, M K Sridhar, Dhir Jhingran. Shankar Maruwada.
- Committee will develop National Curriculum Frameworks for School Education, Early Childhood Education, Teacher Education, Adult Education.

25.Uttar Pradesh Government to set up ‘Electronic Park’ near Noida

- Uttar Pradesh govt has cleared proposal to develop ‘Electronic Park’, along Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority area, near Noida to promote electronics industry.
- Park is proposed to be developed in 250 acres near Jewar Airport.
- It will be built at an investment of around Rs 50,000 crore as well as generate employment for thousands of local youths.
- Companies manufacturing mobile phones, TVs, electronic devices will establish their units in the park.

26.Shri G. Kishan Reddy lays the foundation stone for the development of Parshuram Kund in Arunachal Pradesh

- Union Minister for Tourism has laid the foundation stone for the Development of Parshuram Kund, Lohit, Arunachal Pradesh.
- This project was approved by Ministry of Tourism with the cost of Rs 37.88 crores in January 2021.
- Components under the scheme: Interventions near the Parking area, Tourist Information Centre, Rain Shelters, Kiosks, interventions near Mela ground, View Points, Souvenir Shops, Water Supply line, Approach Road, Food Court/ Prasadam Centre etc.

27.ECI organizes National Conference on Accessible Elections

- Election Commission of India has organized a virtual National Conference on Accessible Elections 2021 to assess present accessibility policies and discuss strategies for addressing barriers to enhance participation in electoral process.
- During the conference, crossing Barriers- Accessibility Initiatives 2021 was also launched.
- Braille Language versions of Voter Guide, Letter to new voter and Booklet of 50 motivational songs on voter awareness was also launched.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1.CRISAT awarded 2021 Africa Food Prize

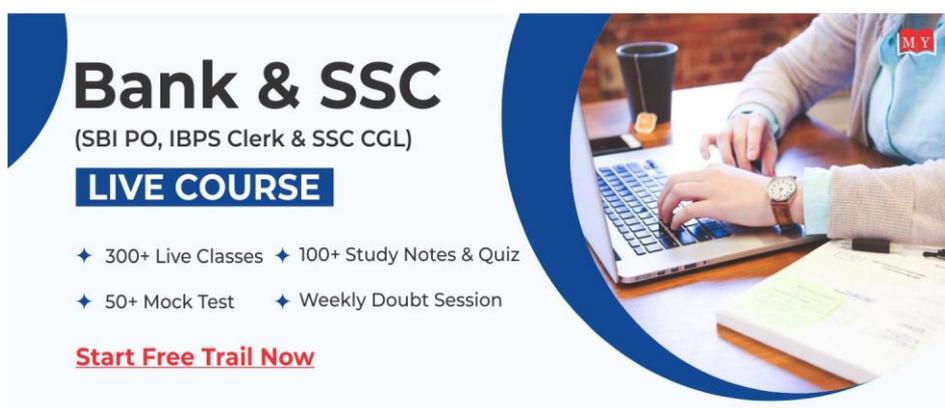
- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has been awarded 2021 Africa Food Prize for improved food security across 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa at Africa Forum for Green Revolution (AGRF)-2021 Summit
- ICRISAT: It is a non-profit, non-political public agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa
- ICRISAT led a collaboration of partners to deliver the Tropical Legumes Project between 2007 and 2019.

2. India-Australia holds inaugural 2+2 ministerial dialogue in New Delhi

- India and Australia are undertaking their first-ever 2+2 ministerial dialogue at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi on September 11, 2021.
- 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.
- Indian delegation at inaugural 'two-plus-two' talks is being led by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with their Australian counterparts Marise Payne and Peter Dutton, respectively.
- India have 2-2 Ministerial level meetings framework with very few countries, including the USA and Japan.

3. Vladimir Putin's United Russia Party retains a majority in Parliamentary poll

- In Russia, United Russia party of incumbent President Vladimir Putin has retained a majority in parliament.
- However, the party lost around one-fifth of its support.
- Over 33 per cent of ballots have been counted so far with Putin's party winning over 45% of the votes while its nearest rival Communist Party polled around 22% of the votes.
- Putin, who has been in power as president or prime minister since 1999, still dominate ahead of the next presidential election in 2024.



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4. World Economic Forum to host next annual meeting in Davos in Jan 2022

- Next annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) will be held in Davos, Switzerland in January 2022.
- It will be the first major in-person congregation of the world leaders in almost two years since the deadliest pandemic hit the world.
- The theme of the Summit will be the 'Working Together, Restoring Trust'.
- The Annual Meeting 2022 will be the first global leadership event to set the agenda for a sustainable recovery.

5.Canadian PM Justin Trudeau wins historic third term

- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau hung onto power on 20 September as his main rival conceded defeat, but his Liberals fell short of his goal for a majority win.
- Trudeau, in power since 2015 and governing with a minority of House of Commons seats since 2019, decided to gamble on an early vote and capitalize on his government's handling of the pandemic, which included massive spending to support individuals and businesses and a push for high vaccination rates.

6.Iran becomes 9th member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization

- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) leaders have agreed to change the membership of the Islamic Republic of Iran from an observer state to a full member state.
- After this, Iran becomes the 9th main member of SCO.
- Iran was holding observer status for the past 15 years.
- The technical and legal process could take up to two years to conclude.
- Full member of SCO: China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.

7. 107-Year-Old Japanese Sisters Are the World's Oldest Identical Twins

- On September 1, sisters Umeno Sumiyama and Koume Kodama turned 107 years and 300 days old, officially breaking the record for the world's oldest living identical twins. The Japanese siblings are also the oldest identical twins to have ever lived.
- As Mari Yamaguchi reports for the Associated Press (AP), Sumiyama and Kodama were born on Shodoshima island in western Japan on November 5, 1913. They were the third and fourth of 11 siblings.
- Previously, Kin Narita and Gin Kanie, also sisters from Japan, held the title of oldest living identical twins. At the time of Narita's death in January 2000, the pair were 107 years and 175 days old. Kanie died the following March, at age 108, notes Hanako Montgomery for Vice.

8.Somalia hosts first public film-screening in 30 years

- Somalia hosted its first public film-screening in 30 years that raises hopes of a cultural revival in the war-ravaged country.
- Two short films by Somali director Ibrahim C.M. were shown at National Theatre in Mogadishu, where heavy security was in place.
- It is a platform that provides an opportunity to Somali songwriters, storytellers, movie directors and actors to present their talent openly
- It was built by Chinese engineers as a gift from Mao Zedong in 1967

NEW APPOINTMENTS AND PERSON IN NEWS

1.Cyrus Poncha elected as Vice-President of Asian Squash Federation

- Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) Secretary-General, Cyrus Poncha has been unanimously elected as Vice-President of the Asian Squash Federation (ASF) on September 04, 2021, during the 41st annual general meeting of ASF.
- The Dronacharya Awardee has been elected for a period of 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.

2.Suhas Yathiraj becomes first IAS officer to win Paralympic medal

- India's Suhas Lalinakere Yathiraj won silver medal in badminton SL4 category at 2020 Tokyo Paralympics.
- He lost gold medal match to the top-seeded Lucas Mazur of France.
- Suhas is currently the District Magistrate of Noida and became the first-ever IAS officer to win a medal at the Paralympics.
- Suhas had lost to Mazur, who has won three gold medals in European Championships as well.
- Suhas had earlier outwitted Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan 21-9 21-15 in the semifinal.

3.S Ramesh appointed as MD of Bharat Petro Resources Limited

- S Ramesh has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of Bharat Petro Resources Limited (BPRL).
- His tenure will be from the date of his assumption of charge of the post till the date of his superannuation, i.e. July 31, 2022, or until further orders.
- He is currently serving as General Manager in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL).
- BPRL was incorporated in October 2006 as a 100% subsidiary of BPCL.

4.S.L. Tripathy appointed as CMD of United India Insurance

- S.L.Tripathy has been appointed as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of United India Insurance Company Limited (UIICL).
- He succeeded Girish Radhakrishnan.
- He is currently serving as the General Manager and Director at The New India Assurance Company Limited.
- UIICL: Leading Indian nationalized general insurance company under the ownership of Ministry of Finance. It is headquartered in Chennai, India.

