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MONTHLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

AUGUST 2021



2021



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CURRENT AFFAIRS

AUGUST 2021

National News

1. PM MODI LAUNCHES ACADEMIC BANK OF CREDIT AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAMME

- PM Modi has launched multiple educational initiatives including the Academic Bank of Credit that will provide multiple entries and exit options for students in Higher education.
- Academic Bank of Credit is envisaged as a digital bank that holds the credit earned by a student in any course.
- Academic Bank of Credit is a major instrument for facilitating multidisciplinary and holistic education and multiple entry and exit in higher education.
- Academic Bank of Credit and the Artificial Intelligence programme to make the youth future-oriented and open the way for an AI-driven economy.



State News

2. RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES 'MISSION NIRYATAK BANO'

- The Rajasthan government's industries department and the Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO) have launched the 'Mission Niryatak Bano' campaign to promote aspiring exporters in the state.

- The campaign is aimed at registering and handholding the local traders willing to expand their business to foreign countries, in six steps.
- This shall cover assistance from training, securing necessary documentation, registration in Rajasthan Export Promotion Council and even support in exports and trade operations.
- The state government in consideration of the challenges of small businesses had waived off the need for several state-level clearances for the initial three years of upcoming businesses.
- The exporter assistance campaign shall be another step in helping the local business develop understanding towards the procedures and increase their business.
- Chief Minister of Rajasthan: Ashok Gehlot; Governor: Kalraj Mishra.



Appointments News

3. BHARAT BILLPAY APPOINTS PAYU'S NOOPUR CHATURVEDI AS NEW CEO

- Bharat Bill Payment System has appointed former PayU and Airtel Payments Bank executive Noopur Chaturvedi as its new chief executive officer. Chaturvedi, prior to this appointment, was the country head for small and medium businesses at PayU.
- In a career spanning nearly two decades, she has worked with Airtel Payments Bank, Samsung, ING Vysya Bank and Citibank in various senior roles.
- Bharat BillPay is an interoperable and integrated bill payment system for online as well as agent-based settlement of recurring bills.
- On April 1 this year, NPCI transferred all its BBPS mandates to a newly set up subsidiary called the NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL), effectively hiving off its automated billing business. Founded in 2013.



Business News

4. HDFC BANK, ICICI AND AXIS PICK UP STAKE IN BLOCKCHAIN START-UP

- Three of India's biggest private lenders – ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank have taken stakes in the blockchain financial technology firm IBBIC Pvt Ltd. HDFC Bank and Axis Bank invested 5 lakh each for the shares.

- ICICI Bank also said it has subscribed to 49,000 fully paid-up equity shares of face value 10 each of IBBIC constituting 5.44 per cent of the issued and paid-up share capital. It paid 4.9 lakh for the shares.
- IBBIC was incorporated on May 25 this year as a financial technology company with the objective of providing a platform for exploring, building, and implementing distributed ledger technology (DLT) solutions for the Indian financial services sector.
- About 15 banks have come together to set up IBBIC, with an aim to expand the use of blockchain applications in financial sector transactions.



Economy News

5. MODI GOVT'S FISCAL DEFICIT TOUCHES 18.2% OF ANNUAL TARGET

- The central government's fiscal deficit stood at Rs 2.74 lakh crore or 18.2 per cent of the full year's Budget estimate at the end of June, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
- The fiscal deficit at the end of June 2020 was 83.2 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) of 2020-21.
- The fiscal deficit or the gap between expenditure and revenue for 2020-21 was 9.3 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), better than 9.5 per cent projected in the revised estimates in the Budget in February.



Defence News

7. 36th EDITION OF CORPAT BETWEEN INDIA AND INDONESIA BEGINS

- The 36th edition of CORPAT between India and Indonesia is being held on 30 and 31 July 2021, in the Indian Ocean region.



- The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Saryu, an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel and Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Bung Tomo is undertaking coordinated patrol (CORPAT).
- Besides this, Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both nations are also participating. The exercise is being conducted as a 'non-contact, at sea only' exercise in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. India and Indonesia have been conducting the Coordinated Patrols along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) since 2002 twice a year.
- The basic aim of CORPAT is to keep the Indian Ocean Region safe and secure for commercial shipping, international trade and conduct of legitimate maritime activities.
- CORPATs help build understanding and interoperability between navies and facilitate the institution of measures to prevent and suppress Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy.

Awards News

8. ASHA BHOSLE TO GET PRESTIGIOUS MAHARASHTRA BHUSHAN AWARD 2021

- The Maharashtra Bhushan Selection Committee chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has unanimously selected legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle for the prestigious award.
- Asha Bhosle is best known for her playback singing in Hindi cinema, although she has a wider repertoire. Bhosle's career started in 1943 and has spanned over seven decades. She has done playback singing for over a thousand movies.
- Asha Bhosle was officially acknowledged by the Guinness Book of World Records as the most recorded artist in music history. The Government of India honoured her with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2000 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2008. Bhosle is the sister of playback singer Lata Mangeshkar and belongs to the prominent Mangeshkar family.



Important Days

9. WORLD RANGER DAY: 31 JULY

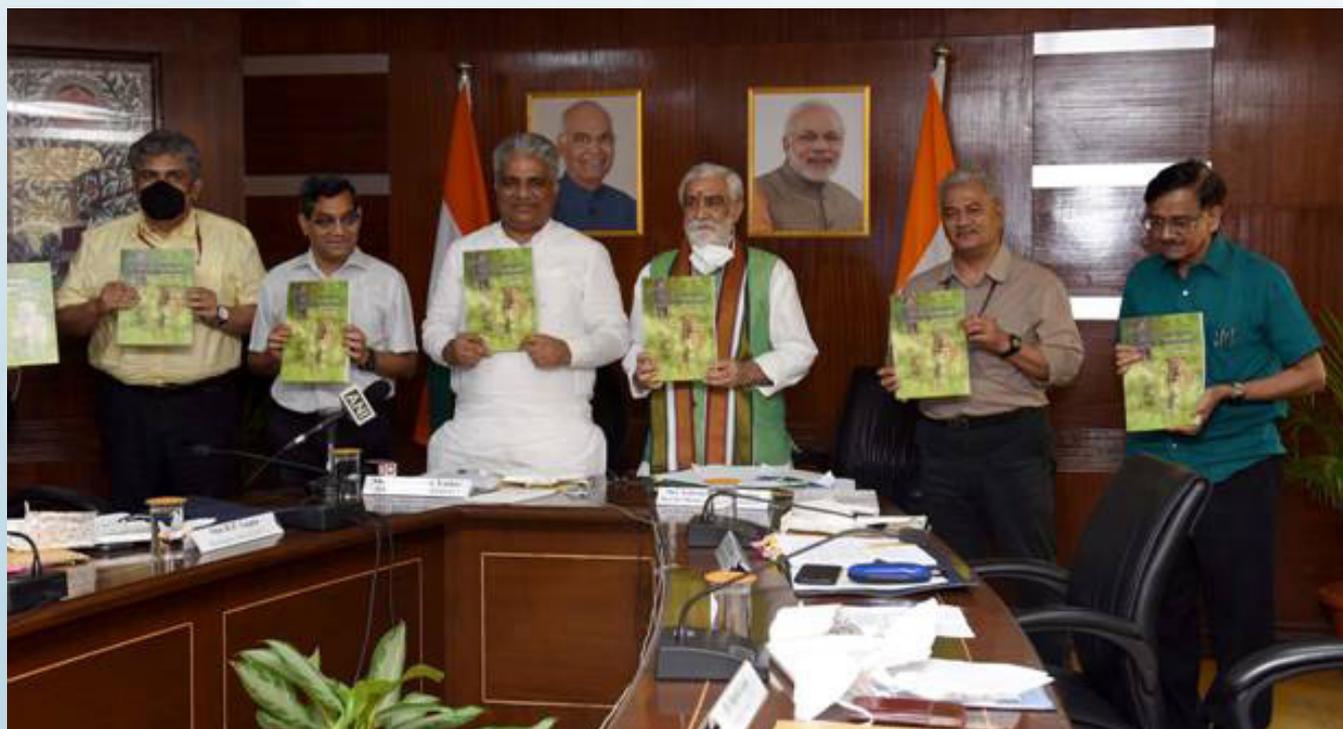
- World Ranger Day is observed every year on 31 July to commemorate the Rangers killed or injured while on duty and to celebrate the work that Rangers do to protect the world's natural and cultural heritage.
- World Ranger Day offers a chance to support their vital work, which ranges from environmental campaigning to education. The day is also an opportunity to pay tribute to rangers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. A Ranger is a person tasked with preserving and protecting parklands and natural protected areas.
- A Ranger typically refers to a forest ranger or a park ranger. It was on this day in 1992 that International Ranger Federation (IRF) was founded. World Ranger Day was created by the International Ranger Federation and was first held in 2007.



Miscellaneous News

10. 14 TIGER RESERVES OF INDIA GET (CA|TS) RECOGNITION

- From India, 14 tiger reserves have received the accreditation of the Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS), on the occasion of International Tiger Day on July 29, 2021.



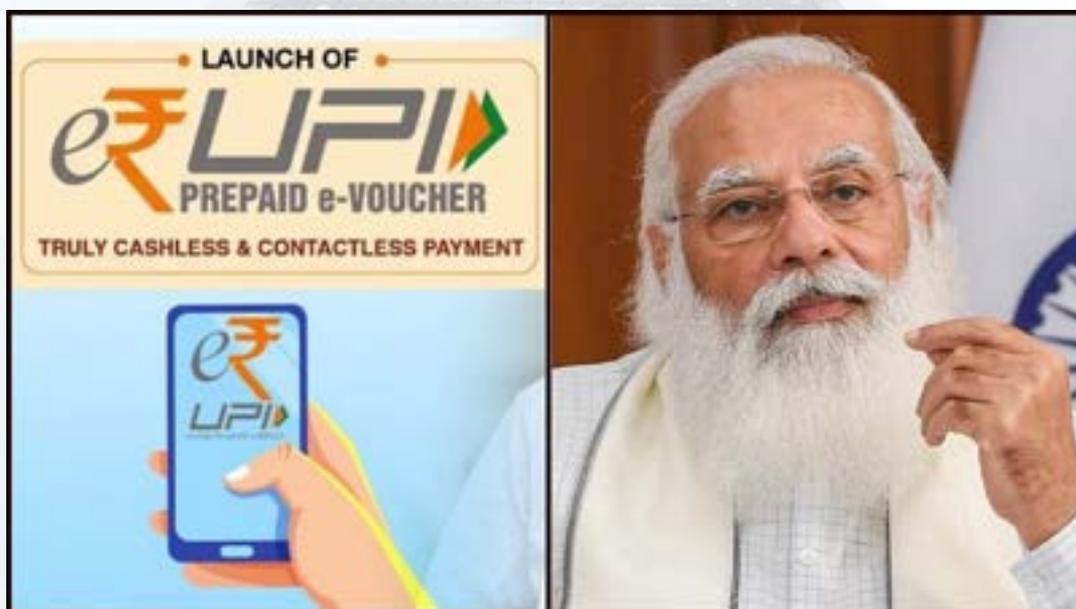
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) recognized the ‘BaghRakshaks’ for their efforts in protecting Tigers and forests. The NTCA’s quarterly newsletter STRIPES was also released during the event. The 14 tiger reserves of India that have received prestigious global accreditation from CA|TS are:
- Mudumalai and Anamalai Tiger Reserves, Tamil Nadu
- Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka
- Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Kerala
- Sunderbans Tiger Reserve, West Bengal
- Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh
- Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar
- Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra
- Satpura, Kanha and Panna Tiger Reserves, Madhya Pradesh

–BY SOHIL SINGH

National News

1. PM MODI TO LAUNCH E-RUPI DIGITAL PAYMENT SOLUTION

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch e-RUPI, an e-voucher-based digital payment solution, via video conferencing.
- The e-RUPI initiative will be one of the programmes launched over the years to limit touchpoints between the government and the beneficiary and “ensure that the benefits reach its intended beneficiaries in a targeted and leak-proof manner”.



- e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payments. It acts as an e-voucher based on a QR code or SMS string, which is delivered to the mobile phones of the beneficiaries.
- e-RUPI connects the sponsors of the services with the beneficiaries and service providers in a digital manner without any physical interface. It also ensures that the payment to the service provider is made only after the transaction is completed.

- The e-RUPI platform has been developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on its UPI platform, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and National Health Authority.

Appointments News

2. VICE ADMIRAL SN GHORMADE TAKES CHARGE AS VICE CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF

- Vice Admiral SN Ghormade has assumed charge as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff at a formal ceremony in New Delhi.
- He succeeds Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar who retired on July 31, 2021, after more than 39 years of illustrious service. The Flag officer SN Ghormade was commissioned in the Indian Navy on January 01, 1984.



- He was awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) on January 26, 2017, and Nausena Medal (NM) in 2007 by the President of India, and a Commendation by the Chief of the Naval Staff in 2000.

3. DEEPAK DAS TAKES CHARGE AS NEW CONTROLLER GENERAL OF ACCOUNTS

- Deepak Das has taken over as the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on August 01, 2021. Prior to assuming charge of CGA, Mr Das served as the Principal Chief Controller of Accounts in the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
- Deepak Das, a 1986-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officer, is the 25th officer to hold the position of CGA. CGA is the account keeper of the government and derives its mandate from Article 150 of the Constitution.



