

CURRENT AFFAIRS



NATIONAL NEWS

Centre liberalises insurance compensation schemes under ESIC, EPFO

- Centre has enhanced and liberalised the insurance compensation schemes under Employees State Insurance Corporation and Employees Provident Fund Organization.
- The decision was taken to mitigate the financial difficulties faced due to death of single earning member in family.
- This benefit will be available retrospectively with effect from 24 March'21 and for all such cases till 24 March 2022.

Ministry of Education launches YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors

- The Ministry of Education launched YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors. It is an Author Mentorship programme to train young and budding authors belows 30 years. The launch of YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors) is in tune with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to encourage young writers to write about India's freedom struggle. It was during Mann ki Baat in January this year that Prime Minister Modi called upon the young generation to write about freedom fighters, and incidents associated with freedom struggle.
- YUVA is a part of India@75 Project to bring to the fore the perspectives of the young generation of writers on themes like Unsung Heroes, Freedom Fighters, Unknown and Forgotten Places.

NCPCR devises 'Bal Swaraj' for children affected due to COVID-19

- In view of the growing problem related to children affected by COVID-19, The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development stated the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has devised an online tracking portal "Bal Swaraj (COVID-Care link)" for children in need of care and protection.
- The portal has been created with the purpose of tracking and monitoring children who need care and protection in real-time, digitally.

- The portal will also be used to track children who have lost both their parents during COVID-19.
- The "COVID-Care" link on the portal has been provided for the concerned officer or department to upload the data of such children.

PM Modi launches E-100 project to produce, distribute ethanol across India

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the World Environment Day event, which was jointly organised by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- During the event, PM Modi also released the "Report of the Expert Committee on Road Map for ethanol blending in India 2020-2025".
- The theme of the report is 'promotion of biofuels for better environment'.
- Apart from this, he also launched Pilot Project of E-100 ethanol dispensing stations at three locations in Pune, for the production and distribution of ethanol across the country, because ethanol have a better impact on the environment as well as on the lives of farmers.
- Government has reset the target to achieve 20 percent ethanol blending in petrol by 2025. Earlier this target was to be met by 2030.
- As a part of WED 2021, Government of India has released E-20 notification, directing Oil Companies to sell ethanol blended petrol with percentage of ethanol up to 20% from April 01, 2023, and BIS Specifications for higher ethanol blends E12 & E15.

Govt extends validity of Teacher Eligibility Test from 7 years to lifetime

- The Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has announced that the validity period of the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) qualifying certificate has been extended from the present 7 years to lifetime with retrospective effect from 2011.

- Now, the respective state government and union territories will take necessary action to issue fresh TET certificates to those candidates whose 7 years period has already elapsed.
- This decision will prove to be a positive step in increasing the employment opportunities for candidates aspiring to make a career in the teaching field.

Labour ministry constitutes an expert group to fix minimum wages

- The Labour and Employment Ministry has constituted an expert group to provide technical inputs and recommendations on fixation of minimum wages and national floor for minimum wages.
- The expert group announced has been constituted for a period of three years and is chaired by Ajit Mishra, Director, Institute of Economic Growth.
- It includes Tarika Chakraborty, IIM Calcutta; Anushree Sinha, Senior Fellow, NCAER; Vibha Bhalla, Joint Secretary; H Srinivas, Director General, VVGNI as the members and DPS Negi, Senior Labour and Employment Advisor as the Member Secretary.
- This is the second expert committee on minimum wages formed by the government within the last two years.
- The earlier panel, headed by Anoop Satpathy, Fellow, VV Giri National Labour Institute, was set up by the ministry on January 17, 2018, to undertake an evidence-based analysis to determine methodology for fixing national minimum wage.

All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20 released

- Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ released the report of All India Survey on Higher Education 2019-20.
- There has been a growth of 11.4% in student enrolment in five years.
- The rise in female enrolment in higher education during the period is 18.2%.
- The number of institutions of national importance has increased to 135 in 2020 from 75 in 2015.
- AISHE report is published by the Ministry of Education since 2010-11.

India's agriculture exports increase 17.34% in 2020-21

- India's export of Agri and allied products in 2020-21 grew by 17.34% to & 41.25 bn.
- The largest markets for India's Agri prod are the US, China, Bangladesh, UAE, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Nepal, Iran & Malaysia.

- Maharashtra, Kerala, Nagaland, TN, Assam, Punjab, and Karnataka -- have finalized their specific action plan to implement the Agri export policy.
- As part of it, 46 unique product-district clusters have been identified for export promotion.

Exports of India's organic farm products jump 51% in 2020-21

- Exports of India's organic farm products surged 51% in 2020-21.
- Outbound shipments of organic products hit \$ 1,040 mn last fiscal compare with 689 million dollars a year before.
- Even in volume terms, exports of organic products grew at 39% to 8 lakh 88 thousand 179 tonnes last fiscal.
- The key organic products exported were oil cake and meals, oil seeds, cereals, millets, spices and condiments, tea, medicinal plant products, dry fruits, sugar, pulses and coffee.

DIC signed MoU with ICAR to provide ‘Demand Based Tele Agriculture Advisories’ to farmers

- In order to facilitate farmers by providing location specific ‘Demand Based Tele Agriculture Advisories’, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Digital India Corporation (DIC) has signed an initial pact to provide location specific farm tele-advisories.
- ”The objective of the MoU is to integrate the existing Interactive Information Dissemination System (IIDS) platform of DIC with the proposed KisanSarathi program of ICAR and its implementation through ICAR network to reach a large number of farmers across the country”.

India emerges as 14th most charitable country in the World

- According to World Giving Index 2021, released by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), India is the 14th most charitable country.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has shown ‘giving’ trends across the world. Released by the Charities Aid Foundation’s (CAF), this year’s survey highlights the impact of lockdowns on charitable giving.
- India is now in the Top 20 most generous countries in the world. This is up from the 10-year global rank of 82. Australia and New Zealand, where the survey was undertaken in the weeks before the first wave of the pandemic took hold, maintained their top 10 rankings. Communities around the world mobilised to help fellow citizens during the pandemic, resulting in the highest ‘helped a stranger’ figures since 2009.
- More than half (55 percent) of the world’s adults – or 3 billion people – reported helping someone they didn’t know in 2020. The report says, Scores for India rapidly improved

between 2017 and 2019, and this improvement was maintained during 2020. The improvement in India is seen across all the age groups and amongst both men and women. 61 per cent of Indians helped strangers; 34 percent volunteered; and 36 percent donated money.

PM Addresses UN conference on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought

- PM Modi virtually addressed UN 'High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation & Drought'.
- He said that three million hectares of forest cover have been added in India over the last ten years
- He listed steps taken by India to deal with the land degradation issue.
- He conveyed that India is on track to achieve its national commitment of Land degradation neutrality.
- He said India is also working towards restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

MoHI&PE Modifies FAME India Phase II Scheme: Aggregation via EESL

- The union govt has modified the ambitious FAME II scheme to promote electric mobility.
- It allotted the electric three-wheelers and electric buses component of the marquee FAME scheme to state-run EESL.
- EESL is a joint venture of NTPC Ltd, Rural Electrification Corp. Ltd, Power Finance Corp. Ltd and Power Grid Corp. of India Ltd.
- The FAME scheme was administered by the department of heavy industries (DHI) which started on 1 April 2019.

Centre allocates 78,000 tonnes of rice from FCI for ethanol production

- The Centre has allocated 78,000 tonnes of rice from FCI to distilleries for ethanol production for 2020-21.
- The Centre had allowed procurement of surplus FCI rice by grain-based distilleries for production of ethanol to be supplied to oil marketing companies under the Ethanol Blending Programme.
- The govt has set a target of blending 20% ethanol with petrol by 2025-26.
- To achieve that target, over 1,000 cr litres of ethanol will be required to blend with the petrol.

Shipping Ministry, MoCA sign pact to develop seaplane services in India

- Ministry Shipping signed an MoU with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to start seaplane services across India.
- This MoU envisages the development of the Non-Scheduled/Scheduled operation of seaplane services within the territorial jurisdiction of India under the RCS-UDAN scheme.

- A total of 28 seaplane routes and 14 water aerodromes in Gujarat, Assam, Telangana, AP, Andaman-Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep are in various stages of development at a cost of ₹450 crores.

India maintains 43rd rank on IMD's World Competitiveness Index 2021

- India maintained 43rd rank in the annual World Competitiveness Index 2021.
- The report was compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD).
- Top three nation in the 64-nation list are: 1. Switzerland; 2. Sweden; 3. Denmark.
- BRICS Nations rank order is China, India, Russia, Brazil and South Africa.
- The top-performing Asian economies are, in order, Singapore (fifth), Hong Kong (seventh), Taiwan (eighth) and China (16th).

Centre opens 14 disability early intervention centres

- The Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry launched 14 cross-disability early intervention centres across the country.
- The Centres will provide screening and identification, rehabilitation, counselling, therapeutic services among others for different disabilities.
- The Govt has implemented the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Union Cabinet approves additional foodgrain under PMGKY 4.0

- The Union Cabinet has approved the allocation of additional foodgrain to National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana 4.0 till Nov 30.



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- Under the scheme, the govt will provide 5 kg foodgrains per person per month free of cost.
- It will cover 81.35 crore beneficiaries covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Priority Households including those covered under DBT.
- PMGKAY was launched to help the poor fight against Covid-19.

India's official theme song 'Lakshya Tera Samne Hai' released

- Ahead of the Tokyo Games, the official Olympic theme song for the Indian contingent was launched.
- Mohit Chauhan has composed and sung the song titled "Lakshya Tera Samne Hai".
- "The event saw Union Minister Youth Affairs and Sports, Kiren Rijiju attending as chief guest," the Sports Authority of India (SAI) said in a statement.
- The event was organised by IOA and attended by IOA President Narinder Batra, Secretary General, Deputy Chef De Mission, Sports Secretary and DG SAI were also present.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished the Olympic-bound Indian contingent the very best for the upcoming Tokyo 2020.

PM Modi interacts with Toycathon 2021 participants

- PM Modi interacted with the participants of Toycathon-2021 via video conferencing.
- A total of 5 teams presented their unique toy and gaming ideas during the live video conference.
- Toycathon was jointly launched by the Ministry of Education, WCD Ministry, MSME Ministry, DPIIT, Textile Ministry, I&B Ministry, and AICTE.
- Globally, toy-making is a \$100 bn industry
- China, USA, Germany, and Japan are key players.
- India imports 80 to 85% of its annual \$1.5-bn toy market.

Central govt employees can claim HBA benefit till March 2022

- With an aim to help central government employees who want to construct their own house, the center is offering House Building Advance (HBA) benefits to all central government servants (CGS).
- The basic interest rate charged on this HBA is 7.9 percent and the benefit will remain available till 31st March 2022.
- Keeping 7th pay commission pay matrix and 7th CPC approval provisions in focus, the center has already updated the HBA guidelines for the central government servants.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari laid foundation stones of several road projects in Himachal Pradesh

- Union minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid foundation stones of road projects worth Rs 6,155 crore in Himachal Pradesh through video conferencing from Manali in Kullu district.
- The projects included the 39-km-long Parwanoo-Solan section of the NH-22, constructed at a cost of Rs 1,303 crore.
- On this occasion, Gadkari stated roads are prerequisite for the overall development of any nation.
- Better roads in Himachal Pradesh will go a long way in tourism promotion, he added.
- Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur mentioned that the state has a road network of 40,000 kilometres but a lot more needs to be done.

The Reuters Institute Digital News Report, 2021, India Ranks 31

- Out of 46 countries, India ranked 31 in the Reuters Institute Digital News Report, 2021.
- Finland had the highest levels of overall trust in news (65%) while the US had the lowest levels of trust (29%).
- Only 38% of the respondents from India informed they trust the news overall.
- The Asian College of Journalism (ACJ) provided logistical support for surveying the Indian market.
- The survey shows India is one of the strongest mobile-focused markets.
- The 10th edition of the Digital News Report featured India for the first time in the main report.
- The report is based on an online survey of 46 media markets to understand how news is consumed in different countries.
- The 2021 report focuses on trust in news, the pandemic induced economic pressure on news publishers, misinformation and COVID-19.

NITI Aayog launched National Consultation on Prevention of Obesity

- NITI Aayog has organised 'National Consultation on Prevention of Maternal, Adolescent and Childhood Obesity'.
- The consultation was organized in view of rising incidents of obesity in children and women over the past decade.
- Global experts, representatives from UN bodies, central ministries and national research institutions presented evidence regarding increasing prevalence of obesity and best practices for obesity reduction.

Government sets up two more Central Drug Laboratories

- The central govt has set up two laboratories to facilitate expedited testing/pre-release certification of the vaccines.
- One at Autonomous Research Institutes National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune.
- And another at the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB) Hyderabad.
- Currently, the nation has a Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL) at Kasauli which is the National Control Laboratory.
- The funds have been sanctioned for the laboratory from PM-Cares Fund.

Tourism ministry, Yatra sign MoU to strengthen hospitality industry

- The Ministry of Tourism has signed an MoU with travel portal Yatra to strengthen the country's hospitality and tourism industry.
- The primary objective of the MoU is to provide extensive visibility to accommodation units, which have self-certified themselves on SAATHI on the OTA platform.
- The MoU also outlines both parties to encourage units to register on NIDHI and thereby on SAATHI and encourage the local tourism industry.
- Tourism Minister: Prahlad Singh Patel

MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari has become Brand Ambassador of Khadi Prakritik Paint.

- He will promote this paint across the country to encourage young entrepreneurs to take up the manufacturing of cow dung paint.
- He Inaugurated a new automated manufacturing unit of Khadi Prakritik Paint in Jaipur.
- The Paint has immense potential of creating sustainable development for the benefit of the poorest of the poor.
- The paint is washable, waterproof, and dries quickly in just 4 hrs.

Government sets up 25-member development council for cement industry

- The Government has set up a 25-member Development Council for Cement Industry under Dalmia Group CMD Puneet Dalmia
- it will suggest ways to eliminate waste, obtain maximum production, improve quality, reduce costs and promote standardization of products.
- It will also recommend measures for securing the full utilization of the installed capacity and for improving the working of the industry.
- It will also work for the standardization of accounting and costing methods.

NewsOnAir Radio Live-stream Global Rankings released

- All India Radio Live-streams Global ranking has been released, that shows top countries (excluding India) to use NewsOnAir App.
- NewsOnAir Top Countries (Rest of world): US, Fiji, Australia, UK, Canada. Kuwait and Germany are new entrants, while France and New Zealand are no more in top 10.
- NewsOnAir Global Top 10 streams: VividhBharati National, FM Gold Delhi, FM Rainbow Delhi, AIR Malayalam and AIR Chennai Rainbow.

India and Gambia signed MoU on Refurbishing Personnel Administration

- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, India and Public Service Commission, Gambia have signed an MoU on Refurbishing Personnel Administration and Governance Reforms.
- The MoU aims at strengthening and promoting bilateral cooperation between India and Gambia.
- Improving Performance Management System in Government, Implementation of Contributory Pension Scheme and e-Recruitment in Government would be covered.

ICCR to set up a Bangabandhu Chair at Delhi University

- The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) will set up a 'Bangabandhu Chair' at Delhi University
- The Chair will be occupied by a foreign visiting professor or subject expert on Bangladesh preferably a person of Bangladeshi origin.
- It is the first of its kind initiative of setting up a chair on Bangladesh in India which is an important step towards strengthening Indo-Bangladesh ties.
- It will focus on the common heritage of the two countries.

New Cabinet Committees formed after Centre's Cabinet expansion

- New Cabinet Committees have been formed after the expansion of Cabinet at the Centre.
- Here is the list of heads of different committee:
- Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Economic Affairs, Political Affairs, Security, Investment and Growth, Employment and Skill Development: PM Narendra Modi.
- Committee on Parliamentary Affairs: Rajnath Singh
- Committee on Accommodation: Amit Shah
- Some of the Cabinet Committees will also have special invitees.

Manduadih railway station renamed as Banaras railway station

- Manduadih railway station has been renamed as Banaras by the Northeastern railways (NER).
- NER has replaced the old signboard with the new one which read 'Banaras' in Hindi, Sanskrit, English, and Urdu.
- Code for the station with the new identity will now be 'BSBS,' starting from 12am today and will be reflected on all the tickets booked.
- It is the advanced and facility including food plazas, VIP lounges, escalators, gardens, advanced booking station, etc.

Cabinet approved continuation of National AYUSH Mission for 5 years

- Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'National AYUSH Mission (NAM)' for another five years.
- It will now be implemented from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026.
- Govt has allocated Rs. 4607.30 crore (Rs 3,000 crore as Central Share and Rs. 1607.30 crore as State Share) for the scheme to be invested for five years.
- NAM Mission was introduced in 2014 and is being implemented by Ministry of AYUSH to provide cost effective AYUSH Services.

Government launches digital platform 'Kisan Sarathi'

- Govt has launched digital platform titled 'Kisan Sarathi' to facilitate farmers to get right information at right time in their desired language.
- It was jointly launched virtually by Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnav.
- Through this, farmers can avail personalised advisories on agriculture and allied areas directly from scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra through the digital platform.

Vaccination drive for pregnant women to begin from July 16 in Kerala

- The Kerala government's campaign 'Mathrukavacham' to vaccinate all the pregnant women in the state against COVID-19 infection was inaugurated at the district level recently. Spot registrations for vaccination of pregnant women would be carried out at various government hospitals. Pregnant women can receive the COVID vaccine at any time during their pregnancy. The special vaccination drive comes as a strong defence to protect pregnant women.

Monk fruit cultivation begins in Kullu for first time

- The cultivation of monk fruit (*Siraitia grosvenorii*) from China has been taken up for the first time in India by the Palampur-based CSIR-IHBT.
- The monk fruit is known for its properties as non-caloric natural sweetener. Its sweet taste is attributed to cucurbitane-type triterpene glycosides known as mogrosides, which is about 300 times sweeter than sucrose or cane sugar.
- In spite of its high demand, this crop is only cultivated in China. However, suitable agro climatic conditions are also available in India, particularly in Himachal.

India emerges as 5th largest foreign exchange reserves holder in world

- India has emerged as the World's 5th-largest foreign exchange reserves holder after China, Japan, Switzerland and Russia.
- India's forex reserves stood at around 609 billion Dollars on 25th June, 2021 and is comfortable in terms of import cover of more than 18 months and provides cushion against unforeseen external shocks.
- In 2020-21, India's balance of payments recorded surplus in both current account and capital account.

Centre extends 'Stand Up India Scheme' up to 2025

- The Government of India has extended the duration of 'Stand Up India Scheme' up to the year 2025.
- The scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on 05 April, 2016 to facilitate loans to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and women borrowers, to promotes entrepreneurship among them.
- The scheme offers bank loans to women and SC & ST communities for to encourage them in setting up a green field enterprise, outside of the farm sector, that is in manufacturing, services or trading sector.
- A total of 1,16,266 loans amounting to Rs. 26204.49 crore has been extended under the Scheme since its inception.
- The loan under Stand Up India Scheme are extended by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) between Rs. 10 lakh and Rs.1 Crore.

Maharashtra to issue educational documents using blockchain technology

- Maharashtra Govt will become the first state to issue educational documents to students of educational institutions using blockchain technology.
- Currently only Singapore, Malta and Bahrain are the only other countries using this technology.
- For this, Maharashtra government has partnered with LegitDoc.
- Each student will receive a 'certificate_LegitDoc.zip' digital file containing the original PDF diploma certificate and corresponding blockchain proof file.

First elections of Balika Panchayat successfully held at Kunariya village

- First-ever elections of Balika Panchayat has been successfully held at Kunariya village, Kutch, Gujarat.
- Young females aged between 10 to 21 years contested elections for this unique Panchayat.
- It will take up issues pertaining to adolescent girls and women in the village.
- It was inspired by TV show, Balika Vadhu to develop leadership qualities in the girls for Future Panchayat polls.
- This Panchayat will be run by girls and for girls.
- Sarpanch of Kunariya: Suresh Chhanga.

Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani to launch 24/7 helpline number

- Ministry of Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani will be launching 24/7 helpline number for women affected by violence.
- Aim: To provide round the clock emergency and non-emergency complaints and counselling services to women affected by violence.
- This helpline will link women's with appropriate authorities such as police, hospitals, District Legal Service Authority, psychological services through a single uniform number.
- It will be functional round-the-clock to facilitate help to women.

India placed among 10 Agricultural Produce Exporters of 2019: WTO Report

- India has been placed among the top 10 list of the countries exporting agricultural produce in 2019, according to World Trade Organisation (WTO) report on trends in world agricultural trade in recent 25 years.
- Last such WTO report was released in 1995, in which India was not in top 10.
- India has outclassed New Zealand to be ranked at 9th spot.
- Top Three Nations in the List: European Union (EU), US and Brazil

Govt to set-up Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming

- Govt has decided to set up National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics for creating a world-class talent pool in India to cater to the Indian as well as global industry.
- It will be set up in collaboration with IIT, Bombay.
- Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute and Film and Television Institute of India run courses on Animation and VFX to support skilled manpower in the animation and VFX sector.

Parliament passes Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill 2021

- Parliament has passed Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill 2021 to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
- The amendments include:
- Authorizing District Magistrate including Additional District Magistrate to issue adoption orders to ensure speedy disposal of cases and accountability.
- Defining eligibility parameters for Child Welfare Committee members and categorizing undefined offences as serious offences.

PM Modi to unveil 10 education schemes on first anniversary of NEP

- Celebrating a year of the new National Education Policy (NEP), Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil at least 10 schemes including an academic bank of credit (ABC) in tertiary education, a competency-based assessment system for the school sector, and a framework for internationalisation of Indian education.
- Initiatives to be launched also include Vidya Pravesh, a three-month play-based school preparation module for class 1 students; Indian sign language as a subject at the secondary level; and unveiling of NISHTHA 2.0, an integrated programme of teacher training designed by the national council for education research and training (NCERT).
- The prime minister will also announce a new initiative called Structured Assessment For Analysing Learning Levels (SAFAL), a competency-based assessment framework for Grades 3, 5 and 8 students studying in schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

Unique programme to celebrate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav launched

- Culture Ministry has launches unique programme to celebrate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on Independence Day 2021
- In this initiative, people have been invited to sing the National anthem and upload the video on website www.RASHTRAGAAN.IN.
- The compilation of National Anthem will be shown live on 15th August 2021.
- Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav was started from Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram on 12th March 2021.

'My Handloom My Pride Expo' at Dilli Haat launched

- National Handloom Development Corporation has organized Handloom My Pride Expo at Dilli Haat to celebrate the 7th National Handloom Day (August 7).
- The Expo will provide direct access to the Handloom weavers of various areas of India, to market their genuine Handloom products to consumers.
- The exhibition will be open to public from 11 am to 8 pm till 15th August.

J&J's Janssen single-dose Covid Vaccine gets approval for Emergency Use in India

- In a bid to expand India's vaccine basket, US-based pharmaceutical giant Johnson and Johnson (J&J) single-dose Covid-19 vaccine gets Emergency Use Approval (EUA) from the government of India. J&J becomes the fifth vaccine to get Emergency Use Approval in India by the government of India. The other four vaccines include Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, Serum Institute of India's Covishield, SputnikV by Gamaleya Research Institute and Moderna.
- J&J has joined hands with Biological E Limited, an Indian biotechnology and biopharmaceutical company based in Hyderabad, for the supplying and manufacturing of the vaccines. The international pharma company earlier in a statement issued on 5th August 2021 has stated that Biological E will be an important part of Johnson and Johnson's global supply chain network, helping to supply its COVID-19 vaccine, named Janssen through extensive collaborations and partnerships with governments, health authorities and organisations such as Gavi and the COVAX Facility.

PM to launch Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana 2.0

- PM Modi will launch Ujjwala 2.0 (Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana-PMUY) by handing over LPG connections at Mahoba Uttar Pradesh.
- In budget 2021-22, provision for an additional one crore LPG connection under PMUY scheme to provide deposit-free LPG connections to those low-income families.
- It will provide first refill and hotplate free of cost to the beneficiaries.
- Enrolment procedure will require minimum paperwork.
- Ujjwala 1.0 was launched in 2016.



StartupBlink launched Coronavirus Innovation Report 2021

- Together with Health Innovation Exchange (HIEx), StartupBlink has launched 'The Startup Ecosystem Podcast - The Covid-19 Innovation Report 2021' that includes the rankings of 100 cities and 40 countries.
- The report takes a deeper look into the sub-categories (such as innovations in Prevention, Treatment and Diagnostics) in each location.
- US leads global coronavirus innovation efforts, followed by Israel, Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, and UK.

Saras Aajeevika Mela, bringing rural women SHGs under one platform, opened at Noida Haat

- The Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021 is underway at Noida Haat. The fair was inaugurated by Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar. It will continue till 14th March. The fair remains open from 11 AM to 8 PM daily. More than 300 rural self-help groups and craftsman from 27 states are participating in the Mela which is being by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- Addressing the gathering, Mr. Tomar said that the Ministry of Rural Development is working to include more women in Self Help Groups (SHGs). He said these SHGs played a vital role in increasing family income and improving quality of life.

PM Modi announced Rs 11,000 crore palm oil initiative

- PM Modi has launched scheme on palm oil production called as National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP).
- Govt will invest more than Rs. 11,000 crores under the scheme, through National Mission on Oilseeds, cooking oils and Oil Palm.
- It aims to help increase farm incomes and make the country self-reliance in edible oil.
- It will increase oil palm cultivation to 1 million hectares by 2025-26 and 1.7-1.8 million hectares by 2029-30.

Dept of Public Enterprises brings out 60th annual Public Enterprises Survey 2019-20

- Dept of Public Enterprises (DPE) has annually brings out Public Sector Enterprises Survey 2019-20 on the performance of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)
- It is the 60th in the series.
- It divides CPSEs into 5 sectors: Agriculture, Mining & Exploration, Manufacturing, Processing & Generation, Services, and Enterprises Under Construction and further into 21 cognate groups.
- Total Paid-up Capital in all CPSEs: Rs 3,10,737 crore.

Government launched brand and logo for urban Self-Help Group (SHG) products- 'SonChiraiya'

- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has launched 'SonChiraiya', a brand and logo for marketing of the urban Self-Help Group (SHG) products.

- To make urban SHG products popular, the ministry has signed MoUs with e-Commerce Portals like Amazon and Flipkart, with an underlying narrative of women empowerment.
- Due to this partnership, more than 2,000 products of nearly 5,000 SHG members have been onboarded on the e-commerce portals.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh released ‘IndiGau’, India’s first Cattle Genomic Chip for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds

- Dr. Jitendra Singh released ‘IndiGau’ chip. It is India’s first Cattle Genomic Chip for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole etc.
- IndiGau chip has been developed by scientists of National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NAIB), Hyderabad an autonomous institution under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology.
- The chip will help in achieving the goal of conservation of our own breeds with better characters and help towards doubling farmers’ income by 2022.

PM Modi announced Rs 100 lakh crore ‘Gati Shakti’ scheme for infra development

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a Rs 100 lakh crore Pradhan Mantri Gatishakti scheme, while addressing the nation on the 75th Independence Day from Red Fort on August 15, 2021.
- The Pradhan Mantri Gatishakti scheme aims to adopt holistic and integrated approach in infrastructure growth and create employment opportunities for the youth of the country. The scheme will also
- Government will soon announce the Master Plan for the scheme, to help boost productivity of industries, and boost economic growth of the country, besides creating job opportunities for hundreds of thousands of youths.

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar flags off ‘Operation Blue Freedom’ to create a World Record at Siachen Glacier

- The Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar flagged off a pioneering world record expedition named ‘Operation Blue Freedom’ from Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi on the occasion of 75th Independence Day on August 15, 2021.
- The Operation Blue Freedom expedition comprise of a team of people with disabilities from across the country to reach Siachen Glacier, to create a new World Record, for the largest

team of people with disabilities reaching the world’s highest battlefield.

- The team of people with disabilities were trained by ‘Team CLAW’, a team of Armed Forces veterans.
- The expedition was undertaken till Kumar Post (Siachen Glacier).
- The event was organised by Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, a premier autonomous research body mandated to research and provide policy feed to empower marginalised communities and to bring in Socio Economic transformation in the society.

Doordarshan launched 2nd travelogue program Rag Rag Mein Ganga

- Union Minister Anurag Thakur, along with Union Minister Jal Shakti and Food Processing Industries has unveiled the 2nd season of successful travelogue Rag Rag Mein Ganga.
- It will cover cultural, mythological, historical and socio-economic details of this great river while being centric to the theme of nirmalta and aviralta.
- It will also focus on the work being done by NMCG and the need for its conservation.
- Rag Rag Mein Ganga was first introduced in 2019.

India organised the IBSA Tourism Ministers’ Meet Virtually

- India organized the IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) Tourism Ministers’ meeting through the virtual platform. The Union Minister of Tourism of India, Shri G. Kishan Reddy, chaired the meeting.
- The Minister of Tourism of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Gilson Machado Neto and the Deputy Minister of Tourism of the Republic of South Africa, Fish Amos Mahlalela, attended videoconferencing under India’s IBSA Chairship.
- About the meeting:
- The meeting provided a platform to promote tourism cooperation among the member states and recognized the importance of strengthening cooperation in tourism to overcome the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on the tourism sector.
- The meeting ended with the adoption of the IBSA Tourism Ministers Joint Statement- a document on cooperation and promotion for the speedy recovery of travel and tourism.

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.

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.

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%

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.

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.

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.

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).

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.

STATE NEWS

Uttar Pradesh government rolls out welfare scheme for children who lost parents to Covid-19

- Uttar Pradesh Govt has launched Bal-Seva Yojana for the children who lost their parents due to COVID pandemic.
- The State Government will provide financial assistance of Rs. 4,000 per month to such children.
- Financial assistance of Rs. 1,01,000 will be provided for the marriage of girl children who lost their parents in this pandemic.
- Govt will also provide laptop/Tablet to such children.

Kerala firm launches portable oxygen cylinders for first aid

- In Kerala, a portable oxygen cylinder has been introduced for use in the event of corona suffocation.
- 86 lakh persons in India have been targeted for corona in the previous 24 hours.
- Oxygen cylinders are quite useful for corona patients.
- Portable oxygen cylinders have been introduced in this regard to help corona sufferers in their time of need.
- A private company in Kerala has developed a portable oxygen cylinder to avoid this.
- A cylinder of oxygen with a capacity of 10 litres costs 680 rupees.

Punjab Cabinet gave nod to Create SPV for Surface Water Supply Scheme

- The Punjab cabinet gave its nod for the creation of a special purpose vehicle (SPV) for operations and maintenance of large multi-village surface water supply schemes across the state.
- The move is aimed to ensure supply of potable water on a long term sustainable basis in rural areas of water quality affected districts.
- This SPV — Punjab Rural Water (Utility) Company — under the Water Supply and Sanitation department will be a utility company.
- The cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, also accorded approval to open an account in the name of the SPV, with seed money of Rs. 25 crore allocated from the World Bank funds (64 per cent) and state budget (36 per cent), to support its functioning in the initial five years.

Kerala retains top rank, Bihar at bottom in Niti Aayog's SDG India Index 2020-21

- The NITI Aayog Vice-Chairperson Dr Rajiv Kumar released the third edition of the SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21 on June 03, 2021.
- The basic aim of the index is to comprehensively monitor and rank the progress made by States and Union Territories towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- The theme of SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21 is Partnerships in the Decade of Action.
- The third edition covers 16 Goals of SDG, with a qualitative assessment on Goal 17 and 115 quantitative indicators, covering 70 SDG targets.
- States and Union Territories are ranked based on their SDG India Index score as below:

Manipal Hospitals acquires Bengaluru's Vikram Hospital

- Manipal Hospitals, the second largest hospital chain in India, entered into a definitive agreement with private equity firm Multiples to acquire 100% stake in Bengaluru-based multi-specialty hospital Vikram Hospital for a consideration of Rs. 350 crore.
- Set up in 2009, Vikram Hospital is a 200-bed tertiary care facility located in the central business district and is best known for its clinical expertise in the fields of cardiac and neuro sciences.

Andhra Pradesh Launches Jagananna Thodu Scheme to help vendors, small traders

- Andhra Pradesh launched interest-free loans under the Jagananna Thodu scheme to help small & petty vendors and artisans.
- Under the scheme, the state govt credited Rs 370 crore to 3.7 lakh small traders as an interest-free loan.
- Although 9.05 lakh beneficiaries were identified from the scheme, in phase-I, only Rs 535 crore was disbursed by the banks to 5.35 lakh beneficiaries.

All jobs in Ladakh reserved for Residents

- All jobs in the UT of Ladakh have been reserved for the residents of the region.
- The new recruitment rules are mentioned in Clause 11 of the Union Territory of Ladakh Employment (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules, 2021.
- The move has met a long-pending demand of the people of Ladakh, after it was carved out as a UT on Aug 5, 2019.
- The order by the L-G was issued by exercising the powers conferred by S.O 282 (E) dated 21.01.2020.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy Launches Jagananna Thodu Scheme

- Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will be launching Jagananna Thodu scheme, which aims at providing a helping hand to small and petty vendors across the State.
- Under the scheme, an interest-free loan of Rs 10,000 will be provided to 3.7 lakh small and petty vendors at an expenditure of Rs 370 crore.
- The scheme was launched by Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy on November 25, 2020 and this is the second consecutive year the scheme is being extended to benefit the small and petty vendors.
- The main objective of the scheme is to free vendors from paying heavy interest to the loans taken from private parties.

Madhya Pradesh to launch 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan' using youth power

- Madhya Pradesh govt will launch 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan' to make people aware of the COVID pandemic.
- The campaign will be launched with the help of youth power.
- In the campaign, college teachers and around 16 lakh students will be made aware of corona infection.
- This campaign will be run by the Higher Education and Technical Education Department in collaboration with the Public Health and Family Welfare Department.

Telangana government launches Revv Up for AI startups

- Telangana govt launched the TAIM accelerator programme Revv Up.
- It is exclusively designed for growth-stage artificial intelligence (AI) startups.
- The vision of T-AIM is to develop Telangana as a global hub for AI startups.
- The accelerator program would be a torchbearer for future AI accelerators in the country.
- NASSCOM will execute the envisioned strategy of T-AIM to identify and promote innovative and impactful AI solutions to solve real-world problems.

Rajasthan govt. to set up Vedic Education and Sanskar Board

- Rajasthan govt will set up a Vedic Education and Sanskar Board.
- The aim of this is to revive the knowledge of ancient Sanskrit scriptures and connect the learnings of the Vedas with science and yoga.
- The board is likely to be set up in the coming four to five months.
- The State, at present, has about 20 residential Vedic schools, including 'Gurukuls'.
- The state government has also established Ayurveda and Sanskrit universities.

Haryana announces Rs 5,000 one-time aid for labourers, shopkeepers hit by pandemic

- The Haryana government announced a one-time payment of Rs 5,000 each to small shopkeepers, construction workers, auto-rickshaw drivers and unorganized labourers who have faced financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown.
- BPL families who have lost a family member in the 18-50 age group to COVID-19 will be given an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh each, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced at a media briefing here on the occasion of his government completing 600 days in office.
- The chief minister also announced a host of other benefits, including waiver of property tax and reduction in electricity bill in the first quarter of 2021-22.

NHRC forms panel to probe violence in Bengal

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) constituted a committee to probe complaints of post-poll violence in West Bengal.
- The committee will be headed by NHRC member Rajeev Jain.
- Atif Rasheed, Rajulben L Desai, Pradip Panja, and Raju Mukherjee are other members.
- The committee has been entrusted with examining complaints received by NHRC or those that it may receive.

J&K govt suspends Amarnath Yatra 'in larger public interest'

- The Amarnath Yatra has been suspended for the 2nd consecutive year citing the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Shri Amarnath Shrine Board had suspended registrations for the yatra this year in the last week of April.
- All traditional religious rituals will be performed at the shrine.
- The yatra, however, will remain symbolic.
- The UT administration had drawn flak for hosting a Tulip festival at Srinagar in April even as cases soared across the valley.

Odisha launches 'Ashirbad' for education and health of Covid orphans

- Odisha govt launched 'Ashirbad' scheme for education, health, and maintenance of Covid orphans.
- Children who lost their parents or the main earning person of the family on April 1, 2020, or thereafter to Covid-19 will be eligible to be covered under the scheme.
- Rs 2500 per month will be deposited in the bank accounts of family members who have taken responsibility for the children after the death of their parents.
- The assistance will continue till 18 years of the child.

Odisha joins hands with UN WFP to empower women through SHGs

- Odisha govt and UN World Food Programme (WFP) partnered to improve household food and nutritional security by strengthening livelihood initiatives with the help of state-supported Women's Self-Help Groups (WSHGs).
- The partnership is focused on the empowerment, livelihood and incomes of women.
- This collaboration will support WSHGs by providing technical assistance and capacity development, directly contributing to long-term food security and developing a replicable model.

Odisha emerged as only state in India to have all 3 species of crocodiles

- Odisha has emerged as the only state in India to have all three species of crocodiles.
- Crocodiles: They are critically endangered species. The species has been subjected to incessant killings at the hands of humans, for fulfilling their commercial needs.
- There are three popularly known species of crocodiles, found in India, namely:
 - The Mugger Crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*).
 - The Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*).
 - The Saltwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*).

Andhra Pradesh inaugurates International Education e-Conference

- Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan has virtually inaugurated two-day International Education e-Conference on the theme of 'Holistic Education for Excellence in Life'.

- It has been organised by Prajapita Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya.
- Children will be equipped with intellectual, mental, physical, emotional and spiritual capabilities to face the demands and challenges of everyday life and real-world education.

Telangana to provide Rs 10 lakh financial assistance to Dalit families

- Telangana govt has announced Rs 10 lakh financial assistance to eligible Dalit beneficiaries under the Chief Minister Dalit Empowerment Programme.
- The guidelines for the 'Programme' was finalized in an all-party meeting.
- The amount will be transferred directly to the bank accounts of the selected beneficiaries.
- In the first phase, the assistance would be given to 100 families selected from each of the 119 Assembly Constituencies.

J-K launches round-the-clock mental health helpline 'Sukoon'

- As part of efforts to improve the mental well being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir amid COVID-19, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) on Wednesday inaugurated the 'Sukoon', the union territory's first 24x7 counselling helpline number to provide mental health counselling.
- The name of the program literally translates to 'relief' and its main goal is to provide guidance to people dealing with anxiety, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), substance abuse, panic attacks and several other mental issues.
- According to Haseeb Rehman, Commandant of the First Battalion, the program has been initiated in coordination and consultation with doctors and mental health experts.

Principal Scientific Adviser to GOI launched Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship

- The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India under its Waste to Wealth Mission has launched the Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship to recognize students, community workers or Self-Help Groups, SHGs and municipal or sanitary workers who are engaged in tackling the enormous challenge of waste management, scientifically and sustainably.
- The Waste to Wealth Mission is one of the nine national missions of the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council, PM-STIAC.
- Targeted to encourage community participation, the Swachhta Saarthi Fellowships invites applications from students and community workers who have done previous work or are currently engaged in waste management activities, including awareness campaigns, surveys and studies.



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Haryana to Reserve 75% Jobs In Private Sector for Locals

- The Haryana Governor had approved a bill that reserves 75 percent of the private sector jobs with gross salary upto Rs. 50,000 per month for the people of the state, Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala informed. The legislation was passed by the state assembly last year.
- Reservation in the private sector for locals was the main election promise of Mr. Chautala's Jannayak Janta Party, which had formed a government in the state in alliance with the BJP after winning 10 of the 90 seats.

Karnataka govt to introduce 'Model Tenancy Act'

- Karnataka's Revenue Minister R Ashoka has announced the introduction of the Model Tenancy Act in the state to end tenant-owner disputes.
- The new tenancy act will propose to fix the rent by both the parties (owners and tenants) and after reaching an agreement, they need to finalise it legally and then upload it in the portal.
- The disputes will be settled within 60 days and even if anyone plans to postpone the hearing, there won't be anything more than three chances.

Assam to create new department for indigenous faith and culture

- The Assam govt announced the creation of a new department to protect and preserve the faith, culture and traditions of tribes and indigenous communities.
- The new Dept will mainly focus on areas dominated by illegal immigrants.
- It aims to protect demography and cultures.
- It will enable people of 'all indigenous faith' to get the benefits of schemes to be offered by the department.
- The scheme will be meant for Bodos, tea tribes, Morans, Mottocks, Rabhas, Mishings.

UP law panel proposes 'two-child' population policy

- The UP Govt formulated a proposal for population control and welfare, rewarding couples that adhere to a 'two-child policy'.
- The policy will be voluntary — it will not be enforced upon anyone.
- However, if any person decides to "voluntarily" keep the number of their family members limited, they will be eligible for govt schemes.
- On the other hand, if someone doesn't follow the policy, they will face restrictions in govt jobs, availing ration, and other benefits.

Karnataka govt unveiled bike taxi scheme for state

- Karnataka CM BS Yediyurappa has unveiled Karnataka Electric Bike Taxi scheme-2021 to ensure affordable first-and last-mile connectivity in Bengaluru and other cities in the state.
- This will serve as a bridge between public transport and daily commuters.
- It will boost self-employment, promote eco-friendly environment, fuel conservation, reduce travel time, strengthen public transport.
- The distance between the origin and destination for a trip shall not be more than 10 km.

Maharashtra govt launched new EV Policy 2021

- Maharashtra State Environment Minister, Aaditya Thackeray has launched new Electric Vehicle Policy 2021 to accelerate the adoption of Battery Electric Vehicles.
- This new EV policy is a revision of the 2018 policy and will exempt EVs from road tax and registration charges.
- It is introduced with an aim to make Maharashtra the topmost producer of battery-powered electric vehicles in India.
- It also aims for EVs to make up 10% of all new vehicle registrations by 2025.

Ladakh signed MoU with Sikkim to become organic entity by 2025

- Ladakh has signed MoU with Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency (SOCCA) to convert the Union Territory of Ladakh into an organic entity by 2025.
- The MoU will facilitate the implementation of Pramragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI) in Ladakh.
- Aim: To get the organic certification for Ladakh after a tie-up with Government.
- It will be completed in three phases with 85 villages, 82 villages and 79 villages respectively.

Andhra Pradesh to implement 10% EWS quota in employment, education

- Andhra Pradesh govt has issued orders for implementation of 10% EWS reservation in all government employment and education in accordance with 103rd Constitution Amendment Act 2019 that provides for the creation of the special EWS quota to be implemented by the state.
- AP government has simplified the norms stipulated by the Centre for its implementation without sub-categorisation.
- People with gross family income below Rs 8 lakh per annum are eligible for EWS reservation.

Annual Bonalu Festival Kicks-off in Telangana

- The annual state festival 'Bonalu' began on July 11, 2021 in Telangana. It is celebrated in the month of Ashada Masam which falls in July/August.
- The Hindu Festival is celebrated in Twin Cities Hyderabad, Secunderabad and other parts of Telangana to worship Goddess Mahakali.
- Bonam means Meal in Telugu, and denotes offering to the Mother Goddess as a form of thanksgiving after the fulfillment of vows.
- The traditional bonam (made from rice, jaggery and milk) is offered to the goddess Mahankali at 25 temples across the twin cities.

Tripura to promote commercial cultivation of agar

- The government of Tripura has taken initiatives to promote commercial cultivation of Agar trees and has set a target of achieving Rs 2,000 crore business from this sector in the coming three years.
- Tripura government has plans to export 1,500 kg of Agar oil and 75,000 kg of Agar chips in the year 2021-22.
- Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday and apprised him about the potential of Agar trees.
- Tripura government has launched a draft named Tripura Agar Wood Policy 2021 and a target has been set up of doubling the plantation by the year 2025. Currently, there are over 50 lakh agar trees in the state.
- Chief Minister of Tripura had also requested PM Modi for fixing a quota on Agarwood exportation and its products.

Common High Court of J&K and Ladakh renamed as 'High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh'

- The Ministry of Law and Justice has informed that the name of the 'Common High Court of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and UT of Ladakh' has officially been changed to 'High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh'.

- To bring this change, President Ram Nath Kovind has signed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2021.
- The decision for renaming has been taken because the present nomenclature was rather long-winding and cumbersome. On the other hand, the new nomenclature is quite convenient as well as in consonance with the name pattern followed in other common HCs.

Uttar Pradesh to set up panchayat secretariat in all panchayats of the state

- Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has announced to set up Panchayat Secretariat in all panchayats of the state for the first time to strengthen the rural democracy and providing employment to the rural youth.
- There are currently 58,189 gram panchayats in UP.
- UP govt will also provide free healthcare to all Antyodaya card holders who are not covered under any healthcare scheme, benefitting around 40 lakh families.
- Panchayat assistant will be given Rs 6,000 as remuneration.

Union Cabinet Approves Central University in Ladakh, to be Constructed at Rs 750 Crore

- The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of a Central University in the Union Territory of Ladakh, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur announced on 22nd July.
- Two important decisions for Ladakh have been taken. The Cabinet has approved a Central University in Ladakh at a cost of Rs 750 crore and an integrated, multi-purpose corporation will be set up in Ladakh.
- A long-pending demand, the Central University in Ladakh, will address regional imbalances in higher education level and promote overall growth and development of the UT.
- On establishing the Ladakh Integrated Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (LIIDCO), the Union minister said the body will look at the development of industries and tourism in the region.

Arunachal Pradesh, IIM Shillong to collaborate as knowledge partners

- Arunachal Pradesh govt signed an MoU with Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis-IIM Shillong for collaborating as a knowledge partner.
- Aim: Capacity building of State Govt and to set up a satellite centre of IIM-S in the State and for necessary policy interventions.
- The MoU aims at promoting mutual agreement b/w the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research Analysis of IIM Shillong and the Finance Planning and Investment Department of the state.

Puri becomes India's first city to provide quality drinking tap water

- Puri (Odisha) became first Indian city where people can avail high quality drinking water directly from the tap on 24-hour.
- Due to this, people will need not have to store or filter drinking water.
- No metropolitan city in India has such facility till now.
- Similar facilities are available only in cities like London, New York and Singapore.
- Puri would no more be burdened with 400 metric tonne of plastic waste. Water fountains have been developed at 400 locations in Puri.

Indore selected for International Clean Air Catalyst Programme

- Indore (Madhya Pradesh) or the cleanest city of India has become the only city from India to be selected for International Clean Air Catalyst Programme
- Aim: to purify the air in the city with the cooperation of Indore Municipal Corporation and Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board.
- Clean Air Catalyst: Flagship programme launched by US Agency for International Development (USAID) and led by World Resources Institute and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF).

Madhya Pradesh announces Ayush scheme named 'Devaranya Yojana'

- Madhya Pradesh Govt has prepared Ayush-based economic up-gradation scheme named as Devaranya Yojana to bring together AYUSH and tourism to boost employment opportunities in tribal areas.
- This scheme is launched for maximizing Ayurveda benefits in the scheduled tribal areas, increasing employment and livelihood opportunities in tribal-dominated areas.
- Under this, medicinal and aromatic plants will be cultivated in the tribal-dominated areas, and industries.

Assam CM lays foundation stone of Bamboo Industrial Park in Dima Hasao

- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has laid the foundation stone of the first-ever Bamboo Industrial Park of the Northeast at Manderdisa in Dima Hasao, Assam
- Bamboo Industrial project will be implemented by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region at an estimated cost at Rs. 50 crores, over an area covering 75 hectares.
- Once completed, it will contribute to the overall economic development of the State apart from developing the bamboo-based industries.

Kerala police launched 'Pink Protection' project for women safety

- The Kerala Police launched a new initiative called the Pink Protection project for the protection of women in public, private and digital spaces.
- The Pink Protection project aims to prevent dowry-related issues, cyber-bullying & humiliation in public places. It has 10 components, one of which is activating the existing Pink Police Patrol system, named Pink Janamaithri Beat.
- They will collect information from panchayat members, neighbours and other locals and hand it over to the Station House Officers for further action.
- The Pink Beat system, in which specially trained women police officers have been deployed, will be present at Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and private buses and in front of schools, colleges and other public places including bus stops.
- Pink control rooms have been set up in all 14 districts to coordinate the activities.
- The Pink Shadow Patrol team will also be deployed to detect the presence of anti-socials in crowded areas and to take action.
- A bullet patrol team of woman police officers called "Pink Romeo" was also launched as part of the project.

Bhubaneswar becomes first city in country to achieve 100% vaccination against COVID-19

- Odisha capital's Bhubaneswar has become first city in India to achieve 100% vaccination of its people against COVID-19
- Additionally, about 1 lakh migrant workers have also been administered first dose of COVID vaccine
- Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation had set benchmarks for different categories of people to complete the vaccination process within the specific timelines by the 31st July 2021.
- Those vaccinated include about 9 lakh people of 18 years of age and above.

Karnataka becomes first state to issue order implementing NEP-2020

- Karnataka has become the first state in the country to issue the order with regard to the implementation of National Education Policy-2020, State Higher Education Minister C N Ashwath Narayan claimed.
- The state government has issued an order on Saturday on the implementation of NEP-2020 with effect from the current academic year 2021-2022.
- Earlier on July 29, on the first anniversary of NEP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched SAFAL (STRUCTURED Assessment For Analysing Learning), a competency-based assessment for grades 3,5, and 8 introduced by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

PM Modi interacts with beneficiaries of PMGKAY in Madhya Pradesh

- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi interacted with the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) in Madhya Pradesh today via video conferencing.
- An intensive campaign to create more awareness about the scheme is being conducted by the state government so that no eligible person is left out.
- The state is celebrating 7th August, 2021 as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana Day.
- Governor and Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh were also present on the occasion. About 5 crore beneficiaries are benefitting through the scheme in Madhya Pradesh.
- While addressing the programme, Prime Minister expressed his concerns about the flood situation in many districts of MP.

Gujarat CM launched eNagar mobile application and portal

- Gujarat govt has launched eNagar mobile application and portal.
- The eNagar covers 10 modules with 52 services including property tax, professional tax, water & drainage, Complaints and grievance redressal, building permission, fire and emergency services.
- Gujarat Urban Development Mission has been appointed as a nodal agency for eNagar project.
- Total 170 locations including 162 municipalities and 8 Municipal Corporations are covered under the eNagar project.

Chhattisgarh became 1st state to recognize community forest resource rights

- Chhattisgarh became the first State to recognize Community Forest Resource (CFR) Rights in urban areas by recognizing the rights of residents of Dhamtari district spread over 4,127 hectares of forest.
- Chhattisgarh also recognized the community resource rights over 5,544 hectares of forest within the core area of Sitanadi Udanti tiger reserve area.
- CFR: Any forest resource that the tribal and other forest-dwelling communities use and depend on for a livelihood.

Chhattisgarh gets 4 new districts to take total administrative districts to 32

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has announced the creation of four new districts and 18 new tehsils in the state.
- The four new districts are: Mohla Manpur, Sarangarh-Bilagarh, Shakti, Manendragarh.
- With the creation of four new districts, the total number of administrative districts in the state have reached 32.
- Apart from this, a garden will be developed exclusively for women in every district headquarter and the municipal corporation of the state, which will be known as the "Minimata Udyan".
- The park has been named after 'Minimata', the first woman MP from Chhattisgarh elected in 1952, who devoted her life toward empowerment of women and betterment of society.

Chhattisgarh launched Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Majdur Nyay Yojana

- Chhattisgarh government has launched 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Majdur Nyay Yojana', benefiting 12 lakh landless families.
- The scheme will have the provision of ₹200 crores.
- The amount has been included in the supplementary budget of the financial year 2021-2022.
- Aim: To support rural landless labourers with minimum wages so that they can access basic amenities.

Why IBT?

100+

Centers Across India

8000+

Selection in last year

13500+

Selections in SSC
FCI/LIC & State Level

3500+

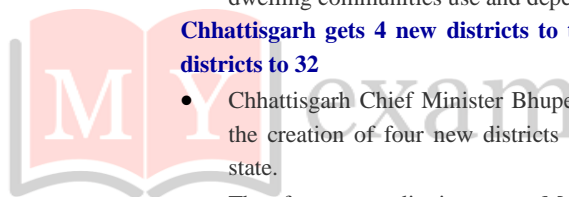
Selections in SSC
CGL Examination

2000+

Final Selections in
IBPS CLERK-2016

500+

Final Selections in
IBPS PO-2016



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).

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.

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.

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%.

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.

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

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.

INTERNATIONAL

New coronavirus variant detected in Vietnam, spreads quickly by air

- Authorities in Vietnam have detected a new coronavirus variant that is a combination of the Indian and UK COVID-19 variants and spreads quickly by air.
- The new variant is an Indian variant with mutations that originally belong to the UK and it is very dangerous.
- Vietnam would soon publish genome data of the newly identified variant, which he said was more transmissible than the previously known types. Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO Technical Lead for COVID-19, said that they have still not yet made an assessment of the virus variant reported in Vietnam.
- WHO's Vietnam office is working with the Ministry of Health in Vietnam to gather more information. After successfully containing the virus for most of last year, Vietnam is grappling with a rise in infections since late April that accounts for more than half of the total 6,856 registered cases. So far, there have been 47 deaths.

Bangladesh clears currency swap facility to boost Sri Lanka's depleting foreign reserves

- Bangladesh's central bank has approved a \$200 mn currency swap facility to Sri Lanka.
- It has become the first South Asian country to extend crucial financial assistance to the island nation in 2021.
- In this context, a currency swap is effectively a loan that Bangladesh will give to Sri Lanka in dollars, with an agreement that the debt will be repaid with interest in Sri Lankan rupees.

China allows couples to have three children after relaxation in its one-child policy failed to bear result

- In a major shift in its population policy, China announced on 31st May that couples may have up to three children, from the existing limit of two after recent census data showed a dramatic decline in births in the world's most populous country.
- The change was approved during a politburo meeting chaired by President Xi Jinping, the official news agency Xinhua reported.
- The decision in 2016 to relax China's one-child policy and allow people to have a second child had failed to reverse the country's falling birth rate as the high cost of raising children in Chinese cities deterred many couples from starting families.
- The policy change will come with "supportive measures, which will be conducive to improving our country's population structure, fulfilling the country's strategy of

actively coping with an ageing population and maintaining the advantage, endowment of human resources", state news agency said. It did not specify the support measures.

- China's once-a-decade census, released earlier this month, showed that 12 million babies were born in the past year, the lowest since 1961, during the Great Famine.

WHO Names COVID-19 Variants First Found in India 'Kappa' and 'Delta'

- The B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.2 variants of COVID-19, first identified in India, have been named as 'Kappa' and 'Delta' respectively, the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced on Monday as it named various variants of the coronavirus using Greek alphabets.
- The UN health agency named the B.1.617.1 variant of the COVID-19 as 'Kappa' while the B.1.617.2 variant was dubbed 'Delta'. Both the variants were first found in India.
- The WHO's move came nearly three weeks after India objected to the B.1.617 mutant of the novel coronavirus being termed an "Indian Variant" in media reports with the Union health ministry, pointing out that the UN's top health organ has not used the word "Indian" for this strain in its document.

India elected to UN Economic and Social Council for 2022-24 term

- India has been elected as the member of 54-member United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for 3-year terms from 2022 to 2024.
- It has been selected by UN General Assembly in Asia-Pacific States category, along with Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Oman.
- **About ECOSOC:**
- It is one of the six main organs of UN.
- It serves as the central platform for discussing international economic, social and environmental issues and formulating policy recommendations.

Auckland has become the world's most liveable city

- Auckland placed at the top in The Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index of 140 cities around the world.
- Austria's Vienna, number one in both 2018 and 2019, dropped out of the top 10 after being heavily affected by Covid (now in 12th).
- New Zealand's capital Wellington was 4th on this year's list, tying with Tokyo.
- Adelaide, Perth, and Brisbane came in 3rd, 6th, and 10th place respectively, while Melbourne tied with Switzerland's Geneva at number eight.

47th G7 summit held in UK's Cornwall

- The 47th G7 Leaders' Summit 2021 (Outreach Session of the G7 meeting) took place in a Hybrid format from June 11-13, 2021 at Cornwall, United Kingdom (UK). It was hosted by the United Kingdom (UK) as it holds the Presidency of G7 for 2021.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually participated in the meeting and called G7 summit members for the 'One Earth One Health' approach to effectively deal with the coronavirus pandemic globally, and sought the support of the G7 grouping to lift patent protections for COVID-19 vaccines.

UK and Australia agreed on historic free trade agreement

- Britain and Australia have agreed on a historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- It will make it cheaper for the UK to sell its cars and Scotch whisky Down Under and remove barriers for business.
- An FTA with Australia is also dubbed as a gateway into the fast-growing Indo-Pacific region, which covers India.
- The UK-Australia trade relationship was worth 13.9 billion pounds last year and is set to grow under the deal.

World's third-largest diamond unearthed in Botswana

- A 1,098 carat diamond believed to be the third largest gem-quality stone ever to be mined, has been discovered in Botswana, according to a joint venture between Anglo American's (AAL.L) De Beers and the government.
- The stone was presented to President Mokgweetsi Masisi by Debswana Diamond Company's acting managing director Lynette Armstrong. It is the third largest in the world, behind the 3,106 carat Cullinan stone recovered in South Africa in 1905 and the 1,109 carat Lesedi La Rona unearthed by Lucara Diamonds in Botswana in 2015.

Cochin International Airport wins honour in airport service quality

- The Cochin International Airport won the Roll of Excellence award in Airport Service Quality.
- This was established by the Airport Council International (ACI).
- The award will be presented during the ACI Customer Experience Global Summit to be held in Sep21 in Montreal.
- CIA has consistently delivered excellence in customer service by winning multiple awards over 5 yrs during the past 10 yrs.
- It is one of the 6 airports worldwide that will receive recognition this year.