5.Zerodha gets in-principle approval from Sebi to start a mutual fund business

- India's largest broking firm Zerodha has received in-principle approval to set up an asset management company (AMC) company.
- With this, discount brokerage joins entities like Samco Securities and Bajaj Finserv to get market regulator Sebi's nod for mutual fund (MF).
- Co-Founder & CEO of Zerodha: Nithin Kamath.
- AMC is a firm that invests pooled funds from clients, putting the capital to work through different investments including stocks, bonds, real estate and more.

6.Piyush Goyal appointed India's Sherpa for G-20

- Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has been appointed India's Sherpa for the G-20, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The next G-20 Summit is scheduled for October 30-31, 2021 under Italian Presidency.
- India will be part of the G-20 Troika (preceding, current, and incoming G-20 Presidencies) from December 1, 2021 till November 30, 2024.
- G-20 is a major international grouping that brings together 19 of the world's major economies and the European Union, with its members. It accounts for more than 80 per cent of global GDP, 75 per cent of global trade and 60 per cent of global population.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been leading India's representation at G-20 Summits since 2014.

7. Yoshihide Suga to step down as Japan's prime minister

- Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga speaks to media after he announced to pull out of a party leadership race at his official residence in Tokyo, Japan, September 3, 2021.
- Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga would step down, setting the stage for a new premier after a one-year tenure marred by an unpopular COVID-19 response and rapidly dwindling public support. Suga, who took over after Shinzo Abe resigned last September, citing ill health, has seen his support ratings sink to below 30% as the nation struggles with its worst wave of COVID-19 infections ahead of a general election this year.

8.Harsha Bhupendra Bangari appointed as MD of EXIM Bank

- Government has appointed Harsha Bhupendra Bangari as the new Managing Director (MD) of 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.
- Bangari will replace the incumbent MD David Rasquinha, who was appointed for five years on July 20, 2014

9.Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya Resigns

- Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya has announced her resignation from the position on September 08, 2021, almost two years before completing her term, citing a personal reasons.

- The 64-year-old Baby Rani Maurya was appointed as the Governor of Uttarakhand in August 2018, succeeding Krishan Kant Paul.
- Prior to becoming the governor of Uttarakhand, she served as the mayor of Agra in Uttar Pradesh, from 1995 to 2000.

10.RBI approves re-appointment of Vaidyanathan as IDFC FIRST Bank chief

- V. Vaidyanathan has been appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of IDFC First Bank with effect from December 19, 2021.
- His appointment is approved by RBI for a further period of three years.
- He first took charge as the MD & CEO of IDFC FIRST Bank in December 2018, after the merger of IDFC Bank and Capital First.
- Headquarters of IDFC First Bank: Mumbai
- IDFC FIRST bank received universal banking licence from RBI in July 2015.

11.Govt appoints 10 merchant bankers for managing IPO of LIC

- Govt has appointed 10 merchant bankers for managing Initial Public Offering (IPO) of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), which is likely to be launched in January-March quarter 2022
- Role of merchant bankers in the case of IPO is of Issue management, Promotional activities, Credit syndication, Project counselling, and Portfolio management, etc.
- Name of these merchant bankers: Goldman Sachs (India), Citigroup India, SBI Capital Market, ICICI Securities, etc.

12.G C Murmu elected Chairman of ASOSAI for 2024-2027

- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India G C Murmu has been elected as Chairman of the Assembly of the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI).
- Mr. Murmu was elected to the post on September 07, 2021, by the 56th governing board of ASOSAI during the 15th Assembly of ASOSAI.
- He has been appointed for a period of three years from 2024-27. India will host the 16th Assembly of ASOSAI in 2024.
- As the chairman, GC Murmu will be the chief executive of ASOSAI and represent ASOSAI in its dealings with national and international organisations.

13.Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani Resigns

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has resigned from his post, ahead of the state assembly elections, to be held in 2022.
- The senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader submitted his resignation letter to Governor Acharya Devvrat, on September 11, 2021 at the Raj Bhawan.
- The 61-year-old Rupani was sworn in as Gujarat Chief Minister on August 07, 2016, and represents Rajkot West in the Gujarat Legislative Assembly.

14.Sanjeev Barnwal appointed as CEO of Ujjivan Financial Services

- Sanjeev Barnwal has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of Ujjivan Financial Services. Ujjivan Financial Services is the holding company of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.
- He has replaced Carol Furtado, who has now taken charge as CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.
- Vijay Goel appointed as Vice Chairman of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti.
- Former Union Minister Shri Vijay Goel has been appointed as the Vice-Chairman of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS). It is the site of the Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation.
- Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) was formed in September 1984 as an autonomous body. It is functioning under constructive advice and financial support from the Ministry of Culture. It is located in New Delhi.
- The Prime Minister of India is the Chairperson of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS). The objective of the Samiti are to propagate the life, mission and thought of Mahatma Gandhi through various socio-educational and cultural programmes.

15.Yahoo Appoints Jim Lanzone as its new CEO

- The web service provider, Yahoo, has named Jim Lanzone as its new chief executive officer (CEO) on September 10, 2021.
- Jim Lanzone was currently serving as the CEO of the Dating app Tinder.
- Jim Lanzone will replace Guru Gowrappan, to the post of Yahoo CEO.
- As for the Tinder, Renate Nyborg has been appointed as the new CEO of the dating app to replace Lanzone.

16.Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura takes charge as Chairman of NCM

- Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura (IPS officer of Punjab cadre) has taken charge as the Chairman of National Commission for Minorities (NCM).
- He replaced Ghayorul Hasan.
- Prior to this, he was serving as the national spokesperson of Bharatiya Janata Party from Punjab.
- NCM was set up under National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
- NCM shall consist of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Five Members to be nominated by the Central Government.

17.Former Union Minister Vijay Goel takes charge as Vice Chairman of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti

- Former Union Minister Vijay Goel has taken charge as the Vice Chairman of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in New Delhi.
- Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) was formed in September 1984 by the merger of Gandhi Darshan at Rajghat and Gandhi Smriti at 5 Tees January Marg as an autonomous body.
- It functions under constructive advice and financial support from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

18.Arvind Kejriwal re-elected as National Convenor of Aam Aadmi Party

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has been re-elected as the National Convenor of Aam Aadmi Party.
- He has been elected as the Party National Executive unanimously.
- Along with him, Pankaj Gupta was again elected as the National Secretary and N D Gupta as National Treasurer.
- AAP has elected a new 34-member executive body including senior AAP leaders Manish Sisodia, Satyendar Jain, Imran Hussain, Rajendra Pal Gautam, Raghav Chadha, Atishi, Rakhi Birla among others.

19.Justice M. Venugopal appointed as Acting Chairperson of NCLAT

- Justice M. Venugopal has been appointed as the new Acting Chairperson of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) with effect from September 11, 2021.
- He is a former judge of the High Court of Madras and was appointed as Judicial Member of NCLAT on October 23, 2019.
- This is the third time in a row that an Acting Chairperson is at the helm of the NCLAT, after the retirement of S, J .Mukhopadhaya.
- NCLAT is a tribunal established under Section 410 of Companies Act, 2013.

20.Facebook India appoints former Uber executive Rajiv Aggarwal as Head of Public Policy

- Facebook India has appointed former Uber executive Rajiv Aggarwal as the Director of Public Policy.
- He succeeds Ankhi Das, who quit in October last year.
- Aggarwal, in this role, 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 is an ex-IAS officer and has worked as a DM in nine districts across the state of Uttar Pradesh.

21.Joshna Chinappa Appointed as Brand Ambassador of ASICS

- Japanese Sports equipment company Asics has announced Indian squash player Joshna Chinappa as its new brand athlete.
- This partnership would further strengthen the company's commitment, spread awareness about the diverse offerings and magnify the reach of the brand.
- Currently ranked as number 10 worldwide, Chinappa is a two-time Asian Championship gold medalist.
- In 2014, she was the first Indian to win a gold medal in doubles at the Commonwealth Games.

22.Air marshal VR Chaudhari to be new IAF chief

- Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari has been appointed as the next Chief of the Air Staff (CoAS), with effect from 1st October 2021.
- Presently, he is serving as the Vice Chief of Air Staff.

- He will succeed incumbent Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, whose tenure will come to end on September 30, 2021.
- He was the chief of Western Air Command from August 1, 2020.
- He also flew several Air Defence missions during 1999 Kargil war with Pakistan.

23.R N 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.

Agreement with NSCN-IM:

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).

Greater Nagaland covering the area of its neighbouring states and Myanmar is the main demand of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN).