- It reconciles the cash balance of the centre with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) apart from consolidating monthly accounts; preparing trends of revenue realization and expenditures as well as annual accounts of the central government.

Economy News

4. GST COLLECTIONS TOUCHED 1.16 LAKH CRORE IN JULY 2021

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections for July 2021 were 1.16 lakh crore, 33 per cent more than the corresponding period of last year. GST collections in July 2020 had stood at 87,422 crore, while sequentially they had stood at 92,849 crores in June this year.
- According to figures released by Finance Ministry, gross GST revenue collected in July 2021 are 1,16,393 crore, out of which Central GST is 22,197 crores, State GST is 28,541 crore and Integrated GST is 57,864 crore (including 27,900 crores collected on import of goods) and cess of Rs 7,790 crore (including 815 crores collected on import of goods).



Business News

5. LIC CARDS SERVICES, IDBI BANK LAUNCH RuPAY CREDIT CARDS LUMINE, ECLAT

- LIC Cards Services Limited (LIC-CSL) has partnered with IDBI Bank to launch 'Lumine' Platinum Credit Card and 'Eclat' Select Credit Card on the RuPay platform.
- The cards will initially be available to LIC policyholders, agents, as well as employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries. The cards will offer a wide range of benefits to users.
- Lumine and Eclat cardholders will have a credit limit that suits their lifestyles. The cardholders will earn 3 'delight' points on every spend of Rs 100 via the Lumine card and 4 points on the Eclat card.



- The cards also offer a special benefits of 2x reward points while paying the renewal insurance premiums of LIC. The cards also have a 'Welcome Aboard' offer for initial customers.

Summits and Conferences News

6. MEENAKASHI LEKHI LEADS INDIAN DELEGATION AT G20 CULTURE MINISTERS' MEETING

- Meenakashi Lekhi, the Minister of State for Culture of India participated in the G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting on behalf of the Government of India.
- The two-day meeting was hosted by Italy on July 29 and 30 July 2021, during their ongoing Presidency of G20 in 2021. At the end of the discussions, the G20 Ministers of Culture adopted the G20 Culture Working Group Terms of Reference. The main topic of discussion were:



- Protection of Cultural Heritage;
- Addressing the Climate Crisis through Culture;
- Building Capacity through Training and Education;
- Digital Transition and New Technologies for Culture; and
- Culture and Creative Sectors as drivers for growth.

7. INDIA TAKES OVER UNSC PRESIDENCY FOR AUGUST 2021

- India took over from France to assume the presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the month of August 2021.
- This is the first presidency for India during its 2021-22 tenure as a non-permanent member of the UNSC. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the first Indian PM to preside over a meeting of the UNSC.
- As the president of the top UN Body, India will decide the agenda for the month, coordinate important meetings and other related issues. India will focus on three priority areas during its presidency. These include maritime security, peacekeeping, and counter-terrorism.



- United Nations Security Council Headquarters: New York, United States;
- United Nations Security Council Founded: 24 October 1945.

Awards News

8. CYRUS POONAWALLA WINS LOKMANYA TILAK NATIONAL AWARD

- Dr Cyrus Poonawalla, Chairman of the Pune-based vaccine maker Serum Institute of India (SII), has been selected for the prestigious Lokmanya Tilak National Award for 2021.
- He has been named for his work during the COVID-19 pandemic, by manufacturing the Covishield vaccine. He will receive the award on August 13. The award comprises a cash prize of Rs one lakh and a memento.
- The Lokmanya Tilak national award is given annually since 1983 on August 1, the death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak, by the Lokmanya Tilak Trust. However this year the date has been changed due to the coronavirus situation.



Sports News

9. PV SINDHU WINS BRONZE IN WOMEN'S BADMINTON AT TOKYO OLYMPICS

- Ace Indian badminton player PV Sindhu defeated China's He Bingjiao to win the bronze medal in the women's singles event at the Tokyo Olympics on August 01, 2021.
- With this win, Sindhu scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman and the only second Indian athlete to win two Olympic medals in individual events.



- Earlier she won the silver in women's singles badminton at the Rio Olympics in 2016. This is India's second medal at the Tokyo Olympics 2020.

10. ESTEBAN OCON WINS HUNGARIAN GP 2021

- Esteban Ocon, Alpine-Renault/ France, has won the Hungarian Grand Prix 2021, held on August 01, 2021, at the Hungaroring in Mogyoród, Hungary. This is the maiden F1 race win for Esteban Ocon.
- Sebastian Vettel (Aston Martin-Mercedes/Germany) came second. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) finished third.
- With this win, he took the Formula One championship lead from Max Verstappen. Hungarian Grand Prix was the eleventh round of the 2021 Formula One World Championship.



11. SRI LANKA BOWLING 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.

Books and Authors News

12. NOVELIST KUNAL BASU'S 'IN AN IDEAL WORLD' TO COME OUT IN 2022

- Renowned novelist Kunal Basu's new work of fiction, *In An Ideal World*, will be released next year, Penguin Random House India (PRHI) announced.
- The book, scheduled to be released under the publishing house's 'Viking' imprint, is touted to be a "powerful, gritty and fast-paced literary novel" exploring a variety of themes relevant to the current times — college, politics, family, crime investigation and fanaticism.
- According to the publishers, the story of his upcoming book revolves around the disappearance of a member of the Liberal Party of a college in Manhar. The prime suspect of this abduction is the leader of the Nationalist group of the same college.



Important Days

13. WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK 2021: 01 – 07 AUGUST

- The World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) is marked every year in the first week of August, between 1 to 7 August, to raise awareness on the importance of breastfeeding for mothers and infants.

- The theme of the World Breastfeeding Week 2021 is “Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility”. The annual week is organized by WABA, WHO and UNICEF since 1991.
- Breastfeeding provides every child with the best possible start in life. It delivers health, nutritional and emotional benefits to both children and mothers.
- And it forms part of a sustainable food system. But while breastfeeding is a natural process, it is not always easy. Mothers need support – both to get started and to sustain breastfeeding.
- World Alliance for Breastfeeding Headquarters: Penang, Malaysia;
- World Alliance for Breastfeeding Founder: Anwar Fazal;
- World Alliance for Breastfeeding Founded: 14 February 1991.



14. MUSLIM WOMEN’S RIGHTS DAY: 01 AUGUST

- In India, “Muslim Women’s Rights Day” is celebrated across the nation on August 01 to celebrate the enactment of the law against Triple Talaq. The first Muslim Women’s Rights Day was observed in 2020.
- The Government of India enacted the law against Triple Talaq on August 01, 2019 to make the social malpractice of Triple Talaq a criminal offence.
- The law is formally called the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019. It prohibits the practice of instant divorce by Muslim men and any violation of the law is punishable by a jail term of up to three years.



Obituaries News

15. WORLD MASTERS GOLD MEDAL WINNER MAN KAUR PASSES 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.



BY SOHIL SINGH

National News

1. UNION MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY RELEASES “BIOTECH-PRIDE”

- The Union Ministry for Science & Technology has released “Biotech-PRIDE (Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange) Guidelines”.
- The Biotech-PRIDE Guidelines have been developed by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). The guidelines are aimed at providing a well-defined framework and guiding principle to facilitate and enable sharing and exchange of biological knowledge, information and data.
- The guidelines will be implemented through the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC). The exchange of information will help in promoting research and innovation in different research groups across the country.
- These guidelines do not deal with the generation of biological data but are an enabling mechanism to share and exchange information and knowledge generated as per the existing laws, rules, regulations and guidelines of the country.
- Union Minister for Science & Technology: Jitendra Singh.



International News

2. NIKOL PASHINYAN RE-APPOINTED AS PM OF ARMENIA

- Nikol Pashinyan has been re-appointed as the prime minister of Armenia by President Armen Sarkissian on August 02, 2021.
- Pashinyan, the leader of the Civil Contract Party, won the majority of seats in parliamentary elections in June 2021. The 46-year-old Pashinyan was first appointed as the prime minister in 2018.
- Armenia Capital: Yerevan; Currency: Armenian dram.



3. MYANMAR MILITARY CHIEF APPOINTED AS INTERIM PRIME MINISTER

- The Chief of the Myanmar military, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing has taken over as the interim prime minister of the country. He is also the Chairman of the State Administration Council (SAC) which has been performing the duties of the government in Myanmar, after the February 01, 2021 coup, which overthrew Aung San Suu Kyi's ruling party.
- This SAC has been reformed as the caretaker government of Myanmar in order to perform the country's duties fast, easily and effectively.
- Min Aung Hlaing is also been the commander-in-chief of Defence Services of Myanmar since March 2011. Hlaing has pledged to hold elections by 2023.
- Myanmar Capital: Naypyitaw;
- Myanmar Currency: Kyat.



State News

4. BHUBANESWAR BECOMES FIRST INDIAN CITY TO VACCINATE 100% AGAINST COVID-19

- Bhubaneswar has become the first Indian city to achieve 100 per cent COVID-19 vaccination. The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) had launched a massive vaccination drive against Covid-19. This milestone is credited to the BMC running 55 centres at all times for vaccines.



- BMC has a record of around nine lakh people who are above 18 years of age in the city. Which includes around 31 thousand healthcare workers, 33 thousand front-line workers. 5 lakh 17 thousand people are in the age group of 18 to 44 years. Three lakh twenty-five thousand people are above 45 years of age.
- Chief Minister of Odisha: Naveen Patnaik and Governor is Ganeshi Lal.

Banking News

5. HDFC BANK LAUNCHES 'DUKANDAR OVERDRAFT SCHEME'

- HDFC Bank announced the launch of an overdraft facility for small retailers in partnership with CSC SPV. Known as 'Dukandar Overdraft Scheme'. The scheme by HDFC Bank is aimed at helping shopkeepers and merchants ease their cash crunch.
- According to the bank, retailers operating for a minimum of three years are eligible for the scheme by providing six months bank statement from any bank.
- HDFC Bank will approve an overdraft limit from a minimum of Rs 50,000 to a maximum of Rs 10 lakhs based on the statements. Importantly, HDFC Bank won't seek collateral security, business financials, and income tax returns from retailers who apply for the scheme.



- Headquarters of HDFC Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- MD and CEO of HDFC Bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan;
- The tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world.

6. SBI LAUNCHES 'SIM BINDING' FEATURE FOR YONO

- India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a new and enhanced security feature for its YONO and YONO Lite apps, called 'SIM Binding', to protect customers from various digital frauds.
- Under the new SIM Binding feature, the YONO and YONO Lite apps will work only on those devices which have SIM of mobile numbers registered with the Bank.
- The main aim of the new version of the platform is to provide enhanced security to customers and help them with a convenient and safe online banking experience.
- SBI customers will have to update their mobile app, to get access to the new version of YONO and YONO Lite with enhanced security features.
- The users will need to complete the one-time registration process on these apps, where the bank will verify the SIM of the registered mobile number with the lender.
- Customers must register themselves with the device which has the SIM of the registered contact number.
- SBI Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara.
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai.
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.



7. RBI IMPOSES PENALTY OF Rs 50.35 LAKH ON JANALAXMI CO-OPERATIVE BANK

- Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 50.35 lakh on Janalaxmi Co-operative Bank, Nashik for non-compliance with certain regulatory requirements.



- The penalty on Janalaxmi Co-operative Bank has been imposed for non-compliance with directions issued by RBI on 'Placement of Deposits with Other Banks by Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks' and 'Membership of Credit Information Companies (CICs)'.
- A statutory inspection conducted by RBI with reference to the bank's financial position as on March 31, 2019, and the inspection report pertaining thereto, and examination of all related correspondence revealed non-compliance with the directions.

Appointments News

8. BVLGARI APPOINTS PRIYANKA CHOPRA AS ITS GLOBAL BRAND AMBASSADOR

- Italian luxury brand Bvlgari has appointed actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas as global brand ambassador. She will support the Roman high jewellery house in amplifying the brand around the world, with a particular focus on themes of women empowerment, diversity and inclusion. Bvlgari is known for its gemstone jewellery, watches, fragrances, accessories and leather goods.



- Priyanka Chopra Jonas is also a global UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, and recipient of the prestigious Danny Kaye Humanitarian award, serving as a symbol of power and strength for millions of young women.

Agreements News

9. INDIAN BANK SIGNS MoU WITH IIT BOMBAY FOR STARTUP FINANCING

- Indian Bank has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE) – an initiative of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay – for extending exclusive credit facilities to startups and MSMEs.

- The Bank will extend loans of up to 50 crore rupees to these start-ups for their working capital requirements or purchase of machinery and equipment. As the name goes, this initiative, which is mutually beneficial for both Bank and IIT, Bombay, will be the springboard for start-ups to realise their ambitions.
- SINE, IIT, Bombay is the forerunner in setting up joint R&D with industries and supporting start-up incubation. SINE, IIT, Bombay provides support to the MSME sector by providing joint research and development arrangements and technical and financial support for incubation and acceleration of high-end technology products.
- Indian Bank Headquarters: Chennai;
- Indian Bank CEO: Padmaja Chundururu;
- Indian Bank: 1907.