Denmark signs framework agreement

- Denmark signed the framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA) and Instrument of Ratification with India, informed Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi.
- Meanwhile, Denmark becomes first country to ratify International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA) after amendments to it entered into force on January 8.
- Kingdom of Denmark becomes 1st country to ratify International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA) after amendments to it entered into force on 8 January this year, opening its Membership to all Member States of the United Nations.

Ashgabat world's most expensive city for foreign workers

- Turkmenistan's capital city Ashgabat has become the world's most expensive city for foreign workers, according to this year's Mercer Cost of Living Survey. The annual report has ranked 209 cities across five continents by measuring the comparative cost of more than 200 items, including housing, transportation, food, clothing, household goods, and entertainment. The survey used New York City, ranked 14 on the list, as the base city and currency movements were measured against the US dollar.
- List of top 10 expensive cities mostly features global financial hubs like Hong Kong, which was the priciest last year, Tokyo, Shanghai, Zurich and Singapore. Mercer has cited Turkmenistan's ongoing financial crisis as the reason for Ashgabat's high cost of living. Another outlier on the list is third-ranked Beirut which climbed 42 positions up the ranking due to a severe and extensive economic depression owing to several crises, including coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and the Port of Beirut explosion in 2020.

Ukraine, U.S. launched Black Sea drills

- Ukraine and the United States launched joint naval exercises in the Black Sea.
- The drills come just days after the British Royal Navy's HMS Defender passed near Russian-annexed Crimea in the Black Sea.
- The Sea Breeze drills — which have taken place 21 times since 1997 — will involve some 5,000 military personnel from more than 30 countries.
- The exercises will last two weeks and involve around 30 ships, including the missile destroyer USS Ross.

Ethiopia’s ruling party won national parliamentary election

- In Ethiopia, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s Prosperity party won national parliamentary election. National Election Board of Ethiopia announced that the ruling party won 410 seats out of 436 in the federal parliament. This landslide victory assured a second term for the prime minister Abiy Ahmed. Last month’s election was largely peaceful but opposition parties decried harassment and intimidation.
- Abiy Ahmed came to power in April 2018 after the former prime minister resigned amid widespread protests. He had taken many steps for political and economic reforms during his tenure but also drawn intense international criticism for his handling of the conflict in the Tigray region has that left thousands of people dead.

Italy crowned European champions after shootout win over England

- Italy won their second European Championship trophy by defeating England 3-2 in the penalty shoot-out in the Euro 2020 final at Wembley Stadium in London.
- Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma saved two England penalties to win by a 3-2 shootout.

- It was the first final to be decided on penalties since Czechoslovakia beat West Germany in 1976.
- Italy’s goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma was the Best player and Cristiano Ronaldo has won the Golden Boot in the tournament.

Singapore unveiled one of world’s largest floating solar panel farms

- Singapore has unveiled one of the World’s largest floating solar panel farms, which can produce enough electricity to power the island’s five water treatment plants quadrupling its solar energy production by 2025.
- It is located on a reservoir in western Singapore.
- It is 60 megawatt-peak solar photovoltaic farm with 1,22,000 solar panels and has been built by wholly-owned subsidiary of Sembcorp Industries.
- It will help to reduce carbon emissions by about 32 kilo tonnes.

United Arab Emirates became 1st Gulf nation to open embassy in Israel

- United Arab Emirates (UAE) has become the first Gulf state to open an embassy in Israel.

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- UAE embassy is situated in Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, Israel, followed by the inauguration of Israel's embassy in the UAE last month.
- Normalisation of ties between UAE and Israel were discussed for the first time on trade and investment opportunities across economy, air travel, technology and culture.
- Sudan and Morocco have since also moved to establish ties with Israel.

Britain unveils planned to decarbonise its transport systems

- Britain has unveiled plans to decarbonise its transport systems, phasing out the sale of all polluting road vehicles by 2040 and committing the aviation sector to a 2050 net zero emissions target.
- Britain will host COP26 climate summit in November.
- PM Boris Johnson announced 10-point plan for a green industrial revolution to tackle climate change, which included banning petrol and diesel new vehicle sales by 2030 and will now phase out the sale of heavier vehicles.

China began construction of world's first commercial modular small reactor

- The Chinese newspaper said the project has been launched by China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) and will have power generation capacity of 125,000 kilowatts and its annual power generation capacity would be 1 billion kilowatt hours capable of serving 526,000 households.
- The report added the small reactor technology has independent intellectual property rights which was developed by CNNC for over ten years and reportedly has high safety and flexible deployment capability.
- The reactor can use nuclear energy for various functions including power generation and can be used in the mining sector, industrial parks and for high-end consumption industries.
- China has reportedly built 51 nuclear power units with 19 under construction. The Linglong 1 is being built as a demonstration project in Changjiang nuclear power plant paving the way for modular small reactor technology to be taken up on a global scale.

USA announce new Quad group for Afghan peace process

- The US, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan will create a new Quad group to promote the Afghan peace process, stability and trade in the region.
- The parties consider long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan critical to regional connectivity and agree that peace and regional connectivity are mutually reinforcing.

- This development comes as the security situation in Afghan has been deteriorating following the withdrawal of US military forces from the country.

Saudi Arabia ends male guardian requirement for women attending hajj

- According to the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, Saudi Arabia, women can now register for the annual Hajj pilgrimage without a male guardian (marham). In registration guidelines of Hajj for domestic pilgrims, the ministry highlights, women do not need to require a male guardian to register and could do registration along with other women. Women wishing to perform Hajj will have to register individually.
- India had announced the same rule in 2017 when the Modi government declared that women could go on Hajj without a male companion. Muslim women were exempted from mahram and also from the lottery system.

Philippines became first country to approve Golden Rice for planting

- Philippines will become the first country in the world to cultivate Golden Rice to help reduce childhood malnutrition.
- Golden Rice was developed by Dept of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute (DA-PhilRice) in partnership with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) to contain additional levels of beta-carotene, which the body converts into Vitamin A.
- It is genetically engineered to provide up to 50% of EAR for Vitamin A of young children.

Central & South Asia connectivity conference 2021 held

- Uzbekistan hosted a high-level International Conference titled as 'Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities' at Tashkent.
- The conference was an initiative of the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev.
- Delegates from over 40 countries and about 30 international organizations, and heads of think tanks participated in the conference.
- Minister of External Affairs of India Dr. S. Jaishankar also participated in the conference.

Brazil garden Sitio Burle Marx receives UNESCO World Heritage status

- Landscape garden in Brazil's Rio de Janeiro, Sitio Burle Marx site has been added to UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites
- The garden features more than 3,500 species of plants native to Rio and is considered a laboratory for botanical and landscape experimentation

- It has been named after Burle Marx, Brazilian landscape architect whose designs of parks and gardens made him world-famous
- It is the 23rd Brazilian location recognized on UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites.

Shehroze Kashif becomes the youngest mountaineer in the world to scale Mt. K2

- Pakistani climber named Shehroz Kashif (19 years) has become the youngest mountaineer in the world to reach the summit of K2 (second-highest peak in the world).
- He achieved the feat of scaling the 8,611-metre high peak with the aid of bottled oxygen, on July 27, 2021.
- Prior to him, Sajid Sadpara, the son of the legendary climber Muhammad Ali Sadpara, was the youngest person to have climbed K2 at the age of 20.

India ranks 122nd on new Global Youth Development Index

- India has been ranked 122 on 2020 Global Youth Development Index among 181 countries.
- It has been released by Commonwealth Secretariat in London.
- Triennial rankings of youth development measures the extent to which young people are engaged to contribute beneficially in their societies, policies and tools.
- Top nations: Singapore, Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark.
- Worst nation: Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Niger.

UNICEF India collaborates with Facebook for safe online environment

- Facebook has collaborated with UNICEF India to launch 1-year joint program for ending violence against children with a special focus on online safety.
- It will include nationwide social media campaign and capacity building for 11 lakh schoolchildren on online safety, digital literacy, and psychosocial support
- It will help to improve children's resilience and capacity to access the digital world safely.

Afghanistan Prez Ashraf Ghani stepped down, as Taliban forces takes power

- Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani will shortly tender his resignation on August 15, 2021, as the government has surrendered to the Taliban forces, which entered Kabul and sought the unconditional surrender of the central government.

- Following this, a new interim government has been announced, which is likely to be headed by Ali Ahmad Jalali, a US-based academic.

Resolution reintroduced in US Congress to award Congressional Gold Medal to Mahatma Gandhi

- An influential US lawmaker from New York reintroduced a resolution in the US House of Representatives to posthumously award the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal to Mahatma Gandhi in recognition of his promotion of peace and nonviolence.
- The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian award in the United States. Gandhi would be the first Indian to receive a Congressional Gold Medal, an honour bestowed upon such great figures as George Washington, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr., Mother Teresa, and Rosa Parks.

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.

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.

BANKING NEWS

Canara Bank's board approved plan to raise up to Rs 9,000 crore in FY22

- State-run Canara Bank's board approved a plan to raise up to Rs 9,000 crore in the current financial year (FY22), of which Rs 2,500 crore will be through a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP), to meet regulatory norms and support growth.
- The total amount would be raised through a mix of equity and debt instruments and is subject to market conditions and necessary approvals, the bank informed the BSE.
- The bank had raised Rs 2,000 crore through another QIP in December 2020.

RBI imposed penalty of Rs.10 crore on HDFC Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a 10 crore fine on private sector lender HDFC Bank Ltd for selling vehicle-tracking devices to its auto loan customers.
- RBI stated that the decision was taken after an examination of documents pertaining to allegations of improper lending practices in its vehicle-financing operations.
- On 23 July 2020, Bloomberg reported that RBI had sought details about HDFC Bank's probe into the irregularities in its vehicle finance division.
- The complaint pertained to the customers of the bank being forced to purchase a vehicle tracking device for about four years ended December 2019, in a possible breach of guidelines that prohibit banks from non-financial businesses.
- HDFC Bank executives, including the auto loan head Ashok Khanna, had pushed auto loan customers to buy GPS devices costing 18,000-19,500 from 2015 to December 2019.

GST Council forms 8-member panel to examine tax exemption on Covid material

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council constituted a group of ministers (GoM) in order to decide on the rates of COVID-19 relief material.
- Currently, 5% GST is levied on domestically manufactured vaccines, while it is 12% for COVID drugs and oxygen concentrators.
- **Members of the group of ministers (GoM) are:**
- Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma (Convener)
- Gujarat deputy chief minister – Nitinbhai Patel,
- Maharashtra deputy CM – Ajit Pawar,
- Goa transport minister – Mauvin Godinho,
- Kerala finance minister – KN Balagopal,

- Odisha finance minister – Niranjan Pujari,
- Telangana finance minister – T Harish Rao
- UP finance minister – Suresh Kr Khanna

Moody's estimates Indian Economy to grow 9.3% in FY22

- India's economy will rebound in the current financial year to mark a growth of 9.3 percent but the second Covid-19 wave has increased risks to the country's outlook with potential longer-term credit implications.
- A small shortfall in budgeted revenue and a redirection of spending toward the response to the pandemic will result in a general government fiscal deficit of 11.8 per cent of GDP and a rise in the general government debt burden to 90.3 percent of GDP in fiscal 2021.
- Debt-to-GDP will edge up to 92 per cent by fiscal 2023, largely driven by relatively slow economic growth.

SBI cuts FY22 GDP growth estimate to 7.9%

- SBI economists, in its research report – Ecowrap, has sharply cut the GDP growth estimates for Indian economy to 7.9 percent in FY22, compared to earlier projection of 10.4 percent.
- This is the lowest growth rate estimate for India among all analysts.
- The key factor for revision in the growth estimate is the impact of the second wave of COVID-19 infections.
- The SBI economists projects a “W-shaped” recovery in FY22, with two troughs, instead of the earlier anticipated “V-shaped” recovery.

HDFC Bank deploys mobile ATMs across 50 cities in India amid Covid-19

- HDFC Bank mentioned it has installed mobile ATMs across 50 cities in India, which can be used for over 15 transactions by customers.
- The bank stated These ATMs have been deployed in various metros and non-metros in view of the restrictions imposed by Covid-19.
- Customers can conduct over 15 types of transactions using the Mobile ATM, which will be operational at each location for a specific period.
- The Mobile ATM will cover 3-4 stops in a day.

ICICI Bank Partners SWIFT to offer instant cross-border inward remittances facility

- ICICI Bank has tied up with Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT) to offer the facility,

called 'SWIFT gpi Instant', for cross border inward payments.

- This facility helps overseas partner banks to send instant remittances on behalf of their customers to the beneficiary in India and the beneficiary will get the credit to the bank account instantly.
- The 'SWIFT gpi Instant' offers instant transfer of up to Rs 2 lakh personal remittance into the beneficiary account.
- With this ICICI Bank is the first lender in Asia-Pacific and the second globally to offer 'SWIFT gpi Instant' facility, for cross border inward payments.

RBI launches On-Tap Liquidity Window worth Rs 15,000 crore for Contact-Intensive Sectors

- The Reserve Bank of India has launched a separate liquidity window of Rs. 15,000 crore certain contact-intensive sectors.
- These shall include hotels and restaurants; tourism – travel agents, tour operators and adventure/heritage facilities; aviation ancillary services – ground handling and supply chain; and other services that include private bus operators, car repair services, rent-a-car service providers, event/conference organisers, spa clinics, and beauty parlours/salons.
- The tenors of this window shall be of up to three years at a rate of repo rate. The facility will be available till March 31, 2022.
- Under this scheme, RBI has advised commercial banks to create a COVID loan book. The loans given to contact-intensive sectors under this window shall form a part of this COVID loan book. Now banks will have the facility to park their surplus liquidity up to the size of the COVID loan book with RBI at a rate of (Repo Rate-0.25%). (special 14-day reverse repo window will be opened for this.)

HDFC Bank plans to become carbon neutral by 2031-32

- India's largest private lender, HDFC Bank has planned to become carbon neutral by 2031-32. Bank is now looking to reduce its emissions, energy, and water consumption. The bank is working on a framework of issuing green bonds.
- As part of this initiative, the bank is looking at reducing its emissions, energy, and water consumption.
- It will continue to incorporate and scale up the use of renewable energy in its operations.

GST collections at Rs 1.03 lakh crore for May, above Rs 1 lakh crore for 8th consecutive month

- The goods and service tax collections for May clocked Rs 1,02,709 crore, making it the eighth straight month of collections crossing Rs 1 lakh crore mark.

- The collections have been 65% higher than the GST revenues in the same month, despite many states being under lockdown due to the Covid pandemic, the finance ministry said Saturday.

CRISIL projects India's GDP Growth for FY22 to 9.5%

- Domestic credit ratings agency CRISIL has revised GDP growth estimate for India to 9.5% in FY22 (2021-22), from the earlier estimate of 11%.
- As per CRISIL, economy had contracted by 7.3% in FY21.
- The downward revision is basically due to the hit to private consumption and investments following the second wave of COVID-19.

World Bank approves \$ 500 million program to boost MSME sector in India

- Board of Executive Directors of World Bank has approved \$500 million program to support India in its nationwide initiative of revitalising the MSME sector, which has been heavily impacted by COVID-19 crisis.
- The support has been extended by World Bank through its Raising and Accelerating Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Performance (RAMP) Program.
- This is the second phase of support by World Bank to India in this sector through RAMP program.

New income tax e-filing portal to be launched on June 7

- The Income Tax Department is expected to launch a new e-filing web portal for taxpayers, that can be used to file routine ITRs and perform other tax-related works, early next month.
- The Income Tax Department will launch a new e-filing portal to further ease the filing of income tax returns (ITRs).
- The e-portal, which, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) mentioned, it will provide a "modern, seamless" experience to taxpayers, will be available at www.incometax.gov.in.

NITI Aayog recommends privatisation of Central Bank & Indian Overseas Bank

- NITI Aayog has recommended privatization of Central Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank in the current fiscal (2021-22), as part of the disinvestment process announced in Union Budget 2021-22.
- Under the privatisation initiative, NITI Aayog was entrusted to suggest names of PSUs in strategic sectors to be merged, privatised, or made subsidiaries of other PSUs
- Dept of Investment and Public Asset Management and Dept of Financial Services will now examine this proposal .

RBI imposes penalty on Bank of India & PNB for Violation of Norms

- RBI has imposed monetary penalty on Bank of India and Punjab National Bank (PNB) for contravention of norms related to Frauds Classification and Reporting
- Penalty imposed on Bank of India is of Rs 4 crore and Rs 2 crore on Punjab National Bank.
- They has been fined for non-compliance with RBI directions, breach of stipulated transaction limits; delay in transfer of unclaimed balances to DEA Fund; delay in reporting a fraud to RBI, sale of a fraudulent asset.

Chandra Shekhar Ghosh re-appointed as MD & CEO of Bandhan Bank

- RBI has granted approval for the re-appointment of Chandra Shekhar Ghosh as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Bandhan Bank.
- His term will be of 3 years, with effect from 10 July 2021.
- His re-appointment is subject to the approval of shareholders at the ensuing annual general meeting of the bank.
- Bandhan Bank operates as a commercial bank since 2001.

RBI Increases ATM Interchange Fee From Rs. 15 To Rs. 17

- The Reserve Bank of India raised the interchange fee on each financial transaction at ATM from Rs. 15 to Rs. 17 for financial transactions and from Rs 5 to Rs 6 for non-financial transactions.
- Banks will be able to raise ATM transaction charges from August 1, 2021.
- Customers are still eligible for five free transactions — inclusive of financial and non-financial transactions — every month from their own bank ATMs and three transactions from other bank ATMs.

BharatPe acquires loyalty platform PAYBACK

- IndiaMerchant payments and financial services provider BharatPe has acquired multi-brand loyalty platform, PAYBACK India, to help its 6 million offline merchants roll out rewards and loyalty programmes for customers.
- The acquisition is expected to give an exit to American Express and ICICI Investments Strategic Fund, which hold 90% and 10% stake respectively in the entity. PAYBACK India will continue to function independently, after the acquisition.

Bank of Maharashtra Tops PSU Banks in Terms of Loan, Deposit Growth in FY21

- Bank of Maharashtra has emerged as the top performer among public sector banks in terms of loan and deposit growth during FY 2020-21.
- the bank recorded a 13.45% increase in gross advances at Rs 1.07 lakh cr in 2020-21.
- It was followed by Punjab & Sind Bank which posted an 8.39% growth in advances.

- In deposit mobilization, BoM with nearly 16% growth was ahead of SBI (13.56%).
- CASA for BoM saw a 24.47% raise, the highest among the public sector lenders.

HDFC Mutual Fund launches HDFC Banking & Financial Services Fund

- HDFC Mutual Fund has announced the launch of HDFC Banking and Financial Services Fund, NFO for retail investors.
- The NFO will run from June 11, 2021, to June 25, 2021.
- The New Fund Offer (NFO) will open on 28 June 2021 and close on 12 July 2021.
- It aims to invest in the banking and financial services sector across segments and market capitalization including, banking, broking, asset management, wealth management, insurance, NBFCs.

GST rates on Covid items slashed; Exemptions & GST reductions extended till September

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council Saturday cut rates on Covid-related medicines, oxygen concentrators and testing kits, but kept the rate for vaccines unchanged at 5%.
- Except for three items — electric furnaces used in crematoriums, temperature-checking instruments and ambulances — the Council, at its 44th meeting, accepted all other recommendations for tax rates at the same level as suggested by a Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted on the issue. The changes would be notified soon, officials said, and will be valid, as of now, until September 30.
- Differing views over the extent of reduction on Covid essentials resurfaced between the states and the Centre. Opposition-ruled states asked for exemption or zero rating for Covid essentials which they said was not considered by the Centre in the meeting.

ICRA projects GDP growth of India at 8.5% in FY 2022

- The domestic credit rating agency ICRA has projected the gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of India for the financial year 2021-22 to 8.5 percent year-on-year.
- ICRA is Gurgaon based credit rating agency, owned by Moody's Corporation.

HDFC Bank inks MoU with KIADB, to offer banking solutions to investors

- Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HDFC Bank to provide a wide range of financial products and services to its customers.
- As part of the MoU, HDFC Bank will provide a wide range of financial products and services to its customers through an extensive network of branches across the country.

- In addition, KIADB, in its efforts to make the land acquisition for industrial purposes more affordable and attract investments into Karnataka, has agreed to collaborate with HDFC bank so that eligible investor/customer of KIADB can avail of credit facilities from HDFC Bank as per Bank process and policies.

RBI expanded BBPS scope by August 31, 2021

- The RBI has expanded the scope of the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) by 31st August 2021.
- Also, 'mobile prepaid recharges' are added as a biller category.
- BBPS is an integrated bill payment system that offers interoperable bill payment services to customers online as well as through a network of agents on the ground.
- BBPS functions under the aegis of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank collaborates with MoEngage

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank collaborated with MoEngage to drive digital banking experiences in the unserved and underserved areas of the country.
- MoEngage is a leading customer engagement platform.
- This will foster a holistic customer experience across all organic channels, like the website, app, email, text message, social media, and branches to drive business growth.
- Utilizing MoEngage's expertise, the SFB will target SMS campaigns to encourage digital repayments.

Canara Bank to be lead sponsor of bad bank with 12% stake

- Canara Bank will be the lead sponsor of National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) or bad bank with 12% stake.
- The board of Canara Bank has given in-principle approval for taking a stake in NARCL.
- The IBA was appointed nodal agency to constitute the NARCL and India Debt Management Company Ltd (IDMCL) respectively.
- A bad bank refers to a financial institution that takes over the bad assets of lenders and undertakes resolution.

RBI proposes removing interest rate caps for microlenders

- 9. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed a uniform regulatory framework for microfinance institutions (MFIs), where in MFIs can provide collateral-free loans to households at interest rates determined by their boards.
- MFIs will get the freedom to set rates and end regulatory caps on interest rates.
- Microfinance is a form of financial service which provides small loans and other financial services to poor and low-income households.

Google Pay to allow 'tokenized' payments through SBI, IndusInd cards

- Google Pay has tied up with a clutch of leading Indian banks to offer 'tokenized' card services to customers on its UPI app.
- It has now added debit cards by SBI, IndusInd Bank, and Federal Bank and Credit cards by IndusInd Bank and HSBC India to its tokenized offerings.
- It is a feature that enables users to make debit or credit card payments through a secure digital token attached to their phone.
- The network partner for these transactions is VISA.

Asian Development Bank, India sign \$ 484 mn loan to upgrade road network in TN industrial corridor

- The ADB and the GoI signed a \$484 million loan to improve transport connectivity and facilitate industrial development in the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu.
- CKIC is part of India's East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC).
- ADB is the lead partner of the Government of India in developing ECEC.
- The project will upgrade about 590 km of state highways in the CKIC influence areas that cover 23 of the 32 districts b/w Chennai and Kanyakumari.

Centre appoints Finance Ministry official Anand Mohan Bajaj to SEBI Board

- The Govt of India has appointed Anand Mohan Bajaj as a Member of the Board of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- Currently, he is holding the post of Additional Secretary in the Finance Ministry since May 2020.



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- He will succeed Tarun Bajaj, who is now the Revenue Secretary.
- He had rejoined the Finance Ministry in September 2018 as Joint Secretary.
- He had earlier served as Director (capital markets) in the Finance Ministry between July 2006-June 2011.

Institute for Economics and Peace released Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021 released

- The 15th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021 was released by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Sydney.
- Indian ranked 135th most peaceful country in the world.
- Iceland remains the most peaceful country while Afghanistan is the least peaceful country in the world for the fourth consecutive year.
- Bhutan ranked as the most peaceful nation in South Asia.
- New Zealand, Denmark, Portugal ranked 3rd, 4th, and 5th resp.

LIC Cards in collab with IDBI launches RuPay prepaid gift card 'Shagun'

- LIC Cards Services Ltd (LIC CSL) has launched a contactless prepaid gift card 'Shagun' in collaboration with IDBI Bank on the RuPay platform. The purpose of this card is to expand the gift card market with an intent to promote cashless ways of gifting and present a wide range of end-use choices and in a future foray into the market of e-gift cards, LIC CSL.
- Shagun card, in the initial phase, will be available to LIC and its subsidiaries for official use. The card will be used to facilitate awards and special rewards during official conferences and functions. The Shagun gift card offers customisation in the form of flexible loading of any amount ranging from Rs 500 to Rs 10,000. With this card, the customer can perform multiple transactions within the validity of 3 years. With the wide acceptability of RuPay, the Shagun gift card can be used at millions of merchant outlets and e-commerce websites in India to diversify spending options on the card.

Antonio Guterres re-elected as UN Secretary General for five years

- UN General Assembly appointed Antonio Guterres as the UN Secretary-General for a 2nd term beginning Jan 1, 2022, and ending on Dec 31, 2026.
- President of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly Volkan Bozkir announced his appointment.
- He administered the oath of office to the Guterres at the podium of the UN General Assembly hall.
- He is an ex-Prime Minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002,
- He has been serving as the Secretary-General since 2017.

India receives \$64 bn FDI in 2020, fifth largest recipient of inflows

- The UNCTAD has released the World Investment Report 2021.
- As per the report, India becomes the 5th-largest recipient of FDI inflows in 2020.
- It received a total of \$ 64 billion as FDI an increase of 27% from USD 51 billion in 2019.
- The US with 156 Billion was the top destination for FDI in 2020 followed by China (USD 149 billion) & Hong Kong.
- Countries with the Largest FDI outflows are China (133 billion), Luxembourg (127 billion), and Japan (116 billion).

SEBI Reconstitutes Takeover Panel

- Financial market regulator SEBI has reconstituted its Takeover Panel.
- The panel looks into the applications seeking exemption from the mandatory open offer that an acquirer needs to make to minority shareholders.
- N Venkatram MD and CEO, Deloitte India as the new member of the Panel.
- The panel is chaired by N K Sodhi, the former chief justice of the high courts of Karnataka and Kerala.
- Other members: Darius Khambata, Thomas Mathew T.

Union Bank of India enters into MoU with NSIC to support MSMEs

- Union Bank of India signed an MoU with NSIC under the 'NSIC Bank Credit Facilitation Scheme' to support MSMEs with credit requirements.
- Under the MoU, the NSIC branch offices are also functioning as Finance Facilitation Centers will assist MSMEs in getting their loan requirements from UBI.
- Under this scheme, NSIC is entering into MoUs with various nationalized and private sector banks and arranging credit support from banks to meet the credit requirements of MSME units.

FinMin allows small HFCs to take recourse to SARFAESI law

- The Finance Ministry has now allowed all Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) with asset sizes of over Rs 100 cr to use SARFAESI law to recover dues.
- Till now, HFCs with assets over Rs 500 cr and notified by FinMin, were allowed to use SARFAESI law to recover dues.
- The top-10 HFCs account for 70-80% of the assets of the housing finance industry.
- SARFAESI law, enacted in 2002, empowers lenders to attach the pledged assets of the borrowers in the event of non-payment of dues.

Moody's cuts India growth forecast for 2021 to 9.6% from 13.9% earlier

- Moody's Investors Service slashed India's growth projection to 9.6% for the 2021 calendar year, from its earlier estimate of 13.9%.
- This prospect was published in the Macroeconomics India: Economic shocks from second COVID wave will not be as severe as last year's report.
- Indian economy contracted by 7.3 percent in fiscal 2020-21 as against a 4% growth in 2019-20.

India, World Bank sign \$32 million loan agreement for Mizoram healthcare project

- The GoI, Mizoram, and the World Bank have signed a \$32 million Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project.
- Aim: to improve management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram.
- The project will strengthen the governance and the management structure of the Department of Health and Family Welfare (DoHFW) and its subsidiaries.
- A key focus will be to strengthen the effectiveness of the state health insurance program.

SBI unveils business loan for healthcare sector

- The SBI has announced Aarogyam Healthcare Business Loan.
- Under this facility, the entire healthcare ecosystem such as hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic centres etc can avail loans of up to Rs. 100 cr for 10 yrs.
- The loan can be availed either as a term loan to support expansion/modernisation or as working capital facilities.
- In metro centres, loans can be availed up to Rs. 100 cr, tier I & urban centres up to Rs. 20 cr and in tier II to tier VI centres up to Rs. 10 cr.

IFSCA constitutes committee to examine best practices in ship financing

- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has constituted a committee to examine global best practices in ship financing and leasing.
- Committee will also identify opportunities and devise a roadmap to enable such activities.
- The committee will be chaired by former Economic Advisor, Vandana Aggarwal.
- India is strategically located on the world's shipping routes and has a large coastline of over 7500 km.
- India also has 12 major and over 200 minor ports.

Bhutan's Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) programme launched in partnership with India

- Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB), a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), launched its programme in Bhutan. India was chosen as the Partner Jurisdiction and has provided the Tax Expert for this programme.
- This programme is expected to be of about 24 months' duration through which India in collaboration with the UNDP and the TIWB Secretariat aims to aid Bhutan in strengthening its tax administration by transferring technical know-how and skills to its tax auditors, and through sharing of best audit practices. The focus of the programme will be in the area of International Taxation and Transfer Pricing.

SBI Card and Fabindia jointly launched Co-Branded Contactless Credit Card

- SBI Card has joined hands with lifestyle retail chain Fabindia by launching contactless co-branded credit cards to cater to the premium segment customers.
- SBI Card mentioned The new co-branded contactless credit card combines the best in class rewards points on retail spends with the value back on varied spending categories, thus addressing overall spending needs of premium cardholders.
- The card is designed with curated benefits and privileges to offer a rewarding shopping experience to its premium customers.
- The card comes in two variants – Fabindia SBI Card SELECT and Fabindia SBI Card.

World Bank provides USD 191 million credit to Bangladesh to set up South Asian Education portal

- Bangladesh will establish a South Asian Higher Education portal to facilitate virtual mobility of students with the help of financing received from the World Bank under its Higher Education Acceleration Transformation Project.
- The World Bank approved a credit of USD 191 million under the project for Bangladesh on Thursday. The project will allow National Research and Education networks (NRENs) and provide expanded access and connectivity for students. It will help upgrade the Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) and offer a subsidized connectivity package to students and the participating universities in BdREN.
- The project will build a network of women's universities and institutions, which will be initially anchored at the Asian University of Women in Chattogram, Bangladesh.

Government launches e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, itat

- Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has formally launched e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), 'itat e-dwar'.
- This newly developed e-Filing Portal would enable the parties to file their Appeals, Miscellaneous Applications, documents, paper books, etc. electronically.
- It will enhance the accessibility, accountability and transparency in the day to day working of the ITAT.
- It will facilitate economization of the use of paper and rationalization of cases.

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launches E-filing portal itat e-dwar of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal

- Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), 'itat e-dwar'.
- The newly developed e-filing portal would enable the parties to file their appeals, miscellaneous applications, documents, paper books, etc., electronically.
- It will enhance the accessibility, accountability and transparency in the day-to-day working of the ITAT.
- It enables innovation and empowerment and opens new avenues for growth.

Finance Minister announces credit guarantee scheme to facilitate loans to 25L people via MFIs

- The govt announced a new credit guarantee scheme to facilitate loans to 25 lakh people through MFIs.
- The announcement was made by FM Nirmala Sitharaman as part of the economic relief package provided to spur investment climate in the country affected by the Covid pandemic.
- As per the new scheme, a guarantee will be provided to SCB for loans to new or existing NBFC-MFIs or MFIs on lending up to Rs 1.25 lakh to approx 25 lakh small borrowers.

RBI imposes penalties on four cooperative banks

- The RBI has imposed penalties on four cooperative banks for contravention of certain regulatory directions.
- A penalty of Rs 112.50 lakh has been imposed on Hyderabad-based Andhra Pradesh Mahesh Co-operative Urban Bank, Rs 62.50 lakh on The Ahmedabad Mercantile Co-operative Bank, Rs 37.50 lakh on SVC Co-operative Bank, Mumbai; and Rs 25 lakh on Saraswat Cooperative Bank, Mumbai.
- The penalty on Co-operative Urban Bank was for non-compliance with directions issued by RBI.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank partners with LoanTap

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has partnered with digital lender LoanTap to provide personal loans to salaried professionals.

- This move comes as part of SFB's API banking initiative.
- Through this initiative over 150 APIs will be made available
- APIs will offer fast and secure tie-ups for the purposes of digital lending, digital liabilities, and payments to fintech.

Axis Bank signs multi-year digital agreement with AWS

- Axis Bank has selected Amazon Web Services (AWS) to accelerate its digital transformation program.
- Axis bank and AWS signed a multi-year agreement, under which the bank will use AWS to build a portfolio of new digital financial services and modernize core banking applications.
- Axis Bank has deployed over 25 mission-critical applications on AWS.
- Axis Bank, India's third-largest private sector bank.

Govt announces the inclusion of retail and wholesale trades under MSMEs

- MSMEs Minister Nitin Gadkari announced the inclusion of retail and wholesale trade under MSMEs.
- Retail and wholesale Trade will also now get the benefit of priority sector lending under RBI guidelines.
- The revised guidelines will benefit 2.5 crore retail and wholesale traders.
- The move would also allow them to register on the Udyam portal.
- Besides, now the traders can avail the benefits of several other government schemes for MSMEs.

RBI tweaks norms for interest on unclaimed matures deposit

- The RBI has tweaked the norms for interest on unclaimed mature term deposits.
- RBI has decided that an unclaimed mature term deposit shall attract a rate of interest as applicable to a savings account or the contracted rate of TD, whichever is lower.
- Currently, unclaimed mature term deposit attracts the RoI as applicable to savings deposits.
- The new norms are applicable for deposits in all commercial banks, small finance banks, local area banks, and cooperative banks.

RBI imposes Rs. 25 lakh penalty on Punjab and Sind Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India imposed a penalty of Rs. 25 lakh on Punjab and Sind Bank for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions on 'Cyber Security Framework in Banks'.
- The state-owned bank had reported a few cyber incidents to the RBI on May 16 and 20, 2020.
- Examination of the incident reports and the report of the forensic analysis of the said incidents, revealed, non-compliance with aforesaid directions.
- The RBI issued a show-cause notice to the bank.

RBI Announces Changes in Government Securities Auction Methodology

- The RBI has decided that benchmark securities of tenor 2-yrs, 3-yrs, 5-yrs, 10-yrs, 14-yrs tenor and Floating Rate Bonds will be, henceforth, issued using the uniform price auction method.
- For other benchmark securities i.e. 30-yrs and 40-yrs, the auction will continue to be multiple price-based auctions.
- The above arrangement will continue till further review.
- This was noted by RBI while reviewing market conditions and the market borrowing program of the govt.

Paytm launches small ticket loan product 'Postpaid Mini'

- Digital payments platform Paytm has launched 'Postpaid Mini', a small ticket loan that will give users the flexibility to access loans ranging from Rs 250 - Rs 1,000.
- It was launched in partnership with Aditya Birla Finance Ltd.
- The product is an extension of its Buy Now, Pay Later service, driving affordability amongst those new to credit.
- With this service, Paytm Postpaid is offering a period of up to 30 days for repayment of loans at 0 percent interest.

Delhi launches financial assistance scheme for families of Covid victims

- Delhi government has launched the 'Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojna.
- It is a social security scheme for COVID-19-affected families.
- Under the scheme, the Delhi govt will disburse an ex gratia payment of Rs 50,000 for each death to the family of the deceased and Rs 2,500 monthly to those families who have lost breadwinners.
- Children who were orphaned would be provided Rs 2,500 monthly till they turn 25.

Government creates Ministry of Co-operation for strengthening of cooperatives

- Union Government has created a separate Ministry of Co-operation for realizing the vision of 'Sahkar se Samridhi'.
- This Ministry will provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country.
- It will help deepen co-operatives as a true people based movement reaching upto the grassroots.
- A co-operative based economic development model is very relevant where each member works with a spirit of responsibility.

Government brings Department of Public Enterprises under Finance Ministry

- The Government has brought the Department of Public Enterprises under the Finance Ministry in a bid to facilitate its ambitious Disinvestment Programme.
- Earlier, DPE was part of the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

- The other 5 departments under the Finance Ministry are Economic Affairs, Revenue, Expenditure, Investment & Public Asset Management and Financial Services
- The govt has budgeted Rs 1.75 lakh crore from stake sale in PSUs during 2021-22.

Fitch cuts GDP growth estimate to 10% on slower recovery

- Fitch Ratings has cut its projection for India's real GDP growth in 2021-22 to 10%, from 12.8%.
- The rating agency also warned that banks' asset quality challenges have increased and will remain under threat due to mobility restrictions, medical exigencies, and rising job losses, with MSME and retail loans to low- and moderate-income borrowers most likely at risk.
- Indian economy contracted by 7.3% in FY 2020-21 as against a 4% growth in 2019-20.

FREO partners with HDB Financial Services to offer lending solutions

- Neobank FREO has partnered with HDB Financial Services to offer a credit line and high-ticket personal loans to customers across multiple cities in India.
- Through this association, FREO will be providing customers with two innovative credit products: a credit line and a high-ticket personal loan across multiple cities in India.
- An individual will get a personalized amount approved which they can start using immediately.
- Formerly FERRO was known as MoneyTap.

Bajaj Allianz General ties up with Bank of India to offer insurance product

- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance and Bank of India have entered into a 'corporate agency agreement' for the distribution of its Insurance products through the Bank's branches.
- Under the agreement, Insurer will offer a number of personal lines of products such as – motor insurance, health insurance, home insurance, travel insurance to the bank's customers.
- It will also offer the commercial line of products such as – engineering insurance, marine insurance, etc.

Bank staff in sensitive operations to get surprise leave: RBI

- Under the modified risk management guidelines of RBI, the bank staff working in sensitive positions like treasury ops and currency chests will get a 10-day mandatory leave in a single spell every year
- RBI has given banks 6 m to comply with these directions
- It asked banks to ensure that employees, while on 'mandatory leave', do not have access to physical or virtual resources related to their work responsibilities.
- Mandatory leave for staff was 1st introduced in May 2011.

Nirmala Sitharaman attends 3rd G20 finance ministers meeting

- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman participated virtually in the Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting under the Italian Presidency.
- The two-day meeting saw discussions on a wide range of issues including global economic risks and health challenges, policies for recovery from the CoVID-19 pandemic, international taxation, sustainable finance and financial sector issues. The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors reaffirmed their resolve to use all available policy tools for as long as required to address the adverse consequences of COVID-19.
- Smt. Sitharaman appreciated the Italian G20 Presidency for identifying three catalysts of resilient economic recovery from the pandemic as being Digitalization, Climate Action and Sustainable Infrastructure and shared the Indian experience of integrating technology with inclusive service delivery during the pandemic.

Reserve Bank introduces RBI Retail Direct facility

- RBI has introduced RBI Retail Direct facility to facilitate investment in Government Securities (G-sec) by individual investors
- Under this facility, retail investors will have the facility to open and maintain the Retail Direct Gilt (RDG) Account with RBI.
- RDG account can be opened through an Online portal provided for the scheme.
- Saving Account holders in India with PAN, Valid KYC documents, email ID and Registered number are eligible to open this account.

Cabinet approved increase in Dearness Allowance from 17% to 28%

- Union Cabinet has approved an increase in the Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief to pensioners to 28% from existing 17%.
- This hike represents an increase of 11% of the basic pay/pension.
- The increased DA and DR rates will be effective from July 1, 2021.
- They were put on hold from Jan 2020 amid Covid-19.
- DA and DR installments are due for four periods and rate of DA/DR for the period between January 2020 to June 2021 shall remain at 17%.

Gurugram gets India's first 'Grain ATM'

- India's first 'Grain ATM' has been set up in Gurugram as a pilot project that will provide consumers with ration without standing in long queues.

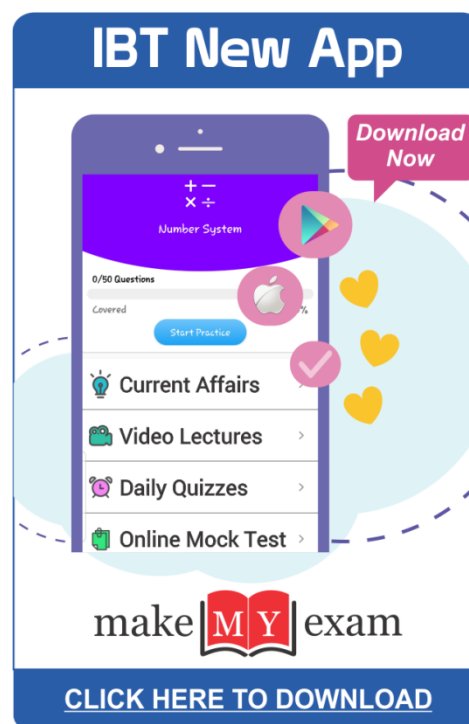
- With the installation of Grain ATMs, all the complaints regarding waiting time and right measurement of ration quantity to right beneficiary will be redressed.
- It is installed under the World Food Programme of the United Nations and it is called Automated, Multi Commodity, Grain Dispensing Machine.

RBI imposes restrictions on Mastercard from adding new customers

- RBI has imposed restrictions on Mastercard Asia/Pacific Private Limited for adding new domestic customers with effect from 22nd July 2021.
- This means MasterCard will not be allowed to add customers, be it for debit, credit or pre-paid cards onto its network as the entity.
- MasterCard has failed to comply with the directions on Storage of Payment System Data as the circular of April 2018 by RBI.
- It will not impact existing Mastercard customers.

FDI limit in NPS fund managers hiked to 74%

- The govt notified a hike in the FDI limit in pension fund management to 74% from 49% under the national pension system (NPS).
- The higher FDI limit in pension fund managers (PFMs) follows a Parliament nod in March to hike the FDI limit in the insurance business to 74% from 49%.
- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Act links the FDI ceiling in the sector to the same in the insurance sector.



Bank of Maharashtra signs MoU with NABARD

- Bank of Maharashtra has signed an MoU with NABARD to boost ongoing developmental initiatives linked to priority sector lending in Maharashtra.
- The MoU envisages joint initiatives for the benefit of farmers, farmer producer organisations, joint liability groups, self help groups, rural artisans, weavers, agri-preneurs, agri start-ups, micro, small and medium enterprises in the State.
- BoM is the convener of State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) for Maharashtra.

Bad Bank launched for stressed assets as a measure to clean up bank books

- Govt has launched Bad Bank with all the regulatory approvals in place for stressed assets as a measure to clean up bank books.
- It was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget Speech 2021-22.
- RBI is the regulator of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs).
- RBI has already prescribed a regulatory framework for the functioning of ARCs and there are well-laid norms for transfer of stressed assets by banks and non-banking finance companies to ARCs.

ADB lowers India's economic growth forecast for this fiscal to 10%

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) has downgraded India's economic growth forecast for the current financial year to 10% from 11% projected in April due to adverse impact of the coronavirus pandemic.
- India's GDP growth recovered to 1.6% in the last quarter of fiscal year that ended on March 2021.
- GDP for FY2022 (ending in March 2023) is upgraded from 7% to 7.5%.
- GDP growth forecast for South Asia in 2021 is downgraded to 8.9%.

LIC launches new health insurance plan called Arogya Rakshak

- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has launched new health insurance plan titled as Arogya Rakshak
- It is a non-linked, non-participating, regular premium and individual health insurance plan
- It provides fixed health insurance cover against certain specified health risks and provides timely support in case of medical emergencies.
- It will be available for principal insurers, spouses and parents up to 80 years and for children up to 25 years.

SBI selects Paisalo Digital as National Corporate Business Correspondent

- SBI has selected Paisalo Digital as its National Corporate Business Correspondent to boost financial inclusion drive with the help of kiosk-based banking services.
- Under this, Paisalo Digital shall extend its services and its reach to the general public including its existing and new customers.
- Paisalo: Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking NBFC registered with RBI.
- It was incorporated in 1992 as a Private Company and converted in Public Ltd Company in 1995.

RBI raises loan limit of other bank directors to Rs 5 crore from Rs 25 lakh

- The Reserve Bank of India has raised the limit on loans that can be sanctioned by a bank to any director or associates of other banks, without board approval to Rs 5 crore. Earlier this limit was Rs 25 lakh.
- However, for loan amounting to above Rs 5 crore, banks should not grant loans and advances, unless sanctioned by the board of directors or the management committee.
- The new regulations will apply to:
 - Bank Directors, including the Chairman/Managing Director, of other banks, any firm in which they are interested as a partner or guarantor, or any company in which they hold substantial interest or is interested as a director or as a guarantor.
- All scheduled commercial banks, except regional rural banks, small finance banks and all local area banks.
- The revised limit will be applicable to only personal loans disbursed to any director of other banks, all loans to relatives of bank's own directors, relatives of directors of other banks, and the companies or firms associated with them.
- RBI has revised this loan limit for the first time in 26 years. The limit of Rs. 25 lakhs was set in 1996.

Corteva Agriscience inks pact to promote sustainable rice production in UP

- Corteva Agriscience has signed a 3-year project with the 2030 Water Resources Group (2030 WRG) hosted by the World Bank, to promote sustainable rice cultivation in UP.
- The project provides a framework for Corteva, 2030 WRG, and a task force of multiple stakeholders to work towards transforming 40,000 acres of land from traditional methods of transplanting rice to the Direct Seeded Rice technique.
- This practice will reduce agricultural water consumption by 35-37%.

RBI to introduce digital currency in phased manner

- The RBI is considering a “phased introduction” of a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).
- It was announced by Deputy Governor T. Rabi Sankar.
- It will need legal changes to be made in the nation’s foreign exchange rules and information-technology laws.
- A CBDC is a legal tender that would be issued by the central bank in a digital form.
- It is exchangeable one-to-one with fiat currency and it would appear as a liability on a central bank’s balance sheet.

IMF slashes India's economic growth forecast for FY22 to 9.5%

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has sharply cut India’s economic growth projection by 300 basis points, from 12.5 percent to 9.5 percent for the financial year 2021-22 (FY22).
- The downward revision in the GDP growth rate is due to lack of access to vaccines and possibility of renewed waves of coronavirus.
- For FY23 (2022-23), IMF has estimated the gross domestic product (GDP) of India at 8.5 percent, which is 160 basis points higher than its earlier projection of 6.9 percent.
- In case of global economy IMF has projected 6.0 percent growth in 2021 and 4.9 percent in 2022.

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India’s ICICI, Axis and HDFC Bank Take Stakes in Blockchain Startup IBBIC

- 18 banks in India have come together to set up a new fintech firm named ‘IBBIC Pvt Ltd (IBBIC)’, to make use of blockchain technology for the financial services sector.
- IBBIC was incorporated in May 2021 as a financial technology company with an objective of providing a platform for exploring, building and implementing Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) solutions including the development of DLT platforms, applications, ventures for the Indian financial services sector.

- IBBIC will use Infosys Finacle Connect platform to digitise and automate inter-organisation trade finance processes, including processing inland letters of credit (LCs)..
- The banks includes RBL Bank, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Axis Bank, IndusInd Bank, Yes Bank, South Indian Bank, Federal Bank, IDFC First Bank, State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BoB), Indian Bank, Canara Bank, IDBI Bank, Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India and Standard Chartered.
- Almost every bank have picked up equal stake of 5.55% in IBBIC, by making an investment of Rs 5 lakh each.

Government defers sale of two PSU banks to next year

- India’s plan to sell two state-controlled lenders may get deferred to the next financial year, as the government is yet to seek parliament’s nod for changes in laws required to start the transaction.
- The government will seek buyers for two state-run banks by March 2022.
- India’s plan to sell a majority stake in the country’s second-biggest state refiner has also slowed down, and the transaction may only take place early next year rather than in 2021.

Indian Bank signs MoU with IIT Bombay for startup financing

- Indian Bank signed an MoU with the Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT Bombay for extending exclusive credit facilities to startups and small businesses.
- SINE supports the MSME sector by providing joint research and development arrangements and technical and financial support for incubation and acceleration of high-end technology products.
- Under the MoU, SINE will identify the start-ups and MSMEs based on their credentials.

SBI launches ‘SIM Binding’ feature for YONO and YONO Lite

- SBI has launched new and enhanced security feature for its YONO and YONO Lite apps titled as ‘SIM Binding’ to protect customers from various digital frauds.
- Under this, YONO and YONO Lite apps will work only on those devices which have SIM of mobile numbers registered with the Bank.
- Aim: To provide enhanced security to customers and help them with convenient and safe online banking experience.

GST Collections Touched □ 1.16 Lakh Crore In July 2021

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections for July 2021 were Rs. 1.16 lakh crore, 33 per cent more than the corresponding period of last year. GST collections in July 2020 had stood at Rs. 87,422 crore, while sequentially they had stood at Rs. 92,849 crores in June this year.

- According to figures released by Finance Ministry, gross GST revenue collected in July 2021 are Rs. 1,16,393 crore, out of which Central GST is Rs. 22,197 crores, State GST is Rs. 28,541 crore and Integrated GST is Rs. 57,864 crore (including Rs. 27,900 crores collected on import of goods) and cess of Rs 7,790 crore (including Rs. 815 crores collected on import of goods).

RBI authorises IndusInd Bank to act as an 'Agency Bank'

- IndusInd Bank has been empanelled to act as an 'Agency Bank' by RBI
- After being an agency bank, IndusInd becomes eligible to carry out transactions related to all kinds of government-led businesses
- The Bank can carry out general banking business on behalf of the central and state government, apart from its normal banking business.
- It can handle transactions pertaining to revenue receipts under CBDT, CCBIC and GST on behalf of the state/central government.

IMF Approves Historic \$650bn Allocation Of Special Drawing Rights

- The Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday approved a general allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) equivalent to US\$650 billion (about SDR 456 billion) to boost global liquidity.
- "This is a historic decision – the largest SDR allocation in the history of the IMF and a shot in the arm for the global economy at a time of unprecedented crisis.
- "The SDR allocation will benefit all members, address the long-term global need for reserves, build confidence, and foster the resilience and stability of the global economy.

World Bank approves project to make India's existing dams safe

- World Bank has approved a USD 250 million projects in India titled as Second Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP-2) agreement for long-term dam safety program and performance of existing dams of India.
- The agreement was inked between World Bank, Govt of India, Central Water Commission (CWC), and government representatives from 10 participating states.

India's first Heart Failure Biobank starts beating at SCTIMST in Kerala

- The first Heart Failure Biobank in the country to study genetic, metabolomics and proteomic markers of health outcomes in heart-failure patients has come up at the National Centre for Advanced Research and Excellence in HF (CARE-HF) at the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) here.

- Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research and Director General, Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), will inaugurate the biobank on a virtual platform on August 5.
- The HF Biobank, with sophisticated storage facilities for biospecimens, has been set up at Rs. 85 lakh and is one of the major components of the CARE-HF, the project won by the SCTIMST in 2018 from the ICMR, with a supporting grant of Rs. 5 crore.

SBI General partners with SahiPay to offer general insurance products to rural India

- SBI General Insurance, one of India's leading General Insurance companies, announced a tie-up with Manipal Business Solutions to increase insurance penetration in the rural markets. SahiPay, the fastest growing tech-enabled financial inclusion platform of Manipal Business Solutions, provides digital and financial services to customers in semi-urban and rural India.
- This association marks a significant milestone for SBI General in realising its vision of becoming the most trusted general insurer for India as well as Bharat. Through this partnership, SBI General will provide a bouquet of non-life insurance solutions to SahiPay customers.

Suryoday Bank launches health and wellness savings account

- Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB) has launched a 'Suryoday Health and Wellness Savings Account' to help customers grow their wealth and also take care of their family's health amid the covid-19 pandemic. The account offers an attractive interest rate and comes with three major benefits for a family of four — top-up health insurance of ₹25 lakh, annual healthcare package and on-call emergency ambulance medical care services.
- Top-up health insurance and healthcare package are free of charge for one year after opening the account. Free ambulance service up to a distance of 20 km will be available at 102 locations across the country till March-end 2022. For opening the savings account, customers will need to maintain an average monthly balance of ₹3 lakh and have to be eligible as per the key health declaration form.

Axis Bank crosses one million customers on WhatsApp banking

- Axis Bank has crossed the milestone of over one million customers on its WhatsApp banking channel with a total request count of 6 million till now. Axis Bank had launched banking services on WhatsApp in January 2021 and has since witnessed robust organic growth in its customer base for WhatsApp banking
- After signing up for the service, customers can inquire and get details of products across savings account, credit and

debit cards, deposits and personal loans. Non-financial service requests can also be initiated, such as locating ATMs or getting updates on third-party deals available on credit and debit cards.

SEBI allows payments banks to act as investment bankers

- SEBI has allowed Non-scheduled payments banks to carry out the activities of investment bankers to provide easy access to investors to participate in public and rights issues by using various payment avenues.
- This is subject to fulfilment of the conditions stipulated in the BTI rules.
- They will also be permitted to act as self-certified syndicate banks, subject to the fulfilment of the criteria laid down by the SEBI in this regard from time to time.

CoinDCX becomes India's first crypto unicorn with \$90 million fundraise

- CoinDCX became India's first cryptocurrency unicorn after the exchange raised 6.70 billion rupees from investors led by Facebook Inc.
- The latest funding round values the firm at \$1.1 bn.
- Other investors include existing partners Coinbase Ventures, Polychain Capital, Block one, and Jump Capital.
- The 30-year-old engineer from the elite Indian Institute of Technology spent several hours daily reading about blockchain and cryptocurrencies before setting up CoinDCX in 2018.

Central Bank of India enters into strategic co-lending partnership with Dhanvarsha Finvest

- Central Bank of India has entered into a strategic co-lending partnership with Dhanvarsha Finvest Ltd (DFL) to offer loans against gold ornaments under priority sector to MSMEs borrowers.
- Under this partnership, DFL will originate and process loans against gold ornaments as per jointly formulated credit parameters and eligibility criteria.
- CBoI will take into its book 80% of the gold loans under mutually agreed terms, as per the public sector bank's stock exchange filing.

ADB approves USD 300 million additional loan for rural roads in Maharashtra

- ADB has approved an additional USD 300 mn loan for the ongoing Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project.
- The ongoing project, approved in August 2019, has been improving and maintaining the condition and safety of 2,100 kilometres (km) of rural roads across Maharashtra.
- The additional financing will improve an additional 1,100 rural roads and 230 bridges for a total length of 2,900 km in 34 districts, the Multilateral funding agency added.

RBI ropes in India's 'golden boy' Neeraj Chopra for banking fraud awareness campaign

- RBI has roped in Olympic Gold medalist Neeraj Chopra for a public awareness campaign to warn people against digital banking frauds.
- RBI has asked people to be a little cautious as doing so can protect them from a lot of troubles.
- Neeraj Chopra can be seen conveying RBI messages on safe digital banking for not sharing your OTP, CVV, ATM Pin with anyone, change your online banking passwords and pins from time to time and if you lose your card, then block it immediately.

RBI raises the limit for collateral-free loans to SHG to Rs 20 lakhs

- RBI has raised the limit for collateral-free loans to Self-Help Groups (SHG) under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) from 10 lakhs to 20 Lakhs.
- Commercial banks provide loans to SHG.
- No collateral and no margin will be charged will be there for SHGs loan of up to 10 Lakhs.
- For SHGs loans of 10 to 20 lakh: No collateral should be charged. However, the entire loan will be eligible for coverage under Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units.

SIDBI launched 'Digital Prayaas' app for small entrepreneurs

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched an app-based digital-lending platform named as 'Digital Prayaas' to sanction loans to entrepreneurs from low-income groups.
- Loan will be sanctioned by the end of the day.
- SIDBI has tied up with BigBasket to cater to the needs of aspiring youth in urban areas and will on board BigBasket's delivery partners and provide loans at an affordable interest rate for purchase of environment friendly e-Bikes and e-Vans

HDFC launched 'green and sustainable' deposits programme for retail clients

- HDFC Bank has launched a green and sustainable deposits programme for retail clients to safeguard environment from climate change.
- It will be used for financing green and sustainable housing credit services.
- Interest Rates: 6.55%
- Maturity period: 3-10 years
- Senior Citizens will get an additional interest rate of 0.25% per annum on their deposits of up to 2 crore.
- Additional interest rate of 0.1% per annum up to Rs 50 lakh will be applicable if made through online mode.

Centre notified RoDTEP Scheme Guidelines and Rates

- Centre has notified RoDTEP Scheme Guidelines and Rates (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products) for zero-rating of exports will boost our exports & competitiveness.
- Rates of RoDTEP will cover 8555 tariff lines.
- It shall not be available in respect of duties and taxes already exempted or remitted or credited.
- It is to be implemented by Customs through a simplified IT System.
- Rebate will be issued as transferable duty credit/ electronic scrip (e-scrip).

Kotak Mahindra Bank introduced DIY Digital Repayment platform

- Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL) has tied-up with Creditas Solutions to introduce a secure, Do It Yourself (DIY) Digital Repayment Platform for missed loan repayments.
- Aim: To deliver a superior repayment experience for customers and increase efficiencies.
- It is powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML).
- It is a 'Neo Collections' platform that will enable customers to manage their dues seamlessly on their own.

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank launched FRUITS portal

- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB), in association with Karnataka government has launched 'Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System' (FRUITS) portal.
- FRUITS portal is the first of its kind in India where in the land and other details of all the farmers in the State are being captured.
- Under this, all the farmers will be registered and given a FRUITS ID (FID) number.

RBI cancelled license of Raigad based Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the license of Raigad based Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited in Maharashtra.
- According to RBI, the license of Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank was cancelled due to insufficient capital and earning prospects and its continuance would have adversely affected depositors.
- On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Five lakh rupees.

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.

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

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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.

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

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

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.

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.

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).

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.

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.

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. CoFT 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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 be made operational by July 2022.
- It will foster cross-border interoperability of payments using cards and QR codes, between India and Singapore.

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.

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.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND DEFENCE

IFFCO to launch Nano Urea in the market next month

- Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) will launch Nano Urea in the market next month. 500-ml Nano Urea, which costs 240 rupees, is equivalent to 45kg of normal urea. Besides reducing the cost of cultivation, it increases the yield.
- Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister DV Sadananda Gowda said, the Nano Urea will be a game changer for farming sector as it is expected to reduce the consumption of normal urea substantially thus saving a huge sum on subsidy and forex. It is also eco friendly.