BANKING

1.Nirmala Sitharaman chairs 24th meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council

- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 24th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).
- 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.
- Finance Minister is the chairperson of FSDC. It must be noted that FSDC Sub-Committee is chaired by the Governor, RBI.

2.LIC picks up nearly 4% stake in BoI through open market transaction

- The LIC has picked up nearly 4% equity shares in Bank of India through an Open Market Transaction.
- Before the latest acquisition of shares in the bank, LIC held over a 3.17% stake in the state-owned bank.
- LIC's stake in Bank of India has now increased to 7.05%, equivalent to 28,92,87,324 shares.
- With this QIP, government shareholding in the bank has come down to 82.50% from 90.34% earlier.

- BoI MD and CEO: Atanu Kumar Das

3.Eight major banks join the account aggregator network

- SBI, ICICI, Axis Bank, IDFC Bank, KM Bank, HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank, and Federal Bank, have joined the Account Aggregator network.
- AA network will enable customers to easily access and share their financial data.
- Neo bank Fi has also joined the AA network and is one of the first fintech to join the ecosystem.
- This was created through an inter-regulatory decision by RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA through an initiative of the FSDC.
- The licence for AAs is issued by the RBI.

4.SBM Bank partners with OneCard for a mobile-based credit card.

- SBM Bank has partnered with OneCard to launch a mobile-based credit card to cater the tech-savvy populace who have embraced digital as a natural way of life.
- OneCard will leverage Visa's technology and global acceptance in this co-branded credit card offering through an app.
- This partnership will build products that meet specific consumer need gaps and provide innovative solutions
- It is a significant step towards acknowledging and expanding digital ecosystem

5.ADB approves \$150 million loan for urban poor housing project in Tamil Nadu

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved loan of \$ 150 million (about Rs 1,095 crore) for a sustainable housing project for the urban poor in Tamil Nadu.
- This loan amount will be used for constructing housing units in nine different locations and relocation of about 6,000 households vulnerable to natural hazards to safer locations
- Aim: to provide vulnerable and disadvantaged households access to inclusive, safe, and affordable housing infrastructure and services

6.Equitas Small Finance Bank tie-up with Google Pay to launch digital FD

- The Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB) has launched a new initiative in partnership with Google Pay, under which it will enable the users of Google Pay app to open fixed deposits (FDs) on Google Pay, in under 2 minutes without having to open a bank account with ESFB.
- This is a first-of-its-type initiative by a bank. Initially, the initiative is available for Google Pay users who are accessing the app from Android.
- Users will get Interest rate of 6.35% on FD with tenure of one year.
- Upon maturity, the principal and interest of the FD will go directly to the existing bank account of the user, which could be in any bank in India.

7. TRIFED to setup Atmanirbhar Corner in 75 missions and embassies around

the world

- 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.
- Purpose: The corner will be an exclusive space to promote GI-tagged tribal art and craft products besides natural and organic products.

8.HDFC Bank partners with NSIC to provide 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.
- 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).



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The advertisement features a woman with long dark hair and glasses, wearing a pink jacket, sitting and working on a laptop. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with green foliage. The text is overlaid on a dark red and white geometric design.

9.Karnataka Bank launches POS device ‘WisePOSGo’ for merchant customers

- 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.
- 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.
- The private sector lender has rolled out this POS device in collaboration with Mswipe Technologies Pvt Ltd.
- Apart from processing payments, merchants can also make calls using the WisePOSGo swiping machine.

10.Bank of Baroda launches digital banking platform ‘bob World’

- Bank of Baroda has launched its digital banking platform named 'bob World' to provide all banking services under one roof.
- Pilot test of this platform began on August 23, 2021.
- It will converge more than 220 services with an all-inclusive and seamless virtual banking experience, encompassing all digital banking services under one roof for the convenience of customers.

11.RBI allows tokenization in Card-on-File services

- RBI has allowed two enhancements in card tokenization services. They are as follows:
- Device-based tokenization framework will now be applicable to Card-on-File Tokenisation (CoFT) services as well. CoF means that the Credit/Debit card details are stored by merchants for ease of payment.
- Card issuers (banks) to offer card tokenization services as Token Service Providers. It shall be done with explicit customer consent requiring Additional Factor of Authentication

12.Govt reduces standard rate of duty on edible oil

- Govt has reduced the standard rate of duty on Crude Palm Oil, Crude Soyabean oil and Crude Sunflower Oil to 2.5 % to ensure the availability of edible oil to consumers at fair prices.
- Standard rate of duty on Refined Palm Oil, Refined Soyabean oil and Refined Sunflower Oil to 32.5%.
- Along with this, Agri-cess for Crude Palm Oil has been increased from 17.5% to 20%.
- With this, worth Rs 1,100 crore and total direct value of benefits is expected to be passed on to the consumers.

13.Govt increased financial support to open Ayush colleges

- Central govt has increased financial support from Rs 9 crore to Rs 70 crore to open more Ayush colleges across the country.
- There are only few Ayush colleges in the North-East and Indian traditional medicine systems can only be popularised by making available more qualified practitioners.
- Ministry of Ayush has also accorded in-principle approval for upgrading Government Ayurvedic College, Jalukbari, Assam as the Centre of Excellence with support of up to Rs 10 crore.

14.India and US launch Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue

- India and USA have launched Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD) to strengthen India-US bilateral cooperation on climate and environment.
- CAFMD is one of the two tracks of the India-U.S. Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 partnership launched at Leaders' Summit on Climate in April 2021.

- It will demonstrate how the world can align swift climate action with inclusive and resilient economic development.

15.India, Singapore announces linking of UPI and PayNow fast payment systems

- RBI and Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) have announced project to link their respective fast payment systems viz. Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and PayNow.
- It will enable users of each of the two fast payment systems to make fund transfer from India to Singapore and vice versa using UPI and PayNow.
- It will made operational by July 2022.
- It will foster cross-border interoperability of payments using cards and QR codes, between India and Singapore.

16.DBS Bank partners with SWIFT to launch cross-border payment tracking

- DBS Bank in partnership with SWIFT Global Payments Innovation (GPI) has launched real-time online tracking for cross-border payments for its corporate clients.
- It can be availed using 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 without any additional cost.
- It will allow corporates customers to see when a payment is on its way and when it is arriving at the beneficiary.

17.UNCTAD projects Indian economy to expand 7.2% in 2021

- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has projected India's economic growth rate as 7.2% for calendar year 2021 in its Trade and Development report.
- India's economic growth rate for the calendar year 2022 is projected to be 6.7%, while India's economy shrank by 7% in Calendar Year 2020.
- UNCTAD expects the global economy to recovery in 2021, growing at 5.3%.
- UNCTAD also expects South-Asia region to expand by 5.8% in 2021

18.Deadline to link PAN-Aadhaar extended by six months till March 2022

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has once again announced an extension in the deadline to link PAN with biometric ID Aadhaar.
- The deadline has been extended by six months till March 31, 2022. Earlier this date was extended till September 30, 2021.
- The timeline has been extended to address the hardship being faced by various stakeholders due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

19.World Bank Group Discontinues Doing Business Report

- The World Bank Group has announced to discontinue the Doing Business report (popularly know as ease of doing business ranking).

- The decision was taken by the Board of Executive Directors, World Bank Group management after data irregularities on Doing Business 2018 and 2020 were reported.
- To fill the void created by the discontinuation of this report, World Bank would be working on a new approach to assessing the business and investment climate.

20.HDFC Bank partners with Paytm to launch co-branded credit cards

- HDFC Bank and Paytm announced plans for launching a comprehensive range of credit cards powered by VISA.
- In a first-of-its-kind alliance, the partnership aims to provide one of the widest range of offerings across customer segments.
- The credit card will offer, EMIs and Buy Now Pay Later options, with the full suite of products to be on offer.
- The partnership aims to deliver superior value and experience to customers by leveraging off each other's strengths.

21.Kotak Mahindra Bank to acquire 9.9% stake in KFin Technologies

- Kotak Mahindra Bank agreed to acquire a 9.9% stake in KFin Technologies, a leading investor and issuer servicing platform, with an investment of Rs.310 crore.
- KFin provides financial technology solutions across a broad spectrum of asset classes spanning mutual funds, alternatives, insurance, and pension.
- It serves 25 out of the 44 Indian mutual fund AMCs, which have over \$148 billion in AUM and 35% market share in equity AUM (up from 27% in March 2019).