Defence News

10. OPERATION BLUE FREEDOM: TEAM OF SPECIAL FORCES VETERANS

- The government of India has accorded sanctions to Team CLAW to lead a team of people with disabilities to scale Siachen Glacier. It will be a new world record for the largest team of people with disabilities.
- This expedition is being undertaken as part of 'Operation Blue Freedom'. It aims to shatter the common perception of pity, charity, and inability associated with people with disabilities and recreate it to one of dignity, freedom, and ability.
- Operation Blue Freedom was launched in 2019 by CLAW Global, a team of former Special Forces Operatives of the Indian Army and the Indian Navy. The Operation is a social impact venture aimed at rehabilitating people with disabilities through adaptive adventure sports.



Science and Technology News

11. ISRO-NASA JOINT MISSION NISAR SATELLITE TO BE LAUNCHED IN 2023

- The ISRO-NASA joint mission NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite, aimed at making global measurement of land surface changes using advanced radar imaging, is proposed to be launched in early 2023.
- It is a dual-band (L-band and S-band) radar imaging mission with the capability of full polarimetric and interferometric modes of operation to observe minor changes in land, vegetation and cryosphere.
- NISAR is one of the crucial collaborations of the ISRO and NASA. India and the U.S. had agreed upon this mission during then-President Barack Obama's visit to India in 2015.
- ISRO Chairman: K.Sivan.



- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.
- NASA administrator: Bill Nelson.
- Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States.
- NASA Founded: 1 October 1958.

Sports News

12. ITALY'S MARCELL JACOBS WINS MEN'S 100M GOLD AT TOKYO OLYMPICS 2020

- Italy's Lamont Marcell Jacobs outshone a field of unusual suspects to claim a shock Olympic gold in the men's 100 metres, breaking retired Jamaican star Usain Bolt's 13-year hold on the blue-riband event.
- American Fred Kerley took silver in a personal best of 9.84 with Canada's Andre de Grasse repeating his bronze of 2016 in 9.89, also a new best.

- Elaine Thompson-Herah led a Jamaican sweep in the women's 100 meters at the Tokyo Summer Games, capturing gold in an Olympic-record time of 10.61 seconds. Thompson-Herah's time was also the second-fastest women's 100 of all time.
- Veteran teammate Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce took the silver in 10.74 seconds while Shericka Jackson, also of Jamaica, was third in 10.76. Teahna Daniels of the U.S. was seventh in 11.02.



13. US CLINCHES CONCACAF GOLD CUP IN FOOTBALL

- United States clinched an exhilarating 1-0 extra-time win over defending champion Mexico to claim a seventh CONCACAF Gold Cup. Just three minutes were left in extra time when the US defender head-butted a cross by Kellyn Acosta past Mexican goalkeeper Alfredo Talavera.
- This was the American team's first Gold Cup title since 2017 and avenged a defeat to Mexico in 2019 final. Mexico's Hector Herrera was the Tournament's Best Player. US Matt Turner, who recorded five clean sheets, was voted Best Goalkeeper. Almoez Ali of Qatar received the Top Scorer Award.



14. ALEXANDER ZVEREV WINS GOLD IN MEN'S SINGLES TENNIS AT TOKYO OLYMPICS 2020

- Germany's Alexander Zverev beats Russian Karen Khachanov 6-3 6-1 to win the men's singles gold at the Tokyo Olympics. He became the first German man to win singles Olympic gold.



- The 24-year-old, who has yet to win a Grand Slam title, was in stunning form in the one-hour and 19-minute express contest to become the first German man to win a single Olympic gold.
- Zverev became only the second German to win Olympic singles gold, matching Steffi Graf's achievement at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

BY SOHIL SINGH

International News

1. IMF APPROVES HISTORIC \$650 BLN ALLOCATION OF SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS

- The Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have approved a record general allocation of \$650 billion in IMF Special Drawing Rights (SDR), to help boost global liquidity.
- The \$650 billion SDR allocation aims to support member countries, especially emerging and developing nations, battling the coronavirus pandemic and the economic downturn it has caused.
- This allocation is the largest-ever distribution in the IMF's 77-year history, in terms of monetary reserves assets. The allocation will become effective from August 23, 2021. The newly created SDRs will be credited to member countries in proportion to their existing quotas shareholding in the Fund.
- IMF Headquarters: Washington, D.C. U.S;
- IMF Managing Director and Chairman: Kristalina Georgieva;
- IMF Chief Economist: Gita Gopinath.



2. SHEHROZE KASHIF BECOMES WORLD'S YOUNGEST MOUNTAINEER TO SCALE K2

- A 19-year old Pakistani climber Shehroze Kashif became the youngest person in the world to reach the summit of K2, the second-highest peak in the world.

- Shehroze Kashif from Lahore achieved the feat of scaling the 8,611-metre high peak with the aid of bottled oxygen.
- Before Kashif, Sajid Sadpara, the son of the legendary climber Muhammad Ali Sadpara, was the youngest person to have climbed K2 at the age of 20.
- Kashif also scaled the world's 12th-highest mountain, the 8,047-meter Broad Peak, at the age of 17. In May this year, he became the youngest Pakistani to scale Mount Everest.
- Pakistan, Nepal, and China are home to the 14 highest peaks in the world, also known as the 8,000ers. Five 8,000-metre peaks, including K2 and Nanga Parbat, are in Pakistan.
- Pakistan Capital: Islamabad;
- Pakistan President: Arif Alvi;
- Pakistan Prime minister: Imran Khan;
- Pakistan Currency: Pakistani rupee.



PLUTUS
Academy
Appointments News

3. MINI IPE APPOINTED AS LIC MD AHEAD OF PROPOSED IPO

- Mini Ipe took charge as managing director of Life Insurance Corporation of India. Ipe is a post-graduate in commerce and joined LIC in 1986 as a direct recruit officer. She has a diverse experience in LIC having worked in various capacities.
- LIC is India's 2nd-largest financial services institution with a Rs 31 lakh crore balance sheet, next to the country's largest bank, State Bank of India (SBI), with assets of Rs 39.51 lakh crore.



- LIC Headquarters: Mumbai;
- LIC Founded: 1 September 1956;
- LIC Chairman: M R Kumar.

Banking News

4. RBI AUTHORISES INDUSIND BANK TO ACT AS AN 'AGENCY BANK'

- The IndusInd Bank has been empanelled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to act as an 'Agency Bank'. As an Agency Bank, IndusInd becomes eligible to carry out transactions related to all kinds of government-led businesses.
- This decision is based on the RBI guideline that authorises scheduled private sector banks as agency banks of the regulator for the conduct of government business.
- IndusInd Bank now joins few other private banks of the country listed as Agency Bank of RBI, to carry out general banking business on behalf of the central and state government, apart from offering its customers the convenience of undertaking routine financial transactions through its banking platform.
- The IndusInd Bank CEO: Sumant Kathpalia;
- The IndusInd Bank Headquarters: Pune;
- The IndusInd Bank Owner: Hinduja Group;
- The IndusInd Bank Founder: S. P. Hinduja;
- The IndusInd Bank Founded: April 1994, Mumbai.



Economy News

5. GOI CUTS MUDRA LOANS TARGET TO RS 3 TRILLION IN FY22

- The government has set the loans disbursement target under the PM Mudra Yojana (PMMY) at Rs 3 trillion for 2021-22 (FY22). This target is lower than the previous year. For FY21, the target was set at Rs 3.21 trillion. Experts attribute the lower target to increased allocation under the credit guarantee scheme for small businesses.

- Under PMMY, credit up to Rs 10 lakh is provided by banks and non-banking financial companies for entrepreneurial activities to small business units, including for new enterprises in sectors such as manufacturing, trading, services and activities allied to agriculture.
- The central government allocates annual targets for sanctioning of loans under the scheme. In FY22, loans worth Rs 3,804 crore have been sanctioned by 13 public sector banks (PSBs) as of June 25.



Defence News

6. 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.
- 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.



7. IAF INDUCTS 2ND SQUADRON OF RAFALE AIRCRAFT AT WEST BENGAL'S HASIMARA

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has formally inducted the second squadron of Rafale jets at West Bengal's Hasimara airbase in Eastern Air Command (EAC). The event included a fly-past heralding the arrival of Rafale to Hasimara, followed by a traditional water cannon salute.
- Recalling the glorious history of 101 Squadron, which bestowed upon them the title of 'Falcons of Chamb and Akhnoor', Bhadauria urged the personnel to combine their zeal and commitment with the unmatched potential of the newly inducted platform.
- The multi-role Rafale jets, built by French aerospace major Dassault Aviation, are known for air superiority and precision strikes.



- European missile maker MBDA's Meteor beyond visual range air-to-air missile and Scalp cruise missile will be the mainstay of the weapons package of the Rafale jets.

Ranks and Reports News

8. 7 INDIAN COMPANIES FEATURE IN FORTUNE GLOBAL 500 LIST FOR 2021

- Seven Indian companies have found a place in 2021 Fortune's Global 500 list. The Fortune Global 500 is an annual ranking of the top 500 enterprises globally, as measured by business revenues.
- Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd is the highest-ranked Indian company on the list in terms of revenue, with revenues of nearly \$63 billion. It is placed at 155th spot globally.
- Globally, Walmart has topped the list in terms of revenue for the eighth consecutive year and the 16th time since 1995.
- China has dominated this years list for the highest number of companies featuring in the list at 143, including those from Taiwan. This is followed by the U.S. with 122, and Japan with a total of 53, respectively. Indian Companies in the list:



- Reliance Industries (155)
- State Bank of India (205)
- Indian Oil (212)
- Oil & Natural Gas (243)
- Rajesh Exports (348)
- Tata Motors (357)

Bharat Petroleum (394)

9. MUMBAI, BENGALURU LOSE TOP-100 SPOTS IN QS BEST STUDENT CITIES RANKING

- Mumbai and Bengaluru are out of the global top-100 list and are currently ranking at 106 and 110, respectively in the latest edition of the QS Best Student Cities Ranking.
- While Mumbai lost 29 places, Bengaluru fell by 21 places in the ninth edition of the rankings brought out by global higher education analysts QS Quacquarelli Symonds.
- Globally, the results, which enable students to compare 115 premier educational destinations, see London retain its status as the world's best student city for the third consecutive edition. It is followed by Munich, which rises from 4th to 2nd.
- Seoul, which jumps from 10th to joint-3rd, shares the bronze-medal position with Olympic hosts Tokyo.



Awards News

10. DBS CLINCHES GLOBAL ACCOLADE FOR INNOVATION IN DIGITAL BANKING

- DBS has been honoured as the global winner for Most Innovative in Digital Banking by Financial Times publication, The Banker, in its 2021 Innovation in Digital Banking Awards.

- The bank was also recognised as the Asia-Pacific winner and won in the Cyber Security category for its Secure Access and Remote Working Solution.
- The Banker's Innovation in Digital Banking Awards recognises the most innovative banks across the world for their digital banking initiatives, strategy, and overall commitment to digital transformation.
- These awards, now in their second year, are the evolution of The Banker's Technology Projects of the Year Awards. DBS is named Asia's Best Bank & Asia's Best Digital Bank in the Euromoney Regional Awards.
- DBS Bank Headquarters: Singapore;
- DBS Bank CEO: Piyush Gupta.



Science and Technology News

11. ESA LAUNCHED 'EUTELSAT QUANTUM' REVOLUTIONARY REPROGRAMMABLE SATELLITE

- European Space Agency (ESA) launched 'Eutelsat Quantum', the world's 1st commercial reprogrammable satellite into space aboard Ariane 5 rocket from French Guiana. It is a fully flexible software-defined satellite.
- The satellite has been developed under a European Space Agency partnership project with satellite operator Eutelsat, Airbus & Surrey Satellite Technology.
- Eutelsat Quantum is a UK flagship project with most of the satellites developed and manufactured by British industry.
- Airbus is the prime contractor and was responsible for building the satellite's innovative payload, while Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd manufactured the new platform. The innovative phase array antenna was developed by Airbus in Spain.
- European Space Agency is an intergovernmental organization of 22 member states;
- European Space Agency was established in 1975 and headquartered in Paris.



Sports News

12. TOKYO OLYMPICS 2020: BOXER LOVLINA BORGHAIN CLAIMS BRONZE MEDAL

- Indian Boxer, Lovlina Borgohain has failed to reach the gold medal final match. She settles for a bronze medal. This is India's third medal of the ongoing Tokyo Olympics. She lost to Busenaz Surmeneli of Turkey by unanimous decision in the women's welterweight (69 kg) semifinal at Tokyo 2020.
- Lovlina had already assured India of their first boxing medal at the ongoing Olympic Games when she upstaged former world champion, Nien-Chin Chen of Taiwan, to enter the semis.



13. ANURAG THAKUR LAUNCHES PARALYMPIC THEME SONG “KAR DE KAMAAL TU”

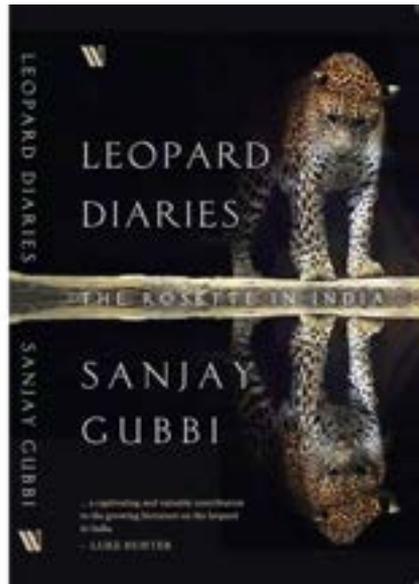
- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur launched the theme song for the Indian Paralympic contingent in New Delhi. The song is titled “Kar De Kamaal Tu”.
- The composer and singer of the song is Sanjeev Singh, a Divyang cricket player from Lucknow. 54 para-sportspersons across 9 sports disciplines are participating in Paralympic Games in Tokyo, beginning August 24, 2021.