CRPF Chief Kuldiep Singh gets additional charge of NIA DG

- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) DG Kuldiep Singh has been given the additional charge of the Director-General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- Singh will replace former NIA Director-General YC Modi, who retires on 31 May 2021.
- He shall hold additional charge of the post till the appointment and joining of the successor or until further orders whichever is earlier.

IIT Mandi Study Reveals Structure Of Key Protein In Covid Virus

- Researchers at the IIT Mandi in Himachal Pradesh have revealed the structure of the 'NSP1 C-terminal region' in isolation.
- It is a key protein of the Covid-19 virus in a host cell environment.
- The study was led by Dr. Rajanish Giri, Assistant Professor, School of Basic Sciences.
- Part of the structure of a key protein in the COVID-19 virus, helps in understanding its mode of action.

UN calls for swift zero carbon recovery action at climate summit

- The United Nations has made a call for coordinated action to secure global net-zero emissions and fulfill its goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels by 2050.
- The Climate Breakthroughs Summit — a collaboration between the World Economic Forum, the UN Climate Champions, and the UK Climate Change Conference Presidency took place on 27 May'21.

DRDO develops near isothermal forging technology for manufacturing aeroengines' parts

- On May 28, 2021, The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed the near isothermal forging technology used in manufacturing parts for aero engines.
- The technology has been developed by Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), a premier metallurgical laboratory of DRDO in Hyderabad.
- The DRDO established the near-isothermal forging technology to produce all the five stages of high-pressure compressor (HPC) discs out of difficult-to-deform, titanium alloy, using its unique 2000 MT (metric tonne) isothermal forge press.

Leaders at climate summit vow to work for post-COVID green growth

- The Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030 Summit was hosted by South Korea.
- During the summit UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed for a global partnership to tackle climate change and strive toward inclusive green growth.
- He also said that, tackling climate change head-on will help protect the most vulnerable people from the next crisis while sustaining a job-rich recovery from COVID-19.

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya initiates floating jetty at Old Goa

- Union Minister of State (I/C) for Ports, Shipping & Waterways Shri Mansukh Mandaviya in the presence of Chief Minister of Goa Shri Pramod Sawant inaugurated the second floating jetty at Old Goa virtually on the occasion of Goa statehood day.
- Shri Mandaviya expressed hope that the floating jetty at Old Goa will prove a game changer for the tourism sector of Goa.
- He also announced that Panjim and Old Goa will be connected by ferry and cruise services.
- The Minister stated the jetty will offer safe, hassle free transportation to the tourists.
- The Minister lauded the work done by Government of Goa in making tourism sector a growth engine of the state.

RDSO Became first Standards Body to Join 'One Nation, One Standard' Scheme

- Lucknow-based Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO), which sets standards for the Indian Railway Sector,

has become the first standards body in the country to join 'One Nation, One Standard' scheme of the central government.

- The RDSO, the sole R&D wing of the Railways Ministry, has now been recognised as a 'Standard Developing Organisation' by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), for three years period.
- BIS is the implementing agency for the 'One Nation, One Standard' scheme.
- RDSO and BIS will be now jointly defining the parameters to ensure quality goods and services for the Railways.
- The 'One Nation, One Standard' scheme was launched in 2019 with the objective to develop one template of standard for one given product in the country, instead of having multiple agencies set it, thereby building a 'Brand India' identity in the long run.

Government launched 'X-Ray Setu' on WhatsApp to detect COVID-19 cases in areas with no RT-PCR tests

- A new AI-driven platform called 'XraySetu' has been developed to help in early detection of COVID-19, with the help of Chest X-ray. The solution will be beneficial for early detection especially in rural areas, where RT-PCR tests and CT-Scans are not easily available.
- 'XraySetu' will operate through WhatsApp. It will identify COVID positive patients even from low-resolution Chest X-Ray images sent over Whatsapp-based Chatbot.
- The solution has been developed by ARTPARK (AI & Robotics Technology Park), a not-for-profit foundation established by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, with support from the Department of Science & Technology (DST), GOI, in collaboration with Bangalore based HealthTech startup Niramai and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

China creates combined air defence system along LAC

- China's People Liberation Army (PLA) has integrated elements of the air force and army to create a combined air defence system for its western theatre command that is responsible for operations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the latest in a series of moves indicating a strengthening of its positions in the region.
- The move follows numerous reports of China moving in new military equipment and formations into Tibet and Xinjiang, and bolstering air defence and missile positions and airports on its side of the LAC amid a border standoff with India that began more than a year ago.
- People familiar with developments said on condition of anonymity that PLA had, for the first time, integrated army air defence units in the air force's chain of command in the western theatre command to create a combined air defence control system.

Air Marshal Vivek Chaudhari appointed as IAF Vice Chief

- The Indian Air Force has appointed Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari as the next Vice Chief of Air Staff in the Air headquarters.
- Two new commander-in-chiefs would also be moving for their new assignments as Director General Air Operations.
- Air Marshal Ballabha Radha Krishna would be succeeding Chaudhari at the Western Command in Delhi while Air Marshal RJ Duckworth would be taking charge of the Central Air Command in Prayagraj.

Bill Gates and EU pledge \$1 billion boost for green technology

- The European Union and an energy investment programme founded by Bill Gates plan to raise up to \$1 billion to roll out the low-carbon technologies Europe is betting on to meet its climate change goals.
- The partnership would see Gates-founded Breakthrough Energy use private capital and philanthropic funds to match funding provided by the EU. The aim is to together provide up to 820 million euros, or \$1 billion, from 2022 to 2026.
- Support will target hydrogen produced from renewable energy, sustainable aviation fuels, technology to suck CO₂ out of the atmosphere, and long-duration energy storage.

NTPC joins UN's CEO Water Mandate to step up work on water conservation

- NTPC Ltd has become a signatory to the prestigious United Nations Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate.
- The CEO Water Mandate is a UN Global Compact initiative to demonstrate commitment and efforts of companies to better their water and sanitation agenda as part of long term Sustainable Development Goals.
- It is designed to assist companies in the development, implementation, and disclosure of NTPC is India's largest power utility under Ministry of Power.
- NTPC has already taken a series of measures across its plant locations on sound water management.
- It has said that NTPC will further imbibe the 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) for water conservation and management while carrying out its core business activity of power generation.

NASA Selects 2 Missions to Study 'Lost Habitable' World of Venus

- NASA has announced two missions to Venus, Earth's closest planetary neighbour, as part of its Discovery Program.
- It aims to explore and study the solar system.
- DAVINCI+ (Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry, and Imaging) mission.
- VERITAS (Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography, and Spectroscopy).
- The last US probe to visit the planet was the Magellan orbiter in 1990.

Raimona reserve forest becomes Assam's sixth national park

- Raimona in Kokrajhar district has become Assam's sixth national park.
- A notification declaring Raimona as a national park has been brought out by Assam govt.
- The five national parks that existed prior to the 422 sq. km Raimona are Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa.
- The Raimona National Park is within the Bodoland Territorial Region. The area of the park includes the northern part of the notified Ripu Reserve Forest (508.62 sq. km), which forms the western-most buffer to the Manas National Park that straddles the India-Bhutan border.
- The Pekua river defines Raimona's southern boundary.

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to be observed from 2021 to 2030

- United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration has been officially launched to run from 2021 to 2030.
- UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration will be co-led by UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- It was proclaimed by UN General Assembly in a 2019 resolution.
- Aim: Protection and revival of ecosystems all around the world.
- Multi-Partner Trust Fund has also been launched and Germany is the first country to provide funding to this fund.

Report on Bio-medical Waste released

- Centre for Science and Environment has released report that shows 2,03,000 kg of COVID-19 biomedical waste was produced daily in May 2021 and it was roughly 33% of India's non-COVID biomedical waste.
- As per Bio-medical Waste Management Rules, 2016, Bio-medical waste is required to be segregated in 4 colour coded waste categories, and the same is treated and disposed as per the methods prescribed under Schedule I of the Rules.

Interpol launches 'I-Familia' database to identify missing persons

- International Police Organisation (Interpol) has launched new global database named 'I-Familia'.
- It will identify missing persons or unidentified human remains around the world through DNA of relatives.
- It is an international organization facilitating international police cooperation against cross-border terrorism, trafficking, and other crime.
- INTERPOL has 194-member countries.
- It is not a unit or part of united nation system.

Navy inducts 3 indigenously-built advanced light helicopters ALH MK III

- The Indian Navy Monday inducted three indigenously-built advanced light helicopters ALH MK III that would be used for maritime reconnaissance and coastal security.
- The three helicopters, made by the Centre-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, were inducted at the Indian Naval Station (INS) Dega, Eastern Naval Command (ENC), in Visakhapatnam.
- ALH MK III helicopters feature an array of systems previously seen only on heavier, multi-role helicopters of the Indian Navy.
- In addition to special operations capabilities, ALH MK III is also fitted with a heavy machine gun to undertake constabulary missions.
- Navy Inducts 3 Indigenously-Built Advanced Light Helicopters.
- The three helicopters were inducted at Indian Naval Station Dega, Eastern Naval Command, Visakhapatnam.
- A removable medical intensive care unit (ICU) is also fitted on ALH MK III helicopters to airlift critically ill patients.

Govt issued guidelines for e-Content development for disabled Children

- Union Govt has issued guidelines for the development of e-Content for Children with disabilities based on four principles of robust, perceivable, operable, and understandable.
- These guidelines will initiate creation of high-quality content for digital education to children with special needs.
- Dept of School Education and Literacy under Ministry of Education had constituted experts committee for recommending guidelines for developing e-content for disabled children.

IISc, Bengaluru ranked Best Indian University in Times University Rankings

- Three Indian Universities have made it to the top 100 list of Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2021.
- Apart from it, 63 Indian universities found place in 2021 list, however, none of them could make to top 10.
- IISc, Bengaluru has been ranked 37th for the seventh year in a row.
- The other two universities in top 100: IIT, Ropar (55) and IIT, Indore (78)
- India is ranked 3rd in representation of universities
- Japan was ranked first, followed by China.

Indo-Thai CORPAT exercise begins in Andaman Sea

- The 31st edition of 3 day India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) started in the Andaman Sea.
- It is being conducted from 9 to 11 June 2021.
- Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Saryu, is participating in India and HTMS Krabi, is participating from Thailand Navy in CORPAT.
- The CORPAT exercise is being conducted between the two navies bi-annually since 2005, along their International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).

First edition of Arab-India Energy Forum held virtually

- The 1st edition of the 2-day Arab-India Energy Forum (AIEF) was held virtually.
- The event was held under the co-chairship of India and Morocco.
- The forum witnessed the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and best practices in the fields of energy efficiency programs, accelerated development of new and renewable energy, fostering regional power-sharing arrangements, enhanced oil recovery, tight gas extraction, and safe nuclear power generation, etc.

PayNearby tie-up with IndiaFirst Life Insurance Launched— 'Poorna Suraksha' Insurance solutions for Retailers

- PayNearby has launched an insurance solution 'Poorna Suraksha' for its retail community.
- This exclusive and holistic insurance solution will ensure the safety and security of PayNearby's 15+ lakh retail partners across 17,500+ PIN codes.
- This cost-effective, three-in-one solution was created in collaboration with IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited (IndiaFirst Life) to protect PayNearby's retailers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, ensuring they have access to a safety net whenever and wherever they need it.
- PayNearby's Poorna Suraksha insurance echoes this philosophy by providing coverage for all areas of insurance – life, health, and disability – at an affordable premium.

Wipro named Anup Purohit as Chief Information Officer

- IT services major Wipro Ltd mentioned it has appointed Anup Purohit as its chief information officer (CIO).
- Purohit will note Sanjeev Singh, chief operations officer, at the Bengaluru-based company.
- Purohit brings with him over 25 years of experience across banking and financial services, centered around innovation in digital banking, financial management, business solutions & service delivery, portfolio & program management, risk & controls and information security.

New plant species from coffee family spotted in Wagamon

- A new plant species belonging to the coffee family spotted in the scenic Wagamon hills in Kerala has been named *Argostemma quarantena* to commemorate the millions who have died in the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A delicate herbaceous species from the family Rubiaceae, *Argostemma quarantena* was discovered along quick-flowing streams in an isolated evergreen patch along the Idukki-Kottayam border.
- The plant was identified by a research team consisting of Anoop P. Balan and A.J. Robi, faculty of the Department of Botany, Bishop Abraham Memorial College, Thuruthicad, Pathanamthitta district; and N. Sasidharan, former Chief Scientist, Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Peechi. Their findings have been published in the latest issue of *Webbia* journal of plant taxonomy and geography.

India's first international maritime services cluster coming up at GIFT City

- India's first International Maritime Services cluster will be set up at GIFT City, India's first operational smart city and international financial services centre (IFSC).
- The GIFT City maritime cluster will be set up by the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB).
- It will be a dedicated ecosystem comprising ports, shipping, logistics services providers and government regulators, in the same geographic vicinity.
- The first-of-its-kind commercial maritime services cluster of India has been conceptualised to enhance competitiveness and self-sufficiency in the maritime sector and provide one-stop solutions.

India's first CAR-T cell therapy conducted at ACTREC, in Mumbai

- On June 4, the country's first CAR-T cell therapy was done at the Bone Marrow Transplant unit at ACTREC, Tata Memorial Centre in Mumbai.
- This trial is the joint effort of the IIT Bombay and Tata Memorial Centre.
- It was Supported by the Department of Biotechnology through the National Biopharma Mission-BIRAC.
- The central government's National Biopharma Mission-BIRAC has approved Rs 19.15 crore to the team for conducting a first-in-human phase-1/2 clinical trial of the CAR-T cells.
- Clinical trials conducted globally have shown promising results in end-stage patients, especially in patients suffering from acute lymphocytic leukemia.
- Each patient's CAR-T cell therapy costs Rs 3-4 crore, and currently this technology is not available in India.

IIT Roorkee prof bags NSG award for 'blast-resistant' helmet

- A professor at the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT-R) has been conferred with the 'NSG Counter-IED and Counter-Terrorism Innovator Award 2021' for developing a "blast-resistant" helmet.
- Shailesh Govind Ganpule, an assistant professor at the mechanical and industrial engineering department (MIED), was conferred the award in a ceremony held at the National Security Guard (NSG) campus in Manesar near Gurgaon.
- This was the second edition of the annual award by NSG and Ganpule was awarded in the "academic" category for developing an advanced version of a conventional military helmet which can protect against blast-induced traumatic brain injury.

IIT Ropar develops power free CPAP device "Jivan Vayu"

- IIT Ropar has developed a device "Jivan Vayu" which can be used as a substitute for a CPAP machine.
- This device can function even without electricity.
- It is adapted to both kinds of oxygen generation units like CO2 cylinders and oxygen pipelines.
- The device is designed to maintain a FiO2 is the concentration of oxygen in the gas mixture) of above 40% with a PEEP of 5-20 cm H2O.
- The device houses a viral filter at the air entrainment end with a viral efficacy of 99.99%.

World's first wooden satellite WISA Woods to be launched from New Zealand

- World's first wooden satellite WISA Woods to be launched from New Zealand.
- The European Space Agency will launch the world's first satellite, WISA Woods by the end of 2021.
- The objective of the satellite is to test the applicability of wooden materials in spacecraft structures and expose it to extreme space conditions, such as heat, cold, vacuum, and radiation.
- It will be launched by Rocket Lab Electron rocket from the Mahia Peninsula launch complex in New Zealand.
- The satellite was designed by Finland. It is a 10x10x10 cm nanosatellite.

IIT Bombay Hosts Conference of BRICS Network Universities as part of 13th B

- A 3-day virtual Conference of BRICS Network Universities (BNU) on the theme of electric mobility was inaugurated at IIT Bombay.
- This conference is part of the engagements that India is hosting under the education stream during its Chairship of the 13th BRICS Summit.
- Over 100 students, researchers, and faculty from the BNU of the 5-member countries are expected to participate in the conference.
- IIT Bombay is the lead institution of India for the BNU.

India extends \$ 100 million LoC to Sri Lanka for Solar Energy Projects

- India has signed an agreement extending a \$100 mn Line of Credit (LOC) to Sri Lanka for projects in the Solar Energy Sector.
- The agreement was signed between Sri Lanka and the EXIM Bank.
- This LOC will help finance various projects in the solar energy sector in Sri Lanka.
- Some of the projects were announced during the Founding Conference of the ISA held in March 2018 in Delhi.
- Thus far 89 countries, including Sri Lanka, have signed the Framework Agreement of the ISA.

China sends its first crew to new space station

- China launched a spacecraft 'Shenzhou-12' carrying 3 astronauts to part of its own space station.
- It was launched from Gobi Desert.
- China becomes the third country to send astronauts into space.
- This is a third of the 11-mission needed to complete China's space station by 2022.
- The Chinese station reportedly is intended to be used for 15 years and may outlast the International Space Station.

TRAI launches TV Channel Selector Portal

- TRAI has launched TV Channel Selector Portal.
- This portal will facilitate those subscribers who do not own a mobile phone but want to use a web browser for the selection of TV channels.
- This portal will help the subscriber to check their own subscription and view all the channels provided by the DTH and Cable operators.
- The portal also allows the subscriber to modify the existing subscriptions.
- The users can also provide feedback through the portal.

PM Modi addresses Europe's biggest startup & tech event - Viva Tech

- PM Modi addressed the 5th edition of Viva Tech, the largest digital, and start-up event in Europe.
- The Prime Minister has been invited as a Guest of Honour.
- He said that India is adaptable and agile even in the middle of the pandemic.
- VivaTech is being held in Paris every year since 2016.
- It is jointly organized by Publicis Groupe, a prominent advertising and marketing conglomerate, and Les Echos – a leading French media group.

ICMR approves SENSIT Rapid COVID-19 Ag kit, to give results in 15 minutes

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Saturday, June 19, approved SENSIT Rapid COVID-19 Ag kit, a Covid-19 detection kit. The kit gives the test result in a span of 15 minutes.
- SENSIT Rapid COVID-19 Ag kit' is a Covid-19 detection kit developed by Ubio Biotechnology Systems Pvt. Ltd under the support of DBT-BIRAC (Department of Biotechnology-Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council), under the aegis of Covid-19 Research Consortium.
- The kit can be used for the qualitative detection of SARS CoV-2 Nucleocapsid Protein with an assay time of 15 minutes. Further, the sample is collected using nasopharyngeal swabs from the suspected individual. It is a chromatographic immunoassay kit and allows the healthcare personnel to visually read the test result.
- The test works on the principle of sandwich immunoassay and utilizes a pair of monoclonal antibodies which when bound to COVID-19 specific antigen, results in the appearance of a coloured line. The kit exhibits sensitivity and specificity of 86% and 100% respectively.

H-Energy inks MoU for supply of re-gasified LNG to Petrobangla

- H-Energy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Petrobangla recently to supply re-gasified liquefied natural gas (R-LNG) from India to Bangladesh.
- "The companies will soon finalize a long-term supply agreement to commence the supply of regasified LNG to Bangladesh through a cross border natural gas pipeline".
- H-Energy has received permission from the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) to build, own and operate Kanai Chhata-Shrirampur natural gas pipeline connecting its LNG terminal in West Bengal to Bangladesh, to enable cross border supply of regasified LNG.

Shipping Ministry and MoCA sign pact to develop seaplane services in India

- India's ministry of state for ports, shipping, and waterways has signed a pact with the ministry of civil aviation to develop seaplane services across the country.
- The ministry of state for ports, shipping, and waterways stated, "MoU for development of seaplanes services under RCS-UDAN scheme signed between the ministry of state for ports, shipping, and waterways and ministry of civil aviation.
- "Seaplane operations will result in enhanced connectivity of remote places and boost religious tourism."
- Both the ministries will jointly workout operating routes.

Adani Power to acquire 1,200 MW Essar Power's Mahan project

- Adani Power will acquire the 1,200 MW Essar Power's Mahan Project located at Singrauli, MP.
- Resolution Professional of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) issued a Letter of Intent to Adani Power.
- Mahan power plant supplies power through the Mahan-Sipat transmission line and is also connected with a railway siding 18 km away from the plant for the supply of coal and other raw materials.
- Adani Power will shell out close to Rs 3,000 crore for the Mahan Project.

Bengaluru most liveable city of India according to Ease of Living Index 2020

- The Centre for Science and Environment has released the Ease of Living Index 2020.
- According to the index, Bengaluru is the most livable city of India followed by Chennai, Shimla, Bhubaneswar and Mumbai.
- Delhi, however, ranked as the worst capital in the perception of citizens contacted for the survey.
- Four parameters viz. quality of life, economic ability, sustainability, and citizens' perceptions are used to determine the ease of living Index.

PayPoint India signs pact with banks, NBFCs for lending services

- PayPoint India has signed agreements with 12 financial institutions.
- It intends to add a lending vertical to its portfolio of services.
- It is a technology-enabled distribution network of financial services.
- It has signed 'lead generation agreements' with PNB, ICICI Bank, Deutsche Bank, and NBFCs such as Bajaj Housing, Piramal Housing, and Hero Fincorp, etc.
- It will help the financial institutions to get access to remote locations.

Israel successfully tests laser that can shoot down drones mid-air

- Israel has successfully tested an airborne high-power laser that can shoot down drones mid-air.
- The trial, which is planned for later this year, will test the system's ability to shoot down incoming rockets and mortar fire at close range.
- The ground-based laser system is being developed by the Rafael weapons manufacturer.
- This will supplement the Iron Dome or Israel's other air defense systems.

First Indian Navy, EU naval force exercise held in Gulf of Aden

- The maiden Indian Navy and EU Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) exercise was held in the Gulf of Aden.
- A total of 5 warships from four navies participated in the 2-day exercise.
- It aims to enhance and hone their war-fighting skills to promote peace, security, and stability in the maritime domain.
- INS Trikand, from India, participated in the exercise.
- Italy's ITS Carabinere, the Spanish Navy's ESPS Navarra, and FS Tonnerre and FS Surcouf of France participated.

China plans to send its first crewed mission to Mars in 2033

- China aims to send its 1st crewed mission to Mars in 2033.
- It aimed a long-term plan to build a permanently inhabited base on Mars and extract its resources.
- It will intensify a race with the United States to plant humans on Mars.
- Crewed launches to Mars are planned for 2033, 2035, 2037, 2041, and beyond.
- China landed a robotic rover on Mars in May 2021.
- Before this mission, China will send robots to Mars to study possible sites for the base.

Indian Navy, IAF begin passage exercise with US carrier group in Indian Ocean

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy participated in a 2-days "passage exercise" with a US carrier strike group (CSG) in the Indian Ocean.
- As part of the exercise, Sukhois, Jaguars, IAF refueling aircraft and warships and maritime patrol aircraft of the Navy participated in the exercise.
- INS Kochi and Teg, along with P8I and MiG-29K aircraft participated with US Navy CSG Ronald Reagan.
- The 'Passex Exercise' is part of regular exercises between India and the USA.

NTPC anchors BRICS Green Hydrogen Summit

- NTPC Ltd has anchored a 2-days workshop on Green Hydrogen.
- Green Hydrogen is one of the most popular and demanding fields in the current times and considered to be the next carrier of energy.
- Experts from BRICS countries participated to share their insights.
- Professional views on ways to develop Green Hydrogen energy sources.

- The Central government this year launched a National Hydrogen Mission to introduce hydrogen purchase obligations for fertilizers, refineries.

Jamsetji Tata world's top philanthropist in 100 years

- Tata Group's founder Jamsetji Tata has emerged as the biggest philanthropist in the world over the last 100 yrs, as per a report prepared by Hurun Research and EdelGive Foundation.
- The report pegs the current valuation of his donations at \$102.4 billion.
- He is followed by Bill and Melinda Gates (\$74.6 billion), Warren Buffett (\$37.4 billion), George Soros (\$34.8 billion), and J D Rockefeller (\$26.8 billion).
- He was regarded as the 'Father of Indian Industry'.

India To Host 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable Next Year

- As per the International Energy Forum (IEF), India will host the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable next year.
- The summit will take forward the understandings reached in the previous meeting in Abu Dhabi in 2018.
- The IEF is the world's largest energy organization with 71 members accounting for 90% of the global energy market.
- It holds energy dialogue promoting energy security, market stability, and transparency in the transition to a sustainable and inclusive future.

Subsonic Cruise Missile 'Nirbhay' Test-Fired Off Odisha Coast

- The subsonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay' was test-fired off Odisha coast.
- Having a range of 1500 KM, the missile was fired from launchpad no.3 of the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur.
- Nirbhay is a subsonic cruise missile designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the Ministry of Defence.

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- The missile is capable of carrying nuclear warheads upto 200 kg.
- The DRDO has been carrying out several trials of Nirbhay since October 2014.

DRDO successfully test-fires enhanced Pinaka rocket off Odisha coast

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired an extended range version of indigenously developed "Pinaka" rocket at Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the coast of Odisha, official sources.
- Altogether 25 Enhanced Pinaka Rockets were test fired in quick succession against targets at different ranges.
- The 122 mm Caliber rockets were launched from a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL), an official said.
- In order to check the accuracy of the rockets hitting the target, all the flight articles were tracked by various Range instruments. The rocket system has been developed jointly by Pune based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) with manufacturing support from Economic Explosives Limited, Nagpur.

Microsoft announces Windows 11 with new user interface, Android apps support

- Microsoft on 24th June announced Windows 11, the next generation of Windows. The newest version of Windows comes six years after the tech giant had introduced Windows 10 to the world. Windows 11 focuses on a new user interface, a new Windows Store, and improvements to performance.
- Windows 11 features an overhauled design language, something consumers wanting from the next generation of Windows.
- With Windows 11, the Start button and the taskbar are moved at the bottom of the display instead of the left side. The user interface reminds us of Windows 10x, the now-defunct operation system which was supposed to take on Google's Chrome OS.

Jio and Google Cloud to collaborate on 5G technology

- Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (Jio), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), and Google Cloud are embarking on a comprehensive, long-term strategic relationship with a goal of powering 5G in enterprise and consumer segments nationwide.
- In addition, Reliance will also take advantage of Google Cloud's scalable infrastructure, thereby enabling its retail business to achieve better operational efficiency, modernisation and scale for growth, and deliver better performance and experiences to the customers.

- To further Jio's mission to digitise India with faster and better connectivity, Google Cloud will provide a complete end-to-end Cloud offering for fully-automated lifecycle management of Jio's 5G network and services.

R K Sabharwal honoured Mongolia's 'The Order of Polar Star'

- RK Sabharwal has been honoured with the highest civilian award of Mongolia's 'The Order of Polar Star' to recognize the outstanding contribution made by him towards the establishment of first ever oil Refinery in Mongolia.
- Order of Polar Star: It is the most desirable and prestigious state award, which is highly valuable and distinguished and recognises individuals who have made invaluable contribution with their outstanding hard work to the prosperity of Mongolia.

BRICS nations agree on science and technology innovation cooperation

- BRICS Nations have unanimously agreed on an innovation co-operation at the 11th BRICS S&T Steering Committee Meeting. Hosted by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), GoI, the meeting was led from the Indian side by Sanjeev Kumar Varshney, Advisor & Head International Cooperation. This meeting was hosted as a part of the series of sectoral events including Minister level meeting and BRICS Summit.
- The proposal put forward by India would be considered at the BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Entrepreneurship (STIEP) working group for elaborating the action plan.
- The concept note and Action Plan for BRICS Innovation Cooperation 2021-2024 was discussed during the meeting organized on June 22, 2021 to review the implementation of BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Calendar of Activities.

Indian Naval Ship Tabar deployed for naval exercises in Africa, Europe

- Indian Naval Ship Tabar commenced her prolonged deployment on June 13.
- The ship will transit across the Gulf of Aden, Red Sea, Suez Canal, Mediterranean Sea, North Sea and Baltic Sea while making port calls at Djibouti, Egypt, Italy, France, UK, Russia, Netherlands, Morocco, and Arctic Council countries like Sweden and Norway.
- The ship will participate in bilateral exercises like Ex. Konkan with the United Kingdom, Ex. Varuna with France, and Ex. Indra with Russia.

India successfully test-fires Agni P, a new missile in Agni series

- In a step towards bolstering strategic deterrence capabilities, India on 28th June, 2021 successfully tested a new-generation nuclear-capable Agni ballistic missile from the test range on the Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha.
- The advanced two-stage missile called 'Agni-Prime' has a strike range from 1,000 to 2,000-km. Test-fired at 10.55 am, the missile was tracked by various telemetry and radar stations positioned along the eastern coast.
- The Agni-P missile has been developed with new propulsion systems and composite rocket motor casings as well as advanced navigation and guidance systems.
- Significantly, Agni-P is also a canister-launch missile like the country's first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), the over 5,000-km Agni-V, which is now in the process of being inducted by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC).

Rosatom commences construction of unit 5 of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant

- Russian Company Rosatom has started the construction work for unit 5 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP).
- The General Framework Agreement (GFA) between India and Russia was signed on April 10 2014, on the construction of Units 3 and 4.
- Another agreement was signed for the construction of units 5 and 6 in compliance with the same design as it was stipulated for Units 3 and 4.
- Rosatom has all the most advanced nuclear power technologies.

Asia's longest high-speed testing track comes up at Indore

- Asia's longest high-speed track — NATRAX — was inaugurated in Indore in Madhya Pradesh by Prakash Javadekar.
- NATRAX, one of the state-of-the-art automotive testing and certification centre under NATRiP.
- It is a flagship project of the Ministry of Heavy Industries, planned under the Automotive Mission Plan.
- The longest speed track by NATRAX has a total of 10 tracks, designed keeping in mind to test vehicles in every possible terrain condition.

IIM Kozhikode partners Coursera to reach out to global learners

- The Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIM-K) announced a tie-up with education platform Coursera to offer management courses to global learners.
- It has announced the launch of four certificate programs in the fields of business, strategy, marketing, and product management.
- Each program was designed as a six-to-eight-month-long graduate-level offering.
- Coursera is one of the largest online learning platforms in the world.

Singapore signs pact with Bhutan to establish Model Technical Training Centres

- Singapore has signed an MoU with Bhutan to establish Model Technical Training Centres (MTTC).
- The ITE-Education Services of Singapore will provide technical assistance to Bhutan's Ministry of Labour and Human Resources in developing MTTC.
- MTTCs will offer high-quality practice-oriented skills training for Bhutanese youths.
- The King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck visited the Institute of Technical Education (ITE), Singapore, in 2015.

Reliance inks pact with ADNOC to build mega chemical project in Abu Dhabi

- RIL and UAE's oil giant Abu Dhabi National Oil Company signed an agreement to form a mega petrochemical joint venture in Al Ruwais city.
- This will be the first investment by Reliance in UAE.
- RIL and ADNOC will construct an integrated plant with a capacity to produce Chlor-alkali, ethylene dichloride, and polyvinyl chloride (PVC).
- The partnership utilizes the increasing demand for critical industrial raw materials and utilizes the strengths of ADNOC and RIL.

Elon Musk's Starlink to provide internet nearly worldwide

- Elon Musk's satellite network Starlink to provide broadband internet everywhere in the world by August.
- SpaceX has launched more than 1,500 satellites so far and has Starlink operations in about a dozen countries.
- SpaceX aims to offer broadband to as much as 5% of the world's population.
- Starlink will provide so-called "data backhaul" spines for their networks.
- The satellite network currently moves about 30 terabits of data per second.

Andhra Pradesh unveiled new IT policy for 2021-24

- Andhra Pradesh govt came out with the new Information Technology Policy 2021-24.
- It is expected to generate more than 55k jobs over the next 3 yrs.
- The new policy is also expected to create 1.65 lakh indirect employment thereby ensuring a holistic ecosystem development.
- The policy would be in force till March 31, 2024.
- The govt would establish an IT Emerging Technologies Research University in Visakhapatnam.

Army Chief MM Naravane to inaugurate war memorial for Indian soldiers in Italy

- Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General MM Naravane embarks on a four-day visit to the United Kingdom and Italy starting Monday, July 5. The visit will also see the army chief inaugurating an Indian Army Memorial in the Cassino town of Italy.
- In the first leg of the visit on July 5 and 6, the COAS will hold talks with the UK's Secretary of State for Defence, Chief of Defence Staff, Chief of General Staff and other dignitaries.
- The COAS will also inaugurate the Indian Army Memorial in the famous town of Cassino and will be briefed at the Italian Army's Counter IED Centre of Excellence at Cecchingola, Rome.

India's coal production drops marginally by 2% to 716 million tonnes in FY'

- The coal ministry has released provisional data for 2020-21.
- According to which, India's total coal production registered a marginal decline of 2.02% to 716.084 mn.
- Of the total output, a chunk of 685.951 MT was produced by the public sector, and the remaining production of 30.133 MT was from the private sector.
- In FY 21, Chhattisgarh registered the highest coal production followed by Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, and Jharkhand.
- Jharkhand was the top producer of coking coal.

194 crocodiles relocated from lake Panchmuli lake, Gujarat

- As many as 194 crocodiles have been relocated from Panchmuli lake near the 'Statue of Unity in Gujarat's Narmada district for the safety of tourists.
- The Panchmuli lake, situated near the 182-meter tall statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Kevadia.
- The Panchmuli lake, also known as 'Dyke-3' of the Sardar Sarovar Dam, was developed for tourists visiting the Statue of Unity.
- There are still many crocodiles in the lake.

NTPC, ONGC plans to boost development of offshore wind energy in India

- NTPC Ltd and ONGC Ltd have planned to boost the development of offshore wind energy in India.
- India is blessed with a coastline of about 7,600 km surrounded by water on three sides and has good prospects of harnessing this clean source.

- NTPC and ONGC had signed an MoU to accelerate their footprint in the renewable energy space.
- As per the MoU, NTPC and ONGC will explore the setting up of offshore wind and other renewable energy projects in India and overseas.

DPIIT initiates project on Open Network for Digital Commerce

- DPIIT has initiated a project on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).
- Aim: promote open networks developed on open-sourced methodology.
- ONDC is expected to digitize the entire value chain, standardize operations, promote inclusion of suppliers, etc.
- An advisory council has been constituted to advise the Government on measures needed to design and accelerate the adoption of ONDC.
- Members of the Advisory council: RS Sharma, Nandan Nilekani, and Arvind Gupta.

Indian Army names firing range in Gulmarg after Vidya Balan

- The Indian Army has named one of its firing range in Gulmarg, Kashmir after sizzling actor Vidya Balan.
- This was announced in recognition of her contributions to the Indian Cinema.
- Earlier this year, Vidya along with her husband Siddharth Roy Kapur had even attended the Gulmarg Winter Festival organized by the Indian Army.
- Also, a few days ago, she has been invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the governing body behind the Oscars.

CII organises 1st edition of Indo Pacific Business Summit

- CII in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs is organizing the 1st edition of "The Indo Pacific Business Summit" from 6 to 8 July.
- The theme of the summit is "Developing a Road Map for Shared Prosperity".
- The Summit would seek to identify current and future trade and investment opportunities within this region.
- The Summit will have the participation of Govt, Enterprises, Business Chambers, Think Tanks, etc from all the countries in the region.

Union Minister Giriraj Singh launches Online Course Mobile App Matsya Setu

- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Giriraj Singh launched the Online Course Mobile App 'Matsya Setu'.
- The app has been developed by the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar.
- It is being funded by the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad.
- The online course app aims to disseminate the latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to the aqua farmers of the country.

1st unit of the Rampal Maitree Power project to be commissioned in Dec 2021

- The first unit of the Maitree power project at Rampal in Bangladesh will be commissioned in Dec 21.
- The event will be coinciding with the Golden jubilee celebration of the liberation of Bangladesh.
- The second unit is expected to be commissioned matching with the implementation of the associated transmission system.
- A 1320 MW thermal power plant is being built by India at Rampal in Bangladesh.
- India's BHEL and BIFPCL are building this project.

Neha Parikh appointed new CEO of crowd-sourced navigation app Waze

- Neha Parikh, the former Indian-American president of the travel website Hotwire, has been appointed as the new CEO of Waze, a crowd-sourced navigation app and a subsidiary of tech giant Google.
- Neha, 41, a board member of the online used car retailer Carvana, replaced Noam Bardin, who stepped down in November as the CEO after leading the Israeli company for 12 years.
- Parikh, who joined Waze as the CEO late June, is a veteran of online hospitality brand Expedia, and has served in a variety of positions at two of the corporation's subsidiaries: Hotels.com and as Hotwire's youngest and first female president.

Govt launches mobile app 'Matsya Setu' for Indian aqua farmers

- The Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Giriraj Singh has launched a mobile app named 'Matsya Setu' on July 06, 2021 for fish farmers.
- The Matsya Setu is an online course app with the objective to bring the latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to the aqua farmers of the country.
- The app has been developed by the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar, with the funding support of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad.

Defence Ministry implements SPARSH, integrated system for automation of sanction and disbursement of defence pension

- Defence Ministry has implemented an integrated system for automation of sanction, disbursement of defence pension named as SPARSH.
- It will process pension claims and credits pension directly into bank accounts of defence pensioners without relying on any external intermediary.
- SPARSH envisages establishment of Service Centres to provide last mile connectivity to pensioners.
- In addition to Defence Accounts Department, SBI and PNB have been co-opted as Service Centres.

Amazon launches its first Digital Kendra in Surat, Gujarat

- Amazon has launched its first Digital Kendra in India in Surat, Gujarat to provide micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) the opportunity to learn about the benefits of e-commerce.
- MSMEs can visit the Amazon Digital Kendra and avail third party services including training on benefits of e-commerce, GST and taxation support, shipping and logistics support, cataloging assistance and digital marketing services.
- It will digitise 10 million Indian MSMEs by 2025.

DRDO & AICTE launches regular M. Tech. Program in defence technology

- DRDO and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has launched a regular M.Tech. Program in Defence Technology in various defence technology areas.
- It will motivate the aspiring engineers to start their career in defence technology.
- MTech. defence technology program can be conducted at any AICTE affiliated Institutes/Universities, IITs, NITs or private engineering institutes with the support of Institute of Defence Scientists & Technologists (IDST).

Indian Railways install India's first movable Freshwater Tunnel Aquarium

- Indian Railways has launched India's first movable freshwater tunnel aquarium 'Aquatic Kingdom' at Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station (Bengaluru City Railway Station).
- The aquarium has been jointly opened by Indian Railway Stations Development Cooperation (IRSDC) in collaboration with HNi Aquatic Kingdom.
- It is based on the concept of Amazon River
- It is 12-foot long aquatic kingdom and Indian Railways first paludarium that houses myriad flora and fauna.

DBT-NIBMG creates world's first database of genomic variants of oral cancer

- DBT-National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG), Kalyani has created world's first database of genomic variations in oral cancer
- NIBMG has made this database publicly-accessible.
- dbGENVOC is a browsable online database of GENomic Variants of Oral Cancer and is a free resource.
- First release of dbGENVOC contains 24 million somatic and germline variants and is not just a catalogue of genomic variants, it has a built-in powerful search engine.

BRICS countries agree to STI-led BRICS Innovation Cooperation Action Plan

- All BRICS countries have agreed to the STI-led BRICS Innovation Cooperation Action Plan (2021-24) proposed by India during the 12th meeting of the BRICS Science and Technology Steering Committee
- India had proposed the plan to facilitate sharing of experiences of each other's innovation ecosystem and networking of innovators, entrepreneurs
- The details of the Action Plan will be worked out by BRICS Science, Technology Innovation Entrepreneurship partnership Working Group.

KVIC secures trademark registrations in Bhutan, UAE, Mexico

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has secured trademark registrations in three countries namely Bhutan, UAE and Mexico.

- Now, the number of such countries has gone up to nine.
- So far KVIC was having Trademark registrations for the word mark KHADI in 6 countries namely Germany, UK, Australia, Russia, China and EU where trademark registrations were granted in certain classes.

Qatar Airways joins IATA's Turbulence Aware Platform

- Qatar Airways will be the first Middle Eastern airline to join the IATA Turbulence Aware platform and install the programme in its whole fleet of aircraft.
- The airline has equipped its 120 aircraft with the Turbulence Aware platform.
- IATA's Turbulence Aware helps airlines mitigate the impact of turbulence by pooling and sharing anonymized turbulence data from multiple participating airlines and thousands of daily flights.

India's first cryptogamic garden opens in Dehradun

- India's first cryptogamic garden housing nearly 50 species of lichens, ferns and fungi was inaugurated in Uttarakhand's Dehradun district on 12th July.
- Located in the district's Chakrata town, the garden was inaugurated by social activist Anoop Nautiyal.
- Around 50 species have been grown in the garden at Deoban in Chakrata at a commanding height of 9,000 ft.

IATA launches global mobility aids action group

- The IATA has announced the launch of a global mobility aids action group to examine and improve the transport journey of mobility aids, including wheelchairs
- Aim: improving the handling of this vital equipment for travelers with disabilities.
- The action group will be the first of its kind aimed at tackling issues around the safe and secure transport of mobility aids—an issue of huge importance to a growing number of travelers.

WHO issued new recommendations on human genome editing

- World Health Organization (WHO) has issued new recommendations on human genome editing.
- WHO has called for a global registry to track any form of genetic manipulation and proposing a whistle-blowing mechanism to raise concerns about unethical or unsafe research.
- UN health agency commissioned an expert group in late 2018 following a dramatic announcement from Chinese scientist He Jiankui that he had created the world's first gene-edited babies.



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APEDA inked MoU with NAFED for strengthening export linkage

- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has signed an MoU with National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) for strengthening export linkage of farmer co-operatives and Farmer Producer Organisation.
- It facilitates APEDA registered exporters getting assistance under all the government schemes implemented through NAFED.
- The MoU also envisages ensuring sustainability and growth of exports by Cooperatives.

NTPC to set up India's single largest solar park at Rann of Kutch

- NTPC Renewable Energy will set up 4750 MW renewable energy park at Rann of Kutch in Khavada, Gujarat under Mode 8 (Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Park) of Solar Park Scheme.
- This will be India's largest solar park to be built by the largest power producer of the country.
- NTPC REL has plans to generate green hydrogen on a commercial scale from this park.
- India's largest energy integrated company aims to build 60 GW Renewable Energy Capacity by 2032.

Nirmala Sitharaman and Namgay Tshering jointly launch BHIM-UPI in Bhutan

- Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman along with Finance Minister of Bhutan, Lyonpo Namgay Tshering has jointly launched BHIM-UPI in Bhutan.
- With launch of BHIM-UPI in Bhutan, payment infrastructures of the two countries are seamlessly connected and will benefit tourists.
- Bhutan is the first country to adopt UPI standards for its QR deployment, and the first country in our immediate neighbourhood to accept mobile based payments through the BHIM App.

IFSCA issued framework for Setting up and operating ITFS Platform

- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has issued framework for Setting up and operating International Trade Finance Services Platform (ITFS).
- It will enable Exporters and Importers to avail various types of trade finance facilities at competitive terms.
- This will help in their ability to convert their trade receivables into liquid funds and to obtain short-term funding.
- ITFS will provide Trade Finance Services at IFSC.

Zurich airport signs shareholder agreement with NIAL for development of Noida airport

- The Zurich Airport International has signed a shareholder agreement with the Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) in Lucknow for the development of the Noida International Airport at Jewar.
- As per the shareholder agreement, NIAL will hold one golden share in Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd (YIAPL) and the right to nominate two directors to the board.
- YIAPL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Zurich Airport International AG, incorporated as a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to develop the greenfield Noida International Airport.
- The two directors who will be part of the board are Arun Vir Singh, chief executive of NIAL, and Vishak Iyer, Director Civil Aviation, Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- The Zurich Airport will design, develop and operate the new greenfield airport in Jewar under a 40-year concession.

Ministry of Civil Aviation releases Drone Rule 2021 for public consultation

- Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has released the updated 'The Drone Rules 2021' for public consultation that will replace UAS Rules 2021 (released on 12 March 2021).
- Drone Rules 2021 include:
 - Approvals for authorisation number, import clearance, etc abolished
 - Number of forms reduced from 25 to 6.
 - Fee reduced to nominal levels.
 - Safety features like 'No permission – no take-off' (NPNT), real-time tracking beacon, geo-fencing etc. to be notified in future.

Adani Group takes management control of Mumbai International Airport

- Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL) has taken over the management control of the world class Mumbai International Airport (MIAL), by both passenger and cargo traffic, from the GVK Group.
- With this, Adani has become the largest airport infrastructure company in India.
- Now, it accounts for a total of eight airports in its management and development portfolio, accounting for 25% of airport footfalls.
- It will also control 33% of the country's air cargo traffic.

United States Navy hands over first two MH-60R multi-role helicopters to Indian Navy

- The Indian Navy received the first two MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters (MRH) from the United States Navy on July 16, 2021, at Naval Air Station in North Island, San Diego.
- In February 2020, the Indian Navy and the US Navy had signed Rs 15,157 crore (\$2.13 billion) deal to buy 24 MH-60 Romeo helicopters, manufactured by Lockheed Martin, under foreign military sales from the US government.
- The delivery of the first two MH-60R 'Romeo' helicopters to the Indian Navy marks the beginning of a new era of defence collaboration and partnership between the US and India.
- Further, the US Navy will support the Indian Naval Forces through capability upgrades and sustainment as the aircraft is inducted.

Maharashtra govt launches new Electric Vehicle Policy 2021

- The Maharashtra state government has launched the new Electric Vehicle Policy-2021. The policy announced by the State Environment Minister, Aaditya Thackeray aims to accelerate the adoption of Battery Electric Vehicles in the country. The new EV policy introduced in Maharashtra is a revision of the 2018 policy. It is introduced with an aim to make Maharashtra the "topmost producer of battery-powered electric vehicles in India."
- The policy also aims for electric vehicles (EVs) to make up 10 per cent of all new vehicle registrations, by 2025. For this ambitious mission, the state government has rolled out an Rs. 930 crore policy, valid up to 31st March 2025. To make this successful, EVs will be exempted from road tax and registration charges.

OFT hands delivery of 25 remote control guns to Navy, Coast Guard

- Ordnance Factory of Tiruchirappalli handed over the locally assembled 12.7 mm Stabilised Remote Control Gun (SRCG) system to the Navy and Coast Guard for enhanced surveillance.
- The first batch consisted of 25 weapons.
- They were assembled in the Trichy factory through the transfer of technology (ToT) initiative with the support of Israel-based defense company Elbit Systems.
- The SRCG is fitted with a 12.7 mm M2 NATO standard heavy machine gun.

MeitY inked MoU with MapmyIndia to enable map services in UMANG App

- MeitY has inked an MoU with MapmyIndia to enable the map services in "UMANG App"

- Aim: to ease the lives of citizens by facilitating online delivery of Government services and further enhance the initiatives of Digital India Programme, keeping in view the theme of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.
- After this citizens will be able to find government facilities nearest to their location, such as mandis, blood banks, and much more, at the click of a button.

Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus to Receive Olympic Laurel at Tokyo Olympics Opening

- Bangladeshi Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus has been chosen to receive the Olympic Laurel at the upcoming Tokyo Games on 23 July 2021, becoming the second recipient of the award.
- Professor Yunus will be awarded the prize for "his extensive work in sport for development, including founding the Yunus Sports Hub, a global social business network".
- The Olympic Laurel award was created in 2016 to recognise endeavours in culture, education, peace and development through sport and will be awarded at the Opening Ceremony of each Summer Games.
- It was given for the first time at the 2016 Rio Games to Kenyan former Olympian Kip Keino.
- Muhammad Yunus is a Bangladeshi social entrepreneur, banker, economist, and civil society leader who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006, for founding the Grameen Bank and pioneering the concepts of microcredit and microfinance.

Jeff Bezos launches to space aboard New Shepard rocket ship

- Jeff Bezos successfully soared into space Tuesday aboard his New Shepard rocket —and thanked Amazon's customers for funding it.
- The billionaire was one of four people on his Blue Origin aerospace company's first human flight as it launched from a West Texas desert at 9:12 a.m. EDT and traveled to an altitude of about 66 miles before returning to Earth.
- Blue Origin aerospace commemorated the feat as a "truly historic day" after Bezos' capsule touched down.

Russia successfully test-fires S-500 missile system

- Russia has successfully test-fired new S-500 air defence missile systems from southern training range, Kapustin Yar.
- It hit a high-speed ballistic target as planned during test-firing.
- S-500 is also known as Prometey or 55R6M Triumfator-M and is a Russian surface-to-air missile/anti-ballistic missile system which is the most advanced anti-missile system in the world.
- It has been developed by Almaz-Antey Air Defence Concern.
- It has a maximum firing range of 600 kilometres.

Prasar Bharati partners with IIT-Kanpur on NextGen broadcasting technology

- Prasar Bharati has signed MoU with IIT Kanpur to establish Centre of Excellence for Media and Broadcasting Technologies.
- Areas that will be covered under Center of Excellence are:
- Next Generation Broadcast Technology Trial (Direct to Mobile Broadcasting, Convergence with 5G).
- Automatic Speech Recognition for Speech Subtitling (Making Broadcast Content in Indian Languages Accessible).
- Archival Content Retrieval through Audio, Text Query.

IOC to set up first 'green hydrogen' plant at Mathura

- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will build first 'green hydrogen' plant of India at its Mathura refinery to meet the growing demand for both oil and cleaner forms of energy.
- IOC will make use of 250 MW of electricity which it produces from renewable sources like solar power to produce absolutely green hydrogen through electrolysis for this.
- Green hydrogen production is the ultimate clean hydrogen resource and uses renewable energy to create hydrogen fuel.

DRDO successfully flight-tests surface-to-air missile Akash-NG

- DRDO has successfully tested New Generation Akash Missile (Akash-NG) from Integrated Test Range (ITR) off the coast of Odisha.
- Akash-NG weapon system: It is a surface-to-air Missile that can strike targets at around 60 km and fly at a speed of up to Mach 2.5.
- It has been developed by Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories.

MyGov platform hosts Online Competition for Young Writers

- MyGov platform is hosting Online Competition under PM's Mentorship Scheme for Young Writers, seeking participation of young and aspiring Indian writers from across the globe.
- Online competition was launched on 4th June till 31st of this month.
- Winners will be announced on 15 August this year.
- 75 authors will be selected through the All-India Contest being conducted through nbtindia.gov.in and MyGov.in.

Byju's acquires US-based digital reading platform Epic

- Byju's has acquired US-based digital reading platform 'Epic' for \$500 million, strengthening its position in the education technology sector.
- This acquisition will help Byju's expand its US footprint by providing access to the more than two million teachers and 50 million kids in Epic's existing global user base, which more than doubled over the last year
- Epic model for inspiring the next generation through interactive reading.

Russia to conduct military drills with Uzbekistan, Tajikistan near Afghan border

- Russia will conduct military drills with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan near the border with Afghanistan,
- Joint drills will take place from 5th to 10th August at the Kharbmaidon training ground in Tajikistan near the Afghan border.
- The troops will run drills to defeat illegal armed units that invaded the territory of an allied country.
- Troops from a Russian military base in Tajikistan and the Central Military District will take part in the games.

UNESCO's 'Historic Urban Landscape' project for Gwalior, Orchha launched

- Gwalior and Orchha cities of Madhya Pradesh have been selected by UNESCO under 'Historic Urban Landscape Project'
- This project was introduced in 2011 for the inclusive and well-planned development of fast-growing historical cities while preserving culture and heritage
- Development and management plan of these cities will be under UNESCO, Govt of India and Madhya Pradesh
- Six cities of South Asia, including Ajmer and Varanasi in India are already involved in this project.

Union Cabinet approves PLI Scheme for Specialty Steel

- Union Cabinet has approved Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for specialtysteel with budgetary outlay of Rs. 6322 crores
- Duration of the scheme: 5 years from 2023-24 to 2027-28
- It is expected to bring in investment of approximately Rs. 40,000 crores and capacity addition of 25 MT for speciality steel.
- It will give direct and indirect employment to 5,25,000 people.
- Export of specialty steel will become around 5.5 million tonnes, getting FOREX of Rs 33,000 crore.

World's first 3D-printed stainless-steel bridge opens in Amsterdam

- World's first 3D-printed stainless steel bridge has been inaugurated in Amsterdam, The Netherlands for pedestrians and cyclist over the Oudezijds Achterburgwal canal
- It is 12-metre long and is designed by Joris Laarman Lab and built by Dutch robotics company MX3D
- It is fabricated from stainless steel rods by 6-axis robotic arms equipped with welding gear
- It is fitted with a network of sensors that allows the bridge to monitor strain, movement, vibration and temperature: 23rd July

IIT-Kanpur launches technology innovation hub to find cyber security solutions for anti-drones technologies

- The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) has launched a technology innovation hub called 'C3i Hub' to find cyber security solutions for anti-drones technologies, intrusion detection system, block-chain and cyber-physical system.
- IIT Kanpur's C3iHub is committed to creating a vibrant ecosystem of cyber security start-ups fostering world-class innovations.
- Around 13 start-ups and 25 research and development principal investigators were selected after a rigorous application process, to set up a start-ups cohort in cyber security.
- Now with C3iHub, these start-ups will innovate to disrupt the cyber security space, with focus on design and development of services and products to safeguard India's critical infrastructure.

Bangladesh set to develop alternative social media platform for Facebook and Whatsapp

- The Government of Bangladesh is working to develop a social media platform dubbed as 'Jogajog'.
- This platform will act as an alternative to Facebook.
- The basic objective of launching this platform is to help the local entrepreneurs to create their own marketplace for sharing information and data without depending on any foreign platform.
- Apart from this, the government is also working to develop a communication app called 'Alapan' as an alternative to Whatsapp.

UNESCAP's Global Survey on Digital & Sustainable Trade Facilitation

- India has scored 90.32% in UNESCAP's latest Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation.
- The survey hails this as a remarkable jump from 78.49% in 2019.
- India has achieved a 100% score for the Transparency index and 66% in the Women in trade component.
- The survey notes that India is the best-performing country when compared to the South and South-West Asia region and Asia Pacific region.
- This survey is conducted every two years by UNESCAP.

Last blast of Sela Tunnel's escape tube conducted by DG Border Roads

- Director General Border Roads (DGBR) Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry conducted the last blast of the escape tube of the under-construction Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The first blast of the 1555 meters long escape tube was initiated by DGBR in January 2021.
- PM Narendra Modi initiated the Sela Tunnel in 2019.

- The tunnel is being constructed by the BRO under Project Vartak using the New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM).
- This will increase connectivity in the entire Northeast.

UNCDF launches initiative to address challenges faced by smallholder farmer

- The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and Rabo Foundation has launched the Agritech Challenge 2021.
- Aim: to help address challenges faced by smallholder farmers across Asia and Africa.
- Through this challenge, UNCDF will also enable cross-border collaborations among emerging markets across India, Indonesia, Malawi, Malaysia, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia among others.

Sweden Joins The International Solar Alliance

- Sweden has ratified the framework agreement for the International Solar Alliance.
- ISA is an initiative of India aimed at promoting renewable energy and sustainable development.
- Sweden's ratification of the ISA came over four months after PM Narendra Modi and Swedish premier Stefan Lofven held a virtual summit focusing on boosting cooperation in areas of innovation, technology, and climate change.

World's Largest Floating Solar Farm Proposed for Indonesia

- Sunseap Group, a solar energy system developer, owner, and operator in Singapore plans to build the world's largest floating solar farm in Indonesia.
- The floating photovoltaic system is expected to have a capacity of 2.2 GW.
- It will cover 1600 hectares of the Duriangkang Reservoir on Batam Island and cost about \$2 billion to construct.
- An agreement between Sunseap and the Batam Indonesia free zone authority to move forward with the project was signed on July 19.

Nasa selects SpaceX for Jupiter moon mission

- NASA selected SpaceX to launch its probe of Jupiter's moon Europa, which has liquid oceans that could harbour life.
- The Europa Clipper mission, scheduled to launch in October 2024 on a Falcon Heavy rocket from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, is worth \$178 million.
- Europa Clipper will conduct a detailed survey of the icy Jupiter moon Europa and use a sophisticated suite of science instruments to investigate whether the moon has conditions suitable for life.

Indian Naval Ship Talwar in Mombasa to Participate in Exercise Cutlass Express 2021

- Indian Naval Ship Talwar is participating in annual maritime exercise titled as Exercise Cutlass Express 2021, which is being conducted from 26 July to 6 August 2021 along the East Coast of Africa.
- 2021 edition includes 12 Eastern African countries, US, UK, India and international organisations like International Maritime Organisation, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Interpol, European Union Naval Force, Critical Maritime Routes Indian Ocean and EUCAP Somalia.

I-STEM Phase II project launched

- I-STEM project has entered 2nd phase and accorded extension for 5 years, until 2026.
- Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM):
- It is a national web portal for sharing R&D facilities
- It is an initiative of Principal Scientific Adviser office under PM Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) mission.
- Under Phase II, it will host indigenous technology products listed through digital catalogue.

Web based portal pmcaresforchildren.in launched

- Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched web based portal named 'pmcaresforchildren.in' to facilitate submission of applications, identification of children eligible to receive support under 'PM CARES for Children' scheme.
- This portal will be regularly updated with necessary information.
- PM CARES for Children scheme: It was announced for supporting children who have lost both parents or surviving parent or legal guardian or adoptive parents due to COVID-19.

Govt to set up Centre for Bio-Resources & Sustainable Development

- Ministry of Science and Technology will set up Centre for Bio-Resources and Sustainable Development as a Centre of Excellence in the Northeast.
- It was sanctioned by Dept of Biotechnology.
- Location of the project: Kimin, Papum Pare in Arunachal Pradesh.
- It will facilitate the region to use organic food potential and help in exploring many vast areas and to find less-known new species.
- It will improve the cultural, social and economic status of the people of North Eastern.