22.Power Finance Corp set to be India's 11th Maharatna CPSE

- Power Finance Corp. Ltd (PFC) is set to become the 11th Maharatna central public sector enterprise (CPSE).
- Maharatna status will give PFC enhanced powers to undertake mergers and acquisitions.
- 10 Maharatna CPSEs: BHEL, Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd, Coal India Ltd, GAIL (India) Ltd, Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd, Indian Oil Corp, NTPC, Oil & Natural Gas Corp., Power Grid Corp. of India, and Steel Authority of India Ltd. There are 14 Navratna and 73 Miniratna CPSEs.

23.Union Minister Piyush Goyal Launches National Single Window System for Investors and Businesses

- The Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, launched the 'National Single Window System (NSWS)', on September 22, 2021, for investors and businesses.
- NSWS is a single-window portal that will act as a one-stop-shop for investors or entrepreneurs, to get approvals and clearances needed from Government.
- It shall give freedom from the legacy of running to government offices for approvals and registrations needed by investors, entrepreneurs, and businesses in India.

- The new system aims to bring transparency, accountability and responsiveness in the ecosystem.
- Currently, the portal hosts approvals across 18 Central Departments and 9 States. The remaining 14 Central depts and five states will be added by December 2021.
- The portal has been developed jointly by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) along with Invest India.

24.OECD projects India's economic growth forecast at 9.7% for FY22 & 7.9% for FY23

- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has cut India's economic growth rate projections by 0.2 percentage points to 9.7 per cent for the current financial year (2021-22).
- For the financial year 2022-23 (FY23), OECD has projected the Indian economy to grow by 7.9 per cent, as compared to 8.2% pegged earlier.
- For global economy, OECD has projected a strong growth rate of 5.7% in 2021 and 4.5% in 2022, as compared to 5.8% and 4.4%, respectively, estimated earlier.

25.ADB cuts India's GDP forecast for FY22 to 10%

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has revised downwards India's economic growth forecast for the current fiscal, 2021-22 (FY22) to 10 per cent. Earlier this was projected at 11 per cent.
- The Manila-based multilateral funding agency ADB has predicted the GDP growth for fiscal 2022-23 (FY23) to 7.5 per cent.

26.Yes bank partners with VISA to offer credit cards

- Private sector lender 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 has achieved the transition to Visa as a payment network within a record time of less than 60 days, post the bank imposed on Mastercard from July 22, 2021.

27.Govt adds dairy products under TMA scheme for Specified Agriculture Products'

- Department of Commerce (under Ministry of Commerce & Industry) had introduced 'Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products Scheme' in 2019. The objective of TMA was to provide assistance for the international component of freight, to reduce the freight costs for the Indian exporters of agriculture products.
- Now the Department has notified 'Revised Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products Scheme' for exports effected on or after 01.04.2021 up to 31.03.2022. There are two major changes in the revised scheme:

- Dairy products will now be eligible for assistance under the revised scheme.
- Rates of assistance have been increased, by 50% for exports by sea and by 100% for exports by air.

BOOKS AND AWARDS

1.Indian-Origin Photographer Thomas Vijayan Wins Nature TTL Photographer of the Year 2021

- Kerala-based Thomas Vijayan, who is now settled in Canada, has won 2021 Nature TTL Photography Awards for his photo of an Orangutan clinging to a tree.
- The photograph is titled ‘The World is Going Upside Down’.
- Vijayan was adjudged as the overall winner of the competition from over 8,000 entries for Nature TTL Photographer of the Year 2021, which carries grand prize of 1,500 pounds (Rs.1.5 lakh).
- Nature TTL is the world’s leading online nature photography resource.

2.Arunachal Pradesh's Water Burial bags best film National Award on environment conservation

- Water Burial has won the best film award on environment conservation at the 67th National Films Awards 2021. Inspired by the popular Assamese novel Saba Kota Manuh, which is written by Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi, Water Burial is in Monpa dialect and has an intriguing storyline around a dark ritual of a local tribe in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The film, which is directed by independent filmmaker Shantanu Sen in Monpa dialect, has garnered positive reviews for its uniqueness in portraying the rituals of the tribals of the Northeast and bringing the attention of the mainstream media towards it. Water Burial is presented by Sanjive Narain, Chief Managing Director of Prag News, produced by AM Television and co-produced by Faruque Iftikar.

3.Zimbabwean novelist Tsitsi Dangarembga wins PEN Pinter prize 2021

- Tsitsi Dangarembga, the Booker-shortlisted Zimbabwean writer who was arrested last year in Harare while protesting against corruption, has been awarded the PEN Pinter prize, praised for her “ability to capture and communicate vital truths even amidst times of upheaval”.
- The prize is given by free speech campaigners English PEN in memory of the Nobel laureate Harold Pinter. It goes to a writer of “outstanding literary merit” who, as Pinter put it in his Nobel speech, shows a “fierce intellectual determination ... to define the real truth of our lives and our societies”. Previous winners include Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Margaret Atwood and Linton Kwesi Johnson.

4.QX Global Group won Outsourcing Service Provider of the Year award

- Business process management services provider, QX Global Group, announced that it had received Outsourcing Service Provider of the Year Award at the 19th Edition of the Asian Leadership Awards.
- The award was conferred under the Asian Outsourcing Leadership Awards category.
- QX Global has delivery centres in Ahmedabad, Baroda, Mumbai and Noida, and provides cost savings, process efficiencies and transformation in finance, accounts, payroll and recruitment.

5.Amul's Sodhi conferred with Asia Pacific Productivity Champion award

- In recognition of enhanced productivity and efficient milk supply chain, R S Sodhi, managing director, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), was conferred with the regional award as Asia Pacific Productivity Champion from Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Tokyo, Japan.
- This is the first time in the past 20 years an Indian has received the prestigious award.
- Sodhi's name was unanimously recommended for the award by the Government of India's National Productivity Council (NPC) under the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

6.A New book titled tiananmen square the making of protest Authored by Vijay Gokhale

- A New Book titled Tiananmen square the making of protest Authored by Former Indian foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale.
- The Book is Published by HarperCollins Publishers.
- About the Book :
- The Book deals with the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests in China from an Indian perspective in a persuasive and precise manner
- The Book Mainly focuses on the principal player of the time, Deng Xiaoping, the general secretary of the all-powerful Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

7.Amartya Sen's 'Home in the World' memoir to release in July

- Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has penned his memoir 'Home in the World'.
- It will be published by Penguin Random House.
- In the memoir, he shares details from his life and explores the idea of 'home'.
- In this book, Sen shares how it was Rabindranath Tagore who gave him his name Amartya.
- Sen, 87, won the prestigious Nobel Prize for Economics in 1998.
- He was conferred with National Humanities Medal by the USA.
- Other Books: 'The Argumentative Indian', 'The Idea of Justice'.

8.Indian environmental organization wins prestigious UN award

- The 2021 Land for Life Award has been won by Familial Forestry of Rajasthan, a unique concept that relates a tree with a family, making it a green “family member.”

- Familial Forestry is headed by climate activist and it's founder of Shyam Sunder Jyani.
- An eight-member international jury declared Familial Forestry from Rajasthan, India, winner of this year's Land for Life Award because of its innovative land restoration and conservation method that promotes the well-being of communities and improves their relationship with nature.
- The Land for Life Award presentation will take place in August at the 8th Kubuqi International Desert Forum in China, and the winner will be invited to present and highlight his work and accomplishment at the UNCCD's 15th Session of Conference of the Parties in 2022.

9.LG Manoj Sinha distributed 'Kashmir Young Leadership Award'

- Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha has felicitated Young achievers with 'Kashmir Young Leadership Award' during Kashmir Leadership Summit in Srinagar
- The award is given for the outstanding work in different fields and lauded their contribution for bringing positive changes in society.
- A total of 46 Young achievers from various fields including health, education, sports, social work, journalism, Art, Music, conservation, etc have been awarded on the occasion.

10.Subramanian Swamy comes out with a book on Human Rights and Terrorism

- BJP MP Subramanian Swamy has launched his new book titled as 'Human Rights and Terrorism in India'.
- The book has shed light on how the combating of terrorism can be harmonized 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

11. National Mineral Development wins Rajbhasha Keerthi Puraskar

- National Mineral Development under Ministry of Steel has won highest and most prestigious award, Rajbhasha Keerthi Puraskar during Rajbhasha Diwas Samaroh in New Delhi.
- Award was received by Shiva Shanmuganathan, Executive Director (Corporate Affairs) on behalf of NMDC.
- NMDC has been winning this award for the last 3 years in a row, which goes on to show its dedication towards the implementation of Hindi as the Official Language.