Books and Authors News

14. A BOOK ON LEOPARD TITLED ‘LEOPARD DIARIES – THE ROSETTE IN INDIA’ BY SANJAY GUBBI

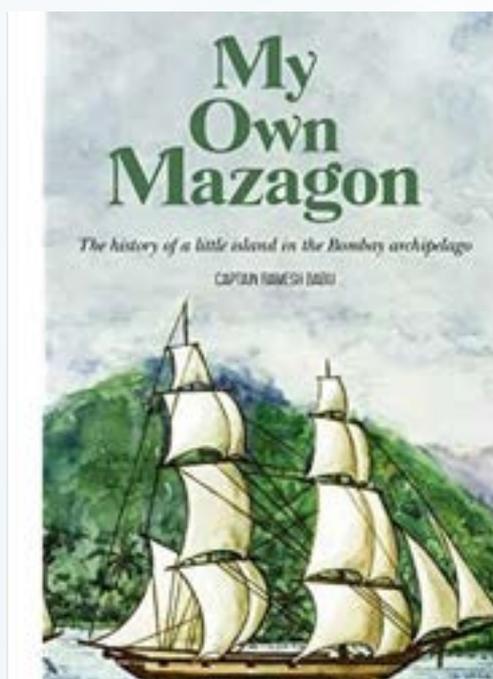
- Wildlife Biologist, Sanjay Gubbi authored a book about Leopard titled ‘Leopard Diaries – the Rosette in India’, in which he says about the food habits, ecological context, and conservation of Leopard along with the suggestions to overcome leopard-human conflict.



- The book also details Sanjay Gubbi's practical engagement as a conflict manager, adviser to the State government, and leopard PR (Public Relations) person. The book was published by Westland.
- Leopard is one of the five extant species in the genus Panthera, a member of the cat family, Felidae. As per the government's report, Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of leopards, about 26 per cent of the total number estimated in the country.

15. A NEW BOOK TITLED "MY OWN MAZAGON" BY CAPTAIN RAMESH BABU

- A new book titled "My Own Mazagon" has authored by Captain Ramesh Babu. The book published by Indus Source Books features the history and story of Mazagon, the island which was merged into a single entity as Bombay.
- The Book will be jointly released by Vice Admiral R. Hari Kumar, Flag Officer Commanding in Chief, Western Naval Command, Vice Admiral Narayan Prasad, (Retd.), CMD Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited.



- The Book rediscovers the forgotten history of Mazagon and resurrects the identity of Maza Gaon, or 'My own Village.' Captain Ramesh Babu retired from Mumbai after serving the Indian Navy at Mazagon Dock. Other books authored by Capt. Babu: "After You Sir: A Collection of School Stories" and "Calicut Heritage Trails".

Miscellaneous News

16. WORLD'S LARGEST STAR SAPPHIRE CLUSTER FOUND IN A SRI LANKAN BACKYARD

- World's largest star sapphire cluster has been found in Ratnapura, Srilanka. The stone is pale blue in colour. It was found by labourers while digging a well in a gem trader's home.



- Ratnapura is known as the gem capital of the country. The sapphire cluster weighs around 510kgs or 2.5 million carats. It has an estimated value of up to \$100 million in the international market.
- Sri Lanka Capitals: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte; Currency: Sri Lankan rupee.
- Sri Lanka Prime Minister: Mahinda Rajapaksa; Sri Lanka President: Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

–BY SOHIL SINGH

National News

1. INDIAN OLYMPICS CONTINGENT TO BE GUESTS AT INDEPENDENCE DAY

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will invite India's Olympic contingent as special guests for Independence Day celebrations on August 15. Modi will also invite contingent to his residence for interaction.
- This year, India has been represented by a 228-strong contingent that includes 120 athletes at the Tokyo Olympics. PM Narendra Modi supported and encouraged the Olympians throughout the events. He also congratulated the winners and appreciated the ones who made India proud.



2. UNION CABINET APPROVES CONTINUATION OF 1,023 FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS

- The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of 1,023 fast track special courts, including 389 exclusive POCSO courts, as a centrally sponsored scheme for another two years.
- Union minister Anurag Thakur said out of 31 states and union territories, 28 have started the scheme. West Bengal is one of the states which has not started the scheme.
- The scheme would continue from April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2023, with an outlay of Rs 1572.86 crore — Rs 971.70 crore as central share and Rs 601.16 crore as state share. The central share is to be funded from the 'Nirbhaya' Fund. The scheme was launched on October 2, 2019.

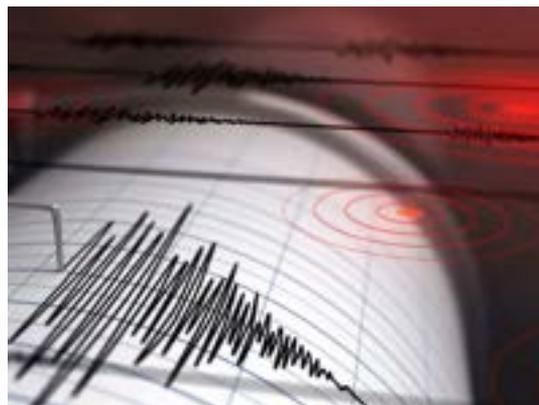


State News

3. UTTARAKHAND UNVEILS INDIA'S FIRST EARTHQUAKE MOBILE APP

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister, Pushkar Singh Dhami has launched the first-of-its-kind earthquake early warning mobile application, named 'Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert'.
- The app has been developed by IIT Roorkee, in association with Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA).

- Initially, this app was launched as a pilot project only by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, for the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand, the project proposal was further extended by the Uttarakhand Government.
- The Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert is India's first earthquake early warning' app for notifying people about earthquake alerts.
- Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) mobile app can detect the onset of the earthquake and issue warnings regarding an earthquake occurrence in the neighbourhood and the expected time of arrival and intensity at the location to prevent any loss of life.
- Governor of Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya;
- The chief minister of Uttarakhand: Pushkar Singh Dhami.



Appointments News

4. KUMAR MANGALAM BIRLA STEPS DOWN AS NON-EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF VI

- The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of 1,023 fast track special courts, including 389 exclusive POCSO courts, as a centrally sponsored scheme for another two years.
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- The scheme would continue from April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2023, with an outlay of Rs 1572.86 crore — Rs 971.70 crore as central
- Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla has stepped down as the Non-Executive Director and Non-Executive Chairman of the Vodafone Idea (now Vi) Board.
- The Vi Board of Directors have unanimously elected Himanshu Kapania, currently a Non-Executive Director, as the Non-Executive Chairman with effect.
- Kapania, a nominee of the Aditya Birla Group, is a telecom industry veteran with 25 years of experience. He has also served on the Global GSMA Board for two years and was also the Chairman of the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) for two years.
- He is presently the Chairman of the FICCI Council on Telecom, Electronics and Digital Economy.
- Aditya Birla Group Founder: Seth Shiv Narayan Birla;
- Aditya Birla Group Founded: 1857;
- Aditya Birla Group Headquarters: Mumbai.



5. RETIRED JUSTICE V M KANADE APPOINTED LOKAYUKTA IN MUMBAI

- Maharashtra Governor, Bhagat Singh Koshyari has approved the appointment of retired Bombay high court judge Justice V M Kanade as the new Lokayukta of Maharashtra, on the advice of the chief minister Uddhav Thackeray.

- Maharashtra was without a full-time Lokayukta for almost a year. The previous Lokayukta, (retd) Justice M L Tahaliyani had completed his tenure in August 2020.
- The Lokayukta is an anti-corruption ombudsman. Citizens can make complaints of corruption against any government official or elected representative directly to the Lokayukta, who is tasked with speedy redressal.
- The Lokayukta acts like a watchdog and plays a key role in fighting against corruption and bringing transparency. It's been almost a year since there is no Lokayukta and this shows that the government is not keen on encouraging transparency.
- The Lokayukta post is important to keep a check on the government and has become a recourse for the man between 2015 and 2020.



Banking News

6. RBI IMPOSES RS 6 LAKH PENALTY ON HEWLETT-PACKARD FINANCIAL SERVICES

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 6 lakh on Bengaluru-based Hewlett-Packard Financial Services (India) Private Ltd.
- RBI said the statutory inspection of the company, concerning its financial position as of March 31, 2019, revealed, inter alia, non-compliance with the statutory directions on (i) submission of credit information to Central Repository of Information on Large Credits and (ii) submission of credit data to Credit Information Companies.
- The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in it under the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005, taking into account the failure of the company to adhere to the aforesaid directions issued by RBI.



Agreements News

6. INDIA & WORLD BANK SIGN \$250 MILLION PROJECT TO SAFE DAMS AND RESILIENT

- The World Bank has approved a USD 250 million projects in India for a long-term dam safety program and improving the safety and performance of existing dams across various states of India.
- The Second Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP-2) agreement was inked on between the World Bank, the Government of India, the Central Water Commission, and government representatives from 10 participating states.
- The project will be implemented at the national level through the Central Water Commission (CWC).
- World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.
- World Bank Formation: July 1944.



- World Bank President: David Malpass.

Defence News

8. INS KHANJAR BECOMES THE FIRST INS TO CALL AT HERITAGE COASTAL PORT

- Indian Naval Ship Khanjar becomes the first Indian Navy ship to call at the heritage coastal port of Gopalpur in Odisha. The two-day visit was organised as part of Aazadi ka Amrit Mahotsav as well as Swarnim Vijay Varsh celebrations to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Independence and the 50th anniversary of the 1971 War.
- The visit of the ship was aimed at enhancing ties and spreading awareness with the local populace on aspects of coastal security and maritime operations. During the visit, ship's officers interacted with Port Officials and discussed aspects related to berthing facilities for OTR of Naval ships and security overview of port infrastructure.



- The ship's team also undertook a cleanup drive at Gopalpur beach and tree plantation in the port premises. In addition, books and dry provisions were distributed to Samarth Orthopedically Handicapped Welfare Association, at Chatrapur in Ganjam district.

Awards News

9. C.R. RAO GOLD MEDAL AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

- The Indian Econometric Society (TIES) Trust has selected two renowned economic scholars for the Prof. C.R. Rao Centenary Gold Medal award. Renowned economists Jagdish Bhagwati and C Rangarajan have been conferred with the inaugural Prof CR Rao Centenary Gold Medal (CGM).
- Bhagwati is a professor of economics, law and international relations at Columbia University while C Rangarajan is the former chairman of the Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister and former governor of the Reserve Bank of India.
- TIES Trust had constituted a jury to shortlist the awardees. Based on the jury's recommendations, it announced that inaugural award to two distinguished scholars. The medal is presented once in two years to an Indian or Indian-origin scholar for lifetime contributions to the fields of theoretical and applied aspects of quantitative economics and official statistics.



Sports News

10. INDIA WINS BRONZE IN MEN'S HOCKEY, BEAT GERMANY 5-4

- Indian men's hockey team defeated Germany to win their first-ever Olympic medal in 41 years. India wins the bronze medal in men's hockey after beating Germany 5-4 at Tokyo Olympics.



- Before this podium finish for bronze, India last climbed up the Olympic podium in 1980, when it won its 8th gold at the Games.
- Simranjeet Singh scored two goals for India at the Oi Hockey Stadium, along with Hardik Singh, Harmanpreet Singh and Rupinder Pal Singh also adding their names on the scoresheet.

11. RAVI KUMAR DAHIYA WINS SILVER MEDAL AT TOKYO OLYMPICS 2020

- Indian wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya bagged the silver medal after losing in the final of men's 57kg freestyle category to Russian Olympic Committee's (ROC) Zaur Uguev.
- This is India's fifth medal at the Tokyo Olympics and the second silver of the campaign.
- Ravi Kumar is the fifth Indian wrestler after KD Jadhav, Sushil Kumar, Yogeshwar Dutt, and Sakshi Malik to finish on the Olympic podium.

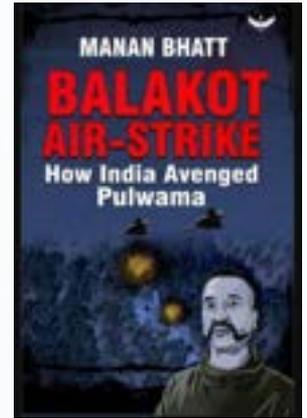


Books and Authors News

12. A NEW BOOK ON BALAKOT AIR STRIKES 2019 AUTHORED BY MANAN BHATT

- A new book titled "Balakot Air Strike: How India Avenged Pulwama", published by Garuda Prakashan, is written by Navy veteran Manan Bhatt.

- According to the publisher, the book, “a racy thriller” with “adrenalin-pushing action”, would make readers’ patriotism brim over, while filling them with a sense of gratitude and pride towards the armed forces.
- The book, in its detailed account of the “two epochal events”, claims to capture everything “from moments before the ill-fated CRPF bus was hit, to the cockpits from where precision bombs were triggered and what transpired in those 12 momentous, expectation-filled days.