Dholavira inscribed as India's 40th UNESCO World Heritage Site

- Dholavira, Harappan City in Gujarat's Rann of Kutch has been inscribed as 40th UNESCO World Heritage Site of India with effect from July 27, 2021.
- The historic of 'Dholavira' was on the UNESCO's tentative list since 2014.
- Dholavira: a Harappan city' is one of the very few well preserved urban settlements in South Asia dating from the 3rd to mid-2nd millennium BCE.
- With this, India has entered the Super-40 club for World Heritage Site inscriptions.

Indo-Russia Joint Military Drill 'Exercise INDRA 2021'

- Indo-Russia Joint Military Drill 'Exercise INDRA 2021' is to be held in August 2021 at Volgograd, Russia.
- It is the 12th Edition of Indo-Russia joint military exercise that will be held from 1 to 13 August 2021.
- 250 personnel from both the nations will form part of this exercise that will involve conduct of counter terror operations against international terror groups, under UN mandate.
- It will strengthen mutual confidence and interoperability between both armies.

ISRO gears to launch its Merchandise Programme

- ISRO has come up with the customised-themed merchandise programme in partnership with multiple companies to create awareness and kindling interest of students, children and the public in the domain of space and technology.
- So far, eight companies have registered with ISRO on a non-exclusive basis with registration fee regarding customised ISRO-theme-based articles/models and it includes Indic Inspirations (Pune), 1947IND (Bengaluru) and Ankur Hobby Centre (Ahmedabad).



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China's Yang Qian & Yang Haoran win gold in 1st mixed team 10m air rifle

- People's Republic of China team comprising Yang Qian and Yang Haoran have won gold in the first mixed team 10m air rifle final, after defeating USA's Mary Tucker and Lucas Kozeniesky at Tokyo Olympics.
- This is the second gold for Yang Qian, who won the first gold of Tokyo Olympics in the women's individual event
- The teams were locked at 9-9 after 10 series, but the Chinese pulled away outscoring the Americans in three straight series and four of the last five.

First Goods train on Haldibari-Chilahati route leaving for Bangladesh

- The first goods train to carry stone chips to Bangladesh through the revived Haldibari -Chilahati rail link left from Damdim station of Alipurduar Division in North Frontier Railway.
- This route will provide a shorter route for the transit of goods into Bangladesh from Assam, West Bengal, Nepal and Bhutan.
- At present, five rail routes connect Bangladesh and India namely Petrapole-Benapole, Gede-Darshana, Singhabad-Rohanpur, Radhikapur-Birol and Haldibari-Chilahati.

BIAL signs a deal with IBM to set up 'Airport in a Box' platform

- Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), has signed a ten-year partnership with the company IBM to set up the 'Airport in a Box' platform.
- The partnership is designed to help Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) improve its productivity, automate its information technology services, increase operational flexibility to handle future growth in passenger traffic and reduce costs.
- The airport operator chose IBM Global Business Services, IBM hybrid cloud capabilities and Kyndryl, the new, independent company that will be created following the separation of IBM's Managed Infrastructure Services business, to design and implement a next-generation architecture with a dynamic delivery model.

New hotline set up in Sikkim between Indian Army, PLA

- A hotline has been set up between the Indian and Chinese armies in the Sikkim sector to further boost confidence along the LAC.
- The hotline is between the Indian Army in Kangra La and China's PLA at Khamba Dzong in Tibet.
- The inauguration of the hotline was attended by ground commanders of the two sides.
- The setting up of the hotline came amid a continued standoff between the two armies in a number of friction points in eastern Ladakh.

India takes over UNSC presidency for August 2021

- India has assumed the Presidency of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for August 2021
- India will decide the agenda for August and coordinate important meetings and other related issues.
- India will focus on three priority areas during its presidency: maritime security, peacekeeping, and counter-terrorism.
- India joined UNSC in January 2021 for 2 year term as one of the 10 rotating non-permanent members.

IIT Roorkee launches New Academic Programmes

- IIT, Roorkee has launched seven new academic programmes in select areas of engineering, architecture, economics, and management along with specialization in Data Science and AI to cater the rising demand for new-age technologies
- These programmes are inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary in line with National Education Policy 2020
- It include 6 postgraduate degree programs and a five-year integrated program, would be offered to students from 2021-2022.

Eco tourism identified as one of the Niche Tourism areas for development

- Ministry of Tourism has identified Eco tourism as one of the Niche Tourism areas for development in India
- Ecotourism: Form of tourism involving responsible travel to natural areas, conserving the environment, and improving the well-being of the local people.
- Draft National Strategy and Roadmap for Sustainable Tourism with focus on ecotourism has also been formulated
- Ministry of Tourism, under its Swadesh Darshan scheme is developing theme-based tourism circuits.

Union Minister releases Biotech-PRIDE guidelines

- Union Minister of Science & Technology has released 'Biotech-PRIDE' (Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange) Guidelines
- It has been developed by Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- Initially, they will be implemented through Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) or Bio-Grid at Regional Centre for Biotechnology
- It will enable exchange of information to promote research and innovation in different research groups across the country.

ISRO presented SATNAV Policy 2021 for public consultation

- ISRO has presented Indian Satellite Navigation Policy 2021 (SATNAV Policy 2021) draft on its official website for public consultation
- Aim: To address the growing demands of space-based navigation and timing applications, with the view of self-sustenance in areas of commercial, strategic, and societal applications to maximize the socio-economic benefits.
- Navigation signals are offered free-to-air for a variety of applications like tracking, telematics, automotive, etc.

Defence Secretary launches website for 75th Independence Day celebrations

- Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar launched a website on the 75th Independence Day Celebrations 2021 (indianidc2021.mod.gov.in) in New Delhi. It is a platform to connect Indians from world over to celebrate the National Festival. The platform is freely accessible to all and provides update & information regarding activities centred around the Independence Day Celebrations 2021. It encompasses the entire Indian diaspora as if they were a part of the celebrations in person. Defence Ministry said, it is an attempt to engage people of all ages, especially the youth.
- For the first time ever, the platform will live stream the Independence Day Celebrations from the majestic Red Fort on 15th of this month in Virtual Reality 360 degree format. People can use this feature with or without VR Gadget.

Ordnance Factory launches new weapon 'Trichy Carbine'

- The Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli (OFT) in Tamil Nadu launched a new high-tech and low sound weapon called TriCa (Trichy Carbine), a mini version of the Trichy Assault Rifle (TAR). It was unveiled by General Manager of OFT Sanjay Dwivedi, IOFS (Indian Ordnance Factories Service) during a function.
- Features of TriCa:
- Size of TriCa: 7.62 X 39 mm portable weapon launched on the carbine platform
- Weight of TriCa: 3.17 kg (including the magazine) and
- Range of TriCa: 150 to 175 metres
- The lighter and compact weapon, carbine TriCa is designed for the infantry combat vehicle, helicopter crew and security personnel for operations that call for a compact and relatively powerful individual automatic weapon.
- The weapon is also for paratroopers, police and security personnel guarding highly secure facilities such as airports, and for use by the Special Operation Forces.

Uttarakhand unveils India's first earthquake early warning mobile app

- Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhama has launched an earthquake early warning mobile application, titled 'Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert'.
- It is India's first earthquake early warning' app for notifying people about earthquake alerts.
- It has been developed by IIT Roorkee, in association with Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA).
- It can detect the onset of the earthquake and issue warnings and the expected time of arrival and intensity to prevent loss of life.

CBIC launches Indian Customs Compliance Information Portal (CIP)

- CBIC has launched Indian Customs Compliance Information Portal (CIP) at www.cip.icegate.gov.in/CIP for providing free access to information on all Customs procedures and regulatory compliance for nearly 12,000 Customs Tariff Items.
- It will provide complete knowledge of all import and export related requirements for all items covered under the Customs Tariff thereby improving the ease of doing cross border trade at the click of a button.

APEDA inks MoU with University of Agricultural Science, Bangalore

- APEDA has signed MoU with the University of Agricultural Science (UAS) Bangalore to give boost agricultural and processed food products exports especially from Karnataka.
- Key areas of cooperation of MoU include developing technologies for advance alertness, efficiency & precision farming for enhancing quality exports.
- It will also help in strengthening forward and backward linkages, participation in international exhibitions and fairs, etc.

Power Minister launches regulatory certification programme

- Power Minister R K Singh has launched an e-certification programme, 'reform and regulatory knowledge base for power sector', to provide regulatory training. The Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy R K Singh launched 'reform and regulatory knowledge base for power sector', an e-certification programme to provide regulatory training to the practitioners from diverse backgrounds through virtual mode.
- R K Singh also launched a Regulatory Data Dashboard which is an e-compendium of data containing state-wise details of tariff and power discoms (distribution companies) performance, developed by IIT Kanpur. The Dashboard would assist in benchmarking the sector performance, over time and across the power sector utilities.

2nd IEEE International Conference on Range Technology

- The 2nd Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Conference on Range Technology (ICORT-2021) is being held virtually. The conference has been organised by Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur, a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- It was inaugurated by Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Sathesh Reddy. The event

will host speakers from across the globe, who will present their technological achievements in multiple subjects related to Tests and Evaluation of defence systems.

- **About the conference:**
- The conference will be a very effective platform for all the Range Technology enthusiasts to interact with each other and stay updated with recent developments in relevant fields.
- More than 250 technical articles were submitted by experts on the relevant subjects, out of which 122 articles have been selected by a specialised technical committee.
- A virtual industrial exhibition is also being held in which more than 25 industries and organisations from India and abroad will display their products and technologies.

Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project in Bhutan gets Brunel Medal

- Bhutan's India-assisted Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project was conferred with the Brunel Medal awarded by the London-based Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE). The award was given as a mark of excellence in civil engineering within the industry and was handed over by the Indian envoy to Bhutan Ruchira Kamboj to the Chairman of Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project Authority, Lyonpo Loknath Sharma. One of the reasons the Mangdechhu project was awarded was because of its social and environmental credentials.
- **About the project:**
- The project will reduce 2.4 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year.
- Bhutan and India in the past have collectively resolved to increase the hydropower energy capacity of Bhutan to 12000 MW.
- The Brunel Medal is historically given to major projects and organisations across the world.
- The 2020 edition of the prize went to the Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project – a collaboration between Indian and Bhutanese governments. The award was announced in October 2020.

India clocks defence exports of Rs 38,500 crore in last 7 years

- Over the years various reforms have been taken to enhance Defence exports. These reforms have ramped the defence exports to new heights.
- As per the details provided by the government in the Lok Sabha recently, India exported military hardware and systems worth Rs 38,500 crore in the last seven years. Further, the value of defence exports clocked Rs 9,115.55 crore in 2019-20 and Rs 8434.84 crore in 2020-21.

- Presently, India is exporting defence equipment to more than 75 countries around the globe. According to the details provided by Ajay Bhatt, India's defence exports in 2014-15 was Rs 1,940.64 crore and gradually climbed to Rs 2,059.18 crore in 2015-16. In 2016-17, exports of Rs 1,521.91 crore were recorded while it raised up to Rs 4,682.36 crore in 2017-18. In 2018-2019, the defence exports soared to Rs 10,7465.77 crore.
- The value of defence exports in 2019-2020 was registered at Rs 9,115.55 crore and Rs 8,434.84 crore in 2020-21, as per the details.

Indian Navy undertakes bilateral exercise 'Zayed Talwar 2021' with UAE Navy

- Indian Navy undertook bilateral exercise 'Zayed Talwar 2021' with UAE Navy off the coast of Abu Dhabi.
- INS Kochi, with two integral Sea King MK 42B helicopters, deployed in the Persian Gulf, participated in the exercise.
- UAE participated with UAES AL – Dhafra, a Baynunah class guided missile corvette and one AS – 565B Panther helicopter.
- As part of the exercise, the ships undertook tactical manoeuvres, Over the Horizon Targeting, Search and Rescue and Electronic Warfare exercises to enhance interoperability and synergy between the two navies.
- Helicopters were extensively used all through the exercise ranging from Search and Rescue serial to passing of targeting data to ships for simulated missile engagement drills

PM to chair UNSC High-Level Open Debate on Enhancing Maritime Security

- PM Modi will chair a High-level Open Debate on 'Enhancing Maritime Security – A Case for International Cooperation'.
- It is expected to be attended by several Heads of State & Government of member states of the United Nations Security Council, and high-level briefers from the UN System and key Regional Organizations.
- Open Debate will focus on ways to effectively counter maritime crime and insecurity and strengthened coordination in the maritime domain.

ISRO to send Bhutan's INS-2B satellite into space by December 2021

- ISRO is set to launch INS-2B satellite of Bhutan in December 2021 announced Space odyssey: Showcasing India's achievements in space technology event.

- INS-2B Development is being underway by Bhutanese engineers who are being trained in theoretical and technical aspects by ISRO.
- Indo-Bhutan space cooperation:
- India and Bhutan have been engaged in space cooperation with Earth station for South Asia Satellite (SAS), launched in 2017 that was inaugurated in Thimphu, Bhutan. ISRO to send Bhutan's INS-2B satellite into space by December 2021.

PM Modi announces mission to make India self-sufficient in edible oils

- PM Modi announced a National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP).
- Aim: To make India self-sufficient in cooking oils, including palm oil, as he stressed on reducing the dependence on imports.
- Rs 11,000 crore will be invested in the edible oil ecosystem.
- India is the world's biggest vegetable oil importer.
- India exports agricultural commodities such as sugar and rice on the world market, but domestic oilseed production is nearly six times lower than rice and wheat.

IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report warns against unabated global warming

- UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has published the first part of its sixth assessment report (AR6), which will form the cornerstone of climate science for the years ahead.
- As per the report, the Indian Ocean is warming at a higher rate than other oceans.
- The report is titled 'Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis'.
- The planet was irrevocably headed towards warming by 1.5 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial times in the next two decades.

India to host first-ever 'India Internet Governance Forum' in October

- India will host its first-ever 'India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF)' in October 2021 to bring together representatives from various platforms to discuss internet policy issues.
- It will be held for 3 days from 20th to 22nd October 2021.
- Coordination committee of India Internet Governance 2021 features Anil Kumar Jain as Chairman, TV Ramchandran, Jaijeet Bhattacharya, Rajat Moona as Vice Chairman and 12 other members.
- Theme: 'Inclusive Internet for Digital India'.

ITBP inducts women officers for the first time in a combat role

- Two women officers named as Prakriti and Diksha have been commissioned as combat officers for the first time into the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), which is responsible for guarding India-China LAC.
- They have been posted as Assistant Commandants in ITBP battalions, after completing their training at the ITBP Academy in Mussoorie.
- Assistant Commandants is the entry-level officer rank in the paramilitary.
- Earlier, it only had combat women in the constabulary ranks.

India to conduct first-ever naval combat exercise with Saudi Arabia

- India and UAE has commenced the first-ever naval combat exercise titled as Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021 exercise.
- This naval exercise shows the growing defence ties between the two sides in the wake of the Indian Army Chief's maiden visit to the West Asian country in 2020.
- The exercise began with Harbor Phase and consists of several coasts and sea-based exercises between the two navies.
- It was planned for 2019.
- UAE also launched Guided Missile Corvette and Panther Helicopter.

Indian Army to participate in International Army Games 2021 in Russia

- 101 members of Indian Army contingent will be participating in International Army Games 2021, which will be held from 22 August to 4 September 2021 in Russia..
- It is the 7th edition of the International Army Games.
- The competition will be hosted in 11 countries.
- The games are organised each year by Russian Ministry of Defence, since 2015.
- Indian contingent will participate in Army Scout Masters Competition (ASMC), Elbrus Ring, Polar Star, Sniper Frontier and Safe Route games.

IAF builds one of the world's highest mobile ATC towers in Ladakh

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has built one of the world's highest mobile air traffic control (ATC) towers at the Advanced Landing Ground in Ladakh.
- The ATC controls operations of the fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters operating in the eastern Ladakh region. Meanwhile, India has been considering multiple options of developing airfields in eastern

- Ladakh including Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO), Fukche and Nyoma which are at a distance of few minutes from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.
- The Air Force also has deployed the Iгла man-portable air defence missiles to tackle any aerial incursion by any adversary aircraft.
- The Indian Air Force has been regularly deploying fighter aircraft including the Rafale and MiG-29s to carry out operations in eastern Ladakh where there has been disengagement of troops at two locations including Pangong Tso and Gogra heights but both sides have not de-escalated.

GSLV F10 fails to launch Earth Observation Satellite EOS-03 in Sriharikota

- ISRO launcher's GSLV F10 fails to launch Earth Observation Satellite EOS-03 from 2nd launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR in Sriharikota
- EOS-03: Earth Observation Satellite that will be placed in a Geosynchronous Orbit. It is a 4 metre diameter Ogive shaped payload fairing is being flown for the first time in this mission.
- It will provide real time data of natural disasters by monitoring water bodies, crops, vegetation conditions and forest cover changes.

Ministry of Social Justice launched TAPAS, an e-study platform for social defence

- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched an online portal named TAPAS (Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services) to provide filmed lectures/courses and e-study material in the field of social defence.
- Presently there are 5 courses under TAPAS: Drug (Substance) Abuse Prevention, Geriatric/Elderly Care, Care and Management of Dementia, Transgender Issues and on the comprehensive course on Social Defence Issues.
- TAPAS is the initiative of National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The course can be taken up by anyone and is free of cost.

Ministry of Women and Child Development launched 2nd Phase of SAMVAD

- The Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani, on the eve of Independence Day, launched 2nd phase of SAMVAD programme today in Bengaluru and commemorated the successful completion of one year of SAMVAD - Support, Advocacy & Mental health interventions for children in Vulnerable circumstances And Distress. SAMVAD is a National Initiative and Integrated Resource that works in child protection, mental health and psychosocial care.
- Addressed the gathering, the Union WCD Minister, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani acknowledged SAMVAD's efforts in

providing a coping mechanism for children in distress by training close to 1 lakh stakeholders comprising of Child Protection Functionaries, tele-counsellors, educators, law professionals among others. She said that "for the first time in independent India, SAMVAD will engage with functionaries in Panchayats thereby ushering in a silent revolution in addressing psychosocial challenges amongst vulnerable children". SAMVAD is slated to begin work with Panchayati Raj systems to integrate child protection and mental health in aspirational districts across the country to facilitate awareness generation and improve service delivery at the grass-root level.

Kerala Police launched India's first Drone Forensic Lab & Research Centre

- India's first Drone Forensic Lab and Research Center has launched in Kerala. The inauguration of the center was done by the Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan.
- The center will help in keeping a watch over unauthorized drones and also for the production of drones for the use of the police force.

Four more sites of India added to Ramsar list as wetlands of International importance

- These sites are Thol and Wadhvana from Gujarat and Sultanpur and Bhindawas from Haryana.
- With this, the number of Ramsar sites in India are 46 and the surface area covered by these sites is now 1,083,322 hectares. While Haryana gets its first Ramsar sites, Gujarat gets three more after Nalsarovar which was declared in 2012. The aim of the Ramsar list is to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits.
- Wetlands provide a wide range of important resources and ecosystem services such as food, water, fibre, groundwater recharge, water purification, flood moderation, erosion control and climate regulation. They are, in fact, are a major source of water and our main supply of freshwater comes from an array of wetlands which help soak rainfall and recharge groundwater.

WHO forms Advisory Group named SAGO to study the emergence of future emerging pathogens with pandemic potential

- World Health Organization (WHO) has created a new advisory group named, The International Scientific Advisory Group for Origins of Novel Pathogens or SAGO.
- Function: The function of SAGO will be to systematically study the emergence of future emerging pathogens with pandemic potential, and advise the development in this regard to WHO.

- WHO has made an open call for nominations to SAGO from the member countries, thus providing a transparent foundation for the new scientific advisory group.
- The group will also work towards finding the origin of SARS-CoV-2 virus.

PM Modi sets India's target to become energy independent by 2047

- PM Modi has set the target of becoming energy independent country by 2047, when India will celebrate 100th year of Independence
- PM has announced 'Mission Circular Economy' that will replace petroleum with other forms of energy to make India achieve self-reliance in energy production.
- It will include a mix of electric mobility, gas-based economy, doping ethanol in petrol and making India hub for hydrogen production
- Govt has decided to set up National Hydrogen Mission.

HCL Foundation launches 'My e-Haat' portal to empower artisans

- HCL Foundation has launched an online portal titled as, 'My e-Haat' to empower artisans and strengthen the value chain of the handicraft sector in India.
- My e-Haat will enable artisans and primary producers to conduct their business, by listing and showcasing their products directly to customers, minimizing the informal intermediaries and the long supply chains.
- More than 30 partners from eight states with over 600 products are listed on the portal at present.

75 new Vande Bharat trains to connect all parts of India

- PM Modi has announced that 75 'Vande Bharat' trains will connect different parts of India in 75 weeks to mark the ongoing 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- Vande Bharat: Indigenous semi-high speed train set is being given a boost, with the Railways gearing to roll out at least 10 of them, linking around 40 cities, by August 2022 to commemorate 75 years of Independence.
- Maiden run of Vande Bharat train was flagged off by Modi on New Delhi-Varanasi route on February 15, 2019.

Atal Innovation Mission launched Student Entrepreneurship Program (SEP) 3.0

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) NITI Aayog, along with La Fondation Dassault Systemes has launched third series of 'Student Entrepreneurship Program' (SEP 3.0) for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs
- Theme of SEP 3.0 is based on 'Made in 3D - Seed the Future Entrepreneurs Program' conceptualized and rolled out in 2017
- Under this, team from each school (6 students and a teacher) will be allocated seed funding towards creating their own start-up, design and prototype

Indian Naval Ship Tabar participated in Exercise Konkani 2021 with Royal Navy of UK

- Indian Naval Ship Tabar has participated at Portsmouth in England to undertake the annual bilateral drill titled as 'Exercise Konkani 2021' between Indian Navy and Britain's Royal Navy.
- It is a Bilateral naval exercise and is being held every year since 2004 to enhance the interoperability, synergy and cooperation between both navies.
- HMS Westminster of the Royal Navy took part from Britain's side.

Uttar Pradesh govt to set up ATS commandos training centre

- Uttar Pradesh govt has decided to set up a training centre for Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) commandos in Saharanpur's Deoband, known for its Islamic seminary Darul Uloom Deoband.
- Over one and a half dozen ATS officers, selected from all over the state, will be deputed there.
- Govt has already allotted over 2,000 square meters of land for establishing the ATS training centre in Deoband.
- Deoband is on the Uttaranchal and Haryana border.

Indian Army organises 'JAZBAA-E- TIRANGA' Relay Marathon in J&K

- Indian Army has organised 400 Km 'JAZBAA-E-TIRANGA' Relay Marathon in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- More than 300 troops participated in the marathon, carrying the Indian Tricolour all along the Line of Control (LoC).
- The run inculcated the spirit of brotherhood, as each soldier carried the symbolic National Flag of comradeship across Area of Responsibility (AOR), handing it over to other units which stand shoulder to shoulder in war.

PM Modi addressed Investor Summit in Gujarat virtually and launches 'Vehicle Scrappage Policy'

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended and addressed the Investor Summit in Gujarat via video conference on August 13, 2021, organised for setting up vehicle scrapping infrastructure in Ahmedabad.
- As a part of the Summit, PM Modi launched the National Automobile Scrappage Policy. The new policy invites investment for setting up vehicle scrapping infrastructure under the Voluntary Vehicle-Fleet Modernization Program.
- The basic objective of the vehicle scrapping infrastructure will be to phase out unfit and polluting vehicles in an environment-friendly manner. This will reduce pollution, create job opportunities and boost demand for new vehicles.
- The Gujarat government has joined hands with auto major Tata Motors for setting up of a vehicle scrapping facility in Ahmedabad.

Maharashtra govt launched e-crop survey initiative

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has launched the e-crop survey initiative which will become effective in Maharashtra from August 15.
- The project, which was initially introduced as a pilot in two districts, is jointly implemented by the departments of revenue and agriculture along with the Tata Trust.
- The e-crop survey app is yet another initiative to reduce the hardships of the farmers as it would provide them crop-related information without hassles.

Pakistan successfully test-fires surface-to-surface ballistic missile Ghaznavi

- Pakistan successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile Ghaznavi.
- As per the military's media wing, missile Ghaznavi is capable of delivering multiple types of warheads up to a range of 290 kilometres.
- The training launch was aimed at ensuring the operational readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command (ASFC) and re-validating technical parameters of the weapon system.

Chandrayaan-2 orbiter detects water molecules on lunar surface

- India's Chandrayaan-2 moon mission may have made a hard landing on the lunar surface in 2019, but the orbiter accompanying it has been providing useful information to scientists back on Earth.
- A research paper revealed that the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter confirmed the presence of water molecules (H₂O) and hydroxyl (OH) on the surface of the moon. The findings were published in the journal Current Science.
- "The initial data analysis from IIRS clearly demonstrates the presence of widespread lunar hydration and unambiguous detection of OH and H₂O signatures between 29 degrees north and 62 degrees north latitude. The discovery was made by the orbiter's imaging infrared spectrometer (IIRS).

Indian Navy takes part in US Navy-led multinational SEACAT exercises in Singapore

- The Indian Navy participated in the U.S. Navy-led Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) military exercise in Singapore on August 10, 2021, to demonstrate its maritime maneuvers.
- The 20th edition of the exercise was organised by the U.S. Navy, in Hybrid format, and included 20 other partner nations from Indo-Pacific region, including India.
- The main objective of SEACAT 2021 was to enhance the interoperability and shared maritime security concerns and preserve rules-based international order.
- The exercise comprised of approximately 400 personnel and 10 ships.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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).

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.

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.

CAS RKS Bhadauria 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 Bhadauria, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) attended PACS-21. He was nominated as the Dean for the Symposium.

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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.

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).

SPORTS

The Indian Broadcasting Foundation appoints Former Justice Vikramjit Sen as the Chairman

- The Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), the apex body of broadcasters, is being renamed Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF), as it expands its purview to cover digital platforms to bring all digital over-the-top streaming firms under one roof.
- IBDF is in the process of forming a new wholly-owned subsidiary to handle all matters pertaining to digital media, it added.
- Government mentioned that “The foundation will also form a self-regulatory body (SRB), as per the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules.
- **About Indian Broadcasting Foundation:**
- Indian Broadcasting Foundation also known as is a unified representative body of the television broadcasters in India.
- The organization was founded in the year 1999.
- Over 250 Indian television channels are associated with it.
- The organization is credited as the spokesman of India Broadcasting Industry.

Pooja Rani Won 75kg Gold for India in 2021 Asian Amateur Boxing Championships

- Tokyo Olympic-bound pugilist Pooja Rani was the lone Indian woman to win a gold medal at the 2021 Asian Boxing Championships in Dubai. The 30-year-old beat Uzbekistan's

Mavluda Movlonova in the finals of the women's 75kg category (middleweight) by a unanimous decision of 5-0.

- Pooja Rani dominated all three rounds and came out on top as the deserved winner. Movlonova looked battered in the final round as she struggled to maintain her balance.
- Pooja Rani received a walkover in the semi-finals and her final bout against Movlonova was her first at the 2021 Asian Boxing Championships. She had won the gold medal in the 2019 edition of the tournament in Bangkok as well. However, she participated in the light heavyweight (81kg) category at that time.

Sanjeet Kumar won Gold Medal in 91kg Category in Asian Amateur Boxing Championships 2021

- The 2021 Asian Amateur Boxing Championships was held from 24 to 31 May 2021 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- Indian heavyweight boxer Sanjeet Kumar defeated Olympic silver-medallist Vassiliy Levit of Kazakhstan, in the 91kg final to win gold medal at the tournament.
- He was the lone gold medal winner among the Indian men's contingent.
- The 19-member Indian contingent, including both men and women, secured 15 medals comprising 2 gold, 5 silver and 8 bronze.
- In Men's category, apart from Sanjeet Kumar, top-seed Amit Panghal (52kg) and Shiva Thapa (64kg) won Silver Medal while Vikas Krishan Yadav (69kg) and Varinder Singh (60kg) secured bronze medals.

ICC Expands Men's ODI Cricket World Cup to 14 teams for 2027 & 2031 Editions

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced that the Men's Cricket World Cup in 2027 and 2031, will once again be a 14-team, 54-match tournament.
- Earlier in 2019 World Cup, only 10 teams contested, compared to 14 teams in 2015 World Cup.
- These 14 teams will split into two groups of seven. Top three from each group will be progressing to a Super Six stage, followed by semifinals and final.
- ICC has also decided to expand the men's T20 World Cup to 20 teams. The tournament will take place every two years from 2024-2030.

Brazil to host Copa America for 2nd consecutive time

- Brazil will be hosting Copa America for the 2nd consecutive time after Colombia and Argentina were stripped of hosting rights for the football tournament.
- It has been announced by South American soccer body CONMEBOL after it ruled out Argentina amid an increase in COVID-19 cases.
- Colombia was removed as co-host as street protests against President Iván Duque rocked the nation.
- Copa America was initially scheduled for 2020, but was postponed due to COVID-19.

Indian-Origin Teenager Among Winners of Apple WWDC21 Swift Student Challenge

- Abinaya Dinesh, a 15-year-old Indian-origin girl, is among three winners of the annual tech giant Apple WWDC21 Swift Student Challenge, a platform for the young brains willing to demonstrate their coding and problem-solving skills.
- Passionate about the intersection of medicine and technology, something that became personal for her last year, Dinesh created an app called Gastro at Home, which she plans to launch on the App Store this summer.
- Apple has selected 350 Swift Student Challenge winners from 35 different countries and regions, as it opens all-virtual Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) 2021' from June 7-11.

Indian men's team maintain 4th position, women's team hold on to 9th in FIH world rankings

- In Hockey, Indian men's team maintained their fourth position while women's team held to ninth position in the latest International Hockey Federation world rankings.
- Despite missing the European leg of the FIH Hockey Pro-League series in Great Britain, Spain and Germany in April and May, the Indian men's team maintained its fourth spot.

- In the women's category, India are ranked ninth. The Netherlands women's team is leading while Argentina are second.
- Australia climbed to third position while Germany slipped to fourth position with 2115.185 points. Great Britain are ranked fifth.

Pérez wins dramatic Azerbaijan GP after Verstappen crash and Hamilton blunder

- Sergio Perez won his second Formula One race at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix after a dramatic finish to the race in Baku.
- Driver Championship leader and Perez's Red Bull teammate Max Verstappen crashed with just 4 laps to go.
- Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton, meanwhile, went off course while trying to win the race on the standing restart in the two-lap shootout.
- Four-time champion Sebastian Vettel took second for Aston Martin after an impressive drive after qualifying 11th.
- Pierre Gasly was third for AlphaTauri.

Debbie Hewitt to become Football Association's first chairwoman in its 157-year history

- England's Football Association (FA) made history after appointing Debbie Hewitt as the first female chair in its 157-year history. Hewitt is expected to take up the position in January 2022 and the appointment is subject to confirmation by the FA Council next month. But once the formalities are completed, Hewitt will become the permanent successor to Greg Clarke, who resigned after he was accused of making racially offensive remarks in front of a parliamentary committee. Here is a look at who is Debbie Hewitt and some deeper information about the Debbie Hewitt FA announcement.
- Debbie Hewitt has an extensive background in business as she is a former chief executive of RAC and the current non-executive chair at Visa Europe, the clothing brand White Stuff and the financial services group BGL, which owns the website Compare The Market.

Wrestler Vinesh Phogat wins gold in women's 53 kg freestyle at Poland Ranking Series

- Tokyo Olympic Games bound wrestler Vinesh Phogat won the women's 53kg freestyle gold with an 8-0 win over Khrystyna Bereza of Ukraine at the Poland Ranking Series in Warsaw yesterday. With less than 50 days to go for the Olympic Games to begin, Vinesh looked strong in defence and swift in attacks and counter-attacks.
- The gold-winning effort of Vinesh is likely to improve her seeding in the 53kg freestyle event at the Olympics, to be held from July 23 to August 8. Khrystyna settled for silver.

Grand slam tournament French Open 2021 concluded

- French Open 2021 concluded in Roland Garros in Paris, France.
- World No.1 Novak Djokovic of Serbia won the Men's Singles title after beating Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece.
- It was Djokovic's 2nd title in the tournament.
- Czech Republic's Barbora Krejckova won the women's singles title.
- Krejckova also won the women's double title in the tournament with Katerina Siniakova.
- Men's doubles: Nicolas Mahut and Pierre-Hugues Herbert.
- Mixed doubles: Desirae Krawczyk and Joe Salisbury.

F1 leader Max Verstappen wins French GP ahead of rival Lewis Hamilton

- Formula One championship leader Max Verstappen overtook Lewis Hamilton on the penultimate lap to win the French Grand Prix and extend his lead over his title rival to 12 points.
- Verstappen used the DRS system to catch Hamilton on Lap 52 and pass him on the inside before zooming off to clinch his third win of the season and 13th of his career. A bonus point for the fastest lap made it a great day for Red Bull, which had never beaten Mercedes on the Paul Ricard circuit in southern France.
- Verstappen has 131 points to Hamilton's 119 after seven races.
- Red Bull's Sergio Perez sneaked past a dejected Valtteri Bottas to take third place and strengthen Red Bull's lead in the constructors' championship.
- Verstappen took an impressive pole position ahead of Hamilton and his teammate Bottas.

Saurabh Chaudhary bags bronze medal at ISSF World Cup Shooting

- Saurabh Chaudhary opened India's account at the ISSF World Cup here with a bronze in the men's 10m air pistol event after the country's shooters endured a modest opening day on which podium finishes eluded the likes of Manu Bhaker and Elavenil Valarivan.
- The 19-year-old Saurabh scored 220 in the final after qualifying with a score of 581. Compatriot Abhishek Verma finished fifth in the same event with a score of 179.3 after also shooting 581 in the qualifying.

Kaylee McKeown breaks 100m backstroke world record at Olympic trials

- Australia's Kaylee McKeown says the death of her father 10 months ago inspired her to break the 100m backstroke world record. The 19-year-old set a world benchmark at Australia's Olympic trials in Adelaide.
- McKeown clocked 57.45 seconds in the 100m backstroke final, bettering the previous world record of 57.57 set by American Regan Smith in 2019. Her father Sholto died in August last year after a two-year battle with brain cancer. He was 53.

Shafali became youngest Indian cricketer to debut in all formats

- Shafali Verma became the youngest Indian cricketer to make her debut across formats after being picked for the 1st ODI against England Women
- On her ODI debut, Verma scored 15 runs off 14 balls before being dismissed by Katherine Brunt.
- The Haryana girl took 17 years and 150 days to make her debut across the format
- He became the 5th youngest cricketer in the world.
- The other 4 are Mujeeb Ur Rahman (Afghan), Sarah Taylor (Eng), Ellyse Perry (Aus), Mohammad Amir (Pak).

Red Bull's Verstappen wins Styrian Grand Prix

- Red Bull driver Max Verstappen won Styrian Grand Prix 2021, with this he won half of the races this Formula One season.
- Verstappen has won three of the last four races.
- With a clean start from pole, Verstappen denied Lewis Hamilton an early attack and he remained ahead for the entire race.
- Hamilton's teammate Valtteri Bottas finished third ahead of Sergio Perez as Red Bull and Mercedes occupied the top four places for the second consecutive time.

Deepika Kumari completed hat-trick of gold medals in Paris Archery World Cup

- Deepika Kumari completed a hat-trick of gold medals at the Archery World Cup Stage 3 after winning the women's individual recurve event.
- She beat Elena Osipova of Russia 6-0 in the women's individual recurve final.
- She also won gold medals in the mixed team and women's recurve team events.
- Deepika's 2nd gold medal came with her husband Atanu Das in the mixed team recurve event.
- Deepika, Ankita Bhakat and Komalika Bari defeated Mexico in the women's recurve team event.

ICC T20 World Cup 2021 relocated to UAE, Oman

- The venue for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 has been shifted to the UAE and Oman.
- It was announced by the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- The tournament is scheduled to be held from October 17 to November 14.
- The T20 World Cup was postponed last year due to the pandemic.
- The BCCI will remain the hosts of the event, which will now be held in Dubai International Stadium, the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi, the Sharjah Stadium, and the Oman Cricket Academy Ground.

WAKO India Kickboxing Federation gets govt recognition

- The govt has decided to recognize the WAKO India Kickboxing Federation as a National Sports Federation (NSF), in a bid to promote and develop the sport in the country.
- WAKO India Kickboxing Federation is affiliated with the World Association of Kickboxing Organizations (WAKO), the world body for kickboxing.
- WAKO has been a provisionally recognized member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) since November 30.
- IOC Chairman: Thomas Bach

Maana becomes first Indian female swimmer to qualify for Tokyo Olympics

- India's Maana Patel became the first female and only the third swimmer from the country to qualify for Tokyo Olympics 2021.
- Maana Patel qualified for the Olympics through the Universality quota.
- Universality quota allows one male and one female athlete from a country to participate in the Olympics.
- Maana Patel will join Sajan Prakash and Srihari Natarajan in India's swimming squad in Tokyo.
- Maana will compete in the women's 100m backstroke event.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen wins Austrian Grand Prix 2021

- Red Bull's Max Verstappen has won the Austrian Grand Prix 2021.
- This is his third victory in a row from the pole.
- It consolidates his world championship lead over Lewis Hamilton.
- Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas took second with McLaren's Lando Norris in third.
- It was Verstappen's fifth win of the season compared to three for Hamilton.

Mary Kom & Manpreet to be India's flag-bearers at Olympics opening ceremony

- Indian Olympic Association announced that 6-time world champion boxer Mary Kom and men's hockey team skipper Manpreet Singh will be India's flag bearers at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics.
- IOC also revealed that wrestler Bajrang Punia will be the flag bearer at the closing ceremony of the Games.
- The official size of the Indian contingent will be around 126 athletes and 75 officials.
- The Tokyo Olympics would be held from July 23 to August 8, 2021.

Joint Secretary General of NRAI, Pawan Singh selected as first ever Indian juror for upcoming Tokyo Olympic Games

- Pawan Singh has been selected as the first-ever Indian juror for the upcoming Tokyo Olympic Games.
- Mr. Singh the Joint Secretary-General of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) is the founder-director of the Gun for Glory Shooting Academy in Balewadi.
- A total of 26 jury members will officiate at the Olympics, of which six will be from Japan and the rest from other countries.

Ashleigh Barty beats Karolina Pliskova to win maiden Wimbledon title

- Ashleigh Barty lifted her second Grand Slam crown after defeating Karolina Pliskova 6-3, 6-7, 6-3 in the women's singles final of this year's Wimbledon Championships.
- She became the first Australian woman to win a Wimbledon singles title since Evonne Goolagong Cawley in 1980
- The 2021 Wimbledon Championships (134th edition) is a Grand Slam tennis tournament that is currently taking place at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, London, United Kingdom.

2022 Khelo India Youth Games to be held in Haryana

- The state government of Haryana will organise the Khelo India Youth Games 2021 in February 2022.
- Earlier the sports show was scheduled to be held from November 21 to December 5, 2021, but has been shifted due to the possible third wave of Covid-19 pandemic and keeping in mind that Khelo India Youth Games 2021 are to be held in the Under-18 category.
- Around 8,500 players will participate in the event of which 5,072 will be athletes, including 2,400 females and 2,672 males.

Deepak Kabra became first Indian gymnastics judge at Olympics 2021

- Deepak Kabra has become the first Indian to be selected for judging the gymnastics competition of the Olympic Games, a life goal achieved for the man who knew he wouldn't have made it there as an active gymnast because of his not-so-strong fundamentals.
- Kabra will be seen officiating the men's artistic gymnasts at the Tokyo Games, which gets underway on July 23.
- The 33-year-old from Maharashtra took to the sport quite late and soon realised his fundamentals were not strong enough to make it big as an athlete.
- The 2010 Commonwealth Games in India was his first international assignment and Kabra went on to become the first Indian judge to officiate in the 2014 Asian Games and Youth Olympics.

Gokulam Kerala FC to represent India in AFC Women's Club Championship

- Gokulam Kerala FC will represent India in the AFC Women's Club Championship 2020-21 Pilot tournament as per All India Football Federation (AIFF).
- This decision came after AIFF was forced to postpone the upcoming edition of IWL due to the monsoons and an expected third wave of COVID-19.
- Gokulam Kerala FC were the champions of Indian Women's League (IWL) 2019-20, which is also known as 4th edition of the Hero Indian Women's League.
- AIFF General Secretary: Kushal Das.

Lewis Hamilton wins British Grand Prix 2021

- Mercedes's Lewis Hamilton (UK) won the British Grand Prix 2021 (record 8th time).
- The win was the 99th of seven-times world champion Hamilton's Formula One career, fourth of the current campaign.
- The event was held at the Silverstone Circuit in the United Kingdom.
- Monaco-based Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc finished at second.
- Hamilton's teammate Valtteri Bottas (Finland) finished third after being told to let Hamilton through to chase Leclerc.

Viswanathan Anand won the Sparkassen Trophy

- Viswanathan Anand won the Sparkassen Trophy held in Dortmund, Germany.
- He defeated Vladimir Kramnik of Russia in his 4th and final round.

- Playing white in a Tarrasch variation, Anand settled for a draw in 40 moves, to win the match 2.5-1.5.
- The event was played as part of the "No-Castling" Chess devised by the Russian GM.
- Castling is a special move to protect the king and activate the rook. It is the only time in chess a player can move two pieces in one move.

Mithali Raj bagged top position in ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings

- Indian skipper Mithali Raj has reclaimed her spot as the number one batting player on the MRF Tyres ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings.
- This is the ninth time that Mithali has reached the number one spot among batting players since first occupying the spot more than 16 years ago.
- She is followed by Lizelle Lee (South Africa), Alyssa Healy (Australia), Tamsin Beaumont (England) and Stafanie Taylor (West Indies).
- Shafali Verma is the top batting player in T20 category.

Mongolia, Tajikistan and Switzerland inducted as new Associate Members of ICC

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has inducted Mongolia, Tajikistan and Switzerland as its newest member countries on July 18, 2021 at the ICC's 78th Annual General Meeting, which was held virtually.
- With this, ICC now comprise of total 106 Members including 94 Associates. The three newly inducted countries are now among ICC's 94 Associate Members.
- Region-wise, Mongolia and Tajikistan have been inducted as the 22nd and 23rd Members from the Asia region while Switzerland is 35th Member from Europe region.

Australia's Brisbane to host 2032 Summer Olympic Games

- International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that Australian city of Brisbane will be the host city for 2032 Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games.
- Brisbane will be the third Australian city to host the Olympic Games after Melbourne in 1956 and Sydney in 2000.
- With this, Australia will also become second country in the world, after US, to stage summer Olympic Games in three different cities.

Hockey India launches 'Heroes Connect' web platform

- Hockey India has launched its own player-oriented web-based engagement 'Heroes Connect'.

- It has been designed to encourage former and current Indian hockey players to initiate constructive discussions around the sport.
- All the former and current hockey players who have played for India can register their profiles (name, matches played, career duration, photographs, awards, memorable moment, etc) on the platform verified by the national federation.

MC Mary Kom outwits Miguelina Hernandez Garcia to enter pre-quarter finals

- Six-time world champion MC Mary Kom (51kg) powered into the Olympic Games' pre-quarterfinals after staving off a stiff challenge from Dominican Republic's Miguelina Hernandez Garcia in the opening round here on 25th July 2021.
- The 38-year-old, who is a 2012 Olympic bronze-medallist, prevailed 4-1 against a rival who is 15 years her junior and a Pan American Games bronze-medallist.
- In about that was exciting from start to finish, Mary Kom displayed some brilliant tactics to overcome the spirited fight that Garcia put up.
- If she held back in the opening round to get a good measure of her rival, the veteran was aggression personified in the final three minutes after Garcia bagged the second round with some fierce punching of her own.

Priya Malik wins Gold at 2021 World Cadet Wrestling Championship

- Indian junior wrestler Priya Malik has won Gold Medal at the 2021 World Cadet Wrestling Championship in 73-kg category.
- Championship was held in Budapest, Hungary.
- She defeated Kseniya Patapovich by 5-0.
- Cadet World Championship is a tournament where the best Greco-Roman, Freestyle and Women wrestlers below the age of 17 compete.
- Indian team bagged as many as 13 medals, including 5 Golds at the Championship.
- Priya had won gold at Khelo India youth games in Pune in 2019.

PV Sindhu loses to Tai Tzu-Ying in semifinals, to fight for bronze now

- PV Sindhu has lost her semi-final clash against China's Taipei Tai Tzu-Ying at the ongoing Tokyo Olympics.
- Tai defeated Sindhu 21-18 and 21-12 to enter the final.
- Now, Sindhu will face China's He Bingjiao in the Bronze medal match.

Indian women's hockey team created history by qualifying for Olympic Games semifinals for first time

- The Indian women's hockey team scripted history by qualifying for the Olympic Games semifinals for the 1st time.
- India stunned three-time champions Australia.
- A day after the Indian men's team entered the Olympic semifinals following a 49-year gap, the world no. 9 women's side also entered the history books with a phenomenally gritty performance.
- India's best performance in the Olympics came way back in the 1980 Moscow Games where they finished fourth out of six teams.

Venezuela's Yulimar Rojas creates world record in women's indoor triple jump

- Venezuela's two-time world champion Yulimar Rojas set a new world record as she won Olympic gold in the women's triple jump.
- Rojas jumped 15.67 meters on her sixth and final jump in Tokyo, smashing the previous best of 15.50m set by Ukraine's Inessa Kravets in 1995.
- It was the first world record of the Tokyo Olympics athletics program.
- Portugal's Patricia Mamona won silver with a national best of 15.01m.

Sri Lanka all-rounder Isuru Udana retires from international cricket

- Sri Lanka left-arm seam bowling all-rounder, Isuru Udana has announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect. Udana had a very modest international career with sporadic appearances over 12 years in which he played only 21 ODIS and 35 T20 Internationals with just 45 wickets to show for his efforts.
- The left-arm medium-pacer had made his T20I debut in 2009 against Australia at the T20 World Cup in which Sri Lanka lost the final to Pakistan. His maiden ODI game came against India in 2012.

Sports Minister, Anurag Singh Thakur launches Paralympic Theme Song 'Kar De Kamaal Tu' for the Indian Paralympic contingent

- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur has launched the theme song for the Indian Paralympic contingent in New Delhi.
- The song is titled as "Kar De Kamaal Tu".

- The singer and composer of the song is Sanjeev Singh (Divyang cricket player from Lucknow).
- Paralympic Games in Tokyo will begin from August 24, 2021 and 54 para-sportspersons across 9 sports disciplines will participate in the same from India.

Germany's Alexander Zverev wins Tennis Men's Singles Gold at Tokyo Olympics

- World No. 5 Alexander Zverev of Germany beat Russian Karen Khachanov 6-3 6-1, to win gold in men's single tennis at Tokyo Olympics, on August 01, 2021.
- With this won, the 24-year-old, Zverev has become the first German man to win a singles Olympic gold. He is yet to win a Grand Slam title.
- Zverev is also the only second German player to win Olympic singles gold, after Steffi Graf won at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Indian Hockey Team wins bronze medal in Tokyo Olympics

- Indian men's hockey team has defeated Germany to win the bronze medal at Tokyo Olympics
- This is India's first Olympic medal in hockey since they won the gold medal in the 1980 Olympics in Moscow.
- This is India's fourth medal in Tokyo so far.
- This is India's fourth bronze medal at the Olympics and last won a bronze in the 1972 Munich Olympics.
- Indian Hockey team is the most successful team at Olympics with 8 gold medals (1928, 1932, 1936, 1948, 1952, 1956, 1964 and 1980).

Lovlina Borgohain bags bronze medal in Tokyo Olympics

- India boxer Lovlina Borgohain (23 years) has won bronze medal after losing by 0-5, to top seed Busenaz Surmeneli of Turkey, in the Women's Welter (64-69kg) semi-final bout.
- She is the only third Indian boxer to win a medal at the Olympics after Vijender Singh (2008) and MC Mary Kom (2012).
- She won bronze medal at 2018 and 2019 World Championships.
- Other than her, PV Sindhu won Bronze Medal in Badminton, Mira Bai Chanu won Silver Medal in weightlifting in Tokyo Olympics.

J&K LG Manoj Sinha flags off Cyclothon event 'Pedal for Dal' from shores of Dal Lake

- J&K LG Manoj Sinha flagged off Cyclothon event 'Pedal for Dal' from the shores of the Dal Lake in the run-up to the Independence Day celebrations.

- The cyclothon witnessed the enthusiastic participation of more than 200 boys and girls from different age groups along with professional cyclists.
- Mr. Sinha said that activities like 'Pedal for Dal' mark the celebrations of 'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav' and also give hope to the entire humanity of a prosperous future.

Peres Jepchirchir wins women's marathon in Japan's city of Sapporo

- Peres Jepchirchir (Kenya) has won Women's marathon has claimed a one-two in sweltering conditions in Japan's northern city of Sapporo.
- She defeated world record holder Brigid Kosgei in the closing stages to win in 2 hours 27 minutes 20 seconds.
- American Molly Seidel took bronze.
- The race was run at midnight and the temperature still hit 88 degrees (31 C) and nearly 30 runners not getting to the finish line as Chepngetich captured gold.

West Indies Captain Stafanie Taylor, Bangladesh All-Rounder Shakib Al Hasan Voted As ICC Players Of The Month For July

- Shakib Al Hasan (Bangladesh all-rounder) and West Indies skipper Stafanie Taylor were named the ICC Player of the Month for July in men's and women's categories respectively.
- Shakib's contributions in all three formats of the game helped Bangladesh win their series against Zimbabwe last month.
- Taylor was the standout performer for West Indies in the limited-overs series against Pakistan.

India Win Three Gold Medals In Compound Events in World Archery Youth Championships

- India won gold medals in the compound cadet women's and men's and mixed team events in the ongoing World Archery Youth Championships on Saturday in Wroclaw. The women defeated Turkey 228-216 in the final to win a gold medal in the ongoing competition while the cadet men's team followed getting the better of USA in the final.
- The Indian team comprised of Parneet Kaur, Priya Gurjar, and Ridhi Varshini and they brought out a dominant performance to throw opponents Turkey off their mark.
- India's cadet men's team of Kushal Dalal, Sahil Chaudhary and Nitin Apar upset the top seeds USA, beating them 233-231 in a thrilling final.

Odisha to sponsor Indian hockey teams for 10 more years

- Odisha govt will continue to sponsor Indian men's and women's national hockey teams for another 10 years, after the current sponsorship ends in 2023.
- Exact amount of sponsorship deals are yet to be revealed.

- Odisha signed Rs.100 crore deal with Hockey India for sponsoring the men's and women's teams for 5 years after Sahara India withdrew after getting entangled in legal issues in 2018.

India sends largest ever 54-member contingent for Tokyo Paralympic Games

- The upcoming Tokyo Paralympics, will witness the largest ever Indian contingent being sent, with 54 para-sportspersons participating across 9 sports disciplines.
- The 54-member Indian contingents were given a formal and virtual send-off on August 12, 2021, by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag.
- The 2020 Summer Paralympics Games are scheduled to be held in Tokyo, Japan from August 24 to September 05, 2021.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

AGREEMENTS AND MOU

August 2021

Signed between	Date signed	Purpose
MSIP signed with Invest India	30th July 2021	To support investment opportunities in order to enhance trade activities in Meghalaya.
Indian Bank with IIT Bombay	2nd August 2021	To support the startups and small businesses with credit facilities.
CII with SII	30th July 2021	To speed up the vaccination process in partnership with health care providers and industries in the country.
IFFCO's NBRC with IIT Delhi	3rd August 2021	For Research Consultancy, Knowledge Transfer and Collaborative Projects.
Assam Gov. with NABARD and AIFA	5th August 2021	To have assistance support for various developmental projects which are being executed in Assam.
IIFL HFL with ADB	11th August 2021	To get finance to reduce carbon emissions, preserve water quality and have a green building ecosystem in India.
Earth Science Bodies of India and the US	11th August 2021	To improve monsoon data analysis and will develop cooperation for the weather forecast in the regions.
NABARD sign MoU with SBI and JKGB	11th August 2021	To offer financial assistance to 1000 Joint Liability Group (JLGs).
Indian Bank signed MoU with PCI	11th August 2021	The funds will help athletes to pursue proper training in their sport, purchase equipment and kits, nutrition etc.
BEAM signed MoU with FDRVC	12th August 2021	To strengthen the price discovery mechanism of the commodities which are traded by Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs).
India with Maldives for Greater Male Connectivity Project	26th August 2021	India has granted USD 400 million Line of Credit (LoC) and USD 100 million for the vast GMCP project in Maldives.
MeitY Startup Hub with Paytm	26th August 2021	To grant support to deep tech-based startups in India.
India and UAE	27th August 2021	To develop a Visiting Professorship in Social Science at NYUAD. The NYUAD is a portal campus of New York University serving as a private liberal arts college in Abu Dhabi.

July 2021

Signed between	Date signed	Purpose
Axis Bank with the Indian Army	6th July 2021	To offer a defence service salary package to the India Army under its 'Power Salute' initiative.
BDL with IAF to	9th July 2021	The need for an external intermediary as it will directly process the

Supply Akash Missiles		pension.
India and Gambia	8th July 2021	To strengthen their cooperation in personnel administration and governance reforms.
Nepal with India's SJVNL	12th July 2021	This will be the second mega venture undertaken by India in the neighbouring Himalayan nation after the USD 1.04 billion 900-MW Arun-3 hydroelectric projects.
ICCR and Delhi University	13th July 2021	It will focus on subjects like Anthropology, Buddhist Studies, Geography, History, Modern Indian languages like Bangla, Music, Fine Arts, Political Science, International relations and Sociology.
NTPC REL with the UT of Ladakh	13th July 2021	To support Ladakh to develop a carbon-free economy that is based on renewable resources and green hydrogen. This will fulfil PM Narendra Modi's vision of 'Carbon Neutral' Ladakh.
APEDA with NAFED	13th July 2021	To help the exporters with the assistance under various government schemes and to help cooperatives to sell their products globally and enhance their building capacity.
Ladakh with Sikkim	14th July 2021	To implement Prampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI) in UT Ladakh.
IAHE with University of New South Wales, Australia	15th July 2021	To set up the Centre for Advanced Transportation Technology and Systems (CATTS). It will be setup in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
DBT with MoES	15th July 2021	To enhance cooperation in the area of polar biology.
BoM with NABARD	16th July 2021	To enhance developmental initiatives associated with priority sector lending in Maharashtra.

June 2021

Signed Between	Date Signed	Purpose
MoD with Mahindra Telephonics Integrated Systems Limited	3rd June 2021	To procure 11 Airport Surveillance Radars with Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar for the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard.
DIC and ICAR	9th June 2021	To help India's farmers by granting them location-specific Demand-based Tele Agricultural Advisories.
India and Kuwait	10th June 2021	The MoU will enable Indian domestic workers who are working in the Gulf nation with legal protection under the law.
SIDM with SOFF	13th June 2021	To promote bilateral defence industrial relations between India and Sweden.
MoPSW and MoCA	15th June 2021	To having the development of the Non-Scheduled/Scheduled operation of seaplane services in India.
MoC with MoPSW	16th June 2021	For the purpose of developing cooperation in the Development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat.
H-Energy with Petrobangla	16th June 2021	For the long-term supply of re-gasified LNG from India to Bangladesh through a cross-border natural gas pipeline.

India and Bhutan	18th June 2021	Both the nations will cooperate with each other in the area of climate change, waste management etc.
Union Bank of India with NSIC	21st June 2021	The NSIC Branch will provide support to the MSME unit by assisting them in completing all documentation as required for further submission to the Bank.
India and Fiji	22nd June 2021	To develop cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors.
MOIL, MP Gov. and MPSMCL	25th June 2021	MOIL has commenced detailed remote sensing studies with the help of the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC-ISRO) based in Hyderabad to identify manganese-bearing areas.

May 2021

Signed Between	Date Signed	Purpose
TRIFED with 'The LINK Fund'	1st May 2021	For the project titled 'Sustainable Livelihoods For Tribal Households in India' which is meant for tribal community development.
TEMA with ICCC	5th May 2021	To offer cutting-edge programs in areas like cybersecurity, new technologies, railway telecom VSS technologies, education in new technologies, educational programs, and the 6G Cooperation Program.
Rolls-Royce with HAL	4th May 2021	To establish packaging, installation, marketing and services support for Rolls-Royce MT30 marine engines in India.
NDDB with EESL	5th May 2021	To transit the technically sound and financially viable models for electricity, steam and hot water used in the dairy sector.
NTPC Renewables Energy with GUVNL	6th May 2021	NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd will sell power from its 150-megawatt solar power project to GUVNL at a rate of Rs 2.20/unit.
Tribal Affairs Ministry with Microsoft	17th May 2021	To support the digital transformation of schools such as Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) and Ashram Schools, among others which come under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
Telangana Health Department with NHA	18th May 2021	To implement Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) in the state.
VOC Port with NTCPWC of IIT Madras	27th May 2021	For Operation and Maintenance of Vessel Traffic System & Development of Indigenous Vessel Traffic Software (VTS) at VOC Port Trust.