12.Rajnath Singh Launches a book titled Shining Sikh Youth of India

- Rajnath Singh launched a book titled 'Shining Sikh Youth of India'.
- Book is authored by Dr Prabhleen Singh of Punjabi University.
- The book is dedicated to the 400th Parkash Purb of Guru Tegh Bahadur.
- The book pens down the life stories of India's 200 foremost Sikhs.

- This includes the mention of personalities from the education, sports, business, medicine, entertainment, civil services, judiciary, media, social services, IAS, IFS and IRS fraternity.

13.2021 Emmy Award Winners: A Complete List

- The 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards ceremony was held on September 19, 2021 in Los Angeles, California.
- The award honored 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.
- 2021 Emmy Award Some winners at the Emmy Award 2021:

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

14.Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina honoured with SDG Progress award

- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been conferred with the SDG Progress award for Bangladesh's steady progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the UN-sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).
- Prime Minister Hasina is currently visiting the US to attend the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

About the SDSN:

The SDSN was set up in 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General. Led by development economist Jeffery Sachs, the SDSN seeks to mobilize global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development.

15.President Ram Nath Kovind confers National Service Scheme Awards

- President, Ram Nath Kovind has virtually conferred National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards for 2019-20 from Rashtrapati Bhawan
- It will be given to 42 awardees in three different categories: University/(+2) Councils; NSS Units & their Programme Officers and NSS Volunteers.
- The award is given by Department of Youth Affairs.
- NSS was launched in 1969 as a Central Sector Scheme, to develop personality and character of youth through voluntary community service.

16.Government e-marketplace bags prestigious CIPS Award

- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has bagged prestigious ‘Best Use of Digital Technology’ category at CIPS Excellence in Procurement Awards 2021 (CIPS Awards).
- GeM was shortlisted as a finalist in two additional categories as well, i.e., ‘Public Procurement Project of the Year’ and ‘Best Initiative to Build a Diverse Supply Base’
- CIPS Awards: It is conducted under Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS), London.
- CIPS has community across 150 countries.

SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1. India and US inks Project Agreement for Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

- The Ministry of Defence, Government of India and US Department of Defence have signed a Project Agreement (PA) for Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALUAV), under the Joint Working Group Air Systems in the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI). The PA was signed on July 30, 2021.
- The PA for ALUAV is part of the Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation (RDT&E) Memorandum of Agreement, which was first signed between Ministry of Defence and 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 co-development of defence equipment.
- Under the collaboration, the two countries will work towards design, development, demonstration, testing and evaluation of systems to co-develop an ALUAV Prototype.
- The DTTI aims to bring sustained leadership focus to promote collaborative technology exchange and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of future technologies for Indian and US military forces.

2. 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 Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- The new platform ‘India Plastic Pact’ is a joint effort of 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.

3.28th Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise ‘SIMBEX-2021’ Concludes

- The 28th edition of 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 ship borne 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.



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4.Indian Army to take part in military exercise ‘ZAPAD 2021’ in Russia

- The Indian Army will participate in a multi-nation military exercise named ‘ZAPAD 2021’ at Nizhny in Russia.
- The exercise will be held between September 03, 2021 and September 16, 2021.
- More than a dozen countries from Eurasia and South Asia will also participate in the exercise.

5.Biennial AUSINDEX maritime warfare exercises to commence this week

- Australia’s Northern Territory will host the biennial AUSINDEX maritime warfare exercises between the Royal Australian and the Indian navies.
- The exercise will be conducted ahead of the two countries holding their first “2+2” Foreign and Defence Ministers meet in New Delhi.
- AUSINDEX 21 will provide both the Navies an opportunity to strengthen joint defence capabilities in support of a stable and secure Indo-Pacific region.

6.HPCL launches non-fuel retail store ‘Happy Shop’ in Mumbai

- Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) has unveiled its branded store ‘Happy Shop’ in Mumbai marking its foray into non-fuel retailing.
- This is the HPCL’s latest offering at its Club HP retail outlet.
- Store will provide home utility products including food, toiletries, healthcare products, bakery products, groceries, medicines and more.
- Apart from this, customers will be able to browse the merchandise on HPCL’s HP-Pay App (available on Play store/App Store).

7.CDoT launches lab to develop integrate alert system for disaster management

- Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has launched lab to design and develop a pan-India integrated alert system for disaster management on the occasion of its 38th Foundation Day.
- It is being administered by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
- C-DOT has been running a pilot to send alerts to people at the time of Cyclone Yaas in affected areas as well as for Covid-19 to manage isolation zones in selected states.
- C-DOT was established in August 1984.

8.MoS Health & Family Welfare Dr Bharti Pawar addresses 74th WHO-SEARO

- The Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar represented India at the World Health Organization- South East Asia Regional Office (WHO-SEARO) through video-conference on September 07, 2021.
- This is the 74th Session of the WHO Regional Committee, for South-East Asia, organised from September 6 – September 10, 2021.

9. CAS RKS Bhaduria Attends Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 (PACS-21) in Hawaii

- The Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 (PACS-21) was held in Hawaii, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, from August 30 to September 02, 2021.
- The theme of the event was “Enduring Cooperation towards Regional Stability”.
- PACS-21 provided an opportunity for enhancing mutual understanding and deepening of relationships among participating nations.
- The participants of PACS-21 included Air Chiefs of countries in the Indo-Pacific region.
- From India, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) attended PACS-21. He was nominated as the Dean for the Symposium.

10.Union Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurates PRANA portal to regulate air pollution in 132 cities

- On September 07, 2021, the Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav launched a portal named PRANA, for the regulation of air pollution in 132 cities across the country.
- PRANA stands for Portal for Regulation of Air pollution in Non-Attainment cities.
- The PRANA portal can be accessed at prana.cpcb.gov.in.
- The cities which come under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) will be covered.
- Apart from this, the Union Minister also dedicated the first functional smog tower of India, installed in Anand Vihar in New Delhi to the country.

11.Ministry of Coal Constitutes Task Force and another Expert Committee to

Prepare Road Map for Coal based Hydrogen Production

- Ministry of Coal has constituted two committees one is a task force to oversee the program and another is a committee of experts to give guidance to the Ministry to Prepare Road Map for Coal-based Hydrogen Production.
- The task force on coal-based hydrogen production will be headed by Shri Vinod Kumar Tiwari, Additional Secretary Coal.
- The expert committee on coal-based hydrogen production will be headed by Shri R.K. Malhotra, Director General (FIPI).

12.MSME Tool Room, Hyderabad bags Patent for Fireworks making Machine

- MSME Tool Room Central Institute of Tool Design (CITD), Hyderabad has obtained patent for the invention entitled Automatic Machine for Production of Conical Shaped Fireworks (Anaar) for 20 years.
- CITD signed an MOU with Standard Fireworks Pvt Ltd (SFPL) for automation processes.
- As a first project, CITD has taken up for Module-1 for flower pot chemical filling-packing.
- It consists of 10 different stations like paper cutting, pasting, chemical filling, etc.

13.India's first long-range nuclear missile tracking ship INS Dhruv commissioned

- India's first nuclear-missile tracking ship, named INS Dhruv, has been commissioned from Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, on September 10, 2021.
- The 10,00 tonnes satellite and ballistic missile tracking ship has been built by the Hindustan Shipyard Limited in collaboration with the DRDO and National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO).
- INS Dhruv is capable of tracking nuclear missiles at a long range, which makes it useful to provide early warning of attacks by ballistic missiles launched from Pakistan and China.
- India now joins an elite list of countries consisting of France, the US, the UK, Russia, and China, who possess and operate such ships.

14.India and Denmark jointly launch Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind

- The Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy, Shri R.K Singh and his Danish counterpart, Mr Dan Jørgensen, Denmark Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities, jointly launched 'Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind', as part of the Green Strategic Partnership.
- The Danish minister accompanied by a delegation of officials is on a visit to India to hold a meeting for cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy with a focus on Offshore Wind Energy.
- During the meeting held on September 09, 2021, both sides agreed to further cooperation in renewable energy, especially offshore wind and green hydrogen.