Obituaries News

13. PADMA SHRI AWARDEE PADMA SACHDEV PASSES AWAY

- Padma Shri awardee and noted author Padma Sachdev, the first modern woman poet of Dogri language, passed away. She received the Padma Shri, the country’s fourth-highest civilian award, in 2001 and was awarded the Kabir Samman for poetry for 2007-08 by the Madhya Pradesh government.
- 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.



Miscellaneous News

14. BRO BUILDS THE WORLD’S HIGHEST ROAD IN LADAKH AT 19,300 FEET

- Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed and black-topped the highest road in the world at Umlingla Pass in Eastern Ladakh. The highest motorable road in the world is situated at an altitude of 19,300 feet.
- This is higher than the base camps of Mount Everest. The road itself is a 52-km long tarmac stretch through Umlingla Pass, connecting important towns in the Chumar sector of Eastern Ladakh.
- The north base in Tibet is at 16,900 feet, whereas the south base camp in Nepal is 17,598 feet. The summit of Mount Everest is a little over 29,000 feet. The road is constructed much above the altitude of Siachen Glacier which is at 17,700 feet.



- The Khardung La Pass in Leh is at an altitude of 17,582 feet. With this, India has bettered Bolivia's record of a road at 18,953 feet.
- Director-General of BRO: Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary;
- BRO Headquarters: New Delhi;
- BRO Founded: 7 May 1960.

15. GOVERNORS CAN PARDON PRISONERS: SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

- Supreme Court of India on August 3, 2021, held that the Governor of state can pardon prisoners, including in the death sentence cases. Governor can pardon the prisoners even before they have completed a minimum of 14 years of prison sentence.
- Court also said that the Governor's power to pardon overrides a provision given under Section 433A of the Code of Criminal Procedure.



- Section 433A mandates that the sentence of the prisoner can be remitted only after 14 years of jail. The court observed that Section 433-A of the Code cannot and does not affect the constitutional power of the President or Governor to grant pardon under Articles 72 or 161 of the Constitution.
- Such power is in the exercise of the power of the sovereign. However, Governor will have to act on the aid and advice of the State Government.
- Supreme Court of India Established: 26 January 1950;
- Chief Justice of India Justice: NV Ramana.

BY SOHIL SINGH

National News

1. KHEL RATNA AWARD RENAMED AS MAJOR DHYAN CHAND KHEL RATNA AWARD



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award will be renamed as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.
- The Prime Minister said the move was based on the numerous requests he received from across the nation. Dhyan Chand, whose birthday is celebrated as National Sports Day, won three Olympic golds for the country in Hockey.
- The award was inaugurated in 1991-92, the award comprises a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of Rs. 25 lakh.
- The first recipient of the Khel Ratna was chess legend, Viswanathan Anand. Some of the winners in recent years include cricketer Rohit Sharma, wrestler Vinesh Phogat, women's hockey team captain Rani Rampal, among others.

2. INDIA NUCLEAR POWER CAPACITY IS EXPECTED TO REACH 22,480 MW BY 2031

- India's nuclear power capacity is expected to reach 22,480 Mega Watts by 2031 from the current 6,780 MegaWatts. There are presently 22 reactors with a total capacity of 6780 MW in operation and one reactor, KAPP-3 (700 MW) has been connected to the grid on January 10, 2021.



- Ten (10) nuclear power reactors with 8000 MW capacity (including 500 MW PFBR being implemented by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited {BHAVINI}) are under construction.
- Additionally, the Government has accorded administrative approval and financial sanction of ten (10) indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) of 700 MW each to be set up in fleet mode.

International News

3. GERMANY BECOMES 5TH COUNTRY TO SIGN ISA FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

- Germany became the 5th country to sign the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement after amendments to it entered into force on 8th January 2021, opening its Membership to all Member States of the United Nations.
- Ambassador of Germany to India Walter J. Lindner deposited signed copies of the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement with the Ministry of External Affairs, the depositary of the Agreement.
- Membership to the ISA was earlier limited to 121 countries, which were partially or entirely located within the tropics. This didn't allow major solar energy economies such as Germany to join the alliance that is being increasingly seen as a foreign policy tool.
- The initiative was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the India Africa Summit and a meeting of member countries ahead of the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in November 2015. The framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance opened for signatures in Marrakech, Morocco in November 2016.
- Germany Capital: Berlin;
- Germany Currency: Euro;
- Germany President: Frank-Walter Steinmeier.



4. EBRAHIM RAISI SWORN IN AS NEW PRESIDENT OF IRAN

- Ebrahim Raisi was officially sworn in as the new president of Iran on August 05, 2021. He won the 2021 Iranian presidential election in June, with 62 per cent of the vote. The 60-year-old Raisi succeeds Hassan Rouhani to begin his four-year term. He is also been the Chief Justice of Iran since March 2019.

- Raisi's inauguration comes at a pivotal time, with Iran currently in indirect negotiations with the United States over how to revive the 2015 nuclear agreement.
- Raisi will also face the task of reviving his country's economy, which has been battered in recent years by the previous US administration's "maximum pressure" campaign of sanctions. Tensions in the region are also high following a string of maritime provocations blamed by the West on Tehran.
- Iran Capital: Tehran;
- Iran Currency: Iranian toman.



States News

5. WEST BENGAL RECEIVES FOUR SKOCH AWARDS

- The government of West Bengal has received four SKOCH awards for its schemes under the Ease of Doing Business initiative. The State scheme 'Silpasathi'-the online single window portal won the platinum award while the Auto-Renewal of Certificate of Enlistment through the online system for urban areas has received the gold award.
- Online issuance of trade licences in rural areas and the E-Nathikaran: the online system for registration, preparation and submission of deeds have won two silver awards.
- The state government will ensure that the ease of doing business in West Bengal continues to be one of the foremost in the country.
- Chief Minister of West Bengal: Mamata Banerjee; Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar.



Banking News

6. 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.
- Axis Bank CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry;
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Axis Bank Founded: 3 December 1993, Ahmedabad.



Agreements News

7. ICICI PRUDENTIAL LIFE TIES UP WITH NPCI FOR UPI AUTOPAY

- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has tied up with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to provide a Unified Payments Interface Autopay facility to its customers.
- This tie-up is another step in the company's digitalisation journey, which provides customers with a hassle-free and seamless experience across the policy lifecycle.
- While purchasing a life insurance policy, customers can link their bank accounts with UPI Autopay for payment of premium.
- The UPI Autopay e-mandate can be activated by customers by using their smartphones to make regular renewal premium payments in a paperless format.
- The UPI payment mode is fast becoming a preferred route of payment due to the contactless and frictionless experience it provides.
- Customers can set up the e-mandate facility to make their regular renewal premium payments and ensure financial security for self and their families.
- Customers can enable the UPI Autopay feature on their UPI apps. Alternatively, it can be enabled for banks through an e-mandate.
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance CEO: N. S. Kannan;
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Founded: 2000.



8. INDIA FOR IMPLEMENTING MOU WITH BANGLADESH IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

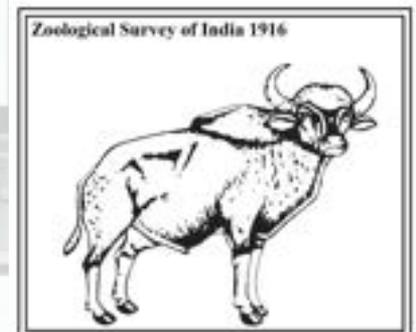
- India has emphasized the implementation of the recently-signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bangladesh over disaster management, resilience and mitigation on a priority basis. Bangladesh has decided to accept the invitation to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- CDRI is a coalition of national governments, UN agencies, multilateral development banks and the private sector which aims to promote resilience of new and existing infrastructure to climate and disaster risks.



Appointments News

9. ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA GETS 1ST FEMALE DIRECTOR IN 100 YEARS

- The Indian government approved the appointment of Dr Dhriti Banerjee as the director of the Zoological Survey of India. She is a prolific scientist, conducting research in zoogeography, taxonomy, morphology and molecular systematics.
- On the occasion of its centenary celebrations in 2016, Banerjee had co-authored the “The Glorious 100 Women’s Scientific Contribution in ZSI”, which chronicled the contributions of women scientists in the domain of animal-related groups.
- Founded in July 1916, the ZSI has its headquarters in Kolkata. It has 16 regional centres under the ministry of environment and forest and climate change. ZSI started hiring women scientists as late as 1949, nearly three decades since its inception.



Economy News

10. RBI ANNOUNCES ITS BI-MONTHLY MONETARY POLICY

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced its bi-monthly monetary policy. This is the seventh time in a row that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has maintained the status quo.
- RBI had last revised its policy rate on May 22, 2020, in an off-policy cycle to perk up demand by cutting the interest rate to a historic low. The meeting was held between August 4 and 6. The remaining will take place in October (6 to 8); December (6 to 8) and February (7 to 9, 2022).



11. SEBI ALLOWS PAYMENTS BANKS TO ACT AS INVESTMENT BANKERS

- Sebi has allowed 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, markets regulator.
- Non-scheduled payments banks, which have prior approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), will be eligible to act as a banker to an issue (BTI).
- This is subject to fulfilment of the conditions stipulated in the BTI rules. Further, payments banks registered as a BTI 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.”The blocking/movement of funds from the investor to the issuer shall only be made through the savings account of the investor held with the payments bank.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India Founded: 12 April 1992.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India Agency executive: Ajay Tyagi.



Important Days

12. HIROSHIMA DAY: 6TH AUGUST

- Annually 6th of August marks the anniversary of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima during World War II. The horrific incident took place on August 6, 1945, when the United States dropped an atomic bomb named “Little Boy”, on the town of Hiroshima in Japan.
- This bomb attack was done with the motive to end the Second World War in 1945. This day is remembered to promote peace and spread awareness about the danger of nuclear energy and nuclear weapons.



- During the 2nd World War which was active in 1939- 1945, the world's first deployed atomic bomb with more than 9000 pounds uranium-235 was loaded and US B-29 bomber aircraft, the Enola Gay attacked the Japanese city of Hiroshima on 6th August 1945.
- The explosion was so huge that it immediately killed 70,000 people wiping 90% of the city and later on around 10,000 people died due to the effect of radiation exposure.

13. TRIFED CELEBRATES ITS 34TH FOUNDATION DAY

- Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED) has celebrated its 34th foundation day on 6th August. TRIFED was founded to drive tribal development through marketing support for tribal products, both, handicrafts and Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP).
- TRIFED will celebrate this day in a special manner, with due publicity, to raise awareness among one and all regarding the issues related to trade in tribal areas, and the need to ensure a fair deal for the tribes in the commerce of their products.
- The proposed event shall also recognize the achievements and contributions that the tribes and people working for them have made in this regard. TRIFED was established on the 6th of August 1987 as a National level Cooperative body with the major objective of socio-economic development of tribals.
- TRIFED will be celebrating its 34th Foundation Day on August 6, an event to recognise TRIFEDs achievements and the contribution of Tribes as well as people working with it.



Obituaries News

14. OLYMPIAN FOOTBALLER S.S. 'BABU' NAYARAN PASSES AWAY

- Two-times Olympian Shankar Subramaniam, alias "Babu" Nayaran passed away. He was India's goalkeeper during the 1956 and 1960 Olympics. Besides representing Maharashtra in football and basketball, Narayan emerged as one of the most reliable goalkeepers in India.
- His decade-long career for the national team also included the stellar effort of India finishing fourth in the 1956 Olympics and representing India in the 1964 Asian Games.
- Subramaniam was born in Palakkad district in Kerala, Narayan was a star in Mumbai's local circuit during his appearances for Matunga Students, Matunga Gymkhana, Caltex and Tata Sports Club. He was part of Maharashtra's Santosh Trophy-winning campaign in 1964.



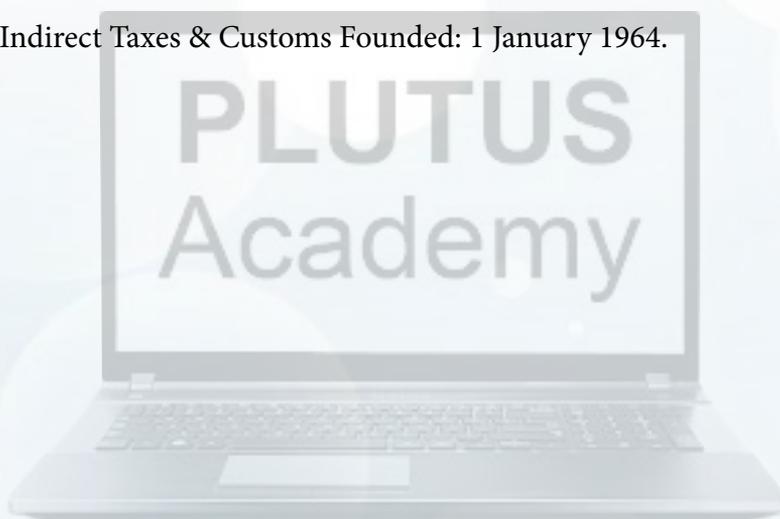
Miscellaneous News

15. CBIC LAUNCHES COMPLIANCE INFORMATION PORTAL (CIP)

- The Central Board for Indirect Taxes & Customs launched the Indian Customs Compliance Information Portal at www.cip.icegate.gov.in/CIP.
- This portal providing free access to information on all Customs procedures and regulatory compliance for nearly 12,000 Customs Tariff Items.
- The portal will provide complete knowledge of all import and export related requirements for all items.
- Central Board for Indirect Taxes & Customs Chairperson: M. Ajit Kumar;
- Central Board for Indirect Taxes & Customs Founded: 1 January 1964.