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COMMITTEES IN NEWS

Committee	Organisations	Headed by
22-member inter-ministerial committee to strengthen capital goods sectors	Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises	Arun Goel
20-member advisory committee on Mutual Funds	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Usha Thorat
A national level committee for reform in criminal law	Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)	Ranbir Singh
The Expert Committee on Vaccine Administration	NITI Aayog	Dr V K Paul
Women's Selection Committee	Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)	Neetu David
A three-member committee has been set up to review the effective utilisation of the Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Services (AFHQ CS) cadre	Defence Ministry	Lt. Gen. DB Shekatkar
SC Forms Committee to Draft Mediation Law	Supreme Court	Niranjan Bhat
Urban cooperative banks	RBI	N S Vishwanathan
The committee has suggested and recommended financial parameters which focus on resolutions plans under the 'Resolution Framework for COVID 19 related Stress'.	Reserve Bank of India	K V Kamath
11 empowered groups to ensure a comprehensive and integrated response to COVID-19	Government of India	PM Narendra Modi
To establish the Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) committee, which will be India's first government or semi-government trust	National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)	Dr Sukhbir Singh Sandhu
Empowered Committee to review coordination between various stakeholders for COVID-19 related response activities	NITI Aayog	Amitabh Kant
High-level technical committee of Public Health Experts for COVID-19	NITI Aayog	Dr V K Paul
16-Member Governance panel/Committee	Insurance Regulation and Development Authority (IRDAI)	Pravin Kutumbe
A committee to decide modalities of Kisan Rail.	Union Government of India	Nirmala Sitharaman
This Committee will advise and provide professional support— on a request from the IBBI or on its own volition—on any matter relating to the Corporate Insolvency resolution and liquidation dealt with by the Board under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016	Insolvency regulator IBBI	Uday Kotak

To facilitate interaction, cooperation, and coordination amongst various public sector science communication institutions and agencies.	Department of Science & Technology	Prof. Ashutosh Sharma
11-Member committee to reform the Drug Regulatory System	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)	Rajesh Bhushan
A five-member group on Defence and Internal Security to study whether a separate mechanism should be organised for the funding of defence and internal security and if yes, then how this mechanism could be operationalised	Fifteenth Finance Commission	N.K. Singh
Report on RBI Surplus Funds	RBI	Bimal Jalan
A three-member panel to oversee the implementation of bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories	Union Government	Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra
A committee to review levies, including spectrum usage charge (SUC), and promote ease of doing business	Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad	Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan
A Committee to review the Defence Procurement Procedure to strengthen 'Make in India'.	Defence Minister Rajnath Singh	Director General (Acquisition)
To ensure that the performance of the Indian athletes is optimised in Olympics and other multidisciplinary events.	Union Minister of Sports	Kiren Rijju
Tapan Ray Committee to review the regulatory guidelines and supervisory framework of Core Investment Companies (CIC)	Reserve Bank of India	Tapan Ray
Committee to review the existing state of mortgage securitisation in India and Development of Housing Finance Securitisation Market.	Reserve Bank of India	Harsh Vardhan
Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to accelerate the GDP growth of the country.	Central Government	Shaktikanta Das
High-level Committee to strengthen the safety and security of digital payments in the country.	Reserve Bank of India	Nandan Nilekani
High level and Bezbaruah committee to review the implementation of clause 6 of the Assam Accord	Central Government	M.P. Bezbaruah
Expert committee to look into the various challenges being faced by MSMEs	Reserve Bank of India	UK Sinha

NOBLE PRIZE WINNERS OF 2020

Nobel Prizes and Laureates 2020		
Nobel Laureates	Field	Contribution
Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice	Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology	Discovery of the Hepatitis C virus
Roger Penrose	Nobel Prize in Physics	For the discovery of the black hole formation which is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity
Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez	Nobel Prize in Physics	For discovering supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy
Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna	Nobel Prize in Chemistry	On discovering the method for genome editing and development of CRISPR-Cas9
Louise Gluck	Nobel Prize in Literature	For her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal
World Food Programme (WFP)	Nobel Peace Prize	For its efforts to combat the surge in Global hunger amidst coronavirus pandemic, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.
Sciences Paul R. Milgrom, Robert B. Wilson	Nobel Prize in Economic	For improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats.

INDIA'S RANKING

Index	Index released by	India's Rank	1 st Rank
Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2022	Times Higher Education (THE)	350	University of Oxford
India Future Unicorn List 2021	Hurun Research Institute	3rd	USA
Global Top 20 Dairy Companies List	Rabobank	18th (Amul)	France
Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2021	Cushman & Wakefield	2nd	China
EIU's Safe Cities Index 2021	Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)	48th(New Delhi)	Copenhagen
Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021	Hurun Research Institute	9th (Reliance Industries)	Apple
Global Crypto Adoption Index 2021	Chainalysis	2nd	Vietnam
Financial Inclusion Index	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	--	--
'Transparency Index: Rating of	Centre for Science and Environment	Odisha and Telangana	---

Pollution Control Boards on Public Disclosure'	(CSE)		
Skytrax World Airport Award Ranking 2021	Skytrax	45th (Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport)	Doha, Qatar
Global Youth Development Index	Commonwealth Secretariat in London	122nd	Singapore
2021 Fortune's Global 500 List	--	155th	Walmart
Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021	Startup Blink	20th	United States
QS Executive MBA Rankings 2021	Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)	39th	France's HEC Paris
15th Global Peace Index 2021	Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)	135th	Iceland
World Competitiveness Index 2021	Institute for Management and Development's (IMD)	43rd	Switzerland
World Giving Index 2021	Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)	14th	Indonesia
Global Liveability Index 2021	The Economist Intelligence Unit(EIU)	--	Auckland, New Zealand
QS World University Rankings 2022	Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)	--	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), United States
Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2019-20	Department of School Education and Literacy of the Ministry of Education	--	--
3rd SDG India Index 2020-21	NITI Aayog	--	Kerala
AIRINC Global 150 Cities Index for financial attractiveness ranking	--	--	Manama, Bahrain
World University Rankings 2021-22	Centre for World University Rankings (CWUR)	415th	Harvard University
Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI)	57th edition of EY's (Ernst and Young Global Ltd)	4th	US
World's 50 Greatest Leaders List 2021	Fortune Magazine	--	New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden
2021 Ranking of Global Retail Power Houses	Deloitte	--	Walmart Inc
Global Prime Residential Index Q1 2021	Knight Frank	--	--
Chandler Good Government Index	Chandler Institute of Governance	49th	Finland
3rd edition of Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2021	--	--	University of Manchester, United Kingdom
Global Energy Transition Index 2021	World Economic Forum	87th	Sweden
World Press Freedom Index 2021	Reporters Without Borders	142nd	Norway
Henley Passport Index: Q2 2021 Global Ranking	Henley & Partners	84th	Japan
Inclusive Internet Index 2021	EIU (Economist Intelligence Unit)	49th	Sweden

International Intellectual Property Index 2021	US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC)	40th	United States
Ultimate Military Strength Index	Defence website Military Direct	4th	China
24th edition of the Annual Global CEO Survey	PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)	5th	USA
Economic Freedom Index 2021	US-based think tank named Heritage Foundation	121st	Singapore
Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index	Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)	10th	Singapore
Global Climate Risk Index 2021	German watch	7th	-
India Innovation Index 2021	NITI Aayog	--	Karnataka
Global Firepower Index 2021	Global Firepower	4th	United States
Henley Passport Index 2021	Henley and Partners	85th	Japan
Bloomberg Billionaires Index 2021	Bloomberg News	12th	Jeff Bezos
Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2020	International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	10th	United States
Ease of Living Index 2020	Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri	--	Bengaluru
Corruption Perception Index 2020	Transparency International	86th	New Zealand and Denmark
Nature Index 2020 Artificial Intelligence	International Scientific Publishing Company	3rd	China
Human Freedom Index 2020	American think tank Cato Institute and Fraser Institute in Canada	111th	New Zealand
Human Development Index 2020	UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)	131st	Norway



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Summit and Conference

August 2021

Name of the Summit	Organized/Led by	Venue	Aim/Theme
6th BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group Meet	Chairship of Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary for Counter-Terrorism, Ministry of External Affairs of India	Virtual meeting	The objective of the meeting was to finalize BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan.
2nd Edition of IEEE- ICORT 2021	Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur, a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)	Virtual meeting	The event delivered a platform for the experts to interact with each other about recent development in defence systems.
G20 Digital Ministers Meeting 2021	Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnav	Virtual meeting	To propagate the advancement in Digital Transformation of the economy in terms of resilience, sustainability and inclusive recovery.
28th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Foreign Ministers Meeting	Minister of State for External Affairs Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh	Virtual meeting	Indian side represented the view on the Indo-Pacific perspective, terrorism threat, cybersecurity and maritime security.
8th Meeting of Ministers of Justice of the SCO	Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju and Minister of State for Law & Justice, Prof SP Singh Baghel	Virtual meeting	GOI follows the approach of Zero Tolerance to Corruption and Black Money and has adopted a framework supported by a strong institutional mechanism to deal with corruption.
PM Modi chaired UNSC Debate	--	Video Conference	Theme: 'Enhancing Maritime Security – A Case for International Cooperation'.
IBSA Tourism Ministers Meeting	Union Minister of Tourism, G. Kishan Reddy	Virtual Meeting	To enhance cooperation in the tourism sector among IBSA nations.
6th SCO Agriculture Ministers Meeting	Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar	Virtual Meeting	The innovative technologies have been implemented into the lands to empower rural youth, farmers and farm women.
11th Annual Meeting of FEMBoSA	Election Commission of Bhutan	Virtual Meeting	Theme: 'Use of Technology in Elections'.
5th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting	Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal	Virtual Meeting	To use technology for good governance in order to have transparency and accountability.
11th BRICS NSA Meeting	India's National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval	Virtual Meeting	To strengthen political-security cooperation among BRICS nations.
1st G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment	Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani	Virtual Meeting	To maintain gender equality, empower women, and strengthening women's safety and security.
11th Meeting of BRICS Agriculture Ministers Meet	Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar	Virtual Meeting	To discuss topics like increasing agricultural production, enhancing farmers' income, and food price volatility.
India-ASEAN Engineering Partnership Summit 2021	Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPC)	Virtual Meeting	To discuss the involvement of Indian industries in engineering trade and

	with support from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Department of Commerce		investments areas at the ASEAN level.
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July 2021

Name of the Summit	Organized/Led by	Venue	Aim/Theme
7th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)	Admiral Karambir Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff	Virtual meeting	To have an open discussion related to maritime security cooperation, regional maritime issues and also promotes friendly relationships among the member states.
6th BRICS Culture Ministers Meeting 2021	Minister of State (IC) for Culture and Tourism, Prahlad Singh Patel	Virtual meeting	Theme: Bonding and Harmonizing Cultural Synergy.
17th World Congress for Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy	Indian Society of Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology	Virtual meeting	Theme: 'Eliminating Cervical Cancer: Call for Action'
CoWin Global Conclave	Ministry of health and family welfare, the Ministry of external affairs and the National Health Mission	Virtual meeting	To offer CoWIN as a digital public good to the entire world to fight the coronavirus.
2nd India-Ghana Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) 2021	Rahul Chhabra, Secretary of Economic Relations	Capital of Ghana, named Acra	To cooperate in COVID-19 related issues. India also assured to help Ghana to grant Covid Vaccines.
India & EU participated in a Meeting	Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar and Member of European Commission- Agriculture, Janusz Wojciechowski	Virtual Meeting	The dignitaries discussed the EU Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), the UN Food System Summit, market reforms in India and the strategy of EU Farm to Fork.
16th Annual Conference on Road Development in India	Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari	Video Conference	To discuss rising trends in roadways, with the major focus on import substitution, cost-effectiveness, pollution-free alternative fuel.
21st India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation Session	Union Minister Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal	Virtual Meeting	To work jointly to promote SMEs as it is a major entity for economic growth and employment generation.
7th BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting	Union Minister for Labour Employment Bhupender Yadav	Virtual Meeting	To cooperate jointly to recover the economy from pandemics and have inclusive labour markets and social protection systems.
CII's 2nd 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Renewable Energy Manufacturing'	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)	Virtual Meeting	To attain 450 GW of Renewable Energy capacity by 2030.
World Universities Summit 2021	O.P. Jindal Global University	Virtual Meeting	Theme: 'Universities of the Future: Building Institutional Resilience, Social Responsibility and Community Impact'.

11th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Meeting	Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar	Virtual Meeting	They appreciated the progress made by the MGC Plan of Action 2019-22 until now.
G20 Energy and Climate Joint Ministerial Meeting	Union Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy	Virtual Meeting	The progress made by India to meet its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) goals by fulfilling the commitment made under Paris Agreement.
UN Food Systems Pre-Summit 2021	UN and Italy in Rome, Italy	Virtual Meeting	The journey of Indian agriculture in the areas like food shortages food grain exporters through various revolutions like Green, White and Blue.

June 2021

Name of the Summit	Organized/Led by	Venue	Aim/Theme
5th BRICS Working Group Meet on HPC and ICT	Sanjeev Kumar Varshney, Advisor DST	Video Conferencing	To cooperate with each other to use HPC technologies for weather-climate-environment based applications.
74th WHA Meeting of WHO	Mrs Dechen Wangmo, Health Minister of Bhutan	Geneva, Switzerland	Theme: 'Ending this pandemic, preventing the next: building together a healthier, safer and fairer world.'
1st India-Australia JWG Meeting on Cyber Security Cooperation	Paulomi Tripathi, Director (Oceania) in the Ministry of External Affairs	Virtual meeting	To enhance cooperation in the multilateral fora and assured each other to share data related to cybersecurity, legislation and national cyber strategies.
NATO Summit 2021	--	Brussels, Belgium	The agenda will strengthen political consultation, the resilience of society, reinforce defence and deterrence.
5th Global Tech Event VivaTech	Publicis Groupe	Video Conferencing	He invited the world to invest in India by mentioning strong features of India like Talent, Market Culture of Openness, Eco-system and Capital.
Conference of BRICS Network Universities	--	Virtual Meeting	Theme: 'Electric Mobility'.
42nd FAO Conference	Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar	Virtual Meeting	To support Sustainable Development through the agri-food systems for Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment, and a Better Life, with an aim that no one should be left behind.
G20 Education Ministers Meeting	Minister of State for Education, Sanjay Dhotre	Virtual Meeting	To ensure continuity of quality education during the pandemic state of COVID-19.
BRICS Green Hydrogen Summit 2021	NTPC Ltd	Virtual Meeting	To discuss and address issues faced in the Green Hydrogen sector in areas like technology, finance and efficiency.

Global Investors Roundtable	US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)	Virtual Meeting	The dignitaries discussed potential investment opportunities and the role of ongoing policy reforms which will allow Ease-of-Doing-Business in India.
Ministerial Level Thematic Forum for UN High Level Dialogue on Energy	--	Virtual Meeting	To promote implementation of the energy-related goals and targets of the 2030 agenda to attain sustainable development.

May 2021

Name of the Summit	Organized/Led by	Venue	Aim/Theme
G7 Digital and Technology Ministerial Meeting	Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad	Video Conferencing	Theme: Building Back Better
5th Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) Session	Rita Teotia, Chairperson of FSSAI	Virtual meeting	The quality standards for these 4 spices were forwarded to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) for adoption and to give them recognition as full-fledged Codex standards.
1st Ind-Fra-Aus Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Dialogue	Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar	Virtual meeting	To boost cooperation in Indo-Pacific strategic landscape, to have open and rule-based Indo-Pacific ties.
India-EU Leaders Meeting	Prime Minister Narendra Modi	Virtual meeting	To resume negotiations for a balanced and comprehensive free trade deal and investment agreement.
4th India -Swiss Financial Dialogue	Ajay Seth, Secretary Economic Affairs	Virtual meeting	They also discussed the topics related to G20, IMF, and tax challenges and assured to grant support to digitize the economies.
BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meet	Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Labour and Employment	Virtual Meeting	To resolve the issues related to Social Security Agreement (SSA) by conducting dialogue and entering into agreements.
Summit on Financing of African Economies 2021	Minister of the State for External Affairs, V Muraleedharan	Virtual Meeting	To plan financial resources to retrieve the African Economy which is severely affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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AWARDS AND PRIZES

August 2021

Awardee	Award
Asha Bhosle	Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2021
Anand Radhakrishnan	Will Eisner Comic Industry Award as 'Best Painter/Multimedia Artist (interior art)'
Dr Cyrus Poonawalla	Lokmanya Tilak National Award for 2021
Kasturba Hospital, Manipal	'IMC RBNQ Efficiency Excellence Trophy 2020'
Jagdish Bhagwati and C Rangarajan	Prof CR Rao Centenary Gold Medal (CGM)
SoftWorthy	National Science Foundation Innovation-Corps (NSF I-Corps) Teams Award in the US
Mohammad Azam	National Youth Award by the Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur
Sanju Yadav (Midfielder)	All India Football Federations Women's Footballer of the Year 2019-20
Usha Mangeshkar	Gan Samragini Lata Mangeshkar Award 2020-21
Sonu Sood	SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award

July 2021

Awardee	Award
'Decoding Shankar'	Best Film Award in the Documentary section (Best Biographical)
Dr Rajendra Kishore Panda	Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar
Invest India	Investment Promotion Agency 2021 award by OCO Global
Korean Air	'Air Transport World's (ATW) 2021 Airline of the Year'
Kaushik Basu	Humboldt Research Award in Economics
N N Pillai	Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS)'s Literary Award for 2021
Muhammad Yunus	Olympic Laurel at the Tokyo Games
Director Payal Kapadia's, 'A Night of Knowing Nothing'	Oeil d'Or (Golden Eye) award for best documentary at the 74th Cannes Film Festival
Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar	Alexander Dalrymple award by the British Government for his work in hydrography and nautical cartography
Edible Routes Private Limited, Oorja Development Solutions India and Taru Naturals	UN Food Systems Summit Competition called 'Best Small Business: Good Food for All'
Satpura Tiger Reserve	Natwest Group Earth Heroes Award 2021 in the category of Earth Guardian for its best management role

June 2021

Awardee	Award
Valeria Luiselli	International Dublin Literary Award 2021 for her novel 'Lost Children Archive'
Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan	'WHO Director-General Special Recognition Award'
Nitin Rakesh and Jerry Wind	International Business Book of the Year Award 2021
David Diop	International Booker Prize 2021 for 'At Night All Blood Is Black'
Thomas Vijayan	2021 Nature TTL Photography Awards for his photo of an Orangutan clinging to a tree
GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL)	'Gold Recognition' award from ACI (Airport Council International) Asia-Pacific Green Airports Recognition 2021
Prof. Shailesh Ganpule	'NSG Counter-IED & Counter-Terrorism Innovator Award 2021'
Familial Forestry	Land for Life Award by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
Larsen & Toubro Infotech	Global Innovation Partner of the Year by Snowflake
KK Shaileja	Central European University's highest award of Open Society Prize 2021 for her work in public health services
NTPC	India's Best Employers among Nation Builders 2021
Cochin International Airport (CIAL)	Airport Council International (ACI) Director General's Roll of Excellence
Delhi Metro	'Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award' for 2020

May 2021

Awardee	Award
Shyamala Ganesh	"Order of Rising Sun" by the Japanese Government
Maria Ressa (Rappale's CEO)	2021 laureate of UNESCO /Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize
Pink (Singer)	Icon Award at the 2021 Billboard Music Awards
Justice Gita Mitta	Arline Pacht Global Vision Award 2021
Babar Azam (Pakistan)	ICC Men's Player of the Month for April 2021
Alyssa Healy (Australia)	ICC Women's Player of the Month for April 2021

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APPOINTMENTS & PERSON IN NEWS

August 2021

Name of the Person	Designation
Vice Admiral SN Ghormade	Vice Chief of Naval Staff
Deepak Das	Controller General of Accounts (CGA)
Guido Bellido	New Prime Minister of Peru
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing	Prime Minister of Myanmar
Priyanka Chopra Jonas	Brand Ambassador for Bvlgari
Nikol Pashinyan	Prime Minister of Armenia
Lt Gen Tarun Kumar Chawla	Director-General of Artillery
Justice V M Kanade	New Lokayukta of Maharashtra
MS Dhoni	Brand Ambassador for HomeLane
Mini Ipe	MD of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
Prakash Chandra	Non-Executive (Part-time) Chairman of RBL Bank
Dr Dhriti Banerjee	Director of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)
Ebrahim Raisi	New President of Iran
Anthony Heredia	CEO of BOI AXA Investment Mangers Private Limited
John Abraham	Indian brand ambassador for MotoGP
Rajiv Gauba	Cabinet Secretary of India
Rekha Sharma	Chairperson of the National Commission for Woman (NCW)
Vandana Kataria	Brand Ambassador of Uttarakhand Department of Women Empowerment and Child Development
Neeraj Chopra	Brand Ambassador of RBI's public awareness campaign to warn people against digital banking frauds
Mohammad Mokhber	First Vice-President of Iran
Kamlesh Kumar Pant	New chairman of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)
Rajkummar Rao	Brand Ambassador of Cashify
RK Vishnoi	CMD of THDC India Limited (THDCIL)
BD Mishra	Additional Charge of Governor of Mizoram
Ganga Prasad	Additional charge of Governor of Manipur
Narain Karthikeyan	Brand Ambassador of JK Tyre & Industries Ltd
Noopur Chaturvedi	CEO of NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL) by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
Hakainde Hichilema	President of Zambia
P R Sreejesh	Brand ambassador of Adventure Tourism in Kerala

Priyanka Chopra Jonas	Chairperson of Jio MAMI (Mumbai Academy of Moving Image) Film Festival
Mirabai Chanu	Brand ambassador for Amway India
Shanti Lal Jain	MD and CEO of Indian Bank
MS Dhoni	Brand Ambassador of Neuberg Diagnostics
NK Singh	New President of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) Society
Dr Tejendra M Bhasin	Chairman of the Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF)
Ismail Sabri Yaakob	New Prime Minister of Malaysia
La. Ganesan	New Governor of Manipur
Nakul Chopra	CEO of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC)
Sunil Sethi	To head the committee set up by GOI to work for doubling the production and quadrupling the exports in the Handloom sector
Sandeep Bakhshi	MD & CEO of ICICI Bank by RBI

July 2021

Name of the Person	Designation
Amitabh Kant	CEO of NITI Aayog
Apurva Chandra	Chairman of Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO)
Justice Ravi Vijaykumar Malimath	Chief justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court
Advocate Kalyan Narayan Bhattacharya	New Lokayukta of Tripura
Pushkar Singh Dhami	Chief Minister of Uttarakhand
Shambhu Nath Srivastava	Chairman of the Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA)
Satish Agnihotri	MD of National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd. (NHSRCL)
Andy Palmer	Executive Vice Chairman and CEO of electric vehicle arm Switch Mobility of Ashok Leyland
Sudhanshu Mittal	President of Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) during the Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Nilotpal Gupta	Head of Data Science Unit of ICICI Securities (I-Sec)
Thawarchand Gehlot	Governor of Karnataka
Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel	Governor of Madhya Pradesh
Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati	Governor of Mizoram
Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar	Governor of Himachal Pradesh
P.S. Sreedharan Pillai	Governor of Goa
Satyadev Narayan Arya	Governor of Tripura
Ramesh Bais	Governor of Jharkhand
Bandaru Dattatraya	Governor of Haryana

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari	Brand Ambassador of Khadi Prakritk Paint
Neha Parikh	CEO of Waze
PVSLN Murty	Chairman and MD of North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFi)
Daren Sammy and Saint Lucian	Brand Ambassador of Fun88
Stefan Lofven	Prime Minister of Sweden
Pawan Singh	Joint Secretary of NRAI (National Rifle Association of India)
Vinay Prakash	Resident grievance officer for India by Twitter
Shyam Srinivasan	MD and CEO of Federal Bank
Sher Bahadur Deuba	Nepal's Prime Minister
NS Srinivasa Murthy	Honorary Consul General of Vietnam for Bangalore
Cleopas Dlamini	Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Eswatini
Jose Pedro Castillo Terrones	President-Elect of the Republic of Peru
Ariel Henry	Prime Minister of Haiti
Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Deputy leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha
Rasmi Ranjan Das	Member of the UN tax committee from 2021-2025
C Vijayakumar	MD of HCL Technologies
Nasir Kamal	Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)
Sanjay Rai 'Sherpuria'	Brand Ambassador for SDG Choupal
M A Yusuff Ali	Vice-Chairman of Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ADCCI)
Basavaraj S Bommai	New Chief Minister of Karnataka

June 2021

Name of the Person	Designation
Kuldiep Singh	Additional charge of DG of National Investigation Agency (NIA)
J B Mohapatra	Additional charge of Chairman of CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes)
Nagaraj Adiga	Asia and Oceania Representative in the International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU) Executive Council for 2021-25
T V Narendran	President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2021-22
Isaac Herzog	President of Israel
Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh	Deputy Chief of Naval Staff
Justice A K Mishra	Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
Justice Vikramjit Sen	Chairman of the Digital Media Content Regulatory Council (DMRC) by the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF)
Dr Patrick Amoth	Chairman of the WHO Executive Board
Adar Poonawalla	Chairman of Magma Fincorp

Abhay Bhutada	MD of Magma Fincorp
Vijay Deshwal	CEO of Magma Fincorp
Dr Vinay K Nandicoori	Director for CSIR- Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB)
Paresh B Lal	Grievance Officer for India by WhatsApp
Lt. Gen. Pradeep Chandran Nair	DG of the Assam Rifles
R S Sodhi	Board of the International Dairy Federation (IDF)
Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari	Vice Chief of Air Staff in the Air headquarters
Professor Ajit Mishra	To head the committee to grant technical support and suggestions to fix minimum wages and national floor minimum wages
Vishwavir Ahuja	Managing Director and CEO of RBL Bank
Simone Inzaghi	Coach by Inter Milan for two years
V Bhoopal Reddy	Pro-tem Chairman for the Telangana State Legislative Council
Ranjitsinh Disale	World Bank Education Advisor for the period June 2021 to June 2024
Hitendra Dave	CEO of HSBC India
Sanjeev Sahai	Chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)
Virendra Nanavati	Member of the International Swimming Federation (FINA) Bureau at the FINA General Congress
Abdulla Shahid	President of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly
Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar	Director General Naval Operations
Anup Chandra Pandey	Election Commissioner by Union Government for the tenure of 3 years
Kuwait's Husain Al-Musallam	President of the International Swimming Federation (FINA)
Girish Chandra Chaturvedi	Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank by RBI
Chris Broad	Match referee for the World Test Championship Final of Cricket which will be held between India and New Zealand
Chandra Shekhar Ghosh	MD and CEO of Bandhan Bank by RBI
M K Jain	Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India by the Appointment Committee of Cabinet
Michael Patra, MK Jain, Rabi Sankar and M Rajeshwar Rao	Deputy Governors of RBI

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Authors Name	Book Name
Michael Anthony Holding	'Why We Kneel, How We Rise'
Kunal Basu	'In An Ideal World'
Captain Ramesh Babu	'My Own Mazagon'
Sanjay Gubbi	'Leopard Diaries – the Rosette in India'

Manan Bhatt	‘Balakot Air Strike: How India Avenged Pulwama’
Rudrangshu Mukherjee	‘A Begum and A Rani: Hazrat Mahal and Lakshimibai in 1857’
Anuradha Roy	‘The Earthspinner’
Sudha Murty	‘How the Earth Got Its Beauty’
Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu	‘Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government’
Major General Rajpal Punia & Ms. Damini Punia	‘OPERATION KHUKRI’
Retired SC Judge, Rohinton Fali Nariman	‘Discordant Notes: The Voice of Dissent in the Last Court of Resort’
Manreet Sodhi Someshwar	‘Lahore: Book 1 of the Partition Trilogy’
Subhadra Sen Gupta	Let’s Go Time Travelling Again: Indians Through the Ages
Boria Majumdar & Kushan Sarkar	Mission Domination: An Unfinished Quest
Vishram Bedekar	Battlefield
K J Alphons	‘Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government’
Dhaval Kulkarni	‘Nathuram Godse: The True Story of Gandhi’s Assassin’
Kavitha Rao	‘Lady Doctors: The Untold Stories of India’s First Women in Medicine’
Venu Madhav Govindu and Srinath Raghavan	‘The Fourth Lion: Essays for Gopalkrishna Gandhi’
Jairam Ramesh	‘The Light of Asia’
Kareena Kapoor Khan	‘Kareena Kapoor Khan’s Pregnancy Bible’
Shivam Shankar Singh	‘The Art of Conjuring Alternate Realities: How Information Warfare Shapes Your World’
Yalamanchili Sivaji	‘Palleku Pattabhishekam’
Ashok Chakravarti	‘The Struggle Within: A Memoir of the Emergency’
Chryseis Knight	‘The Great Big Lion’
J.S. Iftekhar	‘Urdu Poets and Writers – Gems of Deccan’
Bimal Jalan	‘The India Story’
Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra	‘The Stranger in the Mirror’
Dr C K Garyali	‘Bank With A Soul: Equitas’
Dr Beena Budki	‘Kashmir Ki Kyari Mein Aag Ki Lapte Aakhir Kab Tak?’
Ashok Lavasa	‘An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation’
Thillai Rajan, Joffi Thomas and Rohan Chinchwadkar	‘Shifting Orbits: Decoding the Trajectory of the Indian Start-up Ecosystem’

OBITUARIES

Poul Schlueter, longtime Danish prime minister, died at 92

- Poul Schlueter, Denmark's prime minister for over a decade who negotiated exemptions for his country to a key European Union treaty after Danes rejected the initial text in a referendum, has died. He was 92.
- Schlueter, who was prime minister from 1982-1993, died Thursday surrounded by his family.
- In 1992, Denmark stalled the EU's move toward a closer cooperation when Danes rejected the Maastricht treaty.
- At home, Schlueter negotiated four exemptions, including one that allows Denmark to stay outside the euro. A year later, the revised text was approved in a second Danish referendum, allowing other EU members to move on with their plans.
- Schlueter had taken power in 1982 after Social Democrat Anker Joergensen stepped down amid rising foreign debt and deteriorating public finances. The new premier tightened spending and his economic policy. He went on to be the longest-serving Danish prime minister since World War II.

Former Mauritius PM Anerood Jugnauth dies at the age of 91

- The former prime minister of Mauritius, Anerood Jugnauth, who is credited with steering the island nation's economic transformation as its longest-serving leader, has died aged 91.
- Elected prime minister for the first of six times in 1982, Jugnauth would also serve two terms in the ceremonial role of president during a 35-year career.
- He resigned in 2017 and handed the reins to his son Pravind, the country's serving prime minister, who won a subsequent five-year term at the ballot box in 2019.

Asian Games Gold Medallist Boxer, Dingko Singh passed away

- Asian Games gold medal-winning former boxer Dingko Singh (42) passed away.
- The Manipur-based former boxer endured a long battle with cancer and even fought COVID-19 last year.
- Dingko won the Asian Games gold in 1998 and was bestowed the Arjuna award the same year.
- In 2013, he was honoured with the Padma Shri for his contribution to the sport.
- Dingko, who was employed with Navy, had taken to coaching after hanging up his gloves.

Noted Kannada poet Siddalingaiah passed away at 67

- Noted Kannada poet Siddalingaiah passes away on 11th June due to Covid-19 related ailments. Popularly known as "Dalita Kavi" (Dalit Poet), he was 67.
- Siddalingaiah was poet, playwright, essayist and a Dalit activist, and was one of the founders of the Dalita Sangharsh Samiti. His notable works include Holemadigara Haadu, Saaviraaru Nadigalu, Kappu Kaadina Haadu and Meravanige, among others. He had written plays like Panchama, Ekalavya, and one of his popular essays was Gramadevathegalu.

National award-winning filmmaker Buddhadeb Dasgupta died at 77

- On June 10, 2021, Bengali filmmaker Buddhadeb Dasgupta Passed away. He was 77.
- He was a famous poet, his published works of poetry include Suitcase, Himjog, Govir Araley, Coffin Kimba, Chhaata Kahini, Roboter Gaan, Sreshtha Kabita, and Bhomboler Ascharya Kahini O Ananya Kabita.
- Buddhadeb Dasgupta had won National Film Award for Best Feature Film five times in his career including Bagh Bahadur (1989), Charachar (1993), Lal Darja (1997), Mondo Meyer Upakhyan (2002) and Kaalpurush (2008).
- He won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Bengali for his films Dooratwa (1978) and Tahader Katha (1993).
- He was also honoured with Best Director Award for his films Uttara (2000) and Swapner Din (2005).

Former India volleyball captain Nirmal Kaur passed away

- Former Indian women volleyball team captain Nirmal Kaur passed away recently due to complications related to Covid-19 infection.
- She was the wife of legendary Olympian Milkha Singh.
- Milkha Singh himself is being treated for Covid-related complications at the PGI Chandigarh.
- Milkha Singh has been under the observation of a medical team comprising senior doctors of the institute.

Kannada actor Sanchari Vijay passes away in road accident in Bengaluru

- National Award-winning Kannada actor Sanchari Vijay passed away in a road accident in Bengaluru.
- Vijay meets with a road accident and was in critical condition.

- Doctors performed an emergency brain surgery but could not save him.
- Vijay, who made his debut with Rangappa Hogbitna in 2011, appeared in many Kannada films such as Dasavala, Harivu, Oggarane, Killing Veerappan, Varthamana, and Sipaayi.
- His film Naanu Avanalla Avalu fetched him his first National Award.

Mahavir Chakra recipient Brig Raghbir Singh Rajawat passes away

- Mahavir Chakra recipient, Brigadier Raghbir Singh Rajawat passed away recently.
- He was from 18 Rajputana Rifles and had also received a sword from Maharaja Sawai Man Singh as a token of honour.
- He served as the Provost Marshal in the Military police, during the 1971 Indo-Pak war.
- He also participated in the Burma war in 1944 and went to Japan to fight.
- During the 1958-59 Israel – Egypt war, he was part of the United Nations Emergency Force.

Milkha Singh, "The Flying Sikh", Dies At 91 Due To Post-Covid Complications

- Legendary Indian sprinter Milkha Singh died on 18th June due to post-Covid complications. He was being treated at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research.
- The 91-year-old had tested positive for COVID-19 on May 19 but was in home isolation at his Chandigarh residence after revealing that he was asymptomatic. However, a few days later on May 24, the legendary athlete was admitted to the ICU of Mohali's Fortis hospital due to "COVID pneumonia". He was then moved to PGIMER in Chandigarh on June 3.
- His death came five days after his wife Nirmal also died due to post-Covid complications.

Former Philippine President Benigno Aquino passes away at 61

- Former Philippine President (2010 to 2016) Benigno Aquino passed away recently.
- Known popularly as Noynoy, he rode a wave of public emotion all the way to the presidency after his mother, Corazon Aquino, died in 2009.
- He was a three-term member of the House of Representatives between 1998 and 2007, representing the sugar-growing Tarlac province north of Manila.
- He was named as one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2013 by Times Magazine.

Rajnath Singh inaugurated 63 bridges built by BRO in 8 states

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 63 infra projects constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) from Ladakh.
- Amongst the bridges, 11 in Ladakh, 4 in J&K, 3 in Himachal Pradesh, 6 in Uttarakhand, 8 in Sikkim, 29 in Arunachal Pradesh and one each in Nagaland and Manipur.
- These are Class-70 bridges and can bear the load of movement of Tanks and other heavy vehicles.
- These bridges facilitate strategic and quicker access not just to the Armed forces.

Sampath Kumar, editor of India's only Sanskrit daily passed away

- K V Sampath Kumar, the editor of India's only Sanskrit daily Sudharma for the past 31 years, passed away.
- Sudharma was founded by his father Kalale Nadadur Varadaraja Iyengar, a renowned Sanskrit scholar from Mysuru.
- After his death in 1990, Sampath Kumar and his wife Vidushi Jayalakshmi KS took over.
- He, along with his wife, was selected for the Padma Shri honor from the Government of India in 2020 for his contribution to the field of Literature & Education.

Former US defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld passed away

- Former US defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld passed away recently.
- He served two-time as defense secretary and a one-time presidential candidate of the USA.
- In 2001 he began his second tour as Pentagon chief under President George W. Bush, but his plan to "transform" the armed forces was overshadowed by the September 11 terrorist attacks.
- He oversaw the US invasion of Afghanistan and the 2003 overthrow of Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

Pakistan to remain on FATF „greylist“

- Global money laundering watchdog the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) decided to keep Pakistan on its terrorism financing —grey list.
- In an online press briefing from Paris, FATF President Marcus Pleyer said Islamabad had made progress but was yet to complete its action plan to overcome deficiencies in its combating of money laundering and terrorism financing.
- FATF said Islamabad should demonstrate effective implementation of targeted financial sanctions against all 1267 and 1373 designated terrorists.

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Legendary actor Dilip Kumar passes away in Mumbai

- Legendary actor Dilip Kumar passed away after a prolonged illness.
- 'Jwar Bhata' was his debut movie in 1944.
- In a career spanning over six decades, Dilip Kumar gave multiple hits such as 'Mughal-e-Azam', 'Naya Daur', 'Baabul', 'Deedar', 'Madhumati', 'Devdas', 'Ganga Jamuna', 'Ram Aur Shyam', 'Karma' and others.
- He won Filmfare Awards for Best Actor 8 times,
- He was awarded Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1994.
- Other awards were Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, and Pakistan's Nishan-e-Imtiaz.

Olympic gold-winning hockey legend Keshav Datt passed away at 95

- Two-time Olympics Gold Medal winning Indian Hockey team's last member Keshav Chandra Datt (95) passed away.
- Born in Lahore Datt was part of the 1948 London Olympics Indian Hockey team.
- Later as Vice-Captain of the Indian team, he won a Gold medal in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics.
- In his autobiography GOAL, Dhyani Chand rated Datt as one of the finest half-backs of that time.

Doyen of Ayurveda PK Warriar passed away

- Eminent Ayurveda physician PK Warriar (100-years) passed away at his home in Kottakkal in Kerala.
- He was the chief physician and managing trustee of the Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala, one of the leading Ayurvedic healthcare chains in the country.
- Mr. Warriar was honoured with Padmashri in 1999 and Padma Vibhushan in 2010 for his contributions.

Former Indian middle-order batsman Yashpal Sharma passed away

- Former Indian middle-order batsman Yashpal Sharma (66 years) passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest in New Delhi.
- He was also a member of the Kapil Dev-led World Cup-winning team.
- He had got India off to a brilliant start in the 1983 World Cup as he scored a match-winning 89 against the West Indies in what was India's first match of the showpiece event.
- He scored 1606 runs at 33.45 in Test career and scored 883 runs at 28.48 in ODIs.

National Award-winning actress Surekha Sikri passed away after cardiac arrest

- Veteran actress Surekha Sikri passes away on Friday morning at the age of 75 following a cardiac arrest, her agent said. News agency PTI reported the actress's agent as saying that she had been suffering from complications arising from a second brain stroke.
- Three-time National Award winning actress, Surekha Sikri has passed away following a cardiac arrest earlier this morning at the age of 75. She had been suffering from complications arising from a second brain stroke.
- The three-time National Award winner had suffered a brain stroke in September last year and was discharged after a few days.
- Sikri is best known for her performances in 'Tamas', 'Mammo', 'Salim Langde Pe Mat Ro', 'Zubeidaa', 'Badhaai Ho' and daily soap 'Balika Vadhu'. She was last seen in Netflix's anthology 'Ghost Stories' (2020), in the story directed by Zoya Akhtar.

Veteran Marathi poet Satish Kalsekar passed away at 78

- Renowned Marathi poet and writer Satish Kalsekar has passed away following a heart attack. He was 78.
- Kalsekar was honored with Sahitya Akademi Award in 2014 for his collection of essays 'Vachanaryachi Rojanishee'.
- He is known for outstanding contribution in the fields of poetry, translation, prose writing and editing.

Bangladesh's folk singer Fakir Alamgir passed away at 71

- Bangladesh's legendary folk singer, Fakir Alamgir has passed away due to complications from COVID-19. He was born on February 21, 1950, in Faridpur, Alamgir began his music career in 1966. The singer was a key member of cultural organisations 'Kranti Shilpi Gosthi' and 'Gana Shilpi Gosthi' and played an important role during Bangladesh's 1969 uprising. During Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War, Alamgir joined the 'Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra' and performed frequently to inspire freedom fighters.
- Some of his popular songs include "O Sokhina Gesos Kina", "Shantahar", "Nelson Mandela", "Naam Tar Chhilo John Henry", "Banglar Comrade Bondhu", among others. He also founded the cultural organization 'Wrishiz Shilpi Gosthi' in 1976, and also served as the president of Gono Sangeet Shamanya Parishad (GSSP). Alamgir was conferred with the Ekushey Padak, the country's second-highest civilian award, in 1999.

Arjuna Award-winning Badminton Legend Nandu Natekar passed away

- Legendary Indian badminton player Nandu Natekar (88 years) passed away in Pune due to age-related ailments.
- He won over 100 national and international titles for India in his career spanning 15 years.
- He was the recipient of first Arjuna Award, instituted in 1961.
- He won the Men's Singles title in the Selangor International Tournament in Kuala Lumpur to win the first international title by an Indian badminton player in 1956.

World Masters gold medal winner Man Kaur, 105, passed away

- Multiple World Masters Championship gold medallist and multiple Asian Masters Championship medallist athlete 105-year-old, Man Kaur passed away. She started running and won her first medal in Chandigarh Masters Athletics meet in 2007 before she won the gold in 100 m as well 200 m race in the National Masters Athletics meet in 2011.
- Kaur would become the 100 m and 200 m champion in the World Masters Athletics Championships in the USA and was also adjudged the best athlete. But it was her feat of becoming the champion in the 100 m in the 100+ category in the World Masters Athletics Championships in Auckland in 2017, which got her into the limelight.

Padma Shri awardee Dogri writer Padma Sachdev passed away at 81

- Noted author and Padma Shri awardee Padma Sachdev (81 years) passed away in Mumbai.

- He is the first modern woman poet of Dogri language.
- She authored many books in Dogri and Hindi, and her poetry collections, including 'Meri Kavita Mere Geet', won her the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1971.
- She was honoured with Padma Shri in 2001 and Kabir Samman for poetry for 2007-08 by Madhya Pradesh government.

Veteran actor Anupam Shyam passes away

- Veteran actor Anupam Shyam has passed away. The actor was best known for his work on the TV show Mann Kee Awaaz: Pratigya and appearances in films like Slumdog Millionaire and Bandit Queen.
- In his nearly three-decade-long career, Shyam featured in films like Satya, Dil Se, Lagaan, Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi and received critical acclaim for his role as Thakur Sajjan Singh on Mann Kee Awaaz: Pratigya which aired in 2009 on Star Plus.

Indian Navy war hero Commodore Gopal Rao passes away

- Commodore Kasargod Patnashetti Gopal Rao (95) passed away.
- He was a 1971 war hero and recipient of the Maha Vir Chakra, India's second-highest military decoration.
- He was the commander of two Arnala-class anti-submarine corvettes INS Kiltan and INS Katchall which were part of the task group that attacked Karachi Harbour during Operation Trident on December 4, 1971 (Navy Day).
- He was commissioned into the Indian Navy on April 21, 1950.

Renowned spiritual leader Balaji Tambe passed away at 81

- Well-known spiritual leader, Ayurvedacharya, and proponent of Yoga, Balaji Tambe (81 years) passed away, after a brief illness in Pune
- He was the founder of 'Atmasantulana Village', a holistic healing centre near Lonavala, which is one of the first and largest Ayurveda centers in India.
- He had written several books on spirituality, Yoga and Ayurveda
- He is a director on the board of Sakal Media Group.

German Football Legend Gerd Müller passed away at 75

- Gerd Muller, former West Germany forward and the Bayern Munich football legend, has passed away. He was 75.
- At international level he represented West Germany, scoring 68 goals in 62 appearances, and at club level, he played for Bayern Munich, with which he scored a record 365 goals in 427 Bundesliga games.

- He was nicknamed “Bomber der Nation” (“the nation’s Bomber”) or simply “Der Bomber”, for his scoring-prowess.

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.

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.

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.

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.



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COUNTRIES | CAPITAL | CURRENCY

Countries	Capital	Currency
Japan	Tokyo	Japanese Yen
Sweden	Stokholm	Swedish Krona
Sri Lanka	Colombo	Sri Lankan Rupee
Bangladesh	Dhaka	Taka
Somalia	Mogadishu	Shilling
Iran	Tehran	Iranian Rial
Norway	Oslo	Norwegian Krone
South Korea	Seoul	South Korean Won
Germany	Berlin	Euro
Russia	Moscow	Ruble
China	Beijing	Renminbi
Vietnam	Hanoi	Vietnamese dong
Indonesia	Jakarta	Indonesian Rupiah

Countries	Capital	Currency
New Zealand	Wellington	NZ Dollar
Pakistan	Islamabad	Pakistani Rupee
Myanmar	Naypyidaw	Burmese kyat
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	Saudi Riyal
Kenya	Nairobi	Kenyan shilling
Kazakhstan	Astana	Kazakhstani tenge
Uzbekistan	Tashkent	Uzbekistani so'm
Australia	Canberra	Australian Dollar
Peru	Lima	Sol
Iceland	Reykjavik	Icelandic króna
Philippines	Manila	Philippine peso
Belarus	Minsk	Belarusian ruble
Iraq	Baghdad	Iraqi dinar

IMPORTANT DAYS

Important Days of September	
02 September	World Coconut Day
05 September	National Teachers Day
05 September	International Day of Charity
08 September	International Literacy Day
10 September	World Suicide Prevention Day
12 September	United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation
14 September	Hindi Day
15 September	International Day of Democracy
15 September	Engineers Day
16 September	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
21 September	International Day of Peace
23 September	International Day of Sign Languages
25 September	Antyodaya Diwas
26 September	International Day for the Total Elimination

	of Nuclear Weapons
26 September	World Contraception Day
27 September	World Tourism Day
27 September	World Maritime Day
28 September	World Rabies Day
28 September	International Day for Universal Access to Information
29 September	World Heart Day
30 September	International Translation Day
Important Days of October	
October 1	International Coffee Day/World Vegetarian Day
October 2	Gandhi Jayanti/International Day of Non-Violence
October 3	German Unity Day
October 4	World Animal Welfare Day

October 5	World Teachers' Day
October 6	Durgashtami/German-American Day
October 7	World Habitat Day
October 8	Dussehra or Vijaya Dashami/Indian Air Force Day
October 9	World Postal Day or World Post Office Day
October 10	World Mental Health Day
October 11	International Girl Child Day
October 14	World Standards Day
October 15	Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day/Global Handwashing Day/World White Cane Day/World Students' Day
October 16	World Food Day
October 23	Mole Day
October 24	United Nations Day/World Development Information Day
October 25	Dhanteras
October 27	Deepavali
October 28	Govardhan Puja
October 29	Bhai Duj
October 30	World Thrift Day
October 31	Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day

Important Days of November	
November 1	World Vegan Day
November 6	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
November 7	Infant Protection Day, World Cancer Awareness Day
November 8	World Radiology Day
November 9	World Legal Service Day
November 10	World Science day for Peace and Development, Public Transport Day
November 11	National Education Day
November 12	World Pneumonia Day, Public Service Broadcasting Day
November 13	World Kindness Day
November 14	Children's Day(India), World Diabetes Day
November 16	International Day for Endurance or

	Tolerance
November 17	International Students Day, Gurunanak Dev's Birth Anniversary, National epilepsy day
November 19	World Toilet Day, International Men's Day, National Integration Day
November 20	Universal Children's Day
3rd Sunday of November	World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims
3rd Thursday of November	World Philosophy Day
November 21	World Fisheries Day, World Hello Day, World Television Day
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, World Non-Veg day
November 26	National Law Day or National constitution Day
November 30	National Flag Day

Important Days of December	
December 1	World AIDS Day
December 2	World Computer Literacy Day, International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
December 3	International Day of People with Disability or World Disability Day
December 4	Indian Navy Day
December 5	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
December 7	International Civil Aviation Day, Indian Armed Force Flag Day
December 9	The International Anti-Corruption Day
December 10	World Human Rights Day, International Children's Day of Broadcasting
December 11	International Mountain Day, UNICEF Day
December 14	National Energy Conservation Day(India)
December 16	Vijay Diwas
December 18	International Migrants Day, National Minority Rights Day
December 19	Goa's Liberation Day
December 20	International Human Solidarity Day
December 23	National Farmer's Day or Kisan Diwas
December 25	Christmas Day

IMPORTANT NATIONAL PARKS & POWER PLANTS IN INDIA

State	National Parks	Power Plants
Assam	Rajiv Gandhi Orange National Park Dibru-Saikhowa National Park Kaziranga National Park Manas National Park Nameri National Park	Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station
Arunachal Pradesh	Mouling National Park Namdapha National Park	-
Andhra Pradesh	Sri Venkateswara National Park	Sri Damodram Sanjeevaiah Thermal Power Station Simhadri Solar Power Plant Station
Bihar	Valmiki National Park	Kahalgaoon Super Thermal Power Station Barauni Thermal Power Station
Chattisgarh	Guru Ghansi Das National Park Indravati National Park Kanger Valley National Park	Sipat Thermal Power Plant Hasdeo Thermal Power Station Bhilai Expansion Power Plan
Gujarat	Bansda National Park Blackbuck National Park Gir Forest National Park Marine National Park	Akrimota Thermal Power Station Mundra Thermal Power Station Ukai Thermal Power Station
Goa	Bhagwan Mahavir National Park	-
Himachal Pradesh	Pin Valley National Park Great Himalayan National Park Inderkilla National Park Khirganga National Park Simbalbara National Park	Girinagar Hydel Project Binwa Hydel Project Rangtong Hydel Project Baner & Neugal Project
Haryana	Sultanpur National Park Kalesar National Park	Rajiv Gandhi Thermal Power Station Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Station Gorakhpur Atomic Power Station
Jammu & Kashmir	Hemis National Park Kishtwar National Park Salim Ali National Park Dachigam National Park	-
Jharkhand	Betta National Park	Chandrapura Thermal Power Station Koderma Thermal Power Station Bokaro Thermal Power Station
Karnataka	Anshi National Park Bandipur National Park Bannerghatta National Park Kudremukh National Park Nagarhole National Park	Kakrapar Nuclear Power Plant Raichur Thermal Power Station Udupi Thermal Power Plant Bellary Thermal Power Station
Kerala	Eravikulam National Park Anamudi Shola National Park Mathikettan National Park Pampal National Park	Brahmapuram Power Station Kayamkulam Power Station

	Periyar National Park Silent Valley National Park	
Meghalaya	Balphakram National Park Nokrek National Park	-
Maharashtra	Chandoli National Park Navegaon National Park Tadoba National Park Gugamal national park	Tarapur Atomic Power Station Tirora Thermal Power Station Amravati Thermal Power Plant
Madhya Pradesh	Kanha National Park Madhav National Park Mandla Plant Fossils National Park Panna National Park Pench National Park	Soran Ultra Mega Power project Amarkantak Thermal Power Station Vindhychal Super Thermal Power Station Sant Singaji Thermal Power Plant Satpura Thermal Power Station
Mizoram	Mountain National Park Murlen National Park Phawngpui Blue National Park	-
Manipur	Keibul Lamjao National Park	
Nagaland	Intanki National Park	Dikhu Hydro Electric Power Plant
Odisha	Bhitarkanika National Park Simlipal National Park	Talcher Thermal Power Station
Punjab	-	Guru Gobind Singh Super Thermal Power Plant
Rajasthan	Sariska National Park Ranthambore National Park Darah National Park Desert National Park Keoladeo National Park	Chhabra Thermal Power Station Suratgarh Power Station
Sikkim	Khangchendzonga National Park	Ranjit Hydro electric Power Project
Tamil Nadu	Guindy National Park Indira Gandhi National Park Mukurthi National Park Mudumalai National Park Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park	Kundakulam Nuclear Power Plant Neyveli Thermal Plant Tuticorin Thermal Plant
Telangana	Mrugavani National Park	-
Tripura	Bison (Rajbari) National Park Clouded Leopard National Park	Palatane Thermal Power Plant
Uttar Pradesh	Dudhwa National Park	Narora Atomic Power Station Rihand Thermal Power Station Anpara Thermal Power Station
Uttarakhand	Gangotri National Park Jim Corbett National Park Valley of Flowers National Park	Chibro Power Plant Khodri Power Plant Chilla Power Plant
West Bengal	Neora Valley National Park Singalila National Park Buxa National Park Sundarbans National Park	Mejia Thermal Power Station Farakka Super Thermal Power Station Kolaghat Thermal Power Station Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station Durgapur Steel Thermal Power Station

CLASSICAL DANCES IN INDIA

Bharatnatyam: Tamil Nadu & Karnataka Kathak: North India Kathakali: Kerala. Kuchipudi: Andhra Pradesh.	Mohiniattam: Kerala. Odissi: Orissa state. Gaudiya Nritya: West Bengal	Sattriya: Assam Ghoomar: Rajasthan Thang Ta: Manipur Manipuri: Manipur
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FOLK DANCES IN INDIA

<u>North India</u> Dumhal: Rauf tribe of Jammu & Kashmir HurkaBaul: Uttarakhand Chholiya: Kumaon region, Uttarakhand Bhangra, Giddha: Punjab Dhamyal - 'Dhamyal' or 'Dhuph': Haryana Mayur Nritya: Uttar Pradesh Charkula: Braj region of Uttar Pradesh. Haryana: Swang, Naqqal, Dhamal Himachal Pradesh: Nati, Kariyala, Bhagat	<u>Central India</u> Gaur Dance: Chhattisgarh Muria Dance: Madhya Pradesh Saila Dance: Bastar district in the state of Chhattisgarh Kaksar Dance: Bastar district in the state of Chhattisgarh Jawara Dance: Madhya Pradesh Bhagoria Dance: Madhya Pradesh Suwa Dance: Chhattisgarh Grida Dance: Madhya Pradesh
<u>East India</u> Brita Dance: 'Brita' or 'Vrita' dance: West Bengal Dalkhai: Odisha. Gotipua: Odisha Bihar: Jadur, Kathaputli, Bhako, Jhijiya	<u>West India</u> Dandiya: Gujarat and Rajasthan Garba: Gujarat Padhar Dance: Gujarat Rajasthan: Khyal, Rasdhari, Rammat, Gauri, Ghoomar
<u>South India</u> Padayani: Kerala Kolannalu: Andhra Pradesh Parai Attam: Tamil Nadu Karagattam: Tamil Nadu Paampu Attam: Tamil Nadu. Poikal Kudirai Attam: Tamil Nadu Theyyam: Kerala Andhra Pradesh: Veethi Natakam, Burrakatha, Lambadi, Koya. Telangana: Bathukamma Dollu Kunitha: Karnataka Ghodemodni: Goa Lava Dance: Lakshadweep Veeragase: Karnataka Koli: Maharashtra	<u>North East India</u> Hojagiri: Tripura Nongkram Dance: Meghalaya Bagurumba: Assam Bhortal Dance: Assam Cheraw Dance: Mizoram Chang Lo: Nagaland Bardo Chham: Arunachal Pradesh Bihu: Assam

IMPORTANT ORGANISATIONS & THEIR HEADQUARTERS

Organisations	Headquarters
UNO	New York
UNESCO	Paris
UNICEF	New York
ILO	Geneva
UNCTAD	Geneva
WHO	Geneva
IMF	Washington DC
WB	Washington DC
NATO	Brussels
SAARC	Kathmandu
ASEAN	Jakarta

Organisations	Headquarters
OECD	Paris
ICJ	Hague
APEC	Singapore
World Intellectual Property Organisation	Geneva
IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)	Vienna
Amnesty International	London
UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Dev. Org)	Vienna
International Maritime Organization	London
Transparency International	Berlin
Commonwealth of Nations	London
WMO (World Meteorological Org)	Geneva

IMPORTANT AIRPORTS IN INDIA

Airport	City	State
Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport	Kolkata	West Bengal
Indira Gandhi International Airport	New Delhi	New Delhi
Rajiv Gandhi International Airport	Hyderabad	Telangana
Swami Vivekananda Airport	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport	Nagpur	Maharashtra
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport	Ahmedabad	Gujarat
Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
Biju Patnaik International Airport	Bhubaneswar	Odisha
Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport	Guwahati	Assam
Kempegowda International Airport	Bangalore	Karnataka
Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
Raja Bhoj International Airport	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
Maharana Pratap Airport	Udaipur	Rajasthan
Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport	Amritsar	Punjab
Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Airport	Patna	Bihar
Birsa Munda Airport	Ranchi	Jharkhand
Bagdogra Airport	Bagdogra	West Bengal
Rajahmundry Airport	rajahmundry	Andhra Pradesh
Kandla Airport	Kandla	Gujarat
Tezu Airport	Tezu	Arunachal Pradesh
Lengpui Airport	Aizwal	Mizoram
Veer Savarkar International Airport	Port Blair	Andaman & Nicobar
Silchar Airport	Silchar	Assam
Zaruki International Airport	Shillong	Meghalaya
Sonari Airport	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand
Agatti Aerodrome	Agatti	Lakshadweep

NICK NAMES OF IMPORTANT INDIAN PLACES

Nick Name	City Name
City Of Seven Islands	Mumbai
Pink City	Jaipur
Space City	Bangalore
Golden City	Amritsar
Manchester Of India	Ahmedabad
Silicon Valley Of India	Bangalore
Gateway Of India	Mumbai
City Of Festivals	Madurai
Queen Of Arabian Sea	Cochin
Garden City Of India	Bangalore
Electronic City Of India	Bangalore
Deccan Queen	Pune
City Of Buildings	Kolkata
Egg Bowls Of Asia	Andhra Pradesh
Manchester Of The South	Coimbatore
City Of Nawabs	Lucknow
Venice Of The East	Cochin
Queen Of The Mountains	Mussoorie
Hollywood Of India	Mumbai
City Of Weavers	Panipat

Nick Name	City Name
Switzerland Of India	Kashmir
Pittsburg Of India	Jamshedpur
Abode Of The God	Allahabad
Garden Of Spices Of India	Kerala
Heaven Of India	J&K
City Of Lakes	Srinagar
State Of Five Rivers	Punjab
City Of Castles	Kolkata
Manchester Of The North	Kanpur
Dakshin Ganga	Godavari
Old Ganga	Godavari
Sorrow Of Bengal	Damodar
Sacred River	Ganga
Blue Mountains	Nilgiri
City Of Rallies	New Delhi
Soya Region	Madhya Pradesh
Sorrow Of Bihar	Kosi
Steel City Of India	Jamshedpur
City Of Temples	Varanasi
Boston Of India	Ahmedabad

CABINET MINISTERS

1.	Shri Narendra Modi	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space
2.	Rajnath Singh	Defence Minister
3.	Amit Shah	Minister of Home Affairs/Ministry of Cooperation
4.	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman	Ministry of Finance/Ministry of Corporate Affairs
5.	Shri Narendra Singh Tomar	Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
6.	Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Ministry of External Affairs
7.	Shri Arjun Munda	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
8.	Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani	Ministry of Women and Child Development
9.	Shri Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Commerce and Industry/Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution/Ministry of Textiles

10.	Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	Ministry of Education/Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
11.	Shri Pralhad Joshi	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs/Ministry of Coal/Ministry of Mines
12.	Shri Narayan Tatu Rane	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
13.	Shri Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways/Ministry of AYUSH)
14.	Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Ministry of Minority Affairs
15.	Dr. Virendra Kumar	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
16.	Shri Giriraj Singh	Ministry of Rural Development/Ministry of Panchayati Raj
17.	Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Ministry of Civil Aviation
18.	Shri Ramchandra Prasad Singh	Ministry of Steel
19.	Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw	Ministry of Railways/Ministry of Communications Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
20.	Shri Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
21.	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Ministry of Jal Shakti
22.	Shri Kiren Rijiju	Ministry of Law and Justice
23.	Shri Raj Kumar Singh	Ministry of Power/Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
24.	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
25.	Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
26.	Shri Bhupender Yadav	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Labour and Employment
27.	Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey	Ministry of Heavy Industries
28.	Shri Parshottam Rupala	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
29.	Shri G. Kishan Reddy	Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
30.	Shri Anurag Singh Thakur	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
31.	Shri Rao Inderjit Singh	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry of Planning
32.	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Ministry of Science and Technology Ministry of Earth Sciences

TEMPLES IN INDIA


Temple	Place
Badrinath Temple	Chamoli district, Uttarakhand

Temple	Place
Kashi Vishwanath Temple	Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)

Golden Temple	Amritsar
The Konark Sun Temple	Puri district of Odisha
Gangotri Temple	Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand
Brihadeeswara Temple	Thanjavur city of Tamil Nadu
Siddhivinayak Temple	Prabha Devi, Mumbai
Somnath Temple	Saurashtra (Gujarat)
Vaishno Devi Mandir	J&K, near Katra
Kedarnath Temple	Garhwal area (Uttarakhand)
Sanchi Stupa	Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh

Meenakshi Temple	Madurai (Tamil Nadu)
Lingaraja Temple	Orissa
Lord Jagannath Temple	Puri (Orissa)
Yamunotri Temple	Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand
Tirupati Balaji	Tirumala (Andhra Pradesh)
Khajuraho Temple	Madhya Pradesh
Akshardham Temple	Delhi
Dwarkadhish Temple	Dwarka city (Gujarat)
Shirdi Sai Baba Temple	Shirdi town of Maharashtra

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Ashes Cup	Rovers Cup	Sultan Azlan Shah Cup	Travancore Cup (women)	Davis Cup	Amrit Diwan Cup	Canada Cup
Asia Cup	Merdeka Cup	Aga Khan Cup	Swathling Cup (men)	Australian Open	Asia Cup	Rydet Cup
C.K. Naidu Trophy	Confederation cup	Maharaja Ranjit Singh Gold Cup	Bama Belleck Cup	French Open	Chaddha Cup	Walker Cup
Deodhar Trophy	DCM Trophy	Dhyanchand Trophy	–	Wimbledon	European Cup	Eisenhower Cup
Duleep Trophy	Durand Cup	Sindhia Gold cup	–	US Open	Harilela Cup	–
Gavaskar Border Trophy	B.C. Raj Trophy (National Championship)	Murugappa Gold Cup	–	Heineken Cup	Ibrahim Rahimatillah Challenger Cup	–
G.D. Birla Trophy	Bandodkar Trophy	Wellington Cup	–	–	Konica Cup	–
Gillette Cup	FIFA World Cup	Stanley Cup	–	–	Sophia Cup	–
ICC World Cup	Jules Rimet	–	–	–	Kitiakara Cup	–

	Trophy					
Irani Trophy	Kalinga Cup	-	-	-	Malaysian Open	-
Jawaharlal Nehru Cup	Santosh Trophy	-	-	-	Thomas Cup (men)	-
Rani Jhansi Trophy	IFA Shield	-	-	-	Uber Cup (women)	-
Ranji Trophy	Scissor Cup	-	-	-	-	-
Rohinton, Barcia Trophy	Subroto Cup	-	-	-	-	-
Rothmans Cup	Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee Trophy	-	-	-	-	-
Sahara Cup	Todd Memorial Trophy	-	-	-	-	-
Sharjah Cup	Vittal Trophy	-	-	-	-	-
Singer Cup	UEFA Champions League	-	-	-	-	-
Titan Cup	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vijay Hazare Trophy	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vijay Merchant Trophy	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wisden Trophy	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wills Trophy	-	-	-	-	-	-

IMPORTANT REVOLUTIONS IN INDIA

Revolution	Field
Green Revolution	Food grains
Blue Revolution	Fish Production
Black Revolution	Petroleum Production
Golden Revolution	Fruits/Overall Horticulture development/Honey Production
Grey Revolution	Fertilizer
Golden Fiber Revolution	Jute Production
Yellow Revolution	Oil Seeds production
Pink Revolution	Onion production/Pharmaceutical (India)/ Prawn production
White Revolution	Milk/Dairy production
Red Revolution	Meat & Tomato Production

Silver Revolution	Egg/Poultry Production
Silver Fiber Revolution	Cotton
Evergreen Revolution	Overall development of Agriculture.