15.LCA-Mk2 to roll out next year, first flight in 2023

- Roll-out of the aircraft (Mk2) is planned next year and the first flight is scheduled in early 2023.
- Configuration for Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk2 has been frozen and steel cutting is expected to begin soon.
- It features enhanced range and endurance including an onboard oxygen generation system, which is being integrated for the first time.
- Mk2 is 1,350 mm longer featuring canards and can carry a payload of 6,500 kg compared to 3,500 kg the LCA can carry.

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

- Haryana has been ranked as the first state of India in installation of off-grid solar pumps under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahaabhiyaan (PMKUSUM), as per Ministry of New and Renewable Energy data.
- The state has installed 14,418 pumps against 15,000 sanctioned pumps for the year 2020-21 with a total cost of Rs 520 crore.
- **PM-KUSUM scheme:** It is a centrally-sponsored scheme, that was launched in 2019 with a target to install 20 lakh standalone solar pumps.

17.Chhattisgarh launches ‘Millet Mission’ to become Millet Hub of India

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has announced to launch ‘Millet Mission’ to provide a proper price rate to farmers for minor cereal crops.
- Other important benefits under Millet Mission to include input assistance for millet, procurement arrangements, aid farmers in the processing of crops, etc.
- To implement the mission, the state government has signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR), Hyderabad and collectors of 14 districts of the state.

18.Skyroot Aerospace becomes first Space startup to formally tie-up with ISRO

- Hyderabad-based Space technology startup, Skyroot Aerospace has become the first private company to formally enter into an agreement with ISRO to get access to their facilities and expertise for the development and testing of subsystems and systems of space launch vehicles.
- Skyroot Aerospace is building Vikram series of rockets to carry small satellites into space.
- First launch vehicle in the series, Vikram-1 is scheduled to be launch in 2022.

19.North Korea tested a new long-range cruise missile capable of hitting Japan

- North Korea has tested a new long-range cruise missile, which is capable of hitting Japan
- During the test, the missile travelled up to 1,500 km, suggesting that North Korea is still capable of developing weapons despite food shortages and economic crisis.

- It is first long-range cruise missile of Korea that could possibly carry a nuclear warhead

20.TCS announces largest women recruitment drive 'Rebegin project'

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced one of its largest recruitment drives for hiring women, titled as 'Rebegin project'.
- The project is aimed at experienced and aspiring women who wish to jump-start their professional journey and make 'The Big Move'.
- It will benefit women professionals who have taken a career sabbatical due to family or other pressing commitments to help them reassimilate into the corporate culture.

21.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, the 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 Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses in New Delhi, shall be the knowledge partner of India Africa Defence Dialogue to assist in providing necessary support for enhanced defence cooperation between the two countries.
- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh will host the Defence Ministers of African Nations at the upcoming India – Africa Defence Dialogue.

22.PM Modi to attend Quad Summit at White House on 24th September

- PM Narendra Modi will attend first-ever in-person QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) Leaders' Summit at White House in Washington D.C. on September 24, 2021.
- Quad nation: India, Japan, US and Australia.
- Aim: To deepen ties and increase cooperation in areas such as combatting COVID-19, addressing the climate crisis, partnering on emerging technologies and cyberspace.
- PM Modi will also address UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on September 25, 2021.

23.India takes part in SCO joint military exercise in Russia

- Indian military contingent comprising of an all arms combined force of 200 personnel is participating in an Exercise titled as 'Peaceful Mission 2021'.
- It is a Joint Counter Terrorism Exercise between Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states.
- It is being hosted by Russia in Orenburg Region of South-West Russia from September 13 to 25, 2021.
- 2021 is the 6th edition of biennial multilateral Exercise.

24.South Korea successfully test submarine-launched ballistic missile

- South Korea has successfully tested indigenously developed submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM).
- South Korea is the first country without nuclear weapons to develop SLCM missile system.
- With this, South Korea joins only a handful of countries to have successfully developed SLBM.
- Other countries that have tested or developed SLBMs: United States, Russia, China, Britain, France, North Korea, and India, which have typically designed them to carry nuclear weapons.

25.Tata Steel commissions India's first plant to capture CO2

- Tata Steel has commissioned India's first carbon capture plant that extracts CO2 directly from the blast furnace gas, at its Jamshedpur Centre.
- With this, Tata Steel has become the country's first steel company to adopt such a carbon capture technology.
- It can capture 5 tonnes of CO2 per day (5-tonne per day (TPD)).
- The company will reuse the captured CO2 on-site to promote a circular carbon economy.
- CEO & MD of Tata Steel: T. V. Narendran.

26.IIT Delhi develops a device that can generate electricity through water droplets to power small electronic devices

- Researchers from IIT Delhi have designed and fabricated an innovative device that can generate electricity from water drops, raindrops, water streams, and ocean waves.
- The device is known as 'Liquid-solid Interface Triboelectric Nanogenerator'.
- The new device produces power using Triboelectric Effect and Electrostatic Induction, and further stores the energy in batteries for consumption.
- It can generate power of only a few Milliwatt (mW), which is sufficient to power small electronic devices like healthcare sensors, digital thermometers, watches, radio frequency transmitters, pedometers.

27.MyGov launches Planetarium Innovation Challenge for Indian start-ups and tech entrepreneurs

- MyGov India, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), has launched the Planetarium Innovation Challenge for Indian start-ups and tech entrepreneurs.
- The challenge aims to bring together the Indian Startups and tech entrepreneurs to develop state-of-the-art technology for Planetariums.
- The basic objective of this Planetarium Innovation challenge involves tech firms and Startups to build an indigenous planetariums system software using the latest technologies including Augmented Reality (A.R.), Virtual Reality (V.R.) and Merged Reality (M.R.).
- MyGov will recognize the best such Indian solutions, which would not only be given cash rewards but also an opportunity to deploy the solution in various cities and rural areas by getting them listed on the GeM portal.

28.NPCI partners with Liquid Group to enable UPI QR-based payments acceptance in 10 Asian markets

- NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has partnered with Liquid Group Pvt. Ltd. (Liquid Group) to enable UPI QR-based payments acceptance in 10 markets across North Asia and Southeast Asia.
- Liquid Group is a leading cross-border digital payments provider, is headquartered in Singapore. It operates a QR payment acceptance network that enables the cross-border acceptance of payment schemes and digital payment apps.
- This partnership will help BHIM App users to make UPI QR-based payments in the 10 markets of Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan, from early 2022.

29.IRCTC partners with Cordelia Cruises for 1st indigenous luxury cruise liner

- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) in partnership with Cordelia Cruises has launched India's first indigenous cruise liner.
- It will take the passengers on-boards to tourist destinations like Goa, Diu, Kochi, the Lakshadweep islands, and Sri Lanka.
- The cruise will have its base from Mumbai and will sail to the Indian destinations only in Phase I.
- Phase II will start from May 2022, whose base will be shifted to Chennai and it will sail to Sri Lanka.

30.SpaceX first all-civilian crew land back safely

- SpaceX launched world's first all-civilian crew into Earth orbit under the mission named as Inspiration-4 by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida on September 16, 2021 and came back on 19 September.
- It had 4 members and features no trained astronauts, who spent time in orbit in SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft, dubbed as Resilience.
- Four members: Jared Isaacman (mission commander), Sian Proctor, Hayley Arceneaux, Chris Sembroski.

31.NCW launches Capacity Building Program For Women

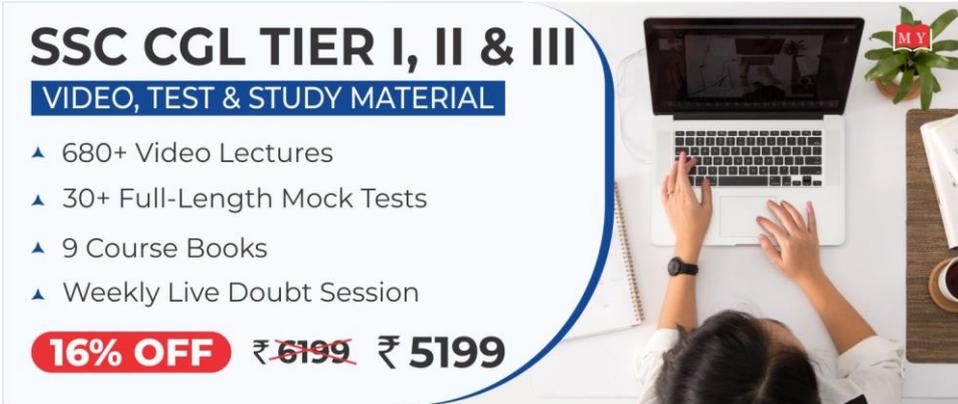
- National Commission for Women (NCW) has launched a country-wide capacity building and personality development program for women Undergraduate and Post graduate students.
- For this, NCW is collaborating with Central and State universities for organizing sessions to prepare women students for entering the job market.
- 1st program was launched in collaboration with the Central University of Haryana.
- The course will focus on learning and applying the use of intuitive, logical, etc.