BY SOHIL SINGH





CURRENT AFFAIRS

AUGUST 2021

National News

1. POWER MINISTER LAUNCHES E-CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE REGULATORY TRAINING

- 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.



State News

2. LABHANSHU SHARMA WINS BHARAT KESARI WRESTLING DANGAL FOR UTTARAKHAND

- Indian Wrestler Labhanshu Sharma won the Bharat Kesari Wrestling Dangal 2021 organised in Tamil Nadu. 20 years since the formation of Uttarakhand, Labhanshu has broken the drought and won the title of Bharat Kesari for the state.



- With 15 gold medals at the state level and 10 medals at the national level and 2 gold medals and 1 silver medal in the International Wrestling competitions; Labhanshu is already set to bring glory to the nation.
- Governor of Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya;
- The chief minister of Uttarakhand: Pushkar Singh Dhami.

3. INDIA'S FIRST HEART FAILURE BIOBANK STARTS AT SCTIMST IN KERALA

- The first Heart Failure Biobank in the country 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), Kerala.
- The Biobank is open to study genetic, metabolomics and proteomic markers of health outcomes in heart-failure patients.
- Biobanks are an important resource of collections of high-quality biological human samples that can be used to understand molecular pathways and to improve the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of heart failure.
- The biospecimens include blood, serum and tissue samples obtained during open-heart surgery and peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and genomic DNA collected from heart-failure patients.
- Kerala CM: Pinarayi Vijayan;
- Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan.



Banking News

4. SURYODAY SMALL FINANCE BANK OPENS '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 Rs. 25 lakh, annual healthcare package and on-call emergency ambulance medical care services.
- Complimentary top-up health insurance plan of Rs. 25 lakh with a deductible amount of Rs. 5 lakh.
- The top-up health insurance plan covers self and family (self, spouse, and up to 2 children) for hospitalisation/medical emergencies.
- Suryoday Small Finance Bank MD and CEO: Baskar Babu Ramachandran;



Business News

5. SBI GENERAL PARTNERS WITH SAHIPAY TO OFFER GENERAL INSURANCE PRODUCTS

- 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 partnership will bring in a perfect blend for rural customers, with SBI General's non-life product offerings and Manipal Business Solutions, along with the right understanding of the rural segment by both partners.



- SBI General Insurance Headquarters: Mumbai;
- SBI General Insurance Founded: 2009;
- SBI General Insurance CEO: Prakash Chandra Kandpal.

Awards News

6. 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.
- 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.
- Bhutan Capital: Thimphu;
- Bhutan Prime minister: Lotay Tshering;
- Bhutan Currency: Bhutanese ngultrum.



Summits and Conference News

7. 2nd IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RANGE TECHNOLOGY BY DRDO

- 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 Satheesh 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.
- 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.



Appointments News

8. EUROSPORT INDIA APPOINTS JOHN ABRAHAM AS THE MOTOGP BRAND AMBASSADOR

- Eurosport India has appointed Bollywood superstar and MotoGP enthusiast, John Abraham, as the India Ambassador for their flagship Motorsport property, MotoGP™.
- John will be seen promoting MotoGP to a wider audience base in India as its face through Eurosport's campaign – "MotoGP, Race Lagate Hai".



Defence News

9. INDIGENOUSLY DESIGNED INS VIKRANT LEAVES PORT FOR MAIDEN SEA TRIALS

- India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, Vikrant set sail to begin its first sea trial. INS Vikrant was designed by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and built at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).



- This advanced warship is the first attempt by the two entities to build an aircraft carrier from the ground up.
- INS Vikrant has 75 per cent indigenous content and will be commissioned into the Eastern Naval Command. It will be commissioned into the Indian Navy by August 2022.

Sports News

10. NEERAJ CHOPRA WINS OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL IN JAVELIN THROW

- Neeraj Chopra has won a Gold medal for India in the javelin throw event at Tokyo Olympics. With a throw of 87.03 metres in his first attempt, Neeraj killed the competition.
- In his second he improved it to 87.58m and that turned out to be the golden throw. Except for Vitezslav Veslay of the Czech Republic who threw 86.67m none of his rivals including world champion Johannas Vetter fell by wayside.
- This is India's 7th medal at Tokyo 2020, the best ever medal haul for India at a single edition of the Games. Neeraj Chopra's Gold is also India's second-ever individual Gold medal at the Olympics, after Abhinav Bindra in Shooting.



11. TOKYO OLYMPICS 2020: BAJRANG PUNIA WINS OLYMPIC WRESTLING BRONZE MEDAL

- Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia has won the Olympic wrestling bronze medal match after 8-0 win over Daulet Niyazbekov of Kazakhstan in the men's freestyle 65kg category.
- Punia became the sixth Indian wrestler to finish on the Olympic podium after KD Jadhav, Sushil Kumar, Yogeshwar Dutt, Sakshi Malik and Ravi Kumar Dahiya. This became the second instance after the 2012 London Olympics when two Indian wrestlers won medals in the same Games.



Important Days

12. NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY OBSERVED ON 7th AUGUST

- India has marked the 7th National Handloom Day to showcase the legacy of the Indian handloom industry.
- The day is to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement and to celebrate our country's rich fabrics and colourful weaves.
- The whole nation will mark the day to showcase the legacy of the Indian handloom industry and to honour the weavers across the country. It was first observed in 2015 by the Govt of India.
- National Handloom Day seeks to focus on the contribution of handloom to the socio-economic development of the country and also increase the income of weavers.



Miscellaneous News

13. LADAKH LAUNCHES 'PANI MAAH' TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT CLEAN WATER

- 'Pani Maah' or water month has been launched in Ladakh to inform villagers about the importance of clean water.
- The Ladakh government has also announced a reward of Rs 2.5 million for the first block in each district that achieves the status of 'Har Ghar Jal'.
- 'Pani Maah' campaign will adopt a three-pronged approach — focussing on water quality testing, planning and strategizing water supply, and seamless functioning of Pani Sabha in villages.



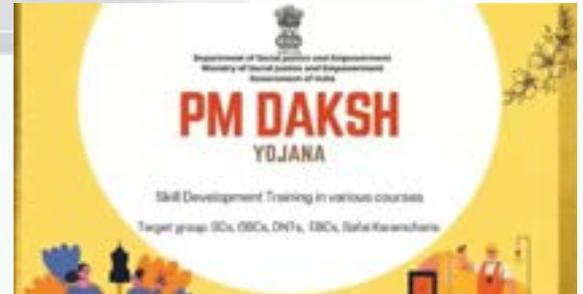
- Only 11.75 per cent of rural households in Ladakh have access to tap water connections. The Pani Maah campaign is expected to expedite the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission in the union territory.
- Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh: Radha Krishna Mathur.

BY SOHIL SINGH

Plutus
Academy
National News

1. MINISTRY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE LAUNCHES 'PM-DAKSH' PORTAL AND MOBILE APP

- The Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar has unveiled a portal and mobile application named 'PM-DAKSH', which aims to make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups.
- The 'PM-DAKSH' stands for Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana. The portal can be accessed at: <http://pmdaksh.dosje.gov.in>.
- The platform has been developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in collaboration with National E-Governance Division (NeGD), under the Department Of Electronics And Information Technology.
- The training programs will be implemented through Government Training Institutes, Sector Skill Councils constituted by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and other credible institutions.



2. INDIAN RAILWAYS LAUNCHES RAIL MADAD: A UNIFIED CUSTOMER CARE SOLUTION

- Indian Railways has launched an integrated one-stop solution "Rail Madad" in which the national transporter has merged a number of existing helplines that were used for various purposes into one.



- The Railway ministry toll-free number 139 can be used for all kinds of enquiries and making complaints and the helpline facility is available round-the-clock in 12 languages.
- Rail Madad, the integrated and innovative one-stop solution for customer grievance, enquiry, suggestion and assistance, providing passengers with the choice to access RailMadad through multiple channels, namely, Web, App, SMS, Social Media and Helpline number (139) during the journey for expeditious resolution of their complaints.

State News

3. 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 the National Education Policy-2020.
- The state government has issued an order on the implementation of NEP-2020 with effect from the current academic year 2021-2022.
- This policy seeks to entirely overhaul the system through various reforms: A single regulator to oversee higher education; no more MPhil courses before PhD; fixed fees for public and private institutions; students can choose between three and four-year undergraduate courses; multiple entries and exit points in degree courses.
- Chief Minister of Karnataka: Basavaraj S Bommai;
- Karnataka Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot;
- Karnataka Capital: Bengaluru.



Appointments News

4. GOI APPROVES 1-YEAR EXTENSION TO RAJIV GAUBA'S TERM AS CABINET SECRETARY

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has extended the term of service of Rajiv Gauba, as the Cabinet Secretary of India, for a further period of one year.
- Gauba, a 1982-batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre, was appointed to the top bureaucratic post of the country in August 2019 for two years.
- His term of service was to end on August 30, 2021. Prior to this, Mr Gauba was Union Home Secretary from August 2017 to August 2019.



5. MS DHONI BECOMES FIRST BRAND AMBASSADOR OF HOMELANE

- Home interiors brand HomeLane has entered into a three-year strategic partnership with Mahendra Singh Dhoni as an equity partner and brand ambassador. As part of the partnership, Dhoni will own equity in HomeLane and will be the company's first brand ambassador.



- With the upcoming cricket and festive season, HomeLane and MS Dhoni are jointly working on a brand new campaign that will be released during the new IPL season. The partnership will last for the next three years. Dhoni will not only become an equity partner but also a brand ambassador for the company.

Defence News

6. INDIA-UAE NAVY UNDERTAKES BILATERAL EXERCISE ‘ZAYED TALWAR 2021’

- The Indian Navy and UAE Navy conducted the bilateral naval exercise ‘Zayed Talwar 2021’ on August 07, 2021, off the coast of Abu Dhabi.



- The main objective of the ‘Zayed Talwar 2021’ naval exercise was to enhance interoperability and synergy between the two navies. Indian Navy participated with INS Kochi, with two integral Sea King MK 42B helicopters, deployed in the Persian Gulf.
- From UAE, UAES AL – Dhafra, a Baynunah class guided missile corvette and one AS – 565B Panther helicopter took part in the exercise.

Agreements News

7. HARYANA GOVT SIGNS MoU WITH WALMART VRIDDHI TO HELP MSMEs

- The Haryana government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ‘Walmart Vriddhi’ and ‘Haqdarshak’ to create a pathway for Indian MSMEs’ products to move to the international markets.



- The MoU was signed in the presence of Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, Vikas Gupta, MSME Department Director-General, the Indian government, Nitin Dutt from Walmart Vriddhi, and Aniket Doegar (CEO of Haqdarshak).
- To promote MSMEs apart from large industries, many important concessions have been given to investors in 'Haryana Enterprises and Employment Policy-2020'. This move will bring a big opportunity for the MSME sector, as their products will be displayed in 24 countries and will be available in 10,500 stores under 48 banners.
- Haryana Capital: Chandigarh;
- Haryana Governor: Bandaru Dattatraya;
- Haryana Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar.

Sports News

8. TOKYO OLYMPICS 2020 CLOSING CEREMONY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Tokyo Olympics 2020 came to an end on August 08, 2021. The international multi-sport event was held from July 23 to August 08, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan.
- This was for the fourth time that Japan hosted the Olympic Games, after previously hosting the Tokyo 1964 (Summer), Sapporo 1972 (Winter), and Nagano 1998 (Winter) games. Apart from this, Tokyo is the first Asian city to hold the Summer Games twice.



9. JAMES ANDERSON BECOMES 3rd HIGHEST WICKET-TAKER IN TEST CRICKET

- James Anderson overtook Anil Kumble's tally of 619 Test wickets to become the third-highest wicket-taker in Test cricket. He achieved this huge feat after KL Rahul knocked one to wicket-keeper Jos Buttler.
- His current wickets tally stands at 621 from 163 Tests. Anderson is currently the highest wicket-taker among the fast bowlers and is the only pacer in the 600 club. He achieved the milestone on the 3rd day of the Nottingham Test against India.



Books and Authors News

10. A BOOK TITLED “THE YEAR THAT WASN’T – THE DIARY OF A 14-YEAR-OLD” RELEASED

- Veteran actor Shabana Azmi has launched the book titled “The Year That Wasn’t – The Diary of a 14-Year-Old”, which is penned by Kolkata girl Brisha Jain.
- The book was written by a 14-year-old girl, which chronicles the lockdown days seen through her eyes as the Covid-19 pandemic spreading last year.
- The book handholds readers through a journey – the hopeful beginning of a new decade, the confusion triggered by a pandemic, lockdown travails, coping with the whole new world of online schooling, a new digital divide, the vaccine race, the waning of the pandemic’s severity and it’s a resurgence.



Important Days

11. NATION OBSERVES 79th ANNIVERSARY OF QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT

- The 79th anniversary of the August Kranti Din or Quit India Movement, which is considered as one of the important milestones in the history of the freedom struggle of our country, is being observed on 8 August 2021.
- On 8 Aug 1942, Mahatma Gandhi gave a clarion call to end British rule and launched the Quit India Movement at the session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai.
- After the failure of Cripps Mission, Gandhiji gave the call to “Do or Die” in his Quit India speech delivered at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai.
- The grateful country is paying homage to the freedom fighters and remembering the supreme sacrifices of the martyrs during the freedom struggle.