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STADIUMS IN INDIA

Stadium	Location
Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium	New Delhi
Feroz Shah Kotla	New Delhi
Dhyan Chand National Stadium	New Delhi
Brabourne Stadium	Mumbai
Eden Gardens	Kolkata
Green Park	Kanpur
M.Chinnaswamy Stadium	Bangalore
Barabati Stadium	Cuttack
MA Chidambaram Stadium	Chennai
Madhavrao Scindia Cricket Ground	Rajkot
Rajiv Gandhi Port Silver Jubilee Stadium	Visakhapatnam

Stadium	Location
Greenfield International Stadium	Thiruvananthapuram
Barkatullah Khan Stadium	Jodhpur
Barsapara Cricket Stadium	Guwahati
Sardar Vallabhai Patel Motera	Ahmedabad
Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai
Moin-ul-Haq Stadium	Patna
Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Cricket Stadium	Guwahati
Vidarbha CA Ground	Nagpur
Sawai Mansingh Stadium	Jaipur
Indira Gandhi Stadium	Vijayawada
Neeraj Chopra Stadium	Pune

Port	State
Paradip	Orissa
Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
Kolkata	West Bengal
Mumbai	Maharashtra
Kandla	Gujarat
Jawahar Lal Nehru	Maharashtra

Port	State
Cochin	Kerala
New Mangalore	Karnataka
Ennore	Tamil Nadu
Murmugao	Goa
Tuticorin	Tamil Nadu
Chennai	Tamil Nadu

STATE | CHIEF MINISTER | GOVERNOR

State	Capital	Governor	Chief Minister
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Andhra Pradesh	Amarvati	Biswabhusan Harichandan	Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Brigedier B.D Mishra (Retd)	Pema Khandu
Assam	Dispur	Jagdish Mukhi	Himanta Biswa Sarma
Bihar	Patna	Phagu Chauhan	Nitish Kumar
Chhattisgarh	Naya raipur/bilaspur	Anusuiya Uikey	Bhupesh Bhagel
Delhi	National capital of India	Lt. Governor Anil Bajjal	Arvind Kejriwal
Goa	Panaji	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai	Pramod Sawant
Gujarat	Gandhinagar	Acharya Dev Vrat	Vijay Rupani
Haryana	Chandigarh	Bandaru Dattatreya	Manohar Lal Khattar
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla/Dharamshala	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar	Jai Ram Thakur
Jammu-Kashmir	Srinagar	Lt. Manoj Sinha	--
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Ramesh Bais	Hemant Soren
Karnataka	Bengaluru	Thawar Chand Gehlot	Sri Basavaraj Bommai
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Arif Mohammed Khan	Pinarayi Vijayan
Ladakh	Leh	Radha Krishna Mathur	--
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Manga Bhai C. Patel	Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Bhagat Singh Koshyari	Uddhav Thackeray
Manipur	Imphal	La. Ganesan	N . Biren Singh
Meghalaya	Shillong	Satya Pal Malik	Conrad Kongkal Sangma
Mizoram	Aizwal	Hari Babu	Zoramthanga
Nagaland	Kohima	Jagdish Mukhi	Neiphiu Rio
Odisha	Bhubaneshwar	Prof. Ganeshi Lal Mathur	Naveen Patnaik
Puducherry	Pondicherry	Tamilsai Sundarajan	
Punjab	Chandigarh	Banwari Lal Purohit	Charanjeet Singh Channi
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Kalraj Mishra	Ashok Gehlot
Sikkim	Gangtok	Ganga Prasad	Prem Singh Tamang
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Banwarilal Purohit	M.K. Stalin
Telangana	Hyderabad	Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan	K. Chandrashekhara Rao
Tripura	Agartala	Satyadev Narayan Arya	Biplab Kumar Deb
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Anandiben Patel	Yogi Adityanath

Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Gurmeet Singh	Shri Pushkar Singh Dhama
West Bengal	Kolkata	Jagdeep Dhankar	Mamata Banerjee

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IMPORTANT DAMS IN INDIA

Dam	River	State
Idukki Dam	Periyar	Kerala
Tehri Dam	Bhagirathi	Uttarakhand
Sardar Sarovar Dam	Narmada	Gujarat
Nagarjun Sagar Dam	Krishna	Telangana
Bhakra Dam	Satluj	Himachal Pradesh
Lakhwar Dam	Yamuna	Uttarakhand
Srisaillam Dam	Krishna	Telangana
Pakal Dul Dam	Marusudar	J&K
Salal Dam	Chenab	J&K
Chakra Dam	Chakra	Karnataka
ukai Dam	Tapi Nadi	Gujarat

Dam	River	State
Madupetty Dam	Palar	Kerala
Indira Sagar Dam	Narmada	Madhya Pradesh
Rihand Dam	Rihand	Uttar Pradesh
Pong Dam	Beas	Himachal Pradesh
Ranjit Sagar Dam	Ravi	Punjab
Baglihar Dam	Chenab	J&K
Supa Dam	Kali Nadi	Karnataka
Koteshwar Dam	Bhagi Rathi Nadi	Uttra Khand
Pillur Dam	Bhavani	Tamil Nadu
Parbati Dam	Parbati	himachal Pradesh

IMPORTANT INDIAN CITIES LOCATED ON RIVER BANKS

City	River	State
Agra	Yamuna	Uttar Pradesh
Ahmedabad	Sabarmati	Gujarat
Allahabad	At the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati	Uttar Pradesh
Ayodhya	Saryu	Uttar Pradesh
Badrinath	Alaknanda	Uttarakhand

Banki	Mahanadi	Odisha
Brahmapur	Rushikulya	Odisha
Chhatrapur	Rushikulya	Odisha
Bhagalpur	Ganges	Bihar
Kolkata	Hugli	West Bengal
Cuttack	Mahanadi	Odisha
New Delhi	Yamuna	Delhi
Dibrugarh	Brahmaputra	Assam

Ferozpur	Sutlej	Punjab
Guwahati	Brahmaputra	Assam
Haridwar	Ganges	Uttarakhand
Hyderabad	Musi	Telangana
Jabalpur	Narmada	Madhya Pradesh
Kanpur	Ganges	Uttar Pradesh
Kota	Chambal	Rajasthan
Kottayam	Meenachil	Kerala
Jaunpur	Gomti	Uttar Pradesh
Patna	Ganges	Bihar
Rajahmundry	Godavari	Andhra Pradesh
Srinagar	Jhelum	Jammu & Kashmir
Surat	Tapi	Gujarat
Tiruchirapalli	Kaveri	Tamil Nadu
Varanasi	Ganges	Uttar Pradesh
Vijayawada	Krishna	Andhra Pradesh
Vadodara	Vishwamitri	Gujarat
Mathura	Yamuna	Uttar Pradesh
Mirzapur	Ganga	Uttar Pradesh
Auraiya	Yamuna	Uttar Pradesh
Etawah	Yamuna	Uttar Pradesh
Bangalore	Vrishabhavathi	Karnataka
Farrukhabad	Ganges	Uttar Pradesh
Fatehgarh	Ganges	Uttar Pradesh
Kannauj	Ganges	Uttar Pradesh
Mangalore	Netravati,Gurupura	Karnataka
Shimoga	Tunga River	Karnataka
Bhadravathi	Bhadra	Karnataka
Hospet	Tungabhadra	Karnataka
Karwar	Kali	Karnataka
Bagalkot	Ghataprabha	Karnataka
Honnavar	Sharavathi	Karnataka

Gwalior	Chambal	Madhya Pradesh
Gorakhpur	Rapti	Uttar Pradesh
Lucknow	Gomti	Uttar Pradesh
Kanpur Cantonment	Ganges	Uttar Pradesh
Shuklaganj	Ganges	Uttar Pradesh
Chakeri	Ganges	Uttar Pradesh
Malegaon	Girna River	Maharashtra
Sambalpur	Mahanadi	Odisha
Rourkela	Brahmani	Odisha
Pune	Mula,Mutha	Maharashtra
Daman	Daman Ganga River	Daman
Madurai	Vaigai	Tamil Nadu
Thiruchirapalli	Kaveri	Tamil Nadu
Chennai	Cooum,Adyar	Tamil Nadu
Coimbatore	Noyyal	Tamil Nadu
Erode	Kaveri	Tamil Nadu
Tirunelveli	Thamirabarani	Tamil Nadu
Bharuch	Narmada	Gujarat
Karjat	Ulhas	Maharashtra
Nashik	Godavari	Maharashtra
Mahad	Savitri	Maharashtra
Nanded	Godavari	Maharashtra
Kolhapur	Panchaganga	Maharashtra
Nellore	Pennar	Andhra Pradesh
Nizamabad	Godavari	Telangana
Sangli	Krishna	Maharashtra
Karad	Krishna,Koyna	Maharashtra
Hajipur	Ganges	Bihar
Ujjain	Shipra	Madhya Pradesh

SOME IMPORTANT FACTS RELATED TO CENSUS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slogan - Our census, Our Future India's 1st Census - 1872 2011 Census is - 15th Census Total Population - 1,21,01,93,422 India's Rank in population - 2nd with 17.5% (1st China with 19%) Most Populous State - Uttar Pradesh Least Populous State – Sikkim Most Literate State - Kerala (93.9%) Least Literate State - Bihar (63.82%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy of Female - 65.46% Population Growth Rate - 17.64% Highest fertility Rate - Meghalaya Most literate Union Territory - Lakshadweep (92.2%) Least literate Union Territory - Dadra Nagar & Haweli Most Literate District - Serechhip (Mizoram) Least Literate District - Dadra Naga & Haveli Highest Density of Population - Bihar (1102 sq.km) Lowest Density of Population - Arunachal Pradesh (17) Total number of districts - 640
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Sex Ratio - Female : Male (940 : 1000) • Highest Sex Ratio (State) - Kerala (1084 : 1000) • Lowest Sex Ratio (State) - Haryana • Highest Sex Ratio (UT) - Puducherry • Least Sex Ratio (UT) - Daman & Diu (61 : 1000) • Literacy of Male - 82.14% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest Populous District - Thane (Mumbai) • 100% Literacy District - Palakkad (Kerala) • 100% Banking State - Kerala • 100% Banking District - Palakkad (Kerala) • Density of Population in India - 382 sq. km • Increase in population (during 2001-2011) - 181 million
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IMPORTANT WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES

State	Wildlife Sanctuary
Assam	Amchang WLS Chakrashila WLS Dihing Patkai WLS East Karbi Anglong WLS North Karbi Anglong WLS Nambor WLS
Andhra Pradesh	Coringa WLS Kolleru WLS Nellapattu WLS Pulicat Lake WLS Rajiv Gandhi (Nagarjuna SagarSrisailem) WLS
Bihar	Gautam Budha WLS Kaimur WLS Pant (Rajgir) WLS Valmiki WLS
Chattisgarh	Badalkhol WLS Bhairamgarh WLS Bhoramdev WLS Udanti Wild Buffalo WLS
Gujarat	Jambugodha WLS Jessore WLS Kutch Desert WLS Mitiyala WLS

State	Wildlife Sanctuary
Madhya Pradesh	Bori WLS Gandhi Sagar WLS Ghatigaon WLS Ken Gharial WLS Narsighgarh WLS National Chambal WLS Orcha WLS Kuno WLS Sardarpur WLS Son Gharial WLS
Manipur	YangoupokpiLokchao WLS
Mizoram	Dampa WLS (TR) Ngengpui WLS Pualreng WLS Tokalo WLS
Meghalaya	Baghmara Pitcher Plant WLS Nongkhyllem WLS Siju WLS
Nagaland	Fakim WLS Puliebadze WLS Rangapahar WLS

	Porbandar Lake WLS Rampara Vidi WLS Ratanmahal WLS Shoolpaneswar (Dhumkhal) WLS Thol Lake WLS Wild Ass WLS		
Goa	Bondla WLS Madei WLS Bhagwan Mahavir (Mollem) WLS Netravali WLS	Odisha	Badrama WLS Baisipalli WLS Chilika (Nalaban) WLS Hadgarh WLS Khalasuni WLS Satkosia Gorge WLS
Himachal Pradesh	Bandli WLS Daranghati WLS Dalra WLS Dhauladhar WLS Nargu WLS Pong Dam Lake WLS Shilli WLS Talra WLS	Punjab	Abohar WLS Harike Lake WLS Jhajjar Bacholi WLS
Haryana	Bhindawas WLS Kalesar WLS Khaparwas WLS	Rajasthan	Bundh Baratha WLS Darrah WLS Jawahar Sagar WLS Kailadevi WLS Mount Abu WLS Ramsagar WLS Sariska WLS Sawai Man Singh WLS Shergarh WLS Sitamata WLS
J&K	Gulmarg WLS Limber WLS Nandini WL	Sikkim	Fambong Lho WLS Maenam WLS Pangolakha WLS
Jharkhand	Lawalong WLS Palkot WLS Parasnath WLS	Telangana	Kawal WLS
Karnataka	Arabithittu WLS Attiveri WLS Bhadra WLS Bhimgad WLS Brahmagiri WLS Cauvery WLS Nugu WLS Pushpagiri WLS Ranganathittu Bird WLS Sharavathi Valley WLS Someshwara WLS	Tamil Nadu	Karikili WLS Mudumalai WLS Pulicat Lake WLS Vaduvor WLS Vedanthangal WLS Vettangudi WLS Indira Gandhi (Annamalai) WLS Kalakad WLS Karaivetti WLS
Kerala	Aralam WLS Chimmony WLS	Tripura	Gumti WLS Rowa WLS

	Idukki WLS Malabar WLS Mangalavanam Bird WLS Neyyar WLS Periyar WLS Thattekad Bird WLS		Sepahijala WLS Trishna WLS
Maharashtra	Aner Dam WLS Bhamragarh WLS Bhimashankar WLS Great Indian Bustard WLS Jaikwadi WLS Koyana WLS Nagzira WLS Painganga WLS Radhanagari WLS Sagarashwar WLS Tipeswar WLS Tungarashwar WLS	Uttarakhand	Askot Musk Deer WLS Binsar WLS Govind Pashu Vihar WLS Kedarnath WLS Sonanadi WLS
UP	Hastinapur WLS Ranipur WLS Sohagibarwa WLS Sur Sarovar WLS Chandraprabha WLS National Chambal WLS	West Bengal	Ballavpur WLS Chintamani Kar Bird Sanctuary Holiday Island WLS Lothian Island WLS Mahananda WLS

IMPORTANT BOUNDARIES

Radcliffe Line : This boundary line is between India and Pakistan drawn by Sir Cyril Radcliffe in 1947.

Durand Line - It is between Pakistan and Afghanistan

McMahon Line - The boundary line between India and China to which China does not approve. It was demarcated by Sir Henry McMahon

24th Parallel - The line which Pakistan claims should be the Demarcation line between India and Pakistan, not accepted by India.

Hindenberg Line - Boundary line between Germany and Poland to which German retreated in 1917 during the First World War.

Oder-Neisse Line - The boundary line between Poland and East Germany.

Mannerheim Line - It is between Russia and Finland.

Maginot Line - The boundary line is between France and Germany.

Siegfried Line - The boundary line is between France and Germany.

17th Parallel - The line which defines the boundary between North Vietnam and South Vietnam before the two were united.

38th Parallel - The boundary line between North Korea and South Korea.

49th Parallel - It is the boundary line between the United States of America and Canada

IMPORTANT AWARDS

1. Bharat Ratna – It is the highest civilian award of the India. The award was given for outstanding achievements in hearts,

literature, science and public services but the government expanded the criteria to include “any field of human

endeavour". The number of annual awards is restricted to a maximum of three in a particular year.

2. **Padma Awards**—Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awards are for exceptional and distinguished service in any field including service rendered by Government servants.
3. **Gallantry Awards**—Param Vir Chakra (PVC), Ashok Chakra, Shaurya Chakra are given for appreciating the brave and gallant.
4. **Nobel Prize**—The Nobel Prize is widely regarded as the most prestigious award available in the fields of literature, medicine, physics, chemistry, peace, and Economics.
5. **Booker Prize**—Literature It is an annual award for the best original novel, written in the English language, and published in the UK literary award.
6. **Vyas Samman**—Literature Vyas Samman is awarded annually by the K.K. Birla Foundation in recognition of the Hindi literary work published in past 10 years.
7. **Moorti Devi Award**—Literature The Moortidevi Award is an annual literary award in India presented by the Bharatiya Jnanpith organization for a work which emphasizes Indian philosophy and culture.
8. **Saraswati Samman**—Literature The award was instituted in 1991 by the K. K. Birla Foundation. It is an annual award given for outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any 22 Indian languages.
9. **Jnanpith award**—Literature The award was instituted in 196. It is presented by the Bharatiya Jnanpith, a trust founded by the Sahu Jain family, the publishers of the newspaper The Times of India. It is an annual award given for outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any 22 Indian languages.
10. **Bihari Puraskar**—Literature Bihari Puraskar is a literary award instituted by K. K. Birla Foundation. The award is named after the famous Hindi poet Bihari and is awarded to an outstanding work published in Hindi or Rajasthani by a Rajasthani writer.
11. **The Oscar/Academy Awards**—Films This is an annual American awards ceremony honoring cinematic achievements in the film industry.
12. **Dadasaheb Phalke Award**—Cinema/Films The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest award in cinema. It is presented annually at the National Film Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organisation set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
13. **Arjuna Award**—Outstanding performance from the sports persons in sports and games. The Government has modified the format of Arjuna Award very recently and as per the revised schematic guidelines a sports person must have very good consistent performances for the previous 3 years at the international level to be considered as eligible for the Award.
14. **Dronacharya Award**—Eminent coaches of any particular sport The award is named after the very famous archery coach, mentioned in the epic of India known as the Mahabharata. This award is not related with the sports persons who are still playing in the field; instead this is related to those eminent coaches of any particular sport.
15. **Dhyan Chand Award**—The award that is given to the veteran sports persons of India for their lifetime achievement in their respective field of sport is named as the Dhyan Chand Award for Life Time Achievement in Sports and Games.
16. **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award**—The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna is the highest honour bestowed to a sports person for his/her achievements in India.
17. **Stirling Prize**—Architecture The Royal Institute of British Architects Stirling Prize is a British prize for excellence in architecture.
18. **Aga Khan Award**—Architecture The Aga Khan Award for Architecture (AKAA) is an architectural prize established by Aga Khan IV in 1977. It aims to identify and reward architectural concepts that successfully address the needs and aspirations of Islamic societies in the fields of contemporary design, social housing, community development and improvement.
19. **Pritzker Prize**—Architecture The Pritzker Architecture Prize is awarded annually "to honor a living architect."
20. **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize**—Science & Technology The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology (SSB) is a science award in India given annually by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for notable and outstanding research, applied or fundamental, in biology, chemistry, environmental science, engineering, mathematics, medicine and Physics.
21. **Kalinga Prize**—The Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science is an award given by UNESCO for exceptional skill in presenting scientific ideas to lay people.
22. **Grammy Award**—A Grammy Award, or Grammy, is an accolade by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences of the United States to recognize outstanding achievement in the music industry.
23. **Abel Prize**—Mathematics The Abel Prize is an international prize awarded annually by the Government of Norway to one or more outstanding mathematicians.
24. **International Gandhi Peace Prize**—This award is given to individuals and institutions for their contributions towards social, economic and political revolution through non-

violence and Gandhian philosophy. The award carries Rs. 10 million in cash.

25. Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award—This is for Excellence in Public Administration, Academics and Management.

26. Green Star Awards—The Green Star Awards recognize those who have made extraordinary efforts to respond to environmental disasters around the world.

27. Magsaysay Award—Public Service, Leadership, Journalism, Literature, creative arts and international understanding.

28. Pulitzer Prize—The Pulitzer Prize is an award for achievements in newspaper and online journalism, literature, and musical composition in the United States.

29. Sahitya Akademi Award—Books in Indian Languages and English.

30. Manthan Award—It is an initiative in India to recognize the best practices in Content and Creativity.

31. FiFi Awards—The FiFi Awards honor the fragrance industry's creative achievements.

32. Sangeet-Natak Akademi Award—Music, dance and Drama.

33. BAFTA Awards—Television, Films, Video Games and Animation.

BANKING AND FINANCIAL AWARENESS



RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI)

RBI is a central bank of India, an independent apex body of India which regulates all the financial institutions of India and provides important functions such as issuing of currency notes, inflation control, and monetary policy report.

- It was established on April 1, 1935 under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1935.
- It was nationalized in 1949

Structure of RBI:

The Central Board shall consist of following directors:

- A Governor and four Deputy Governors to be appointed by Central Government
- Four directors to be nominated by Central Government, one from each of the four Local Boards.
- Ten directors to be nominated by Central Government.
- Two Government Officials to be nominated by Central Government.

Functions of RBI:

- Bankers Bank
- Issuance of currency notes
- Banker to Government
- Custodian of cash reserve of commercial banks
- Custodian of country's foreign reserve
- Central clearance and account settlement
- Formation of monetary policy for economic growth and to check inflation
- Controller of credit

Some Important Facts about RBI

- Headquarter : Mumbai (initially it was in Kolkata)
- First Governor : Sir Osborne Smith
- First Indian Governor: C.D. Deshmukh

SCHEMES RELATED TO BANKING AND FINANCE

- 1) Kisan Vikas Patra

Kisan Vikas Patra is small saving instrument which was launched in 1988 but closed in 2011. It was re-launched in 2014 through post office and those banks that are authorized to operate PPF scheme. Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) is regulated by KVP Rules 2014.

Features of Kisan Vikas Patra

- Denomination used in KVP: Rs 1000, Rs5000, Rs 10000 and Rs 50000
- Maturity period: 124 months
- Types of certificates: Category Single, Joint A-Type and Joint B-Type
- Minimum deposit : Rs 1000
- Maximum deposit: No limit
- Rate of interest:6.9%
- Certificate can be encashed after two and half years
- Facility of nomination is available
- Certificate can be transfer from one person to another and from one post office to another
- No tax benefit is available for this scheme

2) Gold Monetization Scheme

It is a scheme that facilitates the depositors of gold to earn interest on their metal accounts. Once the gold deposit in the account, The depositor will start earning interest on it.

Tagline:Earn while you secure

Implemented by: All scheduled/commercial banks excluding RRBs

Deposit limit:Minimum-30 g - Maximum-No limit

Tenure: 1 to 3 years (short term)

5 to 7 years (medium term)

12-15 years (long term)

3) Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme

A sovereign Bond is a debt security issued by national government. It can be denominated in a foreign currency or government's own domestic company. It is tradable on stock market and available in physical and demat form.

Tagline: Invest Wisely, Earn Safely

Minimum limit: 2 gm of gold

Maximum limit: 4 kg for India, 20 kg for trusts

Issued by: RBI on behalf of Union Government

Tenure: Maximum 8 years but exit option is from 5th year

4) Indian Gold Coin Scheme

Under this scheme government sell gold from its own trading centre. Ashok Chakra engraved on one side and the face of

Mahatma Gandhi on the other side. It is available at MMTC (Metals and Mineral Corporation)

Denomination: 1g, 2g

5) Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana

Sukanya Samriddhi Yozna is a girl prosperity scheme. It was launched by PM Modi as a part of Beti Bachao Beti Parao Campaign.

Objective: To promote the welfare of girl child

Minimum Deposit: Rs 250 as initial deposit

Maximum Deposit: Rs150000

Maturity: 14 years from the opening of the account

Interest: 7.6%

Tenure of deposit: 21 years of date of the opening account

Account can be opened at Indian Post Office and Commercial Banks

6) Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yozna was launched by PM Modi in 2015.

It is an insurance scheme launched for the welfare of needy people.

Minimum age for entry in scheme: 18years

Maximum age for entry in scheme: 50 years

Maximum Maturity Age: 55 years

Sum assured: Rs 200,000

Annual Premium: Rs330

7) Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is a national mission for the financial inclusion to access financial services. Under this scheme a customer can opened with zero balance and if the customer want to get cheque book, the customer have to fulfill minimum balance criteria.

Features of Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana

- There is interest on deposit
- Accidental insurance cover of Rs 2 lac (after 28-8-2018)
- It also provide a life cover of Rs 30000
- Overdraft facility up to Rs10000 which is available to only one account per household preferably no minimum balance requirement

8) MUDRA(Micro Units Development and Refinance Company)

Micro Units Development and Refinance Company is a new institution set up by the government of India for the development of micro units and Refinance Company. It is a part of SIDBI (Small Industrial Development Bank of India).

It was launched in 2015. Under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana, MUDRA has created three products:

1. Shishu: covering up to Rs 50000
2. Kishore: covering up to Rs 50,000 to 500,000
3. Tarun: covering loans above Rs500,000 to 10,00,000

Features of MUDRA scheme

- Its main purpose is to provide funding to non corporate small business sector
- Under the scheme women, SC, ST and OBC are given preference while giving loans

9) **Indradhanush Scheme**

Government has launched a plan Indradhanush to boost functioning of Public Sector Banks. This plan basically focuses on the 7 areas that are as follow:

- Appointments- As per the scheme Bank Board Bureau had replaced the existing appointment board
- Distressing-With this focus will be on distressing the banks from Non Performing Assets.
- Capitalization- Under this scheme government planned to infuse Rs 70000 crore in banks for the next four years.

Allocation in four years is as follow:

1. 2015-16 Rs25000 Crore
2. 2016-17 Rs25000 Crore
3. 2017-18 Rs10000 Crore
4. 2018-19 Rs10000 Crore

- Banking Empowerment-under this government is looking to introduce Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOPs) for the Public Sector Banks.
- Accountability-The government also provide new framework for the boost efficiency.
- Governance- A process of governance reforms start from Gyan Sangam- a conclave of PSBs and financial institutions
- Banking Reforms
- Objective: To improve credit system and minimizing the political interference

10) **Indradanush 2.0**

Indradanush 2.0 scheme was launched in 2017. It is a comprehensive plan for the recapitalization of public sector lenders with a view that they remain solvent and fully comply with global adequacy norms. It will be finalized after completion of AQR (Asset Quality Review) by RBI.Asst

Quality Review: Every year RBI inspector check bank books as part of its annual financial inspection process (AFI). In 2015, a special inspection was conducted and named as Asset Quality Review (AQR).

11) **Reforms for MSME**

- **Emergency Credit Line to Businesses/MSMEs from Banks and NBFCs up to 20% of entire outstanding credit as on 29.2.2020**

- Borrowers with up to Rs. 25 crore outstanding and Rs. 100 crore turnover eligible
- Loans to have 4 year tenor with moratorium of 12 months on Principal repayment
- Interest to be capped
- 100% credit guarantee cover to Banks and NBFCs on principal and interest
- Scheme can be availed till 31st Oct 2020
- No guarantee fee, no fresh collateral to the tune of Rs 3 lakh crores for MSMEs. Collateral free loan to be provided to SMEs with 12 month moratorium.
- 45 lakh units to benefit.

- **Rs 20,000 crores Subordinate Debt for Stressed MSMEs**

- For stressed MSMEs, provision of Rs 20,000 crore subordinate debt for equity support announced. 2 lakh MSMEs likely to benefit.
- Functioning MSMEs which are NPA or are stressed will be eligible
- Govt. will provide a support of Rs. 4,000 Cr. to CGTMSE. CGTMSE will provide partial Credit Guarantee support to Banks
- Promoters of the MSME will be given debt by banks, which will then be infused by promoter as equity in the Unit.

- **Equity infusion** - For MSMEs who may be doing viable business but need handholding because of current situation, the govt announces Rs 50,000 crore equity infusion via 'fund of funds'. This will be operated through 'mother fund' and a few 'daughter funds'.

- **Revision of MSME definition as follows**

Existing and Revised Definition of MSMEs

Existing MSME Classification			
Criteria : Investment in Plant & Machinery or Equipment			
Classification	Micro	Small	Medium
Mfg. Enterprises	Investment < Rs. 25 lac	Investment < Rs. 5 cr.	Investment < Rs. 10 cr.
Services Enterprise	Investment < Rs. 10 lac	Investment < Rs. 2 cr.	Investment < Rs. 5 cr.

Revised MSME Classification			
Composite Criteria : Investment And Annual Turnover			
Classification	Micro	Small	Medium
Manufacturing & Services	Investment < Rs. 1 cr. and Turnover < Rs. 5 cr.	Investment < Rs. 10 cr. and Turnover < Rs. 50 cr.	Investment < Rs. 20 cr. and Turnover < Rs. 100 cr.

- e-market linkage for MSMEs to be promoted to act as a replacement for trade fairs and exhibitions.
- Fintech will be used to enhance transaction based lending using the data generated by the e-marketplace.
- Government procurement** - For govt procurement, global tenders will be disallowed for tenders up to Rs 200 crore. Within the next 45 days, all pending payments from government and CPSEs to MSMEs will be cleared.
- EPF support to businesses** -
 - Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP), payment of 12% of employer and 12% employee contributions was made into EPF accounts of eligible establishments. This was provided earlier for salary months of March, April and May 2020. This support will be extended by another 3 months to salary months of June, July and August 2020.
 - EPF contribution reduced for Business & Workers for 3 months.** Statutory PF contribution of both employer and employee will be reduced to 10% each from existing 12% each for CPSEs and State PSUs will however continue to contribute 12% as employer contribution. This scheme will be applicable for workers who are not eligible for 24% EPF support under PM Garib Kalyan Package and its extension. All establishments covered by EPFO for next 3 months.

12) Other measures

- For NBFCs/MFIs, govt to launch Rs 30,000 crore special liquidity scheme. Rs 45,000 cr Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme 2.0 for NBFC.
- To support Discoms, a one time provision by PFC and REC to infuse Rs 90,000 crore liquidity for discoms against receivables.
- All contractors engaged by the govt will be given an extension of up to 6 months. Government agencies to

partially release bank guarantees, to the extent contracts are partially completed, to ease cash flows.

- To help distress developers, the urban development ministry will issue advisory to states and UT, where in their regulatory authorities be asked to extend registration and completion date for all registered projects expiring on or after March 25, suo moto by 6 months.
- TDS and TCS rates cut 25% for 2020-21. The rates of Tax Deduction at Source (TDS) for non-salaried specified payments made to residents and rates of Tax Collection at Source (TCS) for the specified receipts shall be reduced by 25% of the existing rates. Payment for contract, professional fees, interest, rent, dividend, commission, brokerage, etc. shall be eligible for this reduced rate of TDS. This reduction shall be applicable for the remaining part of the FY 2020-21 i.e. from tomorrow to 31st March, 2021.
- All pending refunds to charitable trusts and noncorporate businesses & professions including proprietorship, partnership, LLP and Co-operatives shall be issued immediately.
- Due date of all income-tax return for FY 2019-20 will be extended from 31st July, 2020 & 31st October, 2020 to 30th November, 2020 and Tax audit from 30th September, 2020 to 31st October, 2020.
- Date of assessments getting barred on 30th September, 2020 extended to 31st December, 2020 and those getting barred on 31st March, 2021 will be extended to 30th September, 2021.
- Short term and long-term measures for supporting the poor, including migrants, farmers, etc
- Following short term and long-term measures for supporting the poor, including migrants, farmers, tiny businesses and street vendors have been announced.
- Free food grains supply to migrants for 2 months**
- For the migrant labour, additional food grain to all the States/UTs at the rate of 5 kg per migrant labourer and 1 kg Chana per family per month for two months i.e. May and June, 2020 free of cost shall be allocated. Migrant labourers not covered under National Food Security Act or without a ration card in the State/UT in which they are stranded at present will be eligible. States/UTs shall be advised to put a mechanism for targeted distribution as

envisaged in the scheme. 8 Lakh MT of food-grain and 50,000 MT of Chana shall be allocated. The entire outlay of Rs. 3500 crore will be borne by Government of India.

- **Technology system to be used enabling Migrants to access PDS (Ration) from any Fair Price Shops in India by March, 2021-One Nation one Ration Card**
- Pilot scheme for portability of ration cards will be extended to 23 states. By that, 67 crore beneficiaries covering 83% of PDS population will be covered by National portability of Ration cards by August, 2020. 100% National portability will be achieved by March, 2021. This is part of PM's Technology Driven System Reforms This scheme will enable a migrant worker and their family members to access PDS benefits from any Fair Price Shop in the country. This will ensure that the people in transit, especially migrant workers can also get the benefit of PDS benefit across the country.
- **Scheme for Affordable Rental Housing Complexes for Migrant Workers and Urban Poor to be launched**
- Central Government will launch a scheme for migrant workers and urban poor to provide ease of living at affordable rent. Affordable Rental Housing Complexes

- Government of India will provide Interest subvention of 2% for prompt payees for a period of 12 months to MUDRA Shishu loanees, who have loans below Rs 50,000. The current portfolio of MUDRA Shishu loans is around Rs 1.62 Lakh crore. This will provide relief of about Rs 1,500 crore to Shishu MUDRA loanee.
- **Rs 5,000 crore Credit facility for Street Vendors**
- A special scheme will be launched within a month to facilitate easy access to credit to Street vendors, who are amongst the most adversely impacted by the present situation for enabling them to restart their businesses. Under this scheme, bank credit facility for initial working capital up to Rs. 10,000 for each enterprise will be extended. This scheme will cover urban as well as rural vendors doing business in the adjoining urban areas. Use of digital payments and timely repayments will be incentivized through monetary rewards. It is expected that 50 lakh street vendors will be benefitted under this scheme and credit of Rs. 5,000 crore would flow to them.
- **Rs 70,000 crore boost to housing sector and middle income group through extension of Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme for MIG under PMAY (Urban)**

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will provide social security and quality life to migrant labour, urban poor, and students etc. This will be done through converting government funded houses in the cities into Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) under PPP mode through concessionaire; manufacturing units, industries, institutions, associations to develop Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) on their private land and operate; and Incentivizing State Govt agencies/Central Government Organizations on similar lines to develop Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) and operate. The exact details of the scheme will be released by the Ministry/Department.

- **2% Interest Subvention for 12 months for Shishu MUDRA loanees- Relief of Rs. 1,500 crore**

- The Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme for Middle Income Group (annual Income between Rs 6 and 18 lakhs) will be extended up to March 2021. This will benefit 2.5 lakhs middle income families during 2020-21 and will lead to investment of over Rs 70,000 crore in housing sector. This will create significant number of jobs by giving boost to Housing sector and will stimulate demand for steel, cement, transport and other construction materials. **<p>Rs 6,000 crore for Creating employment using CAMPA funds**
- Approximately Rs 6,000 crore of funds under Compensatory Afforestation Management & Planning Authority (CAMPA) will be used for Afforestation and Plantation works, including in urban areas, Artificial regeneration, assisted natural regeneration, Forest

management, soil & moisture conservation works, Forest protection, forest and wildlife related infrastructure development, wildlife protection and management etc. Government of India will grant immediate approval to these plans amounting to Rs 6000 crore. This will create job opportunities in urban, semi-urban and rural areas and also for Tribals (Adivashis).

- **Rs 30,000 crore Additional Emergency Working Capital for farmers through NABARD**
- NABARD will extend additional re-finance support of Rs 30,000 crore for meeting crop loan requirement of Rural Cooperative Banks and RRBs. This refinance will be front-loaded and available on tap. This is over and above Rs

90,000 crore that will be provided by NABARD to this sector in the normal course. This will benefit around 3 crore farmers, mostly small and marginal and it will meet their post-harvest Rabi and current Kharif requirements.

- **Rs 2 lakh crore credit boost to 2.5 crore farmers under Kisan Credit Card Scheme**
- A special drive to provide concessional credit to PM-KISAN beneficiaries through Kisan Credit Cards. Fisherman and Animal Husbandry Farmers will also be included in this drive. This will inject additional liquidity of Rs 2 lakh crore in the farm sector. 2.5 crore farmers will be covered.

MASALA BOND, GREEN BOND & JUNK BOND

A bond is a debt investment in which an investor loans money to an entity which borrows a fund for a defined period of time at a variable or fixed rate interest.

It is similar to debentures but the key difference is that it is issued by a government institute.

Following are the different types of the bonds

1)Corporate Bonds- A corporate bond is a debt security which is issued by a company and sold to the investors.

- Company's assets are may be used as collateral in some cases.
- The backing for the bond is usually depending upon the payment ability of the company.
- The corporate bonds are considered riskier than governmental bonds.

2)Convertible Bonds- A convertible bond is a debt security that can be converted into predetermined amount of underlying company's equity. Convertible bonds are issue to avoid the negative impression of company's actions.

3)Callable Bonds-Callable Bonds are also known as "redeemable bonds" as these bonds can be redeemed prior to the period of maturity.

4)Term Bonds-A term bonds are the bond which mature and come due on single date. A term bond possesses all the features of callable bonds.

5)Government Bonds-Government Bonds are those bonds which are issued by the government to support government spending. These bonds are more secure than corporate bonds.

Following are Some Other Important Bonds

1)Masala Bond

Masala Bonds are the rupee denominated borrowings by Indian entities in overseas market. The word "Masala" is given by the IFC (International Finance Corporation) to represent Indian culture and cuisine. First Masala Bond was issued by the IFC (International Finance Corporation) when it raised Rs 1000 crore bond to fund infrastructure projects in India.

Issuers of Masala Bonds

- RBI has issued guidelines allowing following entities to issue rupee denominated bond overseas.
- Indian Companies (Blue Chip Companies)
- NBFCs (Non Banking Finance Companies)
- Infrastructure Investment Trust
- Real Investment Trust

Benefits to Investor

- By investing in Masala Bonds, the investor gets tax deduction on interest income.
- Capital gains from rupee appreciation are exempted from tax.

Benefits to Indian Companies

- If the issuer, issues bonds in rupees, then he gets rid of risk of currency fluctuation.
- The bonds bring new and diversified set of investors for Indian Companies.

Regulator of Masala Bonds

As the Masala bonds are Indian Rupee denominated bonds, it is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

2) Green Bonds

A Green Bond is a tax-exempt bond which is issued for the investment in the green projects or for the development of Brownfield sites.

Brownfield Sites are the sites which are underutilized, have abandoned buildings or underdeveloped.

Issuers of Green Bonds: Green Bonds are issued by following multilateral agencies:

- World Bank
- Corporation
- Government agencies
- Municipalities

Purpose

Green Bonds are issued to encourage sustainability and development of Brownfield sites. Specifically it finance projects aimed at energy efficiency, pollution prevention, sustainable water management etc.

Regulator of Green Bonds

In India Green Bonds are regulated by SEBI (Securities Exchange Board of India).

3) Junk Bonds

Junk Bonds refer to high yield or non-investment grade bonds. These are named as junk bonds as it involves high rate of risk in relation to investment bonds. It is fixed income instrument that carry a credit rating lower by Moody's investor services.

Investor demands high yield bonds as it yields high rate of return which in turn a compensation for their investment.

Regulator of Junk Bonds

In India Junk Bonds are regulated by SEBI (Securities Exchange Board of India).

LIST OF THREE BIG CREDIT RATING AGENCIES

Credit Rating Agencies-Credit Rating Agencies provides objective analysis and independent assessment of companies and countries that issue securities. This assessment helps the investors and institutions whether these securities meet their obligations. There are top 3 three credit rating agencies of the world named as Moody's, FITCH and Standard & Poor's

Fitch Inc.

- Fitch Inc. is the smallest of three Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organisation designated by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.
- Fitch was founded by John Knowles in Newyork City as Fitch Publishing Company
- It published financial statistics for use in the investment industry
- In 1924, Fitch introduced AAA though D rating system throughout the industry
- Later it merged with London based IBCA in 1997
- Headquarter: It is headquartered in Newyork (U.S) and London(U.K)
- President & CEO: Paul Taylor

- Moody's is founded by John Moody in 1909 to produce manual published basic statistic and general information about stocks and bonds.
- It provides international financial research on bonds issued by commercial and government entities
- It ranks the creditworthiness of borrowers using a standardized rating scale
- According to Moody's rating system, rates from Aaa to C are assigned. Aaa for highest quality and C s for lowest quality.
- Headquarter: Newyork (U.S)
- Head: Raymond W MC Daniel

Standard & Poor's

- Standard & Poor's is the world's leading Index provider and the foremost source of independent credit ratings. It provides financial market intelligence to decision makers.
- It is founded by Henry Varnum Poor in 1860
- It includes global ratings, global market intelligence, Dow Jones and global platts
- Headquarter: Newyork (U.S)
- CEO: Douglas I. Peterson



LIST OF IMPORTANT COMMITTEES

List of Important Committees		
S.no	Name of committees	Focus Area
1	Ajay Shankar Committee	To review functioning of PPP cell
2	H R Khan Committee	To evaluate unclaimed PPP and post office saving
3	Bimal Jalan	To head the Expenditure Management Commission
4	Justice M B Shah	On black money
5	Deepak Mohanty Committee	Data and information management in the RBI
6	Arvind Mayaram Committee	To clear the definition to the FDI and FII
7	Nachiket Mor Committee	To permit NBFCs to work as business correspondence
8	P J Nayak Committee	Governance of Boards of Bank in India
9	K.V.Kamath Panel	To examine the financial architecture for Micro, small and medium enterprises
10	Tandon Committee	Follow up for bank credit
11	M L Dhantwala Committee	Regional Rural Banks
12	SS Nadkarni Committee	Trading in public sector banks
13	Bhide Committee	Coordination between commercial banks and SFC's
14	AK Bhuchar Committee	Coordination between term lending institutions and commercial banks
15	R. Jilani	Inspection System in Banks
16	James Raj Committee	Functioning of public sector banks
17	Vipin Malik Committee	Consolidated Accounting by banks
18	A Ghosh Committee	Frauds & Malpractices in India
19	A K Khandelwal	HR issues of public sector banks

20	R.H. Khan Committee	Harmonization of role of financial institution in banks
21	Rakesh Mohan	Small Savings
22	N. K Singh Committee	To review the fiscal responsibility and budget management act
23	Amitabh Chaudhry	Analysis the existing framework of IRDA-linked and non-linked insurance product regulations
24	Inter- departmental Tax Force	To monitor and review the functioning of shell companies to prevent their misuse for money laundering and tax evasion
25	Dinesh Sharma Committee	To propose new regulation related to digital currencies or virtual currencies
26	Sudharshan Sen Committee	To study regulatory issues relating to financial technology and digital banking in India
27	Rattan P Watal Committee	To boost digital payment system in India

MONETARY POLICY

Monetary Policy is a process by which central bank of the country manage the supply of money which in turn effects on interest rates, inflation and growth of economy.

- In India RBI act as Central Monetary Authority.
- It formulates monetary policy at Bi-monthly basis.

TYPES OF MONETARY POLICY

- **EXPANSIONARY POLICY**- It emphasizes on increase the money supplies in economy and expands credit creation.
- **CONTRACTIONARY POLICY**- It emphasizes on decreasing or control the supply of money and credit.

OBJECTIVES

- **PRICE STABILITY**- It refers to increase in general level of prices in economy. It implies avoiding both prolonged inflation and deflation.
- **Economic Growth**- It is increase in capacity of an economy to produce goods and services produced by country over a period of time.

MEASURES AND TOOLS OF MONETARY POLICY

RBI use following two measures to regulate the monetary policy i.e. Quantitative and Qualitative Measures

QUANTITATIVE MEASURES

- **BANK RATE**-It is a rate of interest which a central bank charges on loans and advances to commercial banks without any collateral. It is a long term rate of interest. It implies penalty over banks not complying with RBI rules such as not maintaining CRR and SLR.

- **OPEN MARKET OPERATIONS**-It refers to buying and selling of government securities in open market in order to expand or contract the amount of money in banking system.

If securities purchased by RBI-By doing so supply of money will increase in market due to which demand will increase and ultimately there will be rise in prices.

If securities sold by RBI-By doing so supply of money will decrease in market due to which demand will decrease and ultimately prices will fall.

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)-It refers to certain percentage of total deposits the commercial banks are required to maintain in form of cash reserve with reserve bank in form of cash only.

If rate of CRR is increased- By increasing CRR the bank needs to deposit more money with RBI. As a result banks left with less money so less money with people which leads to lower demand for goods and services and lower prices.

If rate of CRR is decreased- By decreasing CRR the bank can deposit less money with RBI. As a result bank left with more money so more money with people which lead to higher demand for goods and services and high prices.

Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)- It refers to proportion of deposits the commercial bank is required to maintain with them in form of liquid assets such as gold or RBI approved securities.

If rate of SLR is increased- By doing so the bank needs to maintain more liquid assets with them. As a result bank left with less money so less money with people which lead to lower demand for goods and services and low prices.

If rate of SLR is decreased- By doing so the bank maintain less liquid asset with them. As a result bank left with more money so more money with people which lead to higher demand for goods and services and high prices.

Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)- It allows banks to borrow money through repurchase agreements.LAF is used to aid banks in adjusting the day to day mismatches in liquidity.

- Bank cannot sell government securities that are under SLR quota.

- Schedule Bank can borrow any amount of money.
- Minimum bidding amount is 5cr.
- All schedule bank as of RBI are eligible to bid.

LAF (liquidity adjustment facility) can be classified into two:

1) **Repo rate**(Repurchase Obligation)- It is the rate at which RBI lend money to commercial banks against securities in case commercial bank fall short of funds. It is a short term lending rate which fixed at predetermined rate and time.

If Repo rate is increased- If Repo rate will rise, the interest rate of banks will increased which becomes costlier for people then demand of goods and services will reduce and ultimately prices will fall.

If Repo rate is decreased- If Repo rate will fall, the interest rate of banks will decreased which becomes cheaper for people then demand of goods and services will increase and ultimately prices will rise.

2). **Reverse repo rate-** It is the reverse of Repo rate i.e. rate RBI pays to bank to park excess funds to RBI

Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)- By these mechanism commercial banks can get loans from RBI for their emergency needs.

- Minimum bidding amount in MSF is 1cr.
- Only scheduled commercial banks can bid.
- Banks can sell government security from SLR quota to RBI.

- Bank can borrow up to 2% of NDTL(net demand and time liability)

QUALITATIVE MEASURES

These measures can affect money supply in a specific sector of economy

- 1). **MARGIN REQUIREMENT-** This refers to difference between the securities offered and amount borrowed by bank.
- 2). **RATIONING OF CREDIT-** with this tool RBI can controls the credit granted and allocated by commercial banks.
- 3). **MORAL SUASION-** By this Central Bank may prohibit or dissuade commercial banks to deal in speculative business.
- 4). **DIRECT ACTION-** The Central Bank may take direct action against commercial banks that violate the rules, orders or advice of central bank.

RBI RATES (as per sixth bi-monthly policy statement for the year on September 2021)

Bank Rate	4.25
Cash Reserve Ratio(CRR)	4%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio(SLR)	18%
Repo Rate (RR)	4%
Reverse Repo Rate (RRR)	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)	4.25%

BANK ACCOUNTS

The account which is maintained by a financial institution for the customer is known as bank account. In India there are only five kinds of accounts such as Saving Account, Current Account, Recurring Deposit Account, Fixed Deposit Account and BSBDA Account

1) **Saving Account-**Saving Accounts are the individual accounts for the personal purpose of saving. Most of the individuals save their investments with this account.

- The saving account is opened on the name of individuals Resident MUF, Foreignours in India.
- On saving account individual earn some rate of interest; this rate of interest varies from bank to bank.
- When a person opens a saving account he is provided with a passbook, ATM, and cheque book.
- In saving account, there is no restriction on the number and amount of deposit but there is certain restriction on the withdrawal.
- Minimum balance has to be maintained by the customer as mentioned by the bank.

2) **Current Account-**Current Accounts are the accounts opened for the business transaction, on the name of firm or company. These are never used for the purpose of saving and investment.

- There is no limit on the number of transactions and amount in a day such as deposit and withdrawal.
- There is no interest paid on the amount held in the amount but there are some service charges on such accounts.
- These accounts have not any fixed maturity as these accounts are on regular basis.
- No passbook is issued for the current account holders.
- Minimum amount needed to open a current account varies from bank to bank.
- Many facilities are provided to current account holder such as overdraft facility, statement of account.

3) **Recurring Deposit Account-**This account is opened by those who want to save small amount of money for a certain period of time and earn higher rate of interest.

- Total amount is repaid along with interest after a fixed period of time.
- The maximum period of deposit is ten years and minimum period of deposit is six months.

- No withdrawals are allowed from Recurring Deposit Account.
 - Bank may allow close of account before the maturity period.
 - Interest rates may vary for different plans based on the amount deposit, period of time and also on banks.
 - Accounts can be opened in single or joint account.
- 4) **Fixed Deposit Account**-In this account a fixed amount of money is paid for a specific period of time on which bank pays high rate of interest. It is also known as Term Deposit.
- In this account deposit and withdrawal can be done only once.
- Bank pays the rate of interest on the amount according to the period of time.
 - If withdrawal is done before the maturity period, bank can impose penalty on it.
- 5) **BSBDA Account**-The Basic Saving Deposit Account is an account in which customer can open an account with zero balance. This bank is also known as No Frill Account.
- No penalty is imposed on non-operating of these accounts.

BANKING ABBREVIATIONS

- **ADB**- Asian Development Bank
- **ADR**- American Depositary Receipt
- **AIFI**- All India Financial Institutions
- **AIB**- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- **AQR**- Asset Quality Review
- **ATM**- Automatic Teller Machine
- **BIRD**- Bankers Institute of Rural Development
- **BIS**- Bank for International Settlement
- **BPLR**- Benchmark Prime Lending Rate
- **BSBDA**- Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account
- **BSE**- Bombay Stock Exchange
- **CAD**- Capital Account Deficit
- **CAMELS**- Capital Adequacy Assets Management Earning Liquidity Sensitivity
- **CAR**- Capital Adequacy Ratio
- **CARE**- Credit Analysis and Research Ltd.
- **CASA**- Current Account and Saving Account
- **CBS**- Core Banking Solution
- **CCEA**- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
- **CDR**- Corporate Debt Restructuring
- **CIBIL**- Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd.
- **CRISIL**-Credit Rating and Information Services of India
- **ECS**- Electronic Clearing Service
- **EFT**- Electronic Fund Transfer
- **FEMA**- Foreign Exchange Management Act
- **FERA**- Foreign Exchange Regulatory Act
- **FIIs**- Foreign Institutional Investors
- **HDFC**- Housing Development Finance Corporation
- **IBA**- Indian Bank Association
- **IBRD**- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- **ICICI**- Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India
- **ICRA**- Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency
- **ICSID**- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
- **IDA**- International Development Association
- **IFCI**- Industrial Finance Corporation of India
- **IFSC**- Indian Financial System Code
- **IMF**- International Monetary Fund

- **IMPS-** Immediate Payment Service
- **INVITS-** Infrastructure Investment Trusts
- **IPO-** Initial Public Offerings
- **IRDAI-** Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India
- **KYC-** Know Your Customer
- **LAF-** Liquidity Adjustment Facility
- **LIBOR-** London Interbank Offered Rate
- **MIBID-** Mumbai Interbank Bid Rate
- **MIBOR-** Mumbai Interbank Offered Rate
- **MICR-** Magnetic Ink Character Recognition
- **MIGA-** Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- **MUDRA-** Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency
- **NABARD-** National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- **NASDAQ-** National Association for Securities Dealers Automated Quotations
- **NAV-** Net Asset Value
- **NBFCs-** Non Banking Finance Companies
- **NDB-** New Development Bank
- **NDTL-** Net Demand and Time Liabilities
- **NECS-** National Electronic Clearing Service
- **NEFT-** National Electronic Fund Transfer
- **NHB-** National Housing Bank
- **NPA-** Non Performing Assets
- **NPCI-** National Payments Corporation of India
- **NSE-** National Stock Exchange
- **PIN-** Personal Identification Number
- **POS-** Point of Sale
- **PSB-** Public Sector Banks
- **REITS-** Real Estate Investment Trust
- **RTGS-** Real Time Gross Settlement
- **SEBI-** Securities Exchange Board of India
- **SENSEX-** Stock Exchange Sensitive Index
- **SWIFT-** Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication
- **SWOT-** Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats
- **UPI-** Unified Payment Interface

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

It is a claim against a person or an institution for payment of a sum of money or periodic payment in the form of interest or dividend at a specified future date. Financial Instruments can be classified in two types such as Capital Market Instruments and Money Market Instruments

A) CAPITAL MARKET INSTRUMENTS

Capital Market Instruments consist of long term instruments for the period of more than one year. It includes:

- 1) **Equity Shares-** Equity shares represent the owner's capital in the company. The holders are the real owners of the company.
 - They have a control over the working of the company.
 - Equity shareholders are paid dividend.
 - They provide permanent capital to the company and cannot redeem during life time of the company.
- 2) **Preference Shares** – Preference Shares are shares of company's stock with dividends that are paid out to shareholders before common stock dividends are issued. These shares have their certain preferences as compared to other types of share. These shares are given two preferences such as:

- Whenever the company has distributable profits, the dividend is first paid on preference shares.
- Repayment of the capital at the time of liquidation.
- 3) **Debentures-**A debenture is an acknowledgement of a debt. It is a document under company's seal which provide for the payment of principal sum and interest thereon.
 - A debenture holder is a creditor of a company and interest is paid to him.
 - Debentures are to be repaid after a definite period of time.
- 4) **Derivative** – A derivative is a security with a price that is dependent upon or derived from one or more underlying assets. Derivative is itself a contract between two parties based upon the asset or assets.
 - The underlying assets include stocks, bonds, commodities, currencies.
 - It can be traded over the counter or an exchange.