32.Third India-Indonesia bilateral maritime exercise 'Samudra Shakti' begins

- Third edition of India and Indonesia bilateral maritime exercise titled as ‘Samudra Shakti’ began on September 20, 2021 in Sunda Strait, Indonesia.
- It is a 3-day exercise and will culminate on 22 Sep 2021.
- Sunda Strait lies between the Indonesian islands of Java and Sumatra.
- Indian Navy has deployed its 2 frontline warships Shivalik and Kadmatt.
- It will strengthen bilateral relationship, enhance mutual understanding and interoperability in maritime operations between 2 navies.

33. Telecom Department initiates new reforms with simplifying KYC process

- Dept of Telecommunications (DoT) has started implementation of new telecom reforms by simplifying the KYC (Know Your Customer) process.
- DoT implemented three fresh ways:
- Aadhaar-based e-KYC: It has been re-introduced for new mobile phone connections.
- Self-KYC: Issuance of mobile connection is done via an app/portal-based online process.
- OTP based conversion of connection: It enables a subscriber to convert his mobile connection from prepaid to postpaid and vice-versa.



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34. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal flags off dwarf container train from JNPT to Kanpur

- The Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal virtually flagged off the dwarf container train service from Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT), on September 20, 2021.
- This is the first consignment of laden dwarf containers from Mumbai-based JNPT port, the biggest container port in India.
- The consignment was moved by train to Inland Container Depot (ICD) Kanpur.
- The main benefit of dwarf containers is that they are shorter in size due to which they can be double-stacked, as well as easily run on electrified tracks.
- This will enable the railways to undertake double-stack movement of cargo, leading to a reduction in logistics cost.

35. ICRISAT signs MoU with UNWFP MoU on nutrition and food security

- United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has signed MoU with International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)

to improve food, nutrition security and livelihoods in India against the impacts of climate change.

- WFP and ICRISAT will work jointly to promote research, advocacy, raising awareness on traditional nutritious crops, undertaking food and nutritional security analysis and adaptation strategies, etc.

36.India, Australia hold Joint Working Group meeting on Coal and Mines

- India and Australia held 1st virtual Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on Coal and Mines
- It is a precursor to the upcoming India-Australia Energy Dialogue scheduled to be held in October
- Meeting focused on Indian and Australian coal resources in present and future scenario.
- They also discussed India Australia collaboration on Clean Coal Technology, Surface Coal Gasification, Coal Bed Methane, Technology deployed for fire quenching, etc

37.Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurates Centre of Excellence in Logistics and Supply Chain Management at NITIE in Mumbai

- Union Commerce Minister, Piyush Goyal has inaugurated 'Centre of Excellence in Logistics and Supply Chain Management' at National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE), Mumbai.
- It will contribute to cutting edge research, knowledge-building and capacity building in Logistics and Supply Chain Management, through applied research and development activities
- It will act as a driving force to train and launch top quality programs to disseminate advanced knowledge

SPORTS

1.Pramod Bhagat creates history, becomes first Indian shuttler to win gold at Tokyo Paralympics 2020

- Indian shuttler Pramod Bhagat created history as he won a Gold medal in the men's singles badminton SL3 final match at the ongoing Tokyo Paralympics on September 04, 2021. He defeated Daniel Bethell of Great Britain, 2-0.
- Badminton has been introduced for the first time in Paralympics this year.
- The 33-year-old Pramod Bhagat, from Bhubaneswar, has now become the first athlete from India to win gold in Badminton in the Paralympics or Olympics.
- Meanwhile, Indian player Manoj Sarkar has won the bronze in the same event.

2.Max Verstappen won Dutch Grand Prix 2021

- Max Verstappen won the Netherlands Grand Prix 2021 and reclaimed the Formula One championship lead from Lewis Hamilton.
- The Red Bull driver's leading seventh win of the season and 17th of his career.

- Championship leader Lewis Hamilton could only manage second place in his Mercedes F1.
- Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas was third.

3.130th edition of Durand Cup kicks off in Kolkata

- The 130th edition of Durand Cup has been kicked off at the Vivekananda Yubabharati Krirangan in Kolkata.
- 16 teams will be participated in this edition of the oldest club football tournament in Asia while two clubs East Bengal and Mohun Bagan are not participating.
- Mohammedan Sporting Club started their campaign in the tournament with an emphatic win against the Indian Air Force Football team.
- The final match will be held on 3rd October.

4.Daniil Medvedev wins 2021 US Open Tennis Title

- Russia professional Tennis player Daniil Medvedev (25 years) has won 2021 US Open men's singles Tennis Title, after beating Novak Djokovic (Serbia) by 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.
- This is the maiden Grand Slam title won by Medvedev.
- Women's single winner: Emma Raducanu (Great Britain) defeated Leylah Fernandez (Canada).
- Men's double winner: Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury.
- Women's double winner: Samantha Stosur and Zhang Shuai.
- Mixed Doubles: Desirae Krawczyk and Joe Salisbury.

5.Joe Root, Eimear Richardson named ICC Players of the Month for August 2021

- England Test skipper Joe Root has been named as the ICC Men's Player of the Month for August 2021.
- He scored 507 runs in three Tests against India in August.
- He also scored 3 important centuries, including an unbeaten 180* at Lord's, and MRF Tyres ICC Test Rankings for batters.
- Ireland's Eimear Richardson has bagged the ICC Women's Player of the Month for August 2021.

6.Brendan Taylor of Zimbabwe Announces Retirement from International Cricket

- Former Zimbabwe skipper and wicket-keeper batsman Brendan Taylor (34 years) has announced his retirement from international cricket.
- He made this announcement while playing third final ODI match against Ireland.
- He made his ODI debut for Zimbabwe against Sri Lanka in 2004.
- He has scored 6677 runs from 204 ODI matches and is just 112 short of former Zimbabwe batsman Andy Flower's national record of 6786.

7.Lasith Malinga announces retirement from all forms of cricket

- Sri Lankan fast bowler Lasith Malinga (38 years) has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- Prior to this announcement, he took retirement from Test cricket in 2011 and then from the ODIs in 2019.
- He played 30 Tests, 226 ODIs and 84 T20Is for Sri Lanka in which he took a total of 546 wickets (101 in Tests, 338 in ODIs and 107 in T20Is) across all formats.
- Malinga holds the record for most hat-tricks in international cricket.

8.Beijing 2022 Winter Games reveals official motto: "Together for a Shared Future"

- Beijing 2022 on 17 September 2021 sent out warm invitations worldwide with the unveiling of "Together for a Shared Future" as its official motto.
- An expert panel selected the motto from 79 proposals submitted since May 2020 and finalized after repeated discussions.
- As the Beijing 2022 organizers explained, "Together" depicts how mankind stays strong when facing adversities and points out the solution to overcome those difficulties and create a better future; "For a shared future" embodies a vision for a better life and conveys hope and confidence.

9.M.S. Dhoni named mentor for Indian Men's Team for T20 World Cup 2021

- Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been named as the Mentor of the Indian cricket Men's team for ICC T20 World Cup 2021.
- T20 world cup will be played in Oman and UAE from October 18 onwards.
- Virat Kohli has recently announced to step down as the captain of T20 cricket team after the World Cup.
- It will be Dhoni's first stint as a member of the support staff of the Indian cricket team.
- Dhoni had previously mentored Jharkhand in domestic tournaments.

10. Raja Rithvik becomes India's 70th grandmaster

- R Raja Rithvik (17 years) from Warangal has become India's 70th and newest chess Grandmaster (GM).
- He has achieved his third and final norm Chess Tournaments in Budapest, Hungary, to enter the GM club.
- Rithvik earned his first GM norm in 2019.
- He touched the magical 2500 Elo mark in the fourth round of the tournament after beating Vaclav Finek.

11.Odisha to host junior men's World Cup Hockey from November 24 to December 5

- Odisha will host the junior men's World Cup Hockey in coming November. Chief minister Naveen Patnaik announced this in capital Bhubaneswar last evening. He also unveiled the logo and trophy for the tournament.

- As many as 16 countries will take part in the event that will be held in the Kalinga stadium in Bhubaneswar from the 24th November 5th December 2021. Odisha had hosted the 2018 men's hockey world cup.

OBITUARIES

1. Former Union health Secretary Keshav Desiraju passes away

- Former Union Health Secretary Keshav Desiraju passed away in Chennai.
- He was grandson of former President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.
- He was an IAS officer (1978) of Uttarakhand cadre.
- He has held many positions with the govt of Uttarakhand and UP and the Government of India and retired as the Union Secretary in the Department of Consumer Affairs.
- After he retired, he was appointed as the chairperson of the governing board of the Population Foundation of India.

2. Former France Footballer Jean-Pierre Adams passed away

- Former France footballer Jean-Pierre Adams (73 years) passed away at Hospital de Lyon.
- Adams slipped into a coma following a medical error, during his routine knee surgery in 1982
- He made total 22 appearances for France National Football Team from 1972 to 1976.
- Adams played as a defender for Paris Saint-Germain, Nîmes and Nice at club level.

3. Rajni Kaul, the first News Broadcaster for BBC Hindi passed away

- 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.

4. Veteran Congress leader Oscar Fernandes passes away

- Veteran Rajya Sabha MP and former Union minister Oscar Fernandes (80 years) passed away due to age-related ailments at Yenepoya hospital in Mangalore.
- He was the senior Congress leader and served as the Union Cabinet Minister for Transport, Road and Highways and Labour and Employment, in Manmohan Singh's UPA govt.
- He was a five-time Lok Sabha MP from Udupi in Karnataka.
- He also served two terms as a member of the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

5. Harmilan Kaur Bains breaks 19-year-old record in 1500m at 60th National Athletics Championships

- 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 in the women's 1500m event, at the 60th National Open Athletics Championships in Warangal on September 16, 2021.
- 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.

6. Eminent theoretical physicist Prof Thanu Padmanabhan passed away

- Well-known theoretical physicist and cosmologist Professor Thanu Padmanabhan passed away.
- A distinguished professor at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Padmanabhan had authored over 300 research papers and several books.
- His research in theoretical physics had Stanford University name him among the top scientists in the world, with a rank of 24.
- Padma Shri Prof Padmanabhan was recently selected for the Kerala Sastra Puraskaram.

7. Former Arunachal Governor YS Dadwal passed away

- Former Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and Commissioner of Delhi Police, Yudhvir Singh Dadwal (70 years) passed away in Delhi.
- He is a 1974-batch IPS officer and served as the 16th police commissioner of Delhi from July 2007 to November 2010.
- After retirement, he was appointed as the Director-General of Central Paramilitary Force, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) in November 2010.
- He was appointed as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh in 2016.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. National Teachers' Day 2021 : 05 September

- In India, Teachers' Day is celebrated every year on September 05 since 1962.
- The day marks the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, an Indian philosopher, academic, and statesman, who defined the role of the teacher as someone who acts not only as an educator but also as a moral mentor and inculcates values among students.
- 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.

2. International Day of Clean Air for blue skies: 7 September

- International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is observed on September 7 globally to promote and facilitate actions to improve air quality.
- It was held for the first time in 2020.
- Theme 2021: Healthy Air, Healthy Planet.
- United Nations General Assembly adopted the Resolution to hold this day on December 19, 2019 to raise public awareness at all levels that clean air is important for health, productivity, the economy and the environment.

3. International Literacy Day: 08 September

- International Literacy Day is observed annually on September 8 across the world to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies.
- The day was declared by UNESCO on 26 October 1966 at 14th session of UNESCO's General conference. It was celebrated for the first time in 1967.
- The theme of 55th International Literacy Day is "Literacy for a human-centred recovery: Narrowing the digital divide".

4. National Mission for Clean Ganga organised Himalayan Diwas

- National Mission for Clean Ganga has organised Himalayan Diwas in association with Naula Foundation.
- Himalaya Diwas is observed every year on 9th September
- Himalaya Diwas 2021 theme: Contribution of Himalayas and our responsibilities.
- Aim: to conserve Himalayan ecosystem and region.
- It was officially declared as Himalaya Day in 2015 by the then Chief Minister.

5. United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation 2021: 12 September

- The United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation is observed every year on September 12 since 2011, to celebrate the economic, social and political developments made in recent years by regions and countries in the south.
- Theme for 2021 is "South-South cooperation: solidarity in support of a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable future.

6. National Hindi Day 2021: 14 September

- Hindi Divas or Hindi Day is observed every year on 14 September to celebrate the popularity of Hindi as an official language of India.
- 14 September is celebrated as Hindi Diwas as it was on this day in 1949 when the Constituent Assembly of India had adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of India.
- Hindi was adopted under Article 343 of the Indian Constitution.
- Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar and Rajbhasha Gaurav Puraskar awards are being given on this day.

7.National Engineer's Day 2021: 15 September

- In India, Engineer's Day is celebrated on September 15 every year, since 1968, 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).
- Sir MV was regarded as the "Father of Modern Mysore".
- He was awarded 'Bharat Ratna' for his exceptional contribution to the building of India in 1955.

8.International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer: 16 September

- International Day for the Preservation for Ozone layer (World Ozone Day) is observed every year on September 16 to spread awareness about the depletion of the Ozone Layer and search for solutions to preserve it.
- Theme for 2021 World Ozone Day: Montreal Protocol – keeping us, our food and vaccines cool.
- UN General Assembly proclaimed this day in 1994 commemorating the date of the signing, in 1987, of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

9.International Day of Peace 2021: 21 September

- International Day of Peace (World Peace Day) is observed every year on 21 September to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.
- This day was established by UN General Assembly in 1981 and was formally designated in 2001.
- Theme 2021: Recovering Better for an Equitable and Sustainable World.
- United Nations Peace Bell is rung at UN Headquarters (in New York City) to inaugurate the day.

10.World Rhino Day 2021: 22nd September

- World Rhino Day is observed on 22nd September every year to celebrates and raise awareness of the need to protect all the five existing species of Rhinoceros.
- **Rhino species :**
 1. Black Rhino
 2. White Rhino
 3. Greater one-horned Rhino
 4. Sumatran Rhino
 5. Javan Rhinos
- The day was first announced by World Wildlife Fund-South Africa in 2010.
- It is being observed internationally for the first time in 2011.

11. International Day of Sign Languages: 23 September

- The International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL) is celebrated annually across the world on 23 September to raise awareness on sign languages and strengthen the status about sign languages.
- Theme 2021: “We Sign For Human Rights”.
- 23 September has been chosen to mark IDSL as it commemorates the establishment of the World Federation of the Deaf on 23 September 1951.
- The International Day of Sign Languages was first celebrated in 2018.

12. PFRDA to observe NPS Diwas on October 1, 2021

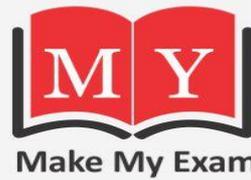
- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) will observe 1st October, 2021 as National Pension System Diwas (NPS Diwas)
- PFRDA also started pension awareness campaign under ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ to promote pension and retirement planning for a carefree retirement
- PFRDA is promoting this campaign on its social media platforms with #npsdiwas
- PFRDA is the regulatory body under jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance for supervision and regulation of pension.

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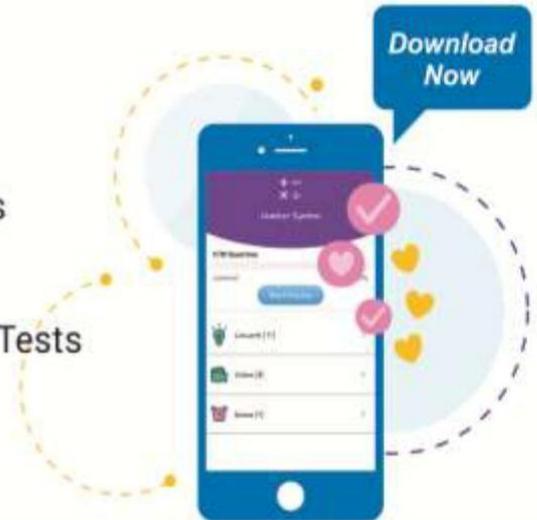
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