12. NAGASAKI DAY: 9th AUGUST

- Japan commemorates the 9th of August every year as Nagasaki day. On August 9, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan.
- It was code-named “Fat Man” due to the design of the bomb as it had a wide, round shape. This happened 3 days after dropping an atomic bomb on Hiroshima.
- An area of about 5 square miles was completely obliterated and around 65,000 people were killed in the bombing. Nagasaki and Hiroshima continue to feel the impact of the destructive bombing even today.



13. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: 9 AUGUST

- United Nations observes the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on 09th August every year. The day is being observed to protect the rights of the world's indigenous population and recognize the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection.
- The theme for 2021 is "Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract."
- The day was recognised by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1994. The date marks the day of the inaugural session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations at the United Nations in 1982.



Obituaries News

14. 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.



15. NOTED KERALA SCULPTOR, CARTOONIST P.S. BANARJI PASSES AWAY

- Noted Kerala Cartoonist, sculptor and folk singer, P.S. Banarji has passed away. A recipient of the Lalithakala Akademi Fellowship, Banarji was noted for his Ayyankali and Buddha sculptures at Venganur and Koduman.

- Known for his rendition of a string of folk songs, including the popular ‘Tharaka Pennale’, he was working as a graphic designer in an IT firm.

BY SOHIL SINGH



State News

1. GUJARAT CM LAUNCHES eNAGAR MOBILE APPLICATION AND PORTAL

- Gujarat Chief Minister, Vijay Rupani 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.
- Gujarat Chief Minister: Vijay Rupani;
- Gujarat Governor: Acharya Devvrat.



Appointments News

2. GOI APPROVES 3-YEAR EXTENSION FOR REKHA SHARMA AS CHAIRPERSON OF NCW

- The Government of India has given a three-year extension to Rekha Sharma as Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW). She will serve for another three years term with effect from August 07, 2021, or till the age of 65 years or until further orders whichever is the earliest.



- The 57-year-old Sharma first assumed the charge as Chairperson of NCW on August 7, 2018.
- Rekha Sharma has been associated with the Commission as a member since August 2015 and held the additional charge as the chairperson from September 29, 2017, before becoming its regular chief. She has been a vocal advocate of gender sensitisation of police personnel since they are the first point of contact for victims.
- National Commission for Women Formed: 1992;
- National Commission for Women Headquarters: New Delhi.

Business News

3. ADB APPROVES USD 300 MILLION ADDITIONAL LOAN FOR MAHARASHTRA

- The Manila-based Asian Development Bank has approved a USD 300 million loans as additional financing for the ongoing Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project for upgrading rural roads and connecting remote areas with markets.
- The additional financing will be used for improving an additional 1,100 rural roads and 230 bridges for a total length of 2,900 km in 34 districts of the state.
- The project was approved in August 2019, for improving and maintaining the condition and safety of 2,100 kilometres (km) of rural roads across Maharashtra.
- Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshiyari.
- Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai.



Defence News

4. INDIAN ARMY CONTINGENT TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL ARMY GAMES 2021 IN RUSSIA

- The 7th edition of the International Army Games, 2021, will be held from 22 August to 04 September 2021 in Russia. The competition will be hosted in eleven countries in the 2021 Games. Over 280 teams from 42 countries will compete in the game to show their combat skills, professionalism and determination to win.
- The International Army Games also referred to as 'War Olympics', is an international military sports event, which aims to strengthen military-to-military cooperation between countries and trust between the participating nations.



- From India, 101 members of the Indian Army will participate in the International Army Games, which is organised each year by the Russian Ministry of Defence, since 2015.

5. ITBP INDUCTS ITS FIRST WOMEN OFFICERS IN COMBAT

- For the first time, India-China LAC guarding the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force has commissioned its first two women officers in combat.
- The two women officers, Prakriti and Diksha will be posted as company commanders in ITBP battalions. Heretofore, women officers in the ITBP were serving in the medical branch or were on deputation from the Indian Police Service at top echelons.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and Deswal put the ranks of Assistant Commandant, the entry-level officer rank in the paramilitary, on the shoulders of Prakriti and Diksha after the passing out parade and attestation ceremony where they took an oath to serve the country.



- The ITBP started recruiting women combat officers in its cadre in 2016 through an all-India examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- ITBP Founded: 24 October 1962.
- ITBP Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- ITBP DG: S S Deswal.

Summits and Conferences News

6. PM MODI BECOMES FIRST INDIAN PM TO CHAIR A UNSC DEBATE

- Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has chaired the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) open debate, via video conferencing. With this, PM Modi has become the first Prime Minister of India to chair a UNSC open debate.
- It must be remembered that India has assumed the Presidency of the UNSC for August 2021, taking over from France.
- The theme of the high-level open debate was 'Enhancing Maritime Security – A Case for International Cooperation'. India will organize two more meetings during its presidency, on peacekeeping and counterterrorism.



7. KIREN RIJIJU ATTENDS 8TH SCO MEETING OF MINISTERS OF JUSTICE

- The Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju has virtually attended the eighth meeting of Ministers of Justice of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- The Minister of State for Law & Justice, Prof SP Singh Baghel also attended the meeting. During the virtual event, Rijiju highlighted the initiatives taken by the Government of India for providing affordable and easy access to justice for all.
- The three days' meeting was hosted by Tajikistan, and chaired by Tajikistan's Justice Minister, MK Ashuriyon. The Ministers of (Law and) Justice and senior officials and experts from the Ministries of Law & Justice of 'India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan' participated in the meeting.



Science and Technology News

8. INDIA TO LAUNCH ADVANCED GEO IMAGING SATELLITE "GISAT-1"

- India will finally launch its most advanced geo-imaging satellite (GiSAT-1), which will allow better monitoring of the subcontinent, including its borders with Pakistan and China, by imaging the country 4-5 times a day.
- The satellite will be launched on August 12 from Sriharikota. Isro's GSLV-F10 rocket will finally put the 2,268-kg Gisat-1, codenamed EOS-3, into the geo-orbit. This will be India's first launch of a primary satellite this year.
- Once placed 36,000 km above the earth in the geostationary orbit after space manoeuvres, the advanced 'eye in the sky' can constantly monitor areas of interest (the satellite will move in sync with the rotation of the Earth and hence would look stationary) and will give real-time information about a large area unlike other remote sensing satellites placed in lower orbits that come to a spot only at regular intervals.



- ISRO Chairman: K.Sivan.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.

Sports News

9. 7th AUGUST TO BE NAMED “JAVELIN THROW DAY” TO HONOUR NEERAJ CHOPRA

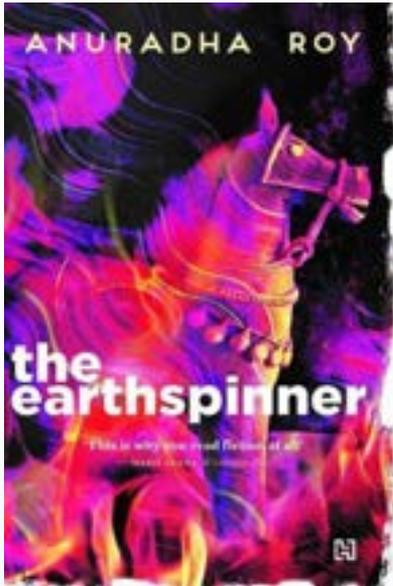
- The Athletics Federation of India has decided that javelin throw day will be on 7th August every year in honour of Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra. The 23-year-old Neeraj is India’s second individual Olympic gold medallist after Abhinav Bindra.
- Neeraj bagged the gold medal in men’s javelin throw at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics on 7th August 2021.
- Neeraj has scripted the history at the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo when he threw the javelin to a distance of 87.58m to end India’s medal drought in athletics at the Olympics. This is India’s first-ever gold medal in athletics in the history of the Olympics. AFI’s bid to name August 7 as Javelin Throw Day is an attempt to attract more youth towards the sport.
- Athletics Federation of India President: Adille J Sumariwalla;
- Athletics Federation of India Founded: 1946;
- Athletics Federation of India Headquarters location: New Delhi.



Books and Authors News

10. A BOOK TITLE “THE EARTHSPINNER” AUTHORED BY ANURADHA ROY

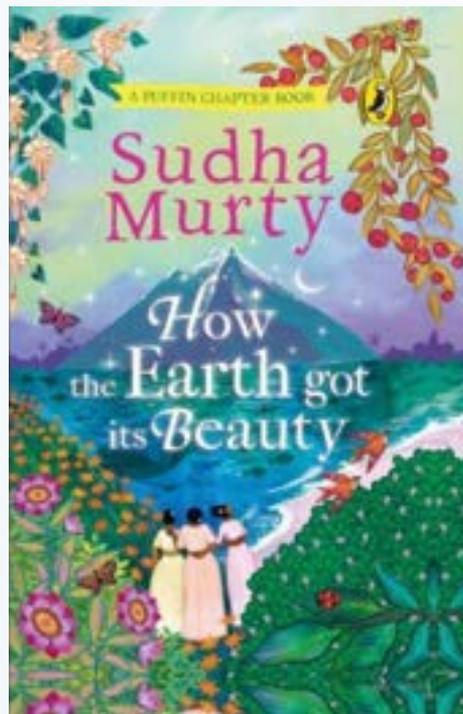
- A book titled “The Earthspinner” authored by award-winning novelist Anuradha Roy. In the book, Roy delves into the “life and mind of Elango the potter, who must navigate complicated and impossible love, the dedication of a beloved pet, his own passion for creativity and a world turned upside down by the petty violence that characterises the present day”.



- This novel is about two people struggling to free themselves of such shackles to create a happier world. Roy's earlier works include "An Atlas of Impossible Longing" and "The Folded Earth".

11. A BOOK TITLE "HOW THE EARTH GOT ITS BEAUTY" AUTHORED BY SUDHA MURTY

- A book titled "How the Earth Got Its Beauty" authored by Sudha Murty. The book was published by Penguin Random House imprint Puffin, has illustrations by Priyanka Pachpande.
- Sudha Murty is a prolific writer in English and Kannada, she has written novels, technical books, travelogues, collections of short stories and non-fictional pieces, and four books for children. Her books have been translated into all the major Indian languages.
- Sudha Murty was the recipient of the R.K. Narayan Award for Literature and the Padma Shri in 2006, and the Attimabbe Award from the government of Karnataka for excellence in Kannada literature in 2011.



Important Days

12. WORLD LION DAY OBSERVED ON 10TH AUGUST

- World Lion Day is observed globally on August 10 every year. World Lion Day is marked to raise awareness about the king of beasts and the efforts undertaken for their conservation.
- Owing to their courage, intelligence, strength, and magnificence, lions often feature on national flags, and royal symbols and emblems to represent command, power or authority across cultures. World Lion Day was launched in 2013.
- There is only one species of the lion in the world whose scientific name is *Panthera leo*. As per the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN)'s Red List of Threatened Species (2016), the *Panthera leo* has two subspecies: *Panthera Leo* and *Panthera leo persica*, found in Africa and Asia.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland;
- International Union for Conservation of Nature CEO: Bruno Oberle;
- International Union for Conservation of Nature Founder: Julian Huxley;
- International Union for Conservation of Nature Founded: 5 October 1948.



13. WORLD BIOFUEL DAY CELEBRATED ON 10th AUGUST

- World Biofuel Day is observed on August 10 every year. The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and highlight the various efforts made by Government in the biofuel sector.

- The development of biofuels is in sync with schemes such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. World Biofuel Day was first observed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Gas in August 2015.



Obituaries News

14. WAR HERO COMMODORE KASARGOD PATNASHETTI GOPAL RAO PASSES AWAY

- Commodore Kasargod Patnashetti Gopal Rao, a 1971 war hero and recipient of the Mahavir Chakra, passed away. Rao was a recipient of the Veer Seva Medal also. He played a key role in the war with Pakistan to liberate East Pakistan that is now Bangladesh.
- Rao led a small task group of the Western Fleet and launched an offensive off the coast of Karachi as part of Operation Cactus Lily.
- Notwithstanding the threat of air, surface and submarine attack, he led the group into enemy waters on the night of December 4, 1971.



BY SOHIL SINGH

National News

1. PM MODI ANNOUNCES PALM OIL INITIATIVE

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a Rs 11,000 crore National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) to make India self-sufficient in cooking oils, including palm oil.
- The government will ensure that farmers get all the facilities, from quality seeds to technology under the mission. While India has become self-sufficient in rice, wheat and sugar, it was not enough as the country is hugely dependent on imported edible oils.
- The Centre has already been running a National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm to boost oilseeds and palm oil production in India for the last few years with an aim to lower imports.



International News

2. MOHAMMAD MOKHBER NAMED AS FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF IRAN

- Iran's new President Ebrahim Raisi named the chairman of a powerful state-owned foundation sanctioned by the United States as his first vice-president.
- Mohammad Mokhber has for years headed the foundation known as Setad or the Execution of Imam Khomeini's order.

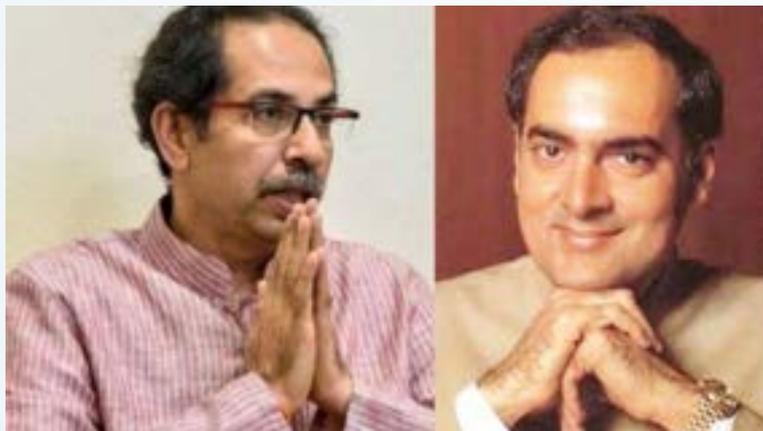


- Mokhber was appointed to the position by the supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in 2007. The Setad was originally founded in the late 1980s to manage confiscated properties following the 1979 Islamic Revolution.
- Iran Capital: Tehran;
- Iran Currency: Iranian toman.

PLUTUS
Academy
State News

3. MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES RAJIV GANDHI AWARD FOR IT SECTOR

- Maharashtra government has announced a new award named after the former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi for outstanding performance in the Information and Technology (IT) sector.
- The Rajiv Gandhi Award in Maharashtra will be given to institutes doing remarkable work in the field of information technology.
- The decision to start an award in the state after former PM Rajiv Gandhi was taken in a meeting chaired by Maharashtra Minister of State for Information Technology and Home Satej Patil.
- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced that the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award will be called the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.



- Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari;
- Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai;
- Maharashtra CM: Uddhav Thackeray.

Appointments News

4. RBI APPOINTS NEERAJ CHOPRA FOR BANKING FRAUD AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has started a public awareness campaign to warn people against digital banking frauds. For the new campaign, RBI has roped in Olympic Gold medalist Neeraj Chopra.



- The central bank has asked people to be a little cautious as doing so can protect them from a lot of troubles. A little caution takes care of a lot of trouble. The campaign sees Chopra urging users to not divulge details like OTP, CVV number and ATM PIN in front of anyone.
- The users should keep changing their online banking passwords and PIN numbers frequently and immediately block ATM card, credit card, debit card and/or prepaid card if one loses it. Block your card if stolen, lost or compromised.

Banking News

5. RBI HIKES COLLATERAL-FREE LOANS TO SELF HELP GROUPS

- The Reserve Bank of India has raised the limit for collateral-free loans to Self-Help Groups (SHG) under the DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission) from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 20 Lakhs.



- The DAY-NRLM is the flagship program of Govt. of India for promoting poverty reduction through building strong institutions for the poor, particularly women, and enabling these institutions to access a range of financial services and livelihoods.
- The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India launched the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) by restructuring Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY). NRLM was renamed as DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission) w.e.f. March 29, 2016.

6. RBI TO PENALISE BANKS IF ATMs RUN OUT OF CASH FROM OCTOBER 1

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the launch of the ‘Scheme of Penalty for non-replenishment of ATMs’, as per which it will impose monetary penalties on ATMs/ WLAs that run out of cash.
- The Scheme shall be effective from October 01, 2021. Therefore, banks/ WLAOs should put in place a robust system for monitoring the availability of cash in ATMs and ensure timely replenishment to avoid cash-outs.
- Cash-out at any ATM of more than ten hours in a month will attract a flat penalty of ₹ 10,000/- per ATM. In the case of White Label ATMs (WLAs), the penalty would be charged to the bank which is meeting the cash requirement of that particular WLA. The bank, may, at its discretion, recover the penalty from the WLA operator.
- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikant Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.



Business News

7. SIDBI UNVEILS “DIGITAL PRAYAAS” LENDING PLATFORM

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has unveiled ‘Digital Prayaas’ an app-based digital-lending platform to facilitate loans to entrepreneurs from low-income groups.

- The objective is to sanction a loan by the end of the day. The platform has engaged in the promotion, financing and development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

- To cater to those from the urban area, SIDBI has tied up with BigBasket to provide loans to its delivery partners for the purchase of e-bikes and e-vans. the SIDBI-BigBasket initiative would create digital footprints that would further facilitate loans to the borrower's family members for their own micro-enterprises.

- SIDBI should enter into similar arrangements with more partner institutions to increase its outreach.

- CMD of SIDBI: S Ramann;

- SIDBI founded: 2nd April 1990;

- SIDBI Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.



PLUTUS
Academy
Economy News

8. FINANCE MINISTRY: OVER 5.82 CRORE JAN DHAN ACCOUNTS INOPERATIVE

- The Finance Ministry has informed Rajya Sabha that over 5.82 crore Jan Dhan (PMJDY) accounts are inoperative. This is 14 per cent of the total number of accounts. It means at least one out of 10 Jan Dhan accounts is inoperative.
- According to guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India, "savings, as well as current account, should be treated as inoperative/dormant if there are no transactions in the account for over a period of two years.
- According to the website of PMJDY, the total number of Jan Dhan accounts is 42.83 crore with a balance of nearly Rs. 1.43 lakh crore.
- Finance Minister of India: Nirmala Sitharaman.



pradhan
mantri
jan dhan
yojana

Agreements News

9. UNICEF INDIA, FACEBOOK COLLABORATE TO MAKE A SAFER ONLINE WORLD FOR CHILDREN

- UNICEF India and Facebook have launched a one-year joint initiative on ending violence against children with a special focus on online safety. The partnership seeks to create a safe environment for children online and offline.

- It aims to improve children’s resilience and capacity to access the digital world safely, increase awareness on violence against children and its impact on children, families, and communities, and increase the skills of communities and frontline workers to better prevent and respond to violence.
- The partnership includes a nationwide social media campaign and capacity building for 100,000 school children on online safety, digital literacy, and psychosocial support. Well-known actor and UNICEF India’s celebrity advocate on ending violence against children, Ayushmann Khurrana, gave his keynote message during the virtual event.
- UNICEF Headquarters: New York, United States of America;
- UNICEF Executive Director: Henrietta H. Fore;
- UNICEF Founded: 11 December 1946.
- Facebook Founded: February 2004;
- Facebook CEO: Mark Zuckerberg;
- Facebook Headquarters: California, United States.



10. NAGALAND WINS 7 NATIONAL AWARDS UNDER VAN DHAN YOJANA SCHEME

- Nagaland has been conferred with seven national awards on the first Van Dhan Annual Awards 2020-21, during the celebration of the 34th foundation day of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED).
- The awards were presented by Union tribal minister, Arjun Munda through a Zoom webinar.
- Meanwhile, the state has received seven national awards, such, as 1st positions in – ‘Best Survey State’, ‘Best Training’, and ‘Most number of VDVKC’s established’.
- It has attained 3rd position for ‘Best Sales Generated’, and ‘Best Innovation & Creativity’.

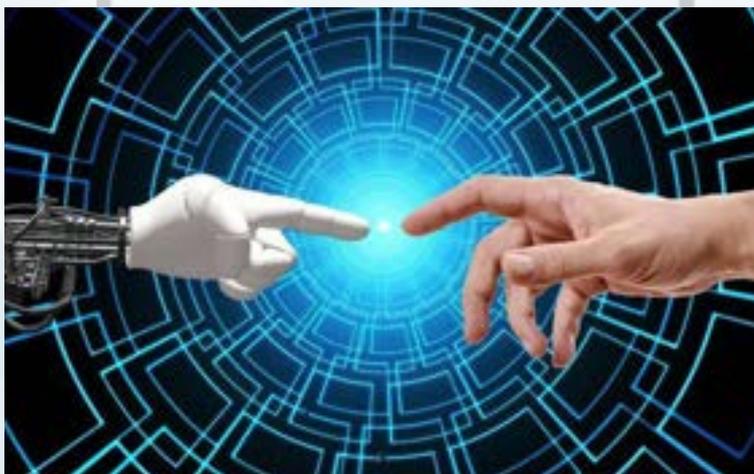


- The state has also received Awards for Innovative & Creative Product Ideas for commodities like – Gooseberry Wine (Supplier: Toka Multipurpose Society Ltd.); Mushroom Cultivation (Supplier: NBHM).
- Chief Minister of Nagaland: Neiphiu Rio; Governor of Nagaland: R. N. Ravi.

Science and Technology News

11. SOUTH AFRICA GRANTS PATENT TO AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM

- South Africa grants a patent relating to a “food container based on fractal geometry” to an artificial intelligence (AI) system called DABUS. DABUS (which stands for “device for the autonomous bootstrapping of unified sentence”) is an AI system created by Stephen Thaler, a pioneer in the field of AI and programming.
- The system simulates human brainstorming and creates new inventions.
- South Africa Capitals: Cape Town, Pretoria, Bloemfontein;
- South Africa Currency: South African rand;
- South Africa President: Cyril Ramaphosa.



12. IT MINISTRY TO HOST THE FIRST INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM IN THE COUNTRY

- India will host the first Internet Governance Forum in the country, starting from October 20, this year. The theme of this year’s meeting is Inclusive Internet for Digital India.
- With this announcement, the Indian chapter of the United Nations-based forum namely the Internet Governance Forum has begun. It’s an Internet Governance policy discussion platform to bring representatives together from various groups, considering all at par to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.



- National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and the Chairman of the Coordination Committee, India Internet Governance Forum 2021 (IGF), announced the launch of India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) -2021.

Ranks and Reports News

13. INDIA RANKS 122nd ON “NEW GLOBAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX”

- India is ranked 122nd on a new Global Youth Development Index 2020 measuring the condition of young people across 181 countries, released by the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.
- Singapore ranked topmost followed by Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark. Chad, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Niger came last respectively.
- The triennial rankings of youth development found India among the top five risers on the index between 2010 and 2018, alongside Afghanistan and Russia, advancing their score on average by 15.74 per cent across areas such as education and employment.



Obituaries News

14. MALAYALAM ACTOR SARANYA SASI PASSES AWAY

- Popular Malayalam film and television actor, Saranya Sasi passed away due to Covid-19 complications. She had also battled cancer for nearly a decade, earning praise for showing remarkable grit and determination in battling the disease. She had been diagnosed with a form of brain tumour in 2012.
- The actress' body of work includes films like Chhota Mumbai, Thalappavu, Bombay March 12 and TV soaps like Kootukari, Avakashikal, Harichandanam, Malakhamar and Rahasyam.



15. RENOWNED AYURVEDACHARYA BALAJI TAMBE PASSES AWAY

- A well-known spiritual leader who was also an Ayurveda doctor and proponent of Yoga, Dr Balaji Tambe, passed away.
- The founder of 'Atmasantulana Village', a holistic healing centre near Lonavala, Dr Tambe had written several books on spirituality, Yoga and Ayurveda. He dedicated his entire life to promote and popularize Ayurveda and Yoga.



BY SOHIL SINGH

State News

1. CHHATTISGARH BECOMES 1ST STATE TO RECOGNISE FOREST RESOURCE RIGHTS IN URBAN REGION

- Chhattisgarh became the first state to recognise Community Forest Resource Rights in an urban area, with the state government recognising the rights of residents of Dhamtari district over 4,127 hectares of forests.
- Community resource rights over 5,544 hectares of forest within the core area of the tiger reserve area were also recognised.
- Under Forest Rights Act, 2006, Community Forest Resource Right gives gram sabhas the right to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any forest resources used by the entire community, or village.
- CM of Chhattisgarh: Bhupesh Baghel; Governor of Chhattisgarh: Anusuiya Uikey.



Appointments News

2. KAMLESH KUMAR PANT APPOINTED NEW NPPA CHAIRMAN

- Kamlesh Kumar Pant, a 1993-batch IAS officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the new chairman of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) by the Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet.
- The pharmaceutical pricing agency was currently headed by IAS officer Shubhra Singh, who was appointed to the post in 2018. Singh has been repatriated to her cadre state Rajasthan, according to an order of the personnel ministry.
- Pant, formerly the Principal Secretary (Revenue) in the government of Himachal Pradesh and also the Financial Commissioner (Appeals) at Himachal Pradesh and the head of the Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, has taken charge of NPPA with immediate effect.



- National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority Founded: 29 August 1997;
- National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority Headquarters: New Delhi.

3. CASHIFY APPOINTS RAJKUMMAR RAO AS FIRST BRAND AMBASSADOR

- Cashify, a re-commerce marketplace, announced that it has appointed Rajkummar Rao as its first brand ambassador. The actor has signed a multi-year contract with the company and he will promote the products across digital media platforms through campaigns and promotional activities exclusively for the smartphone buyback category.
- The partnership is expected to give a strong face to the brand's philosophy as Rao personifies the brand ethos, which is reliability, responsiveness, approachability, and dynamic personality.



Defence News

4. INDIA & SAUDI ARABIA SET TO CONDUCT “AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2021” EXERCISE

- India and Saudi Arabia are all set to conduct their first-ever naval exercise Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021. To participate in the exercise, India’s guided-missile destroyer INS Kochi reached Saudi Arabia.
- The joint naval exercise will showcase the reflection of growing defence and military cooperation between India and Saudi Arabia.
- The exercise is taking place amid rising tension in the Gulf region after a drone attack on a merchant tanker