Derivative can be classified as follow:

- **Futures Contract-** Futures Contract is an agreement between two parties for the sale of assets at an agreed upon prices.

- Forward Contract- Forward Contract is similar to futures contract but the only difference is this that it is not traded on exchange but only traded on over the counter.
 - Swaps- It is a contract between two parties agreeing to trade long terms.
 - Options- It is also similar to futures contract but the key difference is that with an option buyer and seller is not obliged to make transaction if he or she decides not to.
- 5) **Bonds-** A bond is a debt investment in which an investor loans money to an entity which borrows a fund for a defined period of time at a variable or fixed rate interest. It is similar to debentures but the key difference is that it is issued by a government institute.
- B) MONEY MARKET INSTRUMENTS**
 Money Market Instruments consist of short term instruments for a period of up to one year. It includes:
- 1) **Call Money** - The Call Money Market deals in short term finance repayable on demand.
 - Funds are lent and borrowed without collateral.
 - Maturity period of call loans varies from one day to fortnight.
 - 2) **Treasury Bills** - It is a short term debt instrument issued by government of India and is presently issued in three tenures i.e. 91 days, 182days and 364 days.
 - Treasury bills are zero coupon securities and pay no interest.
 - They are issued at discount and redeemed at face value at maturity.
 - 3) **Certificate of Deposit** - Certificate Deposit are used by banks and issued to the depositors for a specified period less than one year- they are tradable and negotiable in the market.
 - 4) **Commercial Papers** - It is used by corporate houses of India which should be a listed company. These companies need to obtain a specified credit rating from an agency approved by the RBI such as CRISIL
 - 5) **Commercial Bills**
 - Commercial Bills are issued by the All India Financial Institutions (AIFI), Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), Scheduled Commercial Banks, Merchant Banks, Co-operative Banks and Mutual Funds.
 - Maturity of these bills is 30 days, 60 days and 90 days.
- Banking and Financial terms:**
1. **American Deposit Receipt (ADR)** – It is a negotiable certificate issued by a U.S. bank representing a specified number of shares in a foreign stock traded on U.S exchange.ADRs are denominated in U.S. dollars.
 2. **Anti Dated Cheque** - If date mentioned on the cheque is earlier than the date it is presented to bank; it is called anti dated cheque. Anti Dated Cheque is valid up to 3 months. Earlier it was 6 months but now it reduced to 3 months.
 3. **Arbitrage** - Arbitrage is a process in which simultaneous purchase and sale of securities is done in order to earn profits with the difference in prices.
 4. **Balance of Trade** - Balance of Trade is a difference between country's export and import for a given time period. It is the largest component of balance of payments.
 5. **Balance of Payments** - A statement that summarizes an economy's transactions with the rest of world for a specified period of time is known as balance of payments.
 6. **Bancassurance** - It is the term used to describe the partnership or relationship between a bank and an insurance company whereby the insurance company uses the bank sales channel in order to sell insurance products.
 7. **Bank Account** - The account which is maintained by a financial institution for the customer is known as bank account.
 8. **Bank Drafts** - It is a negotiable instrument governed by the Negotiable Instrument Act 1881. It is a facility offered by the bank to its account holders only. A bank draft is a payment made by bank on the behalf of bank
 9. **Bank Rate** -It is a rate of interest which a central bank charges on loans and advances to commercial banks without any collateral. It is a long term rate of interest. It implies penalty over banks not complying with RBI rules such as not maintaining CRR and SLR.
 10. **Banking Ombudsman** -It is an authority to solve any complaints of the customer against the banks. If the customer is not satisfied with the complaint they can forward their complaint to governor of RBI.
 11. **Basel Norms** - Basel Norms are the set of recommendations for regulating banking industry in world. Basel Committee on Banking Supervision issued Basel Accords
 12. **Bearer Cheque** - A cheque which is payable to any person who present it for payment at the bank counter. Such cheques are risky as in case it lost, the finder may collect the payment from the bank.
 13. **Bonds** - A bond is a debt investment in which an investor loans money to an entity which borrows a fund for a defined period of time at a variable or fixed rate interest.It is similar to debentures but the key difference is that it is issued by a government institute
 14. **Broker**- Broker is a registered member of a Stock Exchange who buys or sells securities on behalf of his client and

- charges a commission such brokers are also known as commission brokers.
15. **Bull Market** - Bull Market is a market situation where a buyer buys shares in a hope that prices will increase in near future and he will resale in order to earn profits.
 16. **Call Money** - The Call Money Market deals in short term finance repayable on demand. In this funds are lent and borrowed without collateral and maturity period of call loans varies from one day to fortnight.
 17. **Call Option** - It is an agreement that gives the right to investor to buy bonds or shares at a specified price and within a specified period.
 18. **Capital Adequacy** - It refers to the amount of capital the financial institution has to hold as required by its financial regulator. This ensures the protection of depositors and investors and financial soundness of the bank.
 19. **Capital Market** -The segment of financial market of an economy from long term capital is raised via instruments such as securities, shares, bonds, debentures, mutual funds is known as securities market or capital market.
 20. **Capital Reserves**-Capital Reserves are undistributed reserves which is the part of company's profit which is not paid out as dividends to the shareholders.
 21. **Cash Reserve Ratio** -It refers to certain percentage of total deposits the commercial banks are required to maintain in form of cash reserve with reserve bank in form of cash only.
 22. **Cheque** - A cheque is a negotiable instrument that is used for payments and settlements in India. It is an agreement between two organizations to make payments
 23. **Cheque Truncation** -Cheque Truncation is a system in which physical cheque is converted into electronic form in order to reduce physical movement of cheques.
 24. **Certificate of Deposit** -Certificate Deposit are used by banks and issued to the depositors for a specified period less than one year.They are tradable and negotiable in the market
 25. **Commercial Paper**- It is used by corporate houses of India which should be a listed company. These companies need to obtain a specified credit rating from an agency approved by the RBI such as CRISIL
 26. **Commercial Bills** -Commercial Bills are issued by the All India Financial Institutions (AIFI), Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), Scheduled Commercial Banks, Merchant Banks, Co-operative Banks and Mutual Funds. Maturity of these bills is 30 days, 60 days and 90 days.
 27. **Commercial Banks**- It is a type of institution that provides services such as accepting deposits, making business loans and offering basic investment product.
 28. **Core Banking Solutions**-Core Banking Solution is a system where banks and their branches interconnected for the fast communication.
 29. **Credit Rating**- Credit rating is the process in which debtor is given a rate on the basis of paying back of debt in time. This service is basically provided to the large scale borrowers such as companies.
 30. **Current Account**- Current Accounts are the accounts opened for the business transaction, on the name of firm or company. These are never used for the purpose of saving and investment.
 31. **Debentures**- A debenture is an acknowledgement of a debt. It is a document under company's seal which provide for the payment of principal sum and interest thereon.
 32. **Demat Account** - Dematerialized Account is an account where shares and other securities are held in electronic form rather than physical form.
 33. **Derivative** – A derivative is a security with a price that is dependent upon or derived from one or more underlying assets. Derivative is itself a contract between two parties based upon the asset or assets.
 34. **Dishonor of Cheque**- No payment of cheque by the paying banker with a return memo giving reasons for the nonpayment.
 35. **Double Financial Repression**- It is the phenomenon when the bank faces financial repression on the both sides of the balance sheet. Repression on the asset side is a byproduct of SLR and on the liability side, continuing increase in inflation.
 36. **Drawer**- the person who holds an account in a certain bank and draws a cheque to make payment.
 37. **Drawee**- the person to whom the cheque has been drawn.
 38. **Escheat**- When government acquires the property of a person having no nominee is termed as Escheat.
 39. **Escrow Account** - Escrow Account is held by the third party on the behalf of the other two parties that are in the process of completing transaction.
 40. **Equity Shares**- Equity shares represent the owner's capital in the company. The holders are the real owners of the company.
 41. **Factoring**- A factor is a financial institution which offers services relating to management and financing of debts arising out of credit sales.
 42. **Foreign Banks** –A foreign branch bank is type of that is obliged to follow the regulations of both the home and host countries.

43. **Fixed Deposit Account-** In this account a fixed amount of money is paid for a specific period of time on which bank pays high rate of interest. It is also known as Term Deposit.
44. **Green Bonds-** Green Bonds are the bonds which are exempted from the tax and issued by qualified organizations for the development of Brownfield sites. Brownfield sites are the areas which are underutilized or underdeveloped.
45. **Global Depository Receipt-** Global Depository Receipt is a certificate issued by more than one country for shares in a foreign country. The shares are held by the international branch of foreign bank.
46. **Hedge-** Hedge is an investment to reduce the risk of adverse price movement in an asset.
47. **Indigenous Bankers-** Indigenous Bankers are the individuals and partnership firms performing banking functions. They are local bankers. They can be distinguished as professional money lenders whose primary business is not banking but money lending.
48. **Interest Rate Swaps-** It is the transfer of contractually agreed between two counterparties of their respective interest rate obligation.
49. **Investment Institutions-** It includes the institutions which mobilize savings of public at large through various schemes and invest these into corporate and government securities.
50. **Internet Banking-** Internet banking is also known as online banking, Virtual Banking and web banking. Internet Banking allows its user to execute transactions with the help of internet.
51. **Junk Bonds-** Junk Bonds are kind of bonds which gives high yield at the very high rate of risk. These kinds of bonds are rated lower by credit rating agencies.
52. **Leverage-** it is a technique in which debt is used to finance firm's assets in order to increase profitability of the company. The firm which has more debts than equity is highly leveraged firm and vice versa.
53. **LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate) -** It is a benchmark rate which some of the international banks charge for the short term loans.
54. **Liquidity Adjustment Facility-** It allows banks to borrow money through repurchase agreements. LAF is used to aid banks in adjusting the day to day mismatches in liquidity.
55. **Masala Bonds-** Masala Bonds are rupee denominated bonds i.e. bonds can be borrowed in Indian currency not in any foreign currency. These bonds can be issued by the Indian entities from overseas market.
56. **Merchant Banking-** In this service bank provides consultancy services to its clients for financial, marketing, managerial and legal matters.
57. **MIBOR (Mumbai Interbank Offered Rate)-** It is the rate at which bank can borrow funds from the other banks in Indian Interbank market. It is calculated everyday by the National Stock exchange
58. **Monetary Policy-** Monetary Policy is a process by which central bank of the country manage the supply of money which in turn effects on interest rates, inflation and growth of economy.
59. **Money Lenders-** A money lender is a person or a group who typically offers personal loans at a high rate of interest.
60. **Money Market-** The short term money market is known as Money Market.
61. **Mobile Banking-** Mobile Banking is a system that allows customers to perform a number of financial transactions through a mobile device
62. **Multinational Banking-** Multinational banks are those banks that physically operated in more than one country. It is also known as international bank. Narrow Banking involves mobilizing the larger part of the deposits in risk free assets such as government securities. In India narrow banking is implemented partially.
63. **NPA (Non Performing Assets)-** Non Performing Assets refers to the classification of loans in the books of financial institutions that are in arrears. The debt is considered non-performing when it is not paid for the period of 90 days.
64. **Open Market Operations -** It refers to buying and selling of government securities in open market in order to expand or contract the amount of money in banking system.
65. **Open/ Uncrossed Cheque-** The cheque which is not crossed is known as Open Cheque or Uncrossed Cheque. The payment of such cheques can be obtained on the counter of the bank.
66. **Overdraft -** With this facility a customer can withdraws more money from the bank account that has been deposited.
67. **Preference Shares -** Preference Shares are shares of company's stock with dividends that are paid out to shareholders before common stock dividends are issued
68. **Post Dated Cheque-** If the cheque bears the any future date in the cheque that is known as Post Dated Cheque. Post dated cheque can be presented only on the future date which is written on the cheque.
69. **POS (Point of Sale)-** The place where sales are made. On a macro level, a point of sale may be a mall, market or city. On a micro level, retailers consider a point of sale to be area

- surrounding the counter where customers pay which is also known as “point of Purchase”
70. **Primary Market**-The market in which the instruments of security market are traded directly between the capital raiser and instrument purchaser is known as primary market.
71. **Put Option**- It is an agreement where investor has given a right to sell shares and bonds at a specified price and within a specified period.
72. **Regional Rural Banks**- Regional Rural Banks are local level banking organizations operating in different states of India. RRBs were established in 1975 on the recommendations of Narsimham Committee. It is followed by Regional Rural Banks Act 1976. RRBs are regulated by NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) act 1981.
73. **Retail Banking**- Retail Banking refers to banking in which banking institutions execute transactions directly with consumers rather than corporate or other banks.
74. **Recurring Deposit Account**- This account is opened by those who want to save small amount of money for a certain period of time and earn higher rate of interest.
75. **Scheduled banks**- The banks which are included in Second Schedule of Reserve Bank of India Act 1934 are schedule banks. RBI includes only those banks under this schedule which fulfill the criteria laid down under section 42(6)(a) of RBI Act 1934.
76. **Saving Account**- Saving Accounts are the individual accounts for the personal purpose of saving. Most of the individuals save their investments with this account.
77. **Secondary Market**- The market where the instruments of security market are traded among the primary instrument holders is known as secondary market.
78. **Self Help Group**- It is a homogeneous group of micro entrepreneurs with affinity among themselves, voluntarily formed to save whatever amount they can conveniently save out of their earnings and mutually agree to contribute to a common fund of the group from which small loans are given to the members of their meeting their productive and emergent credit needs at such rate of interest, period of loan and the other terms as the group may decide.
79. **Stock Broking**- Stock Broking is a function in which broker buys or sells securities on behalf of its client and charge commission on this transaction.
80. **Statutory Liquidity Ratio** - It refers to proportion of deposits the commercial bank is required to maintain with them in form of liquid assets such as gold or RBI approved securities.
81. **Stale Cheque**- If the cheque is presented after the 3 months of the date which is mentioned on the cheque is known as stale cheque. After the expiry of validity payment cannot be made.
82. **Stressed Assets**- Assets of banking company comprises of loans given and investments made by the bank. Quality of the assets indicates how much of the loans taken by the borrowers are repaid in the form of interest and principle. Hence stressed assets = NPA + Restructured Advances + Loan Write off
83. **SWIFT Code**- It is a standard format of the bank identifier code. This code is used particularly in international transfer of money between banks.
84. **Treasury Bills**- It is a short term debt instrument issued by government of India and is presently issued in three tenures i.e. 91 days, 182 days and 364 days. Universal Banking is a combination of commercial banking, investment banking, development banking, insurance and many other financial activities. It is a place where all products are available.
85. **Venture Capital** - The term venture capital represents financial investment in highly risky project with the objective of earning a high rate of return.
86. **Wholesale Banking**- Wholesale Banking refers to conducting banking business with industrial and business entities. This includes corporate, trading houses, multinational companies and domestic companies.
87. **Window Dressing**- It is a strategy used by the mutual fund and other portfolio manager near the year or quarter end to improve the appearance of funds performance before presenting to clients.

DIFFERENTIATED BANKS IN INDIA

Under the recommendations of Dr. Nachiket Mor committee new step for the financial inclusion has been taken in the country. As per the recommendations RBI set up the guidelines for the new categories of banks i.e. Payment Banks and Small Finance Banks.

Payments Banks in India

On the recommendations of Dr. Nachiket Mor committee RBI (Reserve Bank of India) grants license for commencement of banking business under section 22(1) of Banking Regulation Act

1949 and registered as a private company under Companies Act. It is a new model of banks which is conceptualized by the RBI (Reserve Bank of India)

The main objective of setting up of payment banks for the purpose of financial inclusion by providing:

- Small saving account
- Payment services

Features of payment banks

- Non finance company entities and existing non bank prepaid instruments issuer may apply for the payments bank
- Minimum capital required for the payment banks is Rs. 100 crore
- Foreign shareholding is allowed to these banks but as per the regulations of FDI (Foreign Direct Investment)
- Payment Banks cannot provide lending services but allowed to distribute financial product such as mutual funds and insurance products.
- The bank must use the term payment bank in its name to differentiate it from other banks.
- 25% of the bank branches of the payment banks must be in unbanked rural areas.

Services provided by the Payment Banks

- Acceptance of deposits (initially restricted to Rs 100,000)
- Payment Banks can provide services like ATM, net banking, debit cards and net banking
- Current and saving accounts can be operated through this bank.

In 2015, RBI (Reserve Bank of India) grants license to the 11 entities out of 41 entities who applied for the license

Following are the 11 entities which are granted license

1. Aditya Birla Nuvo
2. Airtel M Commerce Services
3. Cholamandalam Distribution Services
4. Department of Post
5. FINO Pay Tech
6. National Securities Depository
7. Reliance Industries
8. Sun Pharmaceuticals
9. Paytm
10. Tech Mahindra
11. Vodafone M Pesa

Out of above three have surrendered their licenses i.e. Cholamandalam Distribution Services, Sun Pharmaceuticals and Tech Mahindra. Airtel becomes the first to launched live payments banks in India

Small Finance Banks in India

Small Finance Banks are the banks which are globally known as niche bank. It is registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act 2013. Small Finance banks are licensed under section 22 of the Banking Regulations 1949. The main aim of setting up of these banks is to provide financial inclusion to those sections of economy not being served by the banks.

Features of Small Finance Banks in India

- Existing NBFCs (Non Banking Finance Companies), Micro-finance Companies and Local Area Banks may apply for the small finance banks in India
- Small Finance Banks are established as public limited company in private sector
- Minimum paid up capital for the small finance banks is Rs 100 crore
- Small Finance Banks are required to establish its 25% branches in unbanked areas
- These entities must add the term small finance bank with its name to differentiate it from other banks
- Foreign Shareholding is allowed as per the FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) policy

Services provided by Small Finance Banks

- Small Finance Banks can provide basic banking activities such as deposit and lending of funds (There is no such restriction on the amount of deposit)
- Small Finance Banks can also undertake non-risk sharing simple financial services such as distribution of mutual funds, insurance products and pension products
- In 2015 RBI grants license to 10 entities through which they have to convert into Small Finance Banks within one year.

Following are the entities

1. Ujjavan
2. Janakakshmi
3. Equita
4. AU Financiers
5. Capital LAB
6. Disha
7. ESAF
8. RGVN
9. Suryoday
10. Utkarsh

CHEQUES

A cheque is a negotiable instrument that is used for payments and settlements in India. It is an agreement between two organizations to make payments. Following are the types of the cheque:

- **Bearer Cheque** - A cheque which is payable to any person who present it for payment at the bank counter. Such cheques are risky as in case it lost, the finder may collect the payment from the bank.
- **Open/ Uncrossed Cheque** - The cheque which is not crossed is known as Open Cheque or Uncrossed Cheque. The payment of such cheques can be obtained on the counter of the bank.
- **Crossed Cheque** - Crossing of cheque means drawing two parallel lines on the face of cheque. It cannot be encashed at the cash counter of the bank but it can only credited to payee's account.
- **Anti Dated Cheque** - If date mentioned on the cheque is earlier than the date it is presented to bank; it is called anti dated cheque. Anti Dated Cheque is valid up to 3 months. Earlier it was 6 months but now it reduced to 3 months.
- **Post Dated Cheque** - If the cheque bears the any future date in the cheque that is known as Post Dated Cheque. Post dated cheque can be presented only on the future date which is written on the cheque.
- **Stale Cheque** - If the cheque is presented after the 3 months of the date which is mentioned on the cheque is known as stale cheque. After the expiry of validity payment cannot be made.

BASEL NORMS

India adopted Basel I recommendations in 1991

Basel Norms are the set of recommendations for regulating banking industry in world. Basel Committee on Banking Supervision issued Basel Accords.

Basel committee is named after the Basel city in Switzerland where Bank for International Settlements headquartered

- Recommendations framed by the Basel Committee but by the National law
- Basel committee consists of representatives of central bank and regulatory authority of ten member countries.

Basel Committee has given three Basel Norms named Basel I, Basel II and Basel III:

1. Basel I

Basel I is also known as 1998 Basel Accords. As in 1998 Basel Committee on Banking Supervision published a set of minimum capital requirement of banks with a goal of minimizing capital risk.

The banks which are operated internationally are required to maintain a minimum amount of 8% on risk weighted assets as per the recommendations of Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. Basel I basically focused on credit risk and appropriate risk weighting of assets.

2. Basel II

It is the second international banking regulatory accord. Basel II is the expanded rules for minimum capital requirement established under Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.

Basel II accord based on the three pillars: Minimum capital requirement, supervisory review and market discipline.

- **Minimum Capital Requirement:** it is the first pillar of Basel I accord. Under this regulatory capital is maintained which is calculated for the major components of risk that a bank faces. The risk involved is credit risk, operational risk and market risk.
- **Supervisory View:** It is the second pillar of Basel II accord. It provides framework for national regulatory bodies to deal with various types of risk such as systematic risk, liquidity risk and legal risk.
- **Market Discipline:** It provides various disclosure requirement for the bank such as risk exposures, risk assessment process and capital adequacy.

In India Basel II norms are implemented by Reserve Bank of India on 31 March 2009.

3. Basel III

In late 2009 the first version of Basel accord is published by Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. It aims to promote a more flexible banking system by focusing on four vital banking parameters viz. capital, leverage, funding and liquidity.

Purpose:

- To improve banking sector's ability to deal with financial stress

- To improve risk management
- To strengthen the bank's transparency

In India Reserve Bank of India has extended the timeline for full implementation of the Basel III capital regulations by the year to 31 March 2021

IMPORTANT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS OF INDIA

1) Credit Rating Agencies

Credit rating agency is a company which rates the companies and government on the basis of their ability to pay back the debt in timely manner. There are four credit rating agencies in India:

I. CRISIL (Credit Rating and Information Services of India Ltd.)

- India's first credit rating agency.
- Founded: 1987
- Headquarter: Mumbai

II. ICRA (Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency)

- It is an Indian independent and professional investment information agency.
- Founded: 1991
- Headquarter: Gurugram

III. CARE (Credit Analysis & Research Ltd.)

- It is second largest credit rating agency in India.
- Founded: 1993
- Headquarter: Mumbai

IV. Onicra Credit Information Company Ltd

- It is a private sector agency set up by Onida finance.
- Established : 1993
- Headquarter : Gurugram

2) CIBIL (Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd.

- India's first credit information company.
- Founded : 2000
- Headquarter: Mumbai

3) SEBI (Securities Exchange Board of India)

- SEBI is a regulator of India's securities market.
- Established: 1992
- Headquarter: Mumbai

4) IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India)

It is an autonomous, statutory agency tasked with regulating and promoting the insurance and re-insurance industries in India.

- Founded : 1999
- Headquarter: Hyderabad

5) MUDRA Bank (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Bank)

It is financial institution which is setup under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojna. It is set up to provide loans at low interest rates to micro finance institutions.

- Headquarter: New Delhi
- Founded: 8 April 2015
- MUDRA can be classified into three types:

- Shishu: under this loans up to Rs 50000 will be provided
- Kishore: under this loans up to Rs 5 lakh will be provided
- Tarun: under this loans up to Rs 10 lakh will be provided

6) NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India)

It is the umbrella organization for all retail payment systems in India, which aims to allow all Indian citizens to have unrestricted access to e-payment services.

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarter : Mumbai

7) NHB (National Housing Bank)

National Housing Bank is the apex bank in India. It is the wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India.

- Founded: 1988
- Headquarter : New Delhi

8) SIDBI (Small Industrial Development Bank of India)

It is the subsidiary of Industrial Development Bank of India. It was set up to promote finance and to develop micro and medium industries of India.

- Established: 1990

- Headquarter: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

BANKS WITH HEADQUARTERS & TAG LINES

Sr. No.	Bank(s)	Headquarter	Tag Line
1	Allahabad Bank	Kolkata	A Tradition of Trust
2	Bank of Baroda	Mumbai	India's International Bank
3	Bank of India	Mumbai	Relationship Beyond Banking
4	Bank of Maharashtra	Pune	One Family One Bank
5	Bharatiya Mahila Bank Ltd	New Delhi	Empowering Women Empowering India
6	Canara Bank	Bangalore	Together We Can
7	Central Bank of India	Mumbai	Central to you Since 1911
8	IDBI Bank	Mumbai	Banking For All, "Aao Sochein Bada"
9	Indian Bank	Chennai	Your Tech-Friendly Bank
10	Indian Overseas Bank	Chennai	Good People to Grow With
11	Punjab National Bank	New Delhi	The Name You Can Bank Upon
12	Punjab and Sind Bank	New Delhi	Where Service Is A Way Of Life
13	State Bank of India	Mumbai	Bade Bank ke Bade Faayde
14	UCO Bank	Kolkata	Honours Your Trust
15	Union Bank of India	Mumbai	Good People to Bank With
16	United Bank of India	Kolkata	The Bank That Begins With "U"
17	Bandhan	Kolkata	Hope for The Poor
18	ECGC Bank	Mumbai	You Focus On Exports We Cover The Risks
19	HDFC	Mumbai	We Understand Your World Indeed
20	Axis Bank	Mumbai	Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi
21	ICICI Bank	Mumbai	Hum Hai Na, Khyal Apka
22	HSBC	London	The World's Local Bank
23	IDFC	Mumbai	-

Most Expected CA Questions (May 2021)

- Which IIT institution has converted the existing nitrogen plant into an oxygen generator?
 - IIT Madras
 - IIT Delhi
 - IIT Bombay
 - IIT Roorkee
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated the country's first 3D printed house at which IIT institution?
 - IIT Madras
 - IIT Kharagpur
 - IIT Delhi
 - IIT Guwahati
- Soli Jehangir Sorabjee, who passed away recently, was the former _____ of India?
 - Attorney General
 - Solicitor General
 - Chief Justice of India
 - Home Minister
- World's longest pedestrian suspension bridge has opened in which of the following countries?
 - Qatar
 - Australia
 - Denmark
 - Portugal
- Which bank has launched the digital platform 'Merchant Stack' to target over 2 crore retail merchants in the country?
 - Axis Bank
 - HDFC Bank
 - ICICI Bank
 - Yes Bank
- When is Ayushman Bharat Diwas observed every year?

- (A) 29 April (B) 30 April
(C) 28 April (D) 27 April
7. Which district in Haryana has started a unique 'Oxygen on Wheels' initiative?
(A) Karnal (B) Gurugram
(C) Sonipat (D) Rohtak
8. Which social media platform is to add a fact box feature on users' timelines to help promote the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination effort?
(A) Facebook (B) Instagram
(C) Twitter (D) LinkedIn
9. Matti banana, for which Geographical Indication (GI) tag has been sought, is cultivated in which state?
(A) Andhra Pradesh (B) Kerala
(C) Odisha (D) Tamil Nadu
10. Which country has launched the "MultiSCREEN" test system to detect the presence of diseases such as HIV, hepatitis B and C, and syphilis, simultaneously?
(A) China (B) Russia
(C) United States (D) Japan
11. According to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021, which came into force on April 27, the Govt of Delhi Means ?
(A) The Elected Government (B) The Lieutenant Governor
(C) The Union Government (D) The President Rule
12. KV Anand, who passed away recently, was a renowned film director and cinematographer of which regional cinema?
(A) Tamil (B) Odia
(C) Marathi (D) Malayalam
13. Yanbu port which was recently targeted by an explosive-laden drone is located in which country?
(A) Turkey (B) Israel
(C) Oman (D) Saudi Arabia
14. National Commission for Women has recently started a WhatsApp helpline number (9354954224) for pregnant women. Who is the current chairperson of NCW?
(A) Archana Singh (B) Rekha Sharma
(C) Jayanti Patnaik (D) Poornima Advani
15. Which Indian has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK), United States?
(A) Naina Lal Kidwai (B) Aruna Jayanthi
(C) Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (D) Indra Nooyi
16. Which Bank has approved the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as its Managing Director and CEO for three years?
(A) Bandhan Bank (B) Axis Bank
(C) IndusInd Bank (D) Yes Bank
17. Dozens of people were killed at Lag B'Omer religious festival recently. The festival took place in which country?
(A) Israel (B) Turkey
(C) Iraq (D) Peru
18. Senior journalist Rohit Sardana, who passed away recently, was a renowned anchor of which news channel?
(A) Zee News (B) ABP News
(C) Aaj Tak (D) India News
19. Indian Army has inaugurated the first green solar energy harnessing plant of 56 kilovolt-ampere (kVA), using which metal-based battery technology in North Sikkim?
(A) Aluminium (B) Lithium
(C) Vanadium (D) Cadmium
20. Indian Navy has launched which Operation for the shipment of oxygen-filled containers to India?
(A) Samudra Maitree (B) Maitree II
(C) Sahayak Shakti (D) Samudra Setu II
21. The Union government has decided to an additional amount of up to how much to states as an interest-free 50-year loan for spending on capital projects?
(A) Rs 15,000 crore (B) Rs 25,000 crore
(C) Rs 10,000 crore (D) Rs 20,000 crore
22. Which of the following states has launched the Corona Warriors Scheme?
(A) Uttar Pradesh (B) Madhya Pradesh
(C) Bihar (D) Jharkhand
23. Who has been appointed as the new interim Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi?
(A) Daniel Smith (B) Steven Bondy
(C) Christopher Lamora (D) Michael Raynor
24. Which state has launched the unified command center for COVID-19 management?
(A) Andhra Pradesh (B) Odisha
(C) Kerala (D) Tamil Nadu
25. What is the name of the first woman officer appointed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to command a Road Construction Company (RCC)?
(A) Harita Kaur (B) Vaishali Hiwase
(C) Punita Arora (D) Mitali Madhumita
26. Manzoor Ahtesham, who passed away recently, was renowned ?
(A) Painter (B) Historian
(C) Litterateur (D) Singer
27. Which state has decided to appoint oxygen nurses to curb the wastage of oxygen at hospitals?
(A) Madhya Pradesh (B) Maharashtra
(C) Uttar Pradesh (D) Kerala
28. TRIFED has signed an MoU with which organization for the "Sustainable Livelihoods For Tribal Households in India" Project?

- (A) Bill Gates Foundation (B) The LINK Fund
(C) Give India Foundation (D) Smile Foundation
29. Which among the following has launched SHWAS and AROG schemes to help the MSMEs with required financial support?
(A) SIDBI (B) FICCI
(C) Niti Aayog (D) RBI
30. International Labour Day is observed every year on 1 May. In India, the first Labour was observed in which year?
(A) 1967 (B) 1948
(C) 1923 (D) 1956
31. John Konrads, who passed away recently, was a renowned swimmer from which country?
(A) United States (B) Canada
(C) Denmark (D) Australia
32. Which organization has launched a joint military exercise “DEFENDER-Europe 21” in Albania?
(A) OPEC (B) NATO
(C) OECD (D) APEC
33. According to a report by Brand Finance, Life Insurance Corporation has emerged as the _____ th most valuable insurance brand globally?
(A) 4th (B) 5th
(C) 10th (D) 9th
34. Which country has announced to return the artifacts called the “Benin Bronzes” to Nigeria?
(A) Denmark (B) Germany
(C) Canada (D) Britain
35. Which two states observed their statehood day on May 1?
(A) Gujarat and Maharashtra
(B) Haryana and Punjab
(C) Bihar and Jharkhand
(D) Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh
36. Karen National Liberation Army which has seized a military outpost near the Thai border is an armed ethnic group of which country?
(A) Thailand (B) Indonesia
(C) Ukraine (D) Myanmar
37. Who has been appointed as the fourth deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India?
(A) T Rabi Sankar (B) Ajay Kumar Choudhary
(C) Neeraj Nigam (D) Rohit Jain
38. Union government has slashed the Integrated GST rate on imported oxygen concentrators from 28% to what percent?
(A) 20% (B) 15%
(C) 18% (D) 12%
39. Under the Ashirwad Scheme of Punjab, the revised financial assistance of how much amount will be given to the beneficiary?
(A) Rs. 11,000 (B) Rs. 31,000
(C) Rs. 51,000 (D) Rs. 61,000
40. Public sector insurer The New India Assurance Co Ltd (NIACL) has been reclassified as a ‘public shareholder’ of which bank?
(A) ICICI Bank (B) Axis Bank
(C) Yes Bank (D) HDFC Bank
41. Union Government has set a target of road construction worth Rs 15 lakh crores in next how many years?
(A) 2 years (B) 4 years
(C) 5 years (D) 3 years
42. Which has become the first country to allow ‘self-driving cars at low speeds on motorways’?
(A) Australia (B) Netherlands
(C) South Africa (D) Britain
43. Retired army officer Bikramjeet Kanwarpal, who passed away recently, was also renowned ?
A.Singer (B) Author
(C) Actor (D) Film Director
44. RBI has joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS). Where is HQs of NGFS located?
(A) Paris (B) New York
(C) London (D) Rome
45. Tata Digital has received the nod from Competition Commission approval to acquire what percent in BigBasket?
(A) 60.1% (B) 54.4%
(C) 64.3% (D) 45.5%
46. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of Bajaj Auto?
(A) Neeraj Bajaj (B) Pradeep Shrivastava
(C) Sanjiv Bajaj (D) Rahul Bajaj
47. Pandit Debu Chaudhuri, who passed away recently, was an exponent of which musical instrument?
(A) Tabla (B) Sitar
(C) Sarod (D) Shehnai
48. Recently, tonnes of dead fish have washed up on the banks of Qaraoun lake on the Litani river. The river is located in which country?
(A) Chile (B) Peru
(C) Israel (D) Lebanon
49. The World’s Biggest Plane “Roc” with 6 Boeing 747 Engines which completed its second test flight has been built by which company?
(A) Boeing (B) Dassault
(C) Airbus (D) Stratolaunch
50. Which ministry will organize a year-long celebration to mark the 100th birth anniversary of the legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray?
(A) Ministry of Home Affairs

- (B) Ministry of Culture
(C) Ministry of Tourism
(D) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
51. When is World Tuna Day observed every year?
(A) May (B) 2 May
(C) 3 May (D) 4 May
52. Asian Boxing Championships 2021 will be held in which country?
(A) India (B) UAE
(C) Japan (D) Philippines
53. United states has approved the proposed sale of six P-8I patrol aircraft to India. Which company manufactures it?
(A) Lockheed Martin (B) Boeing
(C) Airbus (D) Dassault
54. Kamala Harris become the first woman US vice president to have a figure displayed at the Madame Tussauds wax museum located in which city?
(A) New York (B) San Francisco
(C) Las Vegas (D) Washington, D.C.
55. What is the theme of the World Press Freedom Day 2021?
(A) Information as a Public Good
(B) Media and Good Governance
(C) Journalism without Fear or Favour
(D) The media as drivers of change
56. Who has received the 2021 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize?
(A) May Chidiac (B) Win Tin
(C) Jineth Bedoya Lima (D) Maria Ressa
57. Uttarakhand has suspended the Char Dham Yatra. The Chota Char Dham circuit consists of Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and _____ ?
(A) Dwaraka (B) Badrinath
(C) Puri (D) Rameswaram
58. What is the name of the seabed mining robot which recently got stranded on the Pacific Ocean floor in a deep-sea mining trial?
(A) Victoria I (B) Nebia III
(C) Patania II (D) Trinity I
59. The Civil Aviation Ministry has permitted which state government to use drones for the experimental delivery of vaccines?
(A) Kerala (B) Telangana
(C) Karnataka (D) Andhra Pradesh
60. Who has been declared the winner of the 15th Sheikh Zayed Book Award?
(A) Tahera Qutbuddin (B) Mohamed Benaissa
(C) Lateefa Buti (D) Roshdi Rashed
61. According to IEA's Global Electric Vehicle Outlook, the number of electric vehicles on roads is expected to hit 145 million by which year?
(A) 2035 (B) 2030
(C) 2025 (D) 2028
62. Who will be conferred the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays by Japan?
(A) Nidhi Saxena (B) Khyati Mishra
(C) Jyoti Sharma (D) Shyamala Ganesh
63. Which woman, known as Shooter Dadi, passed away recently due to Covid 19?
(A) Vibha Tomar (B) Rani Tomar
(C) Chandro Tomar (D) Radha Tomar
64. Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana is a scheme of which state?
(A) Rajasthan (B) Odisha
(C) Karnataka (D) Kerala
65. Who among the following has launched the "Oxygen On Wheels" project to tackle COVID-19 Crisis in Maharashtra?
(A) Mukesh Ambani (B) Uday Kotak
(C) Ratan Tata (D) Anand Mahindra
66. Which space agency has launched 60 More Starlink Satellites into Orbit for High-Speed Internet?
(A) Blue Origin (B) SpaceX
(C) Virgin Galactic (D) Bigelow Aerospace
67. Olympia Dukakis, who passed away recently, was renowned _____ ?
(A) Author (B) Singer
(C) Actress (D) Fashion Designer
68. Who has won the title of Portuguese Grand Prix 2021?
(A) Lewis Hamilton (B) Max Verstappen
(C) Sergio Perez (D) Valtteri Bottas
69. Which country has added cryptocurrency firms to money laundering and terror financing rules?
(A) Denmark (B) Turkey
(C) Israel (D) India
70. Researchers have rediscovered a new coffee species "Coffea stenophylla" in which country? A. Guinea (B) Liberia
(C) Libya (D) Sierra Leone
71. The first-ever electric tractor of India has been tested at the Central Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute (CFMTTI). Where in Madhya Pradesh the institute is located?
(A) Jabalpur (B) Budni
(C) Bhopal (D) Morena
72. Which country has recently launched the Tianhe space station core module into orbit?
(A) Japan (B) South Korea
(C) Russia (D) China
73. Which ministry has launched an online portal for the PLISFPI?
(A) Ministry of Agriculture
(B) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
(C) Ministry of Food Processing Industries
(D) Ministry of Consumer Affairs
75. Who will become the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu?
(A) Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin
(B) Udhayanidhi Stalin
(C) M. K. Alagiri

- (D) Durai Murugan
76. Jagmohan, who passed away recently, was the former Governor of which state or UT?
 (A) Puducherry (B) Jammu & Kashmir
 (C) Madhya Pradesh (D) Gujarat
77. Which country has designated Tigray People Liberation Front (TPLF) and Oromo Liberation Front-Shene (OLF-Shene) as terrorist organizations?
 (A) Eritrea (B) Kenya
 (C) Ethiopia (D) Sudan
78. Which country has officially declared the end of the 12th Ebola outbreak?
 (A) Gambia
 (B) Benin
 (C) Burkina Faso
 (D) Democratic Republic of the Congo
79. Thisara Perera, who has announced retirement from international cricket, hails from which country?
 (A) South Africa (B) Sri Lanka
 (C) Australia (D) West Indies
80. Researchers of which country have made a discovery of pregnant Egyptian mummy?
 (A) Australia (B) Britain
 (C) France (D) Poland
81. The Serum Institute of India will invest how much amount in United Kingdom to expand its vaccine business?
 (A) GBP 240 million (B) GBP 140 million
 (C) GBP 300 million (D) GBP 327 million
82. Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Limited (KLI) has appointed whom as managing director of the company?
 (A) Mahesh Balasubramanian
 (B) Suresh Agarwal
 (C) Sunil Sharma
 (D) Muralikrishna Cheruvu
83. Xylophis deepaki, which was recently discovered in Tamil Nadu, is a species of?
 (A) Frog (B) Snake
 (C) Lizard (D) Fish
84. SEBI has asked the companies to pay the minimum of what per cent of the salary of the key employees of asset management companies (AMCs) to be in Mutual Fund units?
 (A) 20% (B) 10%
 (C) 25% (D) 12%
85. Parul Devi Das, who passed away recently, was the first woman IAS officer of which state?
 (A) Tripura (B) Nagaland
 (C) Sikkim (D) Assam
86. Who has been appointed as the acting chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)?
 (A) Prafulla Chandra Pant (B) Jyotika Kalra
 (C) Dnyaneshwar Manohar (D) Ranganath Misra
87. Which Indian player has been nominated as athlete ambassadors for the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) 'Believe in Sport' campaign?
 (A) Saina Nehwal (B) Simranjit Kaur
 (C) PV Sindhu (D) Hima Das
88. Putola Nach, seen in news recently, is a traditional string puppet art of which state?
 (A) Bihar (B) Gujarat
 (C) Sikkim (D) Assam
89. What is the theme of the World Asthma Day 2021?
 (A) Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions
 (B) Enough Asthma Deaths
 (C) STOP for asthma
 (D) Allergy and Asthma
90. Another Dozen Stories by Satyajit Ray is translated from Bengali to English by whom?
 (A) Chaiti Ghoshal (B) Indrani Majumdar
 (C) Koyel Mallick (D) Priyanka Upendra
91. Under the Parvat Dhara scheme, which state is building 'Forest Ponds' to harvest rainwater to replenish groundwater?
 (A) Uttarakhand (B) Jharkhand
 (C) Odisha (D) Himachal Pradesh
92. Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of how much amount on ICICI Bank over violation of rules?
 (A) Rs 3 Crore (B) Rs 2 Crore
 (C) Rs 4 Crore (D) Rs 5 Crore
93. Who has won the Spanish MotoGP 2021?
 (A) Valentino Rossi (B) Jack Miller
 (C) Franco Morbidelli (D) Joan Mir
94. Nuwan Zoysa, who has been banned for 6 years, is associated with which sports?
 (A) Badminton (B) Hockey
 (C) Cricket (D) Tennis
95. Who has been appointed as the Chairman And Managing Director of THDC India Ltd?
 (A) Pramod Agrawal (B) Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
 (C) Vijay Goel (D) Rahul Nayak
96. The 1982 Asian Games gold medallist Col Gulam Mohammad Khan, who passed away recently, was associated with which sports?
 (A) Equestrian (B) Fencing
 (C) Squash (D) Judo
97. Raj Kumar Sacheti, who passed away recently, was the executive director of which sports organization?
 (A) Rowing Federation of India
 (B) Volleyball Federation of India
 (C) Cycling Federation of India
 (D) Boxing Federation of India
98. Maya cave, in which mysterious painted hand prints were found, is located in which country?
 (A) Guatemala (B) Honduras
 (C) Mexico (D) Cuba

99. Recently, eight Asiatic lions of which zoo have tested positive for SARS-CoV2 virus?
 (A) Nehru Zoological Park
 (B) Indira Gandhi Zoological Park
 (C) Alipore Zoological Garden
 (D) Thiruvananthapuram Zoo
100. MACS 1407, developed by Indian Scientists, is variety of which crop?
 (A) Rice (B) Wheat
 (C) Maize (D) Soybean

31. (d)	32. (b)	33. (c)	34. (b)	36. (d)
37. (a)	38. (d)	39. (c)	40. (b)	41. (A)
42. (D)	43. (c)	44. (a)	45. (c)	46. (a)
47. (b)	48. (d)	49. (d)	50. (d)	51. (b)
52. (b)	53. (b)	54. (a)	55. (a)	56. (d)
57. (b)	58. (c)	59. (b)	60. (a)	61. (a)
62. (d)	63. (c)	64. (b)	65. (d)	66. (b)
67. (c)	68. (a)	69. (b)	70. (d)	71. (b)
72. (d)	73. (c)	74. (b)	75. (a)	76. (b)
77. (c)	78. (d)	79. (b)	80. (d)	81. (a)
82. (A)	83. (a)	84. (a)	85. (d)	86. (a)
87. (c)	88. (d)	89. (a)	90. (b)	91. (d)
92. (a)	93. (a)	93. (b)	94. (c)	95. (c)
96. (a)	97. (d)	98. (c)	99. (a)	100. (a)

— Answer Key —

- | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (c) | 2. (a) | 3. (a) | 4. (d) | 5. (c) |
| 6. (b) | 7. (a) | 8. (c) | 9. (d) | 10. (b) |
| 11. (b) | 12. (a) | 13. (d) | 14. (b) | 15. (c) |
| 16. (B) | 17. (A) | 18. (c) | 19. (c) | 20. (d) |
| 21. (a) | 22. (b) | 23. (a) | 24. (d) | 25. (b) |
| 26. (b) | 27. (b) | 28. (b) | 29. (a) | 30. (c) |

Most Expected CA Questions (June 2021)

- What is the theme of the World No Tobacco Day 2021?
 (A) Tobacco breaks hearts
 (B) Tobacco Exposed: The secret's out
 (C) Tobacco and lung health
 (D) Commit To Quit
- Who has won the men's singles title at Belgrade Open 2021?
 (A) Alex Molcan (B) Rafael Nadal
 (C) Novak Djokovic (D) Dominic Thiem
- Under the under the 'PM-CARES for Children' scheme, children who have lost both parents due to COVID-19 will get fund of how much amount when they turn 23?
 (A) Rs 15 lakh (B) Rs 5 lakh
 (C) Rs 10 lakh (D) Rs 20 lakh
- Which team has won UEFA Champions League Title 2021 ?
 (A) Manchester City (B) Barcelona
 (C) Liverpool (D) Chelsea
- The National AI Portal (INDIAai) observed its first anniversary on May 28, 2021. The portal is an initiative of which ministry?
 (A) Ministry of Electronics and IT
 (B) Ministry of Defence
 (C) Ministry of Education
 (D) Ministry of Science and Technology
- Which state has launched the solar-based electrification programme for rural households in the state?
 (A) Maharashtra (B) Goa
 (C) Tripura (D) Gujarat
- Which state has launched the Mukhyamantri Bal Seva Yojana for children who have lost either one or both parents due to Covid-19?
 (A) Uttar Pradesh (B) Jharkhand
 (C) Chhattisgarh (D) Madhya Pradesh
- NASA's Curiosity Rover has captured images of "shining clouds" on which planet
 (A) Saturn (B) Jupiter
 (C) Mars (D) Neptune
- The Covid variant first identified in India, technically known as B.1.617.2 will now be known by which name, as per WHO system?
 (A) Alpha (B) Beta
 (C) Gamma (D) Delta
- Who will become the new chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)?

- (A) Saurav Singh (B) Abhilash Patil
(C) Arun Kumar Mishra (D) Naresh Chand
11. Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have announced to provide unsecured loans of upto how much amount to individuals for Covid 19 treatment?
(A) Rs 15 lakh (B) Rs10 lakh
(C) Rs 7 lakh (D) Rs 5 lakh
12. Union government under whose chairmanship has constituted a panel to examine Goods and Services Tax (GST) exemptions on Covid material?
(A) Nitinbhai Patel (B) Ajit Pawar
(C) Conrad K Sangma (D) Pramod Sawant
13. Which state has launched the Ghar Ghar Aushadhi Yojana?
(A) Bihar (B) Rajasthan
(C) Jharkhand (D) Chhattisgarh
14. When is World Milk Day observed every year?
(A) June 1 (B) June 2
(C) May 30 (D) May 31
15. Moody has predicted India's GDP growth rate at what per cent in FY22?
(A) 9.3% (B) 8.9%
(C) 10.2% (D) 9.5%
16. Who has become the new Director General of Assam Rifles?
(A) Paramjit Singh (B) Rameshwar Roy
(C) Pradeep Chandran Nair (D) Sushil Kumar
17. Which company has launched the first Asia Pacific Public Sector Cyber Security Executive Council?
(A) Intel (B) IBM
(C) Microsoft (D) Wipro
18. Ministry of Labour & Employment has constituted an expert group to fix minimum wages of workers under whose chairmanship?
(A) Ajit Mishra (B) Vibha Bhalla
(C) H. Srinivas (D) Naresh Negi
19. Which country will host the Copa America for the second consecutive time?
(A) Colombia (B) Argentina
(C) Brazil (D) Peru
20. ICICI Lombard has tied up with which company to strengthen and automate the quality control processes?
(A) Wipro (B) Intel
(C) Infosys (D) Microsoft
21. Cabinet has approved an MoU between India and which country on cooperation in the field of Mineral Resources?
(A) Peru (B) Argentina
(C) Mexico (D) South Africa
22. NASA has announced two missions named DAVINCI+ and VERITAS to explore which planet?
(A) Saturn (B) Venus
(C) Mercury (D) Neptune
23. Which state has announced to launch 'Corona-free village competitions'?
(A) Maharashtra (B) Rajasthan
(C) Tamil Nadu (D) Gujarat
24. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has projected India's GDP growth at what per cent for FY22?
(A) 10.1% (B) 8.7%
(C) 9.9% (D) 9.1%
25. Anerood Jugnauth, who passed away recently, was the former president and prime minister of which country?
(A) Nepal (B) Bhutan
(C) Mauritius (D) Seychelles
26. India and Asian Development Bank have signed a \$2.5 million loan agreement for upgrading major district roads in which state?
(A) Sikkim (B) Himachal Pradesh
(C) Bihar (D) Manipur
27. Which of the following ministries has launched Senior care Ageing Growth Engine, SAGE project?
(A) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (B) Ministry of Ayush
(C) Ministry of Home Affairs
(D) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
28. DCGI has granted permission to which company recently to manufacture the Sputnik COVID-19 vaccine in India?
(A) Biocon Ltd (B) Lupin Ltd
(C) Serum Institute of India (D) Cipla Ltd
29. Kalipatnam Ramarao, popularly known as 'Kara Mastaru' passed away recently, he was a renowned ?
(A) Singer (B) Social Activist
(C) Writer (D) Painter

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30. Which state has topped the NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals India Index 2020-21?
 (A) Himachal Pradesh (B) Kerala
 (C) Tamil Nadu (D) Andhra Pradesh
31. Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) in its recent Monetary Policy has projected India's GDP growth at what per cent for FY22?
 (A) 10.5 % (B) 9.5 %
 (C) 9.1 % (D) 10.1 %
32. Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar recently inaugurated the Indus Best Mega Food Park in which state?
 (A) Madhya Pradesh (B) Bihar
 (C) Jharkhand (D) Chhattisgarh
33. Which state organised the Rabta Muhim campaign from May 24 to 31?
 (A) Gujarat (B) Punjab
 (C) Haryana (D) Bihar
34. Which species of Mahseer, which was on IUCN's red list of endangered species, has now moved to the 'least concern' status?
 (A) Golden Mahseer (B) Copper Mahseer
 (C) Blue Finned Mahseer (D) Dwarf mahseer
35. Which bank has become first lender in Asia-Pacific and the second globally to offer the facility, called 'SWIFT gpi Instant', for cross border inward payments?
 (A) Axis Bank (B) HDFC Bank
 (C) Yes Bank (D) ICICI Bank
36. Which PSU of India has become a signatory to the prestigious United Nations Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate?
 (A) IOC (B) SAIL
 (C) NTPC (D) ONGC
37. Which ministry has approved the release of Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2019-20 for States and Union Territories?
 (A) Ministry of Finance (B) Ministry of Environment
 (C) Ministry of Law & Justice (D) Ministry of Education
38. Which scheme was announced by Finance ministry for small GST taxpayers and allowed the filing of income tax returns with reduced late fee?
 (A) Amnesty scheme (B) Remission scheme
 (C) Absolution Scheme (D) None of the above
39. RBI has decided to open a separate liquidity window of how much amount with tenors of up to three years at the repo rate till March 31, 2022 for contact-intensive sectors?
 (A) Rs 15,000 crore (B) Rs 10,000 crore
 (C) Rs 20,000 crore (D) Rs 25,000 crore
40. S. Inbasekar has been appointed as the next Indian High Commissioner to which country?
 (A) Papua New Guinea (B) El Salvador
 (C) Eritrea (D) Gambia
41. According to the International Labour Organisation, the global unemployment rate will be what per cent in 2022?
 (A) 6.2% (B) 5.7%
 (C) 4.2% (D) 7.1%
42. Dr Patrick Amoth who has been appointed as the Chair of WHO Executive Board hails from which country?
 (A) Ethiopia (B) Kenya
 (C) Nigeria (D) South Sudan
43. Vishwvir Ahuja has been re-appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of which bank?
 (A) Federal Bank (B) Dhanlaxmi Bank
 (C) Yes Bank (D) RBL Bank
44. Central Food Technological Research Institute is working on probiotic food that will protect children prone to the third wave of Covid infection. Where is CFTRI located?
 (A) Mysuru (B) Chennai
 (C) Pune (D) Hyderabad
45. Which state has launched the Knowledge Economy Mission to boost job prospects?
 (A) Kerala (B) Karnataka
 (C) Assam (D) Goa
46. An expert committee on Variable Capital Company has submitted its report to the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA). Who is the head of this committee?
 (A) K.P Krishnan (B) Anand Pandey
 (C) Jigar Pate (D) Suresh Sharma
47. NACH which is a bulk payment system operated by NPCI will be available on all days from August 1. What does A in NACH stands for?
 (A) Automated (B) Auto
 (C) Authentic (D) Augmented
48. What is the rank of India on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to a recently released State of India's Environment Report 2021?
 (A) 112 (B) 117
 (C) 102 (D) 108
49. On the occasion of World Environment Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, inaugurated three E100 ethanol dispensing stations in which city under a pilot project?
 (A) Chennai (B) Hyderabad
 (C) Pune (D) Raipur

50. Indian Oil Corporation Limited has signed an MoU with the Gujarat government to set up six petrochemical projects around which city?
 (A) Ahmedabad (B) Surat
 (C) Rajkot (D) Vadodara
51. Abdulla Shahid who was elected as President of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly is the Foreign Minister of which country?
 (A) Denmark (B) Thailand
 (C) Maldives (D) Vietnam
52. Who has been appointed as the new president of Association of National Exchanges Members of India (ANMI)?
 (A) Tarun Arora (B) KK Maheshwari
 (C) Sanjay Khandelwal (D) Subodh Verma
53. The World Bank has slashed its 2021-22 GDP growth forecast for the Indian economy to what per cent?
 (A) 9.2% (B) 8.5%
 (C) 8.3% (D) 10.2%
54. The Rengma Nagas of which state has recently demanded an autonomous district council?
 (A) Nagaland (B) Sikkim
 (C) Manipur (D) Assam
55. RBI has approved re- appointment of Chandra Shekhar Ghosh as the MD and CEO of which bank?
 (A) Bandhan Bank (B) DCB Bank
 (C) Federal Bank (D) Karur Vysya Bank
56. Secretary General Antonio Guterres whose name has been recommended by the UN Security Council for second term hails from which country?
 (A) Portugal (B) Spain
 (C) Hungary (D) Sweden
57. Which agency will set-up the country's first international maritime services cluster at GIFT City?
 (A) Goa Maritime Board
 (B) Gujarat Maritime Board
 (C) Chennai Maritime Board
 (D) Kerala Maritime Board
58. Which state has topped the Anemia Mukta Bharat Index 2020-21 national ranking?
 (A) Gujarat (B) Madhya Pradesh
 (C) Himachal Pradesh (D) Odisha
59. Which has become the first village in India to achieve 100% vaccination of its adult population?
 (A) Weyan (B) Chadura
 (C) Sonawari (D) Mulsoo
60. Which merchant payment company has entered into a strategic partnership with the International Cricket Council (ICC)?
 (A) Phone Pe (B) Bharat Pe
 (C) Paytm (D) Razorpay
61. Recently, Sclater's Monal and Himalayan Monal were sighted in which of the following states?
 (A) Himachal Pradesh (B) Assam
 (C) Arunachal Pradesh (D) Nagaland
62. Which country is building its first naval ship that will be fully equipped with stealth technology?
 (A) Russia (B) Japan
 (C) Israel (D) China
63. Which company is building world's longest open subsea cable (Firinina cable) that will connect the East Coast of the US and Las Toninas, Argentina?
 (A) Microsoft (B) Facebook
 (C) Space X (D) Google
64. The Reserve Bank has extended the tenure of Deputy Governor Mahesh Kumar Jain for how many years?
 (A) 1 year (B) 3 years
 (C) 4 years (D) 2 years
65. Which former cricket player has launched cricket coaching website "CRICURU"?
 (A) Sachin Tendulkar (B) Anil Kumble
 (C) Virender Sehwag (D) Zaheer Khan
66. Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd (YIAPL) has received the final credit sanction for Rs 3725 crore from which bank for the development of Noida International Airport (NIA)?
 (A) Punjab National Bank (B) State Bank of India
 (C) Bank of India (D) Bank of Baroda
67. Who has been elected as the new President of International Swimming Federation (FINA)?
 (A) Husain Al-Musallam (B) Dale NEUBURGER
 (C) Sam RAMSAMY (D) Virendra Nanavati
68. Which University has topped the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia university rankings 2021?
 (A) Tsinghua University (B) Peking University
 (C) The University of Tokyo (D) Kyoto University
69. Which IIT institution has developed a technique for early detection of tropical cyclones?
 (A) IIT Delhi (B) IIT Madras
 (C) IIT Bombay (D) IIT Kharagpur
70. Choguel Kokalla Maiga has become the Prime Minister of which country?
 (A) Cuba (B) Congo
 (C) Mali (D) Nigeria

71. Which University has topped the QS World University Rankings 2022?
 (A) University of Oxford
 (B) Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 (C) University of Cambridge
 (D) California Institute of Technology
72. Which city has topped the Global Liveability Index 2021 published by EIU?
 (A) Auckland (B) Osaka
 (C) Adelaide (D) Wellington
73. President-elect of the 76th session of the UNGA, Abdulla Shahid, has appointed which Indian as his Chef de Cabinet?
 (A) Dinesh Bhatia (B) Kishan Dan Dewal
 (C) Suresh Reddy (D) K Nagaraj Naidu
74. According to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20 report, from 2015-16 to 2019-20, there has been a growth of _____ per cent in student enrolment?
 (A) 9.5% (B) 10.2%
 (C) 10.8% (D) 11.4%
75. Which country is building the Baihetan Hydropower Station, the world's second largest after the Three Gorges Dam?
 (A) Japan (B) Russia
 (C) South Korea (D) China
76. Who was conferred the regional award as Asia Pacific Productivity Champion from Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Japan?
 (A) Varsha Joshi (B) R.S. Sodhi
 (C) Meenesh Shah (D) Gagan Khurana
77. Name the Indian Origin journalist who has won the Pulitzer Prize for exposing China's vast infrastructure for detaining Muslims?
 (A) Anjali Jain (B) Megha Rajagopalan
 (C) Padmasree Warrior (D) Niala Boodhoo
78. Name the person who has developed an Artificial Intelligence Indian Classical music app NaadSadhana?
 (A) Ketan Oswal (B) Rahul Dhar
 (C) Sandeep Ranade (D) Sumit Alat
79. Which bank has emerged as the top performer among public sector lenders in terms of loan and deposit growth during FY 2020-21?
 (A) Punjab & Sind Bank (B) State Bank of India
 (C) Punjab National Bank (D) Bank of Maharashtra
80. Noted environmentalist and Padma Shri awardee Professor Radha Mohan, who passed away recently, hailed from which state?
 (A) Odisha (B) Karnataka
 (C) Haryana (D) Gujarat
81. Naftali Bennett who has sworn in as Israel's new Prime Minister, belongs to which political party?
 (A) Yamina party (B) Likud party
 (C) Labor party (D) Shas party
82. Which state has launched the Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan?
 (A) Assam (B) Uttar Pradesh
 (C) Madhya Pradesh (D) Jharkhand
83. Pritzker Prize Laureate Gottfried Böhm passed away recently, Pritzker prize is given for which field?
 (A) Journalism (B) Architecture
 (C) Science (D) Medicine
84. An IIT Roorkee professor has received the 'NSG Counter-IED & Counter-Terrorism Innovator Award 2021' for his design of a blast-resistant helmet, what's his name?
 (A) Shailesh Ganpule (B) Sanjiva Prasad
 (C) Aaditeswar Seth (D) Abhijnan Chakraborty
85. The first commercial consignment of GI certified Jardalu mangoes of which state was exported to United Kingdom?
 (A) Maharashtra (B) Uttar Pradesh
 (C) Bihar (D) Madhya Pradesh
86. As per the new guidelines of Indian Government, jewellers across India will now be allowed to sell gold items of only 14, 18 and _____ carats from June 15, 2021 onwards?
 (A) 22 (B) 24
 (C) 23 (D) 25
87. E-commerce major Flipkart has partnered with which state to deliver medical supplies to remote areas under the 'Medicines from the Sky' project?
 (A) Telangana (B) Himachal Pradesh
 (C) Bihar (D) Madhya Pradesh
88. Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the keynote address at which edition of VivaTech that is being organized by Paris?
 (A) 7th (B) 10th
 (C) 5th (D) 12th
89. Which country will be offered hosting rights to host the 2032 Olympics?
 (A) Denmark (B) Brisbane
 (C) Belgium (D) Greece
90. Neeraj Chopra who clinched gold medal in the City of Lisbon athletics meet is associated with which sports?
 (A) Canoe (B) Archery
 (C) Fencing (D) Javelin Throw
91. The leaders of which organization has declared China a global security challenge?
 (A) NATO (B) OPEC
 (C) ASEAN (D) G-7

92. People on Twitter are demanding to include which language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution?
 (A) Nepali (B) Tulu
 (C) Awadi (D) Bhojpuri
93. Government of India has initiated which program to ensure supply of critical raw materials such as zeolites, setting up of small oxygen plants, and manufacturing of compressors?
 (A) Project Health for India (B) Project Pandemic Ready
 (C) Project Life (D) Project O2 for India
94. Which social media platform has launched 'Report it, Don't share it!' initiative to prevent online child abuse?
 (A) Google (B) Twitter
 (C) Facebook (D) Instagram
95. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has launched which Portal for people to check, modify subscription of TV channels?
 (A) TV Controller portal
 (B) TV Plan Module portal
 (C) DTH Selector portal
 (D) TV Channel Selector web portal
96. According to a Bank of America report, IT companies are set to slash how many jobs by 2022 due to automation?
 (A) 3 million (B) 2 million
 (C) 4 million (D) 1 million
97. Gujarat has inaugurated a command-and-control centre in which city to monitor the activities of over 54,000 government-run schools in the state?
 (A) Gandhinagar (B) Vadodara
 (C) Surat (D) Ahmedabad
98. Which state government has launched Revv Up programme for AI startups to solve tough business problems?
 (A) Karnataka (B) Andhra Pradesh
 (C) Telangana (D) Odisha
99. Which state has announced Rs 1 lakh relief to each family under Below Poverty Line (BPL) which has lost an earning or adult member due to COVID-19?
 (A) Karnataka (B) Assam
 (C) Jharkhand (D) Odisha
100. Union cabinet has approved the proposal of the Department of fertilisers for fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy Rates for which fertiliser for 2021-22?
 (A) Phosphatic (B) Potassic
 (C) Nitric (D) A&B
101. A case of Aspergillosis has been reported in Madhya Pradesh in Covid 19 patient. What is another name of Aspergillosis?
 (A) Red Fungus (B) Orange Fungus
 (C) Blue Fungus (D) Green Fungus
102. Dr Kenneth David Kaunda, who passed away recently, was the former President of which country?
 (A) Nigeria (B) Botswana
 (C) Mali (D) Zambia
103. Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda launched ADI PRASHIKSHAN portal in collaboration with which organization?
 (A) WHO (B) UNDP
 (C) UNICEF (D) FAO
104. Government of India has a target to reduce road accident deaths by 50% by which year?
 (A) 2024 (B) 2022
 (C) 2023 (D) 2025
105. Which country had organized the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus)?
 (A) Malaysia (B) Myanmar
 (C) Philippines (D) Brunei
106. Recently, Union minister Babul Supriyo released the "Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India". This Atlas was published by whom?
 (A) Space Application Centre, ISRO, Ahmedabad
 (B) Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad
 (C) Community Science Centre, Ahmedabad
 (D) Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL), Hyderabad
107. What is the rank of India in the Global peace index 2021?
 (A) 160th (B) 135th
 (C) 123rd (D) 119th
108. Lalremsiami, who has become the first female player of Mizoram to get selected for the Tokyo Olympics 2020, plays which sports?
 (A) Football (B) Hockey
 (C) Badminton (D) Archery
109. United Nations Global Compact has recognised which Indian as one of the ten SDG Pioneers 2021, for his work to advance access to clean and affordable energy?
 (A) Manoj Jain (B) Soma Mondal
 (C) Gurdeep Singh (D) Sumant Sinha
110. Renowned Islamic scholar Mufti Faiz-ul-Waheed passed away recently. He was the first person to translate the Quran into which language?
 (A) Dhanki (B) Gojri
 (C) Tagin (D) Mundari

— Answer Key —

- | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| 1. (d) | 2. (c) | 3. (c) | 4. (d) | 5. (a) |
| 6. (b) | 7. (a) | 8. (c) | 9. (d) | 10. (c) |

11. (d)	12. (c)	13. (b)	14. (a)	15. (a)
16. (c)	17. (c)	18. (a)	19. (c)	20. (d)
21. (b)	22. (b)	23. (a)	24. (c)	25. (c)
26. (a)	27. (d)	28. (c)	29. (c)	30. (b)
31. (b)	32. (d)	33. (b)	34. (c)	35. (d)
36. (c)	37. (d)	38. (a)	39. (a)	40. (a)
41. (b)	42. (b)	43. (d)	44. (a)	45. (a)
46. (a)	47. (a)	48. (b)	49. (c)	50. (d)
51. (c)	52. (b)	53. (c)	54. (d)	55. (a)
56. (a)	57. (b)	58. (b)	59. (a)	60. (b)

61. (c)	62. (a)	63. (d)	64. (d)	65. (c)
66. (b)	67. (a)	68. (a)	69. (d)	70. (c)
71. (b)	72. (a)	73. (d)	74. (d)	75. (d)
76. (b)	77. (b)	78. (c)	79. (d)	80. (a)
81. (a)	82. (c)	83. (b)	84. (a)	85. (c)
86. (a)	87. (a)	88. (c)	89. (b)	90. (d)
91. (a)	92. (b)	93. (d)	94. (c)	95. (d)
96. (a)	97. (a)	98. (c)	99. (a)	100. (d)
101. (d)	102. (d)	103. (b)	104. (a)	105. (d)
106. (a)	107. (b)	108. (b)	109. (d)	110. (b)

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Most Expected CA Questions (July 2021)

- Which state has launched the “Students Credit Card” scheme where an education loan up to ₹ 10 lakh will be made available for higher studies?
(A) Andhra Pradesh (B) West Bengal
(C) Odisha (D) Uttar Pradesh
- K V Sampath Kumar, who passed away recently, was the editor of the world's only which Sanskrit daily newspaper?
(A) Nischay (B) Krishnam
(C) Gyan Bodh (D) Sudharma
- Supreme Court on has given a deadline to all states and Union territories to implement 'One Nation, One Ration Card' (ONORC) scheme by which date?
(A) July 31 (B) August 30
(C) December 31 (D) September 30
- Asia’s longest High Speed Track NATRAX was inaugurated in which city of India?
(A) Hyderabad (B) Indore
(C) Pune (D) Kolkata
- Which state has launched the Chief Minister Dalit Empowerment Programme?
(A) Andhra Pradesh (B) Madhya Pradesh
(C) Chhattisgarh (D) Telangana
- Which Space Agency has decided to hire the first differently abled astronaut?
(A) NASA (B) ISRO
(C) CNES (D) ESA
- Union Cabinet has approved an MoU between India and which country in the field of Health Research?
(A) Bangladesh (B) Nepal
(C) South Africa (D) Gambia
- A two day Regional Conference on the theme “Replication of Good Governance Practices” is being held in which city?
(A) Pune (B) Bhopal
(C) Ranchi (D) Srinagar
- Who has been appointed as the chairman of the Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA)?
(A) Shambhu Nath Srivastava (B) Ashok Bhushan
(C) Vineet Saran (D) Ajay Rastogi
- Name the Indian journalists who has won the Fukuoka Grand Prize 2021?
(A) Pallavi Aiyar (B) Siddharth Varadarajan
(C) P. Sainath (D) Aparna Karthikeyan
- Seema Punia, who has been qualified for the Tokyo Olympics 2021, is associated with which sports?

- (A) Rowing (B) Judo
(C) Discus throw (D) Handball
12. When is National Doctors' Day observed every year in India?
(A) 1 July (B) 2 July
(C) 3 July (D) 4 July
13. Who has become the youngest Grandmaster in history of Chess?
(A) Abhimanyu Mishra (B) Pradeep Desai
(C) Keshav Paney (D) Vikrant Sharma
14. Name the two students from India who have received the prestigious Diana Award 2021?
(A) Nirvaan John Rao (B) Sethulakshmi Chandra
(C) Akshay Aiyar (D) A&B
15. Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, inaugurated the new Centre of National Horticulture Board (NHB) in which city of Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Bhopal (B) Indore
(C) Satna (D) Gwalior
16. The 7th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), a biennial event, was hosted by the Navy of which country?
(A) Denmark (B) Russia
(C) France (D) India
17. The Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM) has signed an MoU with which company to build an AI and emerging technologies Centre of Excellence at AJNIFM?
(A) Microsoft (B) Amazon
(C) Google (D) IBM
18. Which e-commerce company has launched Shopsy, an app that will enable Indians to start their online businesses without any investment?
(A) Amazon (B) Flipkart
(C) Myntra (D) Nykaa
19. Which Asian country recently was officially declared 'malaria-free' by the World Health Organization (WHO)?
(A) China (B) Indonesia
(C) Singapore (D) Taiwan
20. On July 1, India's which oldest running newspaper had turned 200?
(A) Gujarati Samachar (B) Madras Samachar
(C) Ranchi Samachar (D) Mumbai Samachar
21. Indian Railway's first-ever movable freshwater tunnel aquarium has been opened at which railway station?
(A) Bengaluru Railway Station
(B) Pune Railway Station
(C) Hyderabad Railway Station
(D) Bhopal Railway Station
22. When is National Chartered Accountants Day observed in India every year?
(A) 4 July (B) 3 July
(C) 1 July (D) 2 July
23. Which Country has unveiled its 5th generation missile system "Sea Breaker" which has a range of 300 km?
(A) Russia (B) Israel
(C) France (D) China
24. Sports Ministry has decided to grant recognition to which federation as National Sports Federation (NSF)?
(A) WAKO India Kickboxing Federation
(B) Underwater Hockey Federation
(C) Sky Jumping Federation
(D) Luge India Federation
25. Wrestler Sumit Malik has been banned for how many years by the United World Wrestling (UWW) for doping?
(A) 3 years (B) 2 years
(C) 6 years (D) 5 years
26. Who has been named the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent in the Tokyo Paralympics, which begins on August 24?
(A) Mariyappan Thangavelu (B) Amit Kumar Saroha
(C) Rubina Francis (D) Devendra Jhalaria
27. Which bank has launched the 'Salaam Dil Sey' initiative to pay tribute to doctors?
(A) ICICI Bank (B) Yes Bank
(C) HDFC Bank (D) Axis Bank
28. Who is the author of the book Policymaker's Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, DC?
(A) Jagdish Bhagwati (B) Surjit Bhalla
(C) Kaushik Basu (D) Montek Singh Ahluwalia
29. SERB has launched the first-of-its-kind research initiative called 'Fund for Industrial Research Engagement (FIRE)' in partnership with which company?
(A) Intel (B) Microsoft
(C) Google (D) IBM
30. What is the rank of India in the Global Cyber Security Index (GCI) 2020 published by International Telecommunication Union?
(A) 13th (B) 10th
(C) 16th (D) 15th
31. Raj Kaushal, who passed away recently, was a renowned _____?
(A) Author (B) Singer
(C) Actor (D) Filmmaker
32. Who has taken charge as the Director General of All India Radio?
(A) Surya Prakash (B) Alok Agrawal
(C) N Venudhar Reddy (D) Kuldeep Kumar

33. Which Indian company has signed an agreement with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) to set up a new petrochemical complex in Abu Dhabi?
 (A) Reliance Industries (B) Adani Power
 (C) Tata Power (D) NTPC
34. Who is the author of the book Nathuram Godse: The True Story of Gandhi's Assassin?
 (A) Shiv Aroor (B) Dhaval Kulkarni
 (C) Rahul Singh (D) Amish Devgan
35. Which Bank has launched the comprehensive banking solution for doctors, called Salute Doctors?
 (A) Kotak Mahindra Bank (B) Axis Bank
 (C) ICICI Bank (D) HDFC Bank
36. A rare species of poisonous snake "black-bellied coral snake" was recently discovered in which state?
 (A) Uttarakhand (B) Himachal Pradesh
 (C) Assam (D) Nagaland
37. Which Small Finance Bank has partnered with digital lender LoanTap to provide personal loans to salaried professionals?
 (A) Suryoday Small Finance Bank
 (B) Janalakshmi Small Finance Bank
 (C) Equitas Small Finance Bank
 (D) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
38. India has taken a target of creating additional 2.5 billion tonnes carbon sequestration by which year?
 (A) 2025 (B) 2028
 (C) 2030 (D) 2032
39. Who has been appointed as the U.S. Chargé D'affaires in India?
 (A) Manjul Bhargava (B) Atul Keshap
 (C) Keshav Seth (D) Arjun Parakh
40. World Bank has approved a loan of how much amount to support India's informal working class to overcome the current pandemic distress?
 (A) USD 250 million (B) USD 200 million
 (C) USD 350 million (D) USD 500 million
41. Donald Rumsfeld, who passed away recently, was the former Defence Secretary of which country?
 (A) Australia (B) United States
 (C) Israel (D) Russia
42. Perrottetia rajeshgopali, which has been recorded for the first time from Maharashtra's northern Western Ghats, is a species of?
 (A) Snail (B) Fish
 (C) Flower (D) Fruit
43. Hyderabad-based technology R&D firm Grene Robotics has designed and developed India's first indigenous drone defence dome called ?
 (A) Raudra (B) Nandaka
 (C) Indrajala (D) Ashwina
44. Which bank has signed an agreement with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to accelerate its digital transformation programme?
 (A) HDFC Bank (B) Axis Bank
 (C) Yes Bank (D) Kotak Mahindra Bank
45. Which state has launched the Mukhyamantri Shehri Nikay Svamita Yojana?
 (A) Punjab (B) Bihar
 (C) Jharkhand (D) Haryana
46. As per a report by the International Labour Organisation, number of international migrant workers rose globally to how many million in 2019?
 (A) 169 million (B) 145 million
 (C) 150 million (D) 120 million
47. M Prasanna, who passed away recently, was associated with which sports?
 (A) Hockey (B) Badminton
 (C) Football (D) Tennis
48. Who has been appointed as the Vice Chief of Air Staff?
 (A) Abhinav Kohli (B) Rajesh Kumar Dinkar
 (C) Gautam Maheshwari (D) Vivek Ram Chaudhari
49. Who has been selected for the Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar 2020?
 (A) Brajanath Rath (B) Rajendra Kishore Panda
 (C) Ramakanta Rath (D) Manoj Das
50. Sea Breeze 2021 is an annual naval exercise between United States and which country?
 (A) Ukraine (B) India
 (C) Denmark (D) Mexico
51. Bagram airbase, seen in news recently, is located in which country?
 (A) Iran (B) Iraq
 (C) Israel (D) Afghanistan
52. Which of the following ministries has launched the NIPUN Bharat programme?
 (A) Ministry of Finance
 (B) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
 (C) Ministry of Education
 (D) Ministry of Minority Affairs
53. United States observed its _____ Independence Day on 4 July 2021?
 (A) 245th (B) 240th
 (C) 250th (D) 255th
54. Where in Madhya Pradesh, the National Institute of Mental Health and Research, is being built up?
 (A) Bhopal (B) Indore
 (C) Gwalior (D) Sehore

55. Who has become the first Indian male athlete to participate in the 400m hurdles in Tokyo Olympics?
 (A) Kunhu Muhammed (B) MP Jabir
 (C) Muhammed Anas (D) Arokiya Rajiv
56. Varadia amboliensis, discovered from Amboli village in Sindhudurg district, is a species of which among the following?
 (A) Frog (B) Fish
 (C) Snail (D) Spider
57. Purvanchal Expressway located in which state will become operational by August 2021?
 (A) Madhya Pradesh (B) Gujarat
 (C) Uttar Pradesh (D) West Bengal
58. KVIC has launched the project named "Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought" (BOLD) from which village of Udaipur in Rajasthan?
 (A) Nichla Mandwa (B) Bheelon Ka Bedla
 (C) Saiyat Bhagal (D) Kharadi Phalan
59. The Allahabad high court has asked central government to lab test the properties of bacteriophages (a virus that destroys harmful bacteria) found in which river?
 (A) Yamuna (B) Betwa
 (C) Ganga (D) Gomti
60. Google has created doodle of Sir Ludwig Guttman. Sir Ludwig is known as the founder of which Movement?
 (A) Paralympic movement
 (B) Olympic Movement
 (C) Football Movement
 (D) Artistic Gymnastics Movement
61. Which country has evacuated 180,000 people amid fear of Tropical Storm Elsa?
 (A) Cuba (B) Spain
 (C) Fiji (D) Indonesia
62. Which ministry has launched the portal "Enforcing Contracts" to promote ease of doing business and improve the 'Contract Enforcement Regime' in the country?
 (A) Ministry of Finance
 (B) Ministry of Law & Justice
 (C) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
 (D) Ministry of Mines
63. Who has become the second India-born woman to fly into space after Kalpana Chawla?
 (A) Sirisha Bandla (B) Swati Mohan
 (C) Ritu Karidhal (D) Chandrima Shaha
64. According to International Energy Agency (IEA), India can add 26,000 megawatt (MW) of hydropower projects by which year?
 (A) 2025 (B) 2032
 (C) 2028 (D) 2030
65. Sun Pharma has launched which special initiative for the welfare of doctors?
 (A) Aabhar (B) Samman
 (C) Abhinav (D) Sunkalp
66. Who has become the highest run-getter in women's cricket across formats, overtaking former England skipper Charlotte Edwards?
 (A) Smriti Mandhana (B) Jhulan Goswami
 (C) Mithali Raj (D) Harmanpreet Kaur
67. Who chaired the 6th meeting of BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting through video conference?
 (A) Narendra Modi (B) Prahlad Singh Patel
 (C) S. Jaishankar (D) Nitin Gadkari
68. Which Agency has been awarded the World's Most Innovative Investment Promotion Agency 2021 by OCO Global?
 (A) KVIC (B) NAFED
 (C) APEDA (D) Invest India
69. Jammu and Kashmir administration has put an end to 149-year-old darbar move tradition. This tradition was started by Maharaja Ranbir Singh in which year?
 (A) 1890 (B) 1905
 (C) 1920 (D) 1872
70. Jim Whitehurst has stepped down from the post of President of which Company?
 (A) IBM (B) Intel
 (C) Oracle (D) HP
71. Section 66A of the IT Act was scrapped by the Supreme Court in which year?
 (A) 2018 (B) 2017
 (C) 2015 (D) 2014
72. According to the Financial Stability Report (FSR) released by RBI, gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) ratio of banks may rise to per cent by March 2022?
 (A) 8.7% (B) 9.8%
 (C) 9.2% (D) 8.9%
73. Which state has announced a cash reward of Rs. 20 lakh to first fully vaccinated assembly constituency?
 (A) Himachal Pradesh (B) Punjab
 (C) Rajasthan (D) Manipur
74. Which edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held in Goa from 20th -28th November 2021?
 (A) 51st (B) 50th
 (C) 52nd (D) 54th

75. The Co-WIN Global Conclave was jointly organized by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, National Health Authority, and which ministry with an objective to extend the Co-WIN platform to the world?
 (A) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
 (B) Ministry of External Affairs
 (C) Ministry of Finance
 (D) Ministry of Culture
76. Which organization has initiated a project on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)?
 (A) NAFED (B) ASSOCHAM
 (C) KVIC (D) DPIIT
77. PM Modi paid tribute to Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his birth anniversary. He founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh in which year?
 (A) 1951 (B) 1948
 (C) 1954 (D) 1955
78. The famous Silver Filigree (Chandi Tarakasi) of which district of Odisha is seeking Geographical Indication (GI) tag?
 (A) Angul (B) Balasore
 (C) Cuttack (D) Deogarh
79. Minister of Ayush Shri Kiren Rijiju has launched how many portals on Ayush sector?
 (A) Seven (B) Three
 (C) Six (D) Five
80. Ministry of Tourism has signed an MOU with which travel company to strengthen hospitality & tourism Industry of India?
 (A) Yatra (B) Expedia
 (C) Goibibo (D) MakeMyTrip
81. Gomti River Front project, seen in news recently, is a project of which state?
 (A) Bihar (B) Jharkhand
 (C) Uttar Pradesh (D) Rajasthan
82. Pingali Venkayya's death anniversary was observed on 4th July; he was the designer of which among the following?
 (A) National Currency (B) National Flag
 (C) National Emblem (D) National Motto
83. The Army has inducted the first production lot of 12 Short Span Bridging System (SSBS) which is designed and developed by DRDO in collaboration with which company?
 (A) Larsen & Toubro
 (B) Tata Advanced Systems
 (C) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
 (D) Bharat Dynamics
84. Recently a large amount of plastic waste was removed from the Kabini river. It is a tributary of which river?
 (A) Mahanadi (B) Cauvery
 (C) Krishna (D) Godavari
85. Which country exited from Istanbul Convention on Violence Against Women on July 1?
 (A) Albania (B) Greece
 (C) Estonia (D) Turkey
86. Who has been appointed as the new Governor of Karnataka?
 (A) Thawar Chand Gehlot
 (B) Hari Babu Kambhampati
 (C) Ramesh Bais
 (D) Bandaru Dattatreya
87. Two new drug testing laboratories have been set up by Indian government in which cities?
 (A) Hyderabad and Pune (B) Bhopal and Sagar
 (C) Ranchi and Lucknow (D) Bengaluru and Kochi
88. Stoliczka vanhnuailianai, recently found in Mizoram, is a species of which among the following?
 (A) Spider (B) Butterfly
 (C) Snake (D) lizard
89. Who has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of Khadi Prakritik Paint?
 (A) Narendra Modi (B) Nitin Gadkari
 (C) Piyush Goyal (D) Santosh Gangwar
90. An all-weather hi-tech tunnel connecting Qazigund and Banihal in Jammu & Kashmir will be opened soon. What is the length of this tunnel?
 (A) 5.6km (B) 7.5km
 (C) 8.5 km (D) 6.3km
91. Which app has been launched by Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying for Indian aqua farmers?
 (A) Matsya Setu (B) Aqua Info
 (C) Matsya Palan Setu (D) Samudra Setu
92. Legendary actor Dilip Kumar, passed away recently; what was his real name?
 (A) Javed Khan (B) Yunis Khan
 (C) Yasir Khan (D) Yusuf Khan
93. India is building a Mega ISRO Ground Station in which country for ASEAN countries?
 (A) Malaysia (B) Brunei
 (C) Vietnam (D) Philippines
94. Which among the following in partnership with Aditya Birla Finance Ltd has launched Postpaid Mini to provide small-ticket instant loans?
 (A) Phone Pe (B) Paytm
 (C) Airtel Pay (D) Google Pay

95. Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Waze, a crowd-sourced navigation app and a subsidiary of tech giant Google?
 (A) Soma Raje (B) Archana Bhatt
 (C) Krishna Khetan (D) Neha Parikh
96. Health Ministry has launched which informational video series on its social media platforms?
 (A) OVID Shiksha (B) COVID Gyan
 (C) COVID GuruKool (D) COVID Pathshala
97. The ICC Anti-Corruption Tribunal has banned former Sri Lanka Cricket performance analyst Sanath Jayasundara for how many years for breaching ICC Anti-Corruption Code?
 (A) 7 years (B) 6 years
 (C) 5 years (D) 4 years
98. Where is World's third largest cricket stadium being built up?
 (A) Kota (B) Lucknow
 (C) Jaipur (D) Indore
99. Where in Jammu & Kashmir a Model Anti- Rabies Clinic (Animal Bite Clinic) has been opened?
 (A) Srinagar (B) Jammu
 (C) Gulmarg (D) Doda
100. First commercial shipment of Mishri variety of which fruit has been exported from Kashmir to Dubai?
 (A) Apple (B) Cherry
 (C) Almond (D) Pomegranate
101. When is World Chocolate Day observed every year?
 (A) 6 July (B) 8 July
 (C) 5 July (D) 7 July
102. Who has been awarded the Humboldt Research Award for Economics?
 (A) Amartya Sen (B) Montek Singh Ahluwalia
 (C) Raghuram Rajan (D) Kaushik Basu
103. AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 will be held in which two cities of India?
 (A) Bengaluru and Chennai (B) Mumbai and Pune
 (C) Bhubneshwar and Puri (D) New Delhi and Noida
104. Veteran Congress leader Virbhadra Singh who passed away recently was the former Chief Minister of which state?
 (A) Uttarkhand (B) Himachal Pradesh
 (C) Chhattisgarh (D) Rajasthan
105. According to a report by Greenpeace India, Delhi recorded an increase of _____ per cent in NO₂ (nitrogen dioxide) pollution between April 2020 and April 2021?
 (A) 100% (B) 115%
 (C) 125% (D) 110%
106. The Indian Army has inaugurated a war memorial dedicated to Captain Gurjinder Singh Suri who lost his life during which Operation in J&K in 1999?
 (A) Operation Vijay (B) Operation Bluebird
 (C) Operation Checkmate (D) Operation Birsu Munda
107. Fitch Ratings has projected India's GDP growth rate at what per cent for FY22?
 (A) 10.2% (B) 10%
 (C) 9.6% (D) 9.5%
108. Which state has launched the ATISIS scheme to boost the production of orthodox and specialty tea?
 (A) West Bengal (B) Assam
 (C) Karnataka (D) Andhra Pradesh
109. Gravelia boro and Dexippus kleini found recently in Assam is species of which among the following?
 (A) Frog (B) Snake
 (C) Lizard (D) Spider
110. According to the data shared by Delhi Police, Crime against women in Capital has increased by what per cent in the first six months of 2021 as compared to 2020?
 (A) 63.3% (B) 23.3%
 (C) 40.6% (D) 30.5%
111. The Union government has set up a 25-member development council for cement industry under whose chairmanship?
 (A) Rakesh Singh (B) HM Bangur
 (C) Puneet Dalmia (D) Pracheta Majumdar
112. The first unit of the Maitree power project at which place in Bangladesh will be commissioned in December 2021?
 (A) Sonatola (B) Lalpur
 (C) Kazipur (D) Rampal
113. Jovenel Moïse who was assassinated at his home was the President of which country?
 (A) Cuba (B) Haiti
 (C) Peru (D) Nigeria
114. Competition Commission of India (CCI) has signed an MoU with Fair Trade Commission of which country to strengthen cooperation in the matter of Competition Law and Policy?
 (A) Denmark (B) France
 (C) Peru (D) Japan
115. Who has become the first African-American to win 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee?
 (A) Katherine Cosby (B) Zaila Avant-Garde
 (C) Percy Louis (D) Joe Henson
116. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has signed an agreement with which bank to offer insurance products?
 (A) Punjab National Bank (B) Canara Bank
 (C) Bank of India (D) Indian Bank

117. Which social media platform has launched the newsletter product Bulletin?
 (A) Instagram (B) Facebook
 (C) Twitter (D) Telegram
118. The Defence Ministry has implemented which system for automation of sanction and disbursement of defence pension?
 (A) PRAGYA (B) SPARSH
 (C) GRAH (D) VEER
119. Which country has launched the meteorological satellite "Fengyun-3E (FY-3E)"?
 (A) Japan (B) South Korea
 (C) China (D) Israel
120. Which district of Kerala has launched an initiative 'Books at Doorstep' to revive reading habits among school children?
 (A) Ernakulam (B) Thrissur
 (C) Palakkad (D) Malappuram
121. Mekedatu reservoir project, seen in news recently, is proposed to built on which river?
 (A) Moyar (B) Cauvery
 (C) Kabini (D) Tungabhadra
122. Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR), where 150 vultures were spotted recently, is located in which state?
 (A) Jharkhand (B) Bihar
 (C) Chhattisgarh (D) Himachal Pradesh
123. India's Second Longest 'Ganga Expressway' is set to commence by September 2021. What is the length of this expressway?
 (A) 450 km (B) 234 km
 (C) 594 km (D) 654 km
124. National Fish Farmers' Day is observed every year in India on which date?
 (A) July 12 (B) July 11
 (C) July 10 (D) July 9
125. Who has been appointed as the Acting CEO of International Cricket Council (ICC)?
 (A) Ian Watmore (B) Geoff Allardice
 (C) Lawson Naidoo (D) Richard Skerritt
126. Which Academic programme in Defence has been launched by DRDO and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)?
 (A) MTech (B) BTech
 (C) Master of Defence (D) Diploma in defence
127. Government has decided to sell up what per cent stake in NMDC Ltd via offer for sale (OFS)?
 (A) 10% (B) 5%
 (C) 12% (D) 4%
128. Federal Bank has re-appointed whom as its MD and CEO for three years?
 (A) Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
 (B) Sandeep Bakshi
 (C) Shyam Srinivasan
 (D) Pallav Mohapatra
129. Which organization hosted a Conference on Biodiversity focused on theme 'Towards 2050: Living in Harmony with Nature'?
 (A) ASEAN (B) SAARC
 (C) BRICS (D) G-20
130. Which movie of Amir Khan was added recently to the collection of the National Film Archives of India (NFAI)?
 (A) 3 Idiots (B) PK
 (C) Taare Zameen Par (D) Dangal
131. A new Concentrated Solar Thermal (CST) based test rig facility has been established in which of the following cities?
 (A) Pune (B) Hyderabad
 (C) Bengaluru (D) Lucknow
132. Doyen of Ayurveda and managing trustee of Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala (KAS) passed away recently; what was his name?
 (A) Krishna Gopalan (B) PK Warriar
 (C) Nakul Pandey (D) Jagdish Kurien
133. Government has decided to conduct a Common Eligibility Test (CET) for job aspirants by which year?
 (A) 2022 (B) 2021
 (C) 2023 (D) 2024
134. Which digital neo bank has decided to offers unique 'Zero Fee' bank account to U.S.-bound Indian students?
 (A) MOX Bank (B) Fam Pay
 (C) NOVO (D) Aeldra
135. The first edition of the Indo Pacific Business Summit was organised by which organization in partnership with External Affairs Ministry?
 (A) CII (B) FICCI
 (C) ASSOCHAM (D) NASSCOM
135. Which company has signed a contract worth about Rs 499 crore with the Ministry of Defence for the manufacture and supply of Akash missiles to the Indian Air Force (IAF)?
 (A) Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.
 (B) Bharat Dynamics Ltd
 (C) Larsen & Toubro
 (D) Mahindra Defence Systems
136. Which state has proposed to launch its own OTT platform?
 (A) Karnataka (B) Odisha
 (C) Kerala (D) West Bengal

137. Scientists of which University have reported real-world results on SwabSeq, a testing platform that uses sequencing to test thousands of samples at a time to detect Covid-19?
 (A) University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
 (B) University of North Alabama (UNA)
 (C) Central Connecticut State University (CCSU)
 (D) Delaware State University
138. Indian Navy has prohibited flying of non-conventional aerial objects like drones and UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) within _____ of Naval base, units, and assets?
 (A) 2 km (B) 3 km
 (C) 4 km (D) 5 km
139. How many European Union (EU) countries have officially recognised the Covishield vaccine?
 (A) 15 (B) 12
 (C) 10 (D) 17
140. Pravartak Technologies Foundation of which IIT is collaborating with Sony India Software Centre Pvt Ltd to conduct a national hackathon called 'SAMVEDAN 2021'?
 (A) IIT lucknow (B) IIT Madras
 (C) IIT Guwahati (D) IIT Ropar
141. Mastercard, Mumbai Metro and which bank have announced the launch of 'One Mumbai Metro Card', to ensure contactless and cashless travel for Mumbaikars?
 (A) HDFC Bank (B) Bank of Maharashtra
 (C) Axis Bank (D) Yes Bank
142. Name the person who has finished the world's first solo motorcycle expedition covering 18 passes of Himalayas?
 (A) Roshni Sharma (B) Kanchan Ugursandi
 (C) Roshini Misbah (D) Aishwarya Pissay
143. Which insurance company has launched a comprehensive health insurance plan 'Arogya Supreme'?
 (A) SBI General Insurance
 (B) Acko General Insurance Ltd
 (C) Bharti AXA General Insurance
 (D) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
144. Who is the author of the book The Ramayan of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji?
 (A) Vikram Khurana (B) Baljit Kaur Tulsi
 (C) Vidya Kumari (D) Nand Singh
145. Abiy Ahmed will become the Prime Minister of which country for the second term?
 (A) Ethiopia (B) Kenya
 (C) Djibouti (D) Somalia
146. India's first cryptogamic garden was inaugurated in which of the following states?
 (A) Himachal Pradesh (B) Sikkim
 (C) Uttarakhand (D) Gujarat
147. Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC) has secured trademark registration for brand name "Khadi" in which of the following countries?
 (A) Bhutan (B) UAE
 (C) Mexico (D) All of the above
148. When is Malala Day observed every year?
 (A) 11 July (B) 13 July
 (C) 12 July (D) 10 July
149. Which Indian Naval Ship participated in military exercises with a frontline frigate of the Italian Navy in the Tyrrhenian Sea?
 (A) INS Kirpan (B) INS Cheetah
 (C) INS Tabar (D) INS Talwar
150. Nation State Law, which was making news recently, is a controversial law of which country?
 (A) Israel (B) China
 (C) Russia (D) Iran

— Answer Key —

- | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (d) | 3. (a) | 4. (b) | 5. (d) |
| 6. (d) | 7. (b) | 8. (d) | 9. (a) | 10. (c) |
| 11. (c) | 12. (a) | 13. (a) | 14. (d) | 15. (d) |
| 16. (c) | 17. (a) | 18. (b) | 19. (a) | 20. (d) |
| 21. (a) | 22. (a) | 23. (b) | 24. (a) | 25. (b) |
| 26. (a) | 27. (c) | 28. (c) | 29. (a) | 30. (b) |
| 31. (d) | 32. (c) | 33. (a) | 34. (b) | 35. (c) |
| 36. (a) | 37. (d) | 38. (c) | 39. (b) | 40. (d) |
| 41. (b) | 42. (a) | 43. (c) | 44. (b) | 45. (d) |
| 46. (a) | 47. (c) | 48. (d) | 49. (b) | 50. (a) |
| 51. (d) | 52. (c) | 53. (a) | 54. (d) | 55. (b) |
| 56. (C) | 57. (c) | 58. (a) | 59. (c) | 60. (a) |
| 61. (a) | 62. (b) | 63. (a) | 64. (d) | 65. (d) |
| 66. (c) | 67. (b) | 68. (d) | 69. (d) | 70. (a) |
| 71. (c) | 72. (b) | 73. (d) | 74. (c) | 75. (b) |
| 76. (d) | 77. (a) | 78. (c) | 79. (d) | 80. (a) |
| 81. (c) | 82. (b) | 83. (a) | 84. (b) | 85. (d) |
| 86. (a) | 87. (a) | 88. (c) | 89. (b) | 90. (c) |
| 91. (a) | 92. (d) | 93. (c) | 94. (b) | 95. (d) |
| 96. (c) | 97. (a) | 98. (c) | 99. (d) | 100. (b) |
| 101. (d) | 102. (d) | 103. (b) | 104. (b) | 105. (c) |
| 106. (d) | 107. (b) | 108. (b) | 109. (d) | 110. (a) |
| 111. (c) | 112. (d) | 113. (b) | 114. (d) | 115. (b) |
| 116. (c) | 117. (b) | 118. (b) | 119. (c) | 120. (a) |
| 121. (b) | 122. (b) | 123. (c) | 124. (c) | 125. (b) |
| 126. (a) | 127. (d) | 128. (c) | 129. (a) | 130. (b) |
| 131. (b) | 132. (b) | 133. (a) | 134. (d) | 135. (a) |
| 136. (c) | 137. (a) | 138. (b) | 139. (a) | 140. (b) |
| 141. (c) | 142. (b) | 143. (a) | 144. (b) | 145. (a) |
| 146. (c) | 147. (d) | 148. (c) | 149. (c) | 150. (a) |



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Most Expected CA Questions (August 2021)

- On the first anniversary of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched which assessment framework for CBSE students?
 - SIDDHI
 - SAMPAN
 - SABAL
 - SAFAL
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 5 crore on which bank for non-compliance of rules?
 - HDFC Bank
 - Axis Bank
 - ICICI Bank
 - YES Bank
- Who has been crowned Miss India USA 2021?
 - Arshi Lalani
 - Mira Kasari
 - Vaidehi Dongre
 - Nidhi Sharma
- Sitio Burle Marx, located in which country, has received the UNESCO world heritage status?
 - Brazil
 - Peru
 - Mexico
 - Spain
- Jacob Zuma, who was sentenced to 15 months in jail, is the former President of which country?
 - Namibia
 - Botswana
 - Zimbabwe
 - South Africa
- How many Tiger Reserves in India have received the accreditation of the Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA/Ts)?
 - 12
 - 10
 - 14
 - 11
- Which edition of coordinated patrol (CORPAT) between India and Indonesia took place in Indian Ocean region?
 - 36th
 - 30th
 - 32nd
 - 31st
- The Union Cabinet has cleared the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) Bill, 2021, which will allow depositors to withdraw up to how much amount in 90 days?
 - Rs 10 lakh
 - Rs 5 lakh
 - Rs 15 lakh
 - Rs 7 lakh
- Madgaum Urban Co-operative Bank Limited whose licence has been cancelled by RBI is based in which state?
 - Maharashtra
 - Goa
 - Bihar
 - Madhya Pradesh
- Who has become the youngest person in the world to reach the summit of K2?
 - Shehroze Kashif
 - Ajeet Bajaj
 - Samina Khayal Baig
 - Santosh Yadav
- Which state has launched the Model Hepatitis B Treatment Centres on World Hepatitis Day?
 - Assam
 - Sikkim
 - Manipur
 - Nagaland
- When is World Ranger Day observed every year?
 - 30 July
 - 29 July
 - 31 July
 - 28 July
- Who has been named as a recipient of the prestigious Lokmanya Tilak National Award for 2021?
 - Ratan Tata
 - Mukesh Ambani
 - Shiv Nadar
 - Cyrus Poonawalla
- Name the Indian who has won the prestigious Will Eisner Comic Industry Award 2021?
 - Anand Radhakrishnan
 - Akshar Pathak
 - Benoy Sarkar
 - Gopi Prassana
- Bharat Bill Payment System has appointed whom as its new Chief Executive Officer?
 - Nivruti Rai
 - Kallie Puri
 - Noopur Chaturvedi
 - Falguni Nayar
- Which country has taken over the Presidency of the UN Security Council for the month of August?
 - Estonia
 - India
 - Vietnam
 - Russia
- The first G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting was held in which of the following countries?
 - France
 - Germany
 - Italy
 - United Kingdom
- Which Tiger Reserve of India has received the Natwest Group Earth Heroes Award?
 - Namdapha Tiger Reserve
 - Valmiki Tiger Reserve
 - Satpura Tiger Reserve
 - Simlipal Tiger Reserve
- The 12th round of Corps Commander-level talks took place between India and which country?
 - China
 - Afghanistan
 - Bangladesh
 - Pakistan

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20. Who has assumed charge as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff?
 (A) S Kishan Kumar (D) SN Ghormade
 (C) VK Sabarwal (D) NK Singh
21. Gujarat will host its first Defence Expo in which city under the theme 'India as a defence manufacturing hub'?
 (A) Vadodara (B) Surat
 (C) Ahmedabad (D) Gandhinagar
22. Who has become the first muslim to be nominated by Joe Biden as the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom?
 (A) Rashad Hussain (D) Aamir Saeed
 (C) Yousuf Khan (D) Mohammed Anas
23. Which ministry has developed the "Biotech-PRIDE (Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange) Guidelines"?
 (A) Ministry of Education
 (B) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
 (C) Ministry of Science and Technology
 (D) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
24. Which organization and Serum Institute of India have joined hands for vaccination drive in small towns and rural areas?
 (A) FICCI (B) CII
 (C) NITI Aayog (D) All of the above
25. Which company has announced the launch of Karigar Mela in partnership with Tribes India?
 (A) Myntra (B) Flipkart
 (C) Amazon (D) Nykaa
26. Which State has inaugurated the Sahajeevanam project for the differently abled?
 (A) Kerala (B) Telangana
 (C) Andhra Pradesh (D) Odisha
27. Prime Minister Shri Narendra has launched which cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment?
 (A) e-RUPI (D) e-VOUCH
 (C) e-Redeem (D) e-Bank
28. Who has become India's first female hockey player to score a hat-trick at Olympics?
 (A) Nikki Pradhan (D) Vandana Katariya
 (C) Navjot Kaur (D) Sharmila Devi
29. Which ministry has formulated a scheme called Information- Monitoring, Evaluation and Social Audit (I-MESA)?
 (A) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
 (B) Ministry of Finance
 (C) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
 (D) Ministry of Law and Justice
30. Who is the author of the book 'The Most Incredible Olympic Stories'?
 (A) Yohan Blake (B) Jeff Henderson
 (C) Luciano Wernicke (D) David Rudisha
31. What is the name of the personal reading machine for visually impaired developed by CSIR-Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO), Chandigarh?
 (A) Divya Prabha (D) Divya Sutra
 (C) Navya Netra (D) Divya Nayan
32. Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Sciences in which city?
 (A) Noida (B) Lucknow
 (C) Varanasi (D) Prayagraj
33. Which Formula 1 driver has won the title of Hungarian Grand Prix 2021?
 (A) Esteban Ocon (D) Lewis Hamilton
 (C) Sebastian Vettel (D) Max Verstappen
34. Which IIT institution has developed an AI tool called NBDriver (neighbourhood driver) for use in analysing cancer-causing mutations in cells?
 (A) IIT Bombay (B) IIT Madras
 (C) IIT Guwahati (D) IIT Delhi
35. State Bank of India (SBI) has launched which new and enhanced security feature in YONO and YONO Lite app?
 (A) Easy Pay (D) SIM Binding
 (C) Secure Pay (D) E-lock
36. Every year on which date Parakram Diwas will be observed in India?
 (A) 23 January (B) 12 January
 (C) 25 December (D) 23 March
37. Who has taken charge as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA)?
 (A) Mahesh Kumar (D) Deepak Das
 (C) Arjun Singh (D) Kailash Kapoor
38. Which education financing platform has received an NBFC license from the Reserve Bank of India?
 (A) Eduvanz (D) Credenc
 (C) GyanDhan (D) Leap Finance
39. A hotline was established between the Indian Army at which pass of Sikkim and China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) at Khamba Dzong in Tibet?
 (A) Jelep La (D) Donkia Pass
 (C) Nathu La (D) Kongra La
40. The Ministry of Ayush has collaborated with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) to conduct a study on which medicinal plant for promoting recovery from COVID-19?
 (A) Ashwagandha (D) Brahmi
 (C) Shatavari (D) Amaltas
41. Who is the author of the book "In An Ideal World"?
 (A) Vikram Seth (B) Kunal Basu
 (C) Jeet Thayil (D) Amit Chaudhuri

42. Who has been appointed as the Director General of Artillery?
 (A) Sandeep Kumar (B) J K Jaiswal
 (C) Tarun Kumar Chawla (D) K Ravi Prasad
43. Which IIT has launched seven new academic programmes to cater to the rising demand for new-age technologies?
 (A) IIT Bombay (B) IIT Lucknow
 (C) IIT Delhi (D) IIT Roorkee
44. Who has been appointed as a global brand ambassador for Bvlgari?
 (A) Priyanka Chopra (D) Deepika Padukone
 (C) Aishwarya Rai (D) Huma Qureshi
45. Which state is contemplating a merger of the Department of Planning with the Department of Finance?
 (A) Tamil Nadu (B) Karnataka
 (C) Kerala (D) Andhra Pradesh
46. Who has won the men's singles gold medal in Tennis at the Tokyo Olympics?
 (A) Dominic Thiem (B) Alexander Zverev
 (C) Karen Khachanov (D) Novak Djokovic
47. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur has launched the theme song "Kar De Kamaal Tu" for the Indian Paralympic contingent. Who has sung this song?
 (A) Udit Narayan (B) Sonu Nigam
 (C) Kumar Sanu (D) Sanjeev Singh
48. The Government has launched which campaign for inclusive and holistic preparation of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)?
 (A) Sabki Yojna Sabka Vikas
 (B) Gram Panchayat Vikas
 (C) Sabki Panchayat Sabka Vikas
 (D) Sabka Gram Sabki Panchayat
49. Which has become the first city in India to achieve 100 percent vaccination coverage against Covid-19?
 (A) Bengaluru (B) Amravati
 (C) Bhubaneswar (D) Hyderabad
50. PV Sindhu has become the only second athlete to win two individual Olympic medals, who was the first Indian to do so?
 (A) Mary Kom (B) Vijender Singh
 (C) Abhinav Bindra (D) Sushil Kumar
51. India and which country have joined hands to develop rapid testing for COVID-19 in under 30 seconds?
 (A) Russia (B) Japan
 (C) Israel (D) Australia
52. Suicide cases registered due to unemployment have increased by what per cent from 2016 to 2019, according to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data?
 (A) 24% (B) 20%
 (C) 30% (D) 32%
53. Which bank has been empanelled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to act as an 'Agency Bank' to facilitate transactions related to government businesses?
 (A) IndusInd Bank (B) Kotak Mahindra Bank
 (C) Karur Vysya Bank (D) Bandhan Bank
54. Which IIT has launched the country's first consortium for virtual reality called Consortium for VR/AR/MR Engineering Mission in India' (CAVE)?
 (A) IIT Bombay (B) IIT Guwahati
 (C) IIT Madras (D) IIT Delhi
55. International Monetary Fund (IMF) have approved a record general allocation of how much amount in Special Drawing Rights (SDR) to boost global liquidity?
 (A) \$550 billion (B) \$450 billion
 (C) \$750 billion (D) \$650 billion
56. Which state has secured first position in the country in the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System (CCTNS) system with 100 percent score?
 (A) Himachal Pradesh (B) Haryana
 (C) Gujarat (D) Kerala
57. Under the "Fish Andhra" project, which bank will support the Andhra Pradesh government in setting up 100 aqua hub across the State?
 (A) State Bank of India (B) Bank of Baroda
 (C) Punjab National Bank (D) Indian Bank
58. Who has taken charge as the Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation of India?
 (A) Mini Ipe (B) Pankaj Jain
 (C) Vipin Anand (D) Mukesh Kumar Gupta
59. Who has become the new President of Iran?
 (A) Eshaq Jahangiri (B) Ebrahim Raisi
 (C) Mohammad Khatami (D) Ali Khamenei
60. When is Hiroshima Day observed every year?
 (A) August 5 (B) August 7
 (C) August 6 (D) August 9
61. Wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya has won the silver medal in which men's freestyle category at Tokyo Olympics?
 (A) 57kg (B) 65kg
 (C) 74kg (D) 86kg
62. Which has become the first Indian Navy ship to call at the heritage coastal port of Gopalpur in Odisha?
 (A) INS Tabar (B) INS Shardul
 (C) INS Shivalik (D) INS Khanjar
63. Rajya Sabha has passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021; this bill removes which

- tribe of Arunachal Pradesh from the list of identified Scheduled Tribes?
 (A) Nyishi (B) Wancho
 (C) Abor (D) Katkari
64. Which state has launched the India's first earthquake early warning mobile application "Bhookamp Alert"?
 (A) Uttarakhand (B) Himachal Pradesh
 (C) West Bengal (D) Gujarat
65. The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the centrally sponsored scheme for fast track special courts till which year?
 (A) 2022 (B) 2024
 (C) 2025 (D) 2023
66. Who is the author of the book "Leopard Diaries"?
 (A) Ketan Parihar (B) Sanjay Gubbi
 (C) Ashok Saraf (D) Anik Bhatia
67. India and World Bank have signed an MoU of worth how much amount for a long-term dam safety programme?
 (A) \$300 million (B) \$350 million
 (C) \$150 million (D) \$250 million
68. World's largest star sapphire cluster was recently found in which of The following countries?
 (A) India (B) Sri Lanka
 (C) Bhutan (D) Thailand
69. Which country has approved the sale of Harpoon Joint Common Test Set (JCTS) and related equipment to India for an estimated cost of \$82 million?
 (A) France (B) Israel
 (C) Russia (D) United States
70. Nikol Pashinyan has been officially appointed as the Prime Minister of which country?
 (A) Georgia (B) Armenia
 (C) Turkey (D) Peru
71. Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan inaugurated a decentralized biomedical waste incinerator in which state?
 (A) Bihar (B) Jharkhand
 (C) Chhattisgarh (D) Gujarat
72. Which state government has launched the 'Har Hith' store scheme?
 (A) Punjab (B) Haryana
 (C) Himachal Pradesh (D) Uttarakhand
73. IFFCO has signed an MoU with which IIT institute for joint research in the area of agriculture and fertilisers including nanotechnology?
 (A) IIT Madras (D) IIT Guwahati
 (C) IIT Delhi (D) IIT Ropar
74. Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide a loan of over Rs 831 crore (USD 112 million) to which state to finance water supply infrastructure?
 (A) Jharkhand (B) Uttar Pradesh
 (C) Tamil Nadu (D) Maharashtra
75. Which insurance company has signed an agreement with SahiPay to provide digital and financial services in the semi-urban and rural parts of the country?
 (A) Acko General Insurance
 (B) SBI General Insurance
 (C) Bharti AXA General Insurance
 (D) IFFCO TOKIO General Insurance
76. The Central Board for Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) has launched which portal for providing free access to information on all Customs procedures.
 (A) NET Portal (B) FIG Portal
 (C) CIS Portal (D) CIP Portal
77. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for continuation of the revised Samagra Shiksha Scheme for a period of how many years?
 (A) 3 years (B) 4 years
 (C) 5 years (D) 2 years
78. Indian boxer Lovlina Borgohain has become Indian boxer to win a medal at olympics?
 (A) Fifth (B) Third
 (C) Second (D) Fourth
79. The Arvind Kejriwal government has approved what percentage hike in the salary and allowances of Delhi MLAs?
 (A) 50% (B) 34%
 (C) 66% (D) 45%
80. Which Union Territory has launched a month-long campaign- 'Pani Maah' (Water Month) to increase the pace of implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission?
 (A) Ladakh (B) Jammu & Kashmir
 (C) Puducherry (D) Chandigarh
81. TRIFED celebrated its which Foundation Day on August 6, 2021?
 (A) 23rd (B) 34th
 (C) 20th (D) 45th
82. RBI in its August bi-monthly monetary policy statement has kept the repo rate at what per cent?
 (A) 4.0% (B) 4.25%
 (C) 3.35% (D) 4.50%
83. Who among the following has won India's first gold medal at Tokyo Olympics 2020?
 (A) Bajrang Punia (B) Ravi Dahiya
 (C) Lovlina Borgohain (D) Neeraj Chopra
84. Which state government has signed an MoU with Walmart Vridi and Haqdarshak to take MSME products to international market?
 (A) Punjab (B) Haryana
 (C) Gujarat (D) Rajasthan
85. India-assisted Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project was conferred the Brunel Medal awarded by the London-based Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE). The project is based in which country?
 (A) Sri Lanka (B) Bhutan
 (C) Myanmar (D) Nepal

86. Assam Infrastructure Financing Authority and Assam Government have signed an MoU with which among the following to give a boost to execute development projects?
(A) SEBI (B) RBI
(C) NHB (D) NABARD
87. Which Small Finance Bank (SSFB) has launched a Health and Wellness Savings Account?
(A) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
(B) Janalakshmi Small Finance Bank
(C) Equitas Small Finance Bank
(D) Suryoday Small Finance Bank
88. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award has been renamed as _____?
(A) Abdul Kalam Khel Ratna Award
(B) Atal Bihari Khel Ratna Award
(C) Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award
(D) Swaraj Khel Ratna Award
89. Sebi has allowed which bank to carry out the activities of investment bankers?
(A) Payments Banks (B) Small Finance Banks
(C) NBFCs (D) All of the above
90. Who has been nominated as Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) for another term of three years by the Central Government?
(A) Shikha Menon (D) Jayanti Ghosh
(C) Rekha Sharma (D) Neena Singh
91. How many beneficiaries have been enrolled in the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan Scheme till 2nd of August?
(A) 4 crore (B) 5 crore
(C) 2 crore (D) 7 crore
92. Which Ministry has launched the 'PM-DAKSH' Portal and Mobile App?
(A) Ministry of Finance
(B) Ministry of Textiles
(C) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
(D) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
93. Which state has constituted a three-tier Women Grievance Redressal Committee (WGRC) to monitor women related complaints?
(A) Haryana (B) Uttar Pradesh
(C) Rajasthan (D) Bihar
94. Flipkart has signed an MoU with which IIM to support small businesses, artisans and weavers?
(A) IIM Ahmedabad (B) IIM Lucknow
(C) IIM Indore (D) IIM Sambalpur
95. The Union Government is aiming to increase fisheries exports to Rs.1 trillion by which Financial year?
(A) 2024 (B) 2023
(C) 2025 (D) 2030
96. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of how much amount as additional financing for the ongoing Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project?
(A) \$300 million (B) \$200 million
(C) \$250 million (D) \$350 million
97. India has gifted 30 ambulances to which of its following neighbouring countries?
(A) Nepal (B) Bangladesh
(C) Bhutan (D) Afghanistan
98. Who has become the first brand ambassador of Home interiors brand HomeLane?
(A) Rohit Sharma (B) Virat Kohli
(C) KL Rahul (D) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
99. India in collaboration with the UN has launched which technology platform to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers?
(A) UNITE CARE (B) UNITE SECURE
(C) UNITE AWARE (D) UNITE RAISE
100. When is Sadbhavana Diwas observed every year in India?
(A) August 20 (B) August 21
(C) August 19 (D) August 18

— Answer Key —

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|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| 1. (D) | 2. (B) | 3. (C) | 4. (B) | 5. (D) |
| 6. (C) | 7. (A) | 8. (B) | 9. (B) | 10. (A) |
| 11. (C) | 12. (C) | 13. (D) | 14. (A) | 15. (C) |
| 16. (B) | 17. (C) | 18. (C) | 19. (A) | 20. (B) |
| 21. (D) | 22. (A) | 23. (D) | 24. (B) | 25. (C) |
| 26. (A) | 27. (A) | 28. (B) | 29. (A) | 30. (C) |
| 31. (D) | 32. (B) | 33. (A) | 34. (B) | 35. (B) |
| 36. (A) | 37. (B) | 38. (C) | 39. (D) | 40. (A) |
| 41. (B) | 42. (C) | 43. (D) | 44. (A) | 45. (D) |
| 46. (B) | 47. (D) | 48. (A) | 49. (C) | 50. (D) |
| 51. (C) | 52. (A) | 53. (A) | 54. (C) | 55. (D) |
| 56. (B) | 57. (B) | 58. (A) | 59. (B) | 60. (C) |
| 61. (A) | 62. (D) | 63. (C) | 64. (A) | 65. (D) |
| 66. (B) | 67. (D) | 68. (B) | 69. (D) | 70. (B) |
| 71. (A) | 72. (B) | 73. (C) | 74. (A) | 75. (B) |
| 76. (D) | 77. (C) | 78. (B) | 79. (C) | 80. (A) |
| 81. (B) | 82. (A) | 83. (D) | 84. (B) | 85. (B) |
| 86. (D) | 87. (D) | 88. (C) | 89. (A) | 90. (C) |
| 91. (B) | 92. (D) | 93. (C) | 94. (D) | 95. (C) |
| 96. (A) | 97. (B) | 98. (D) | 99. (C) | 100. (A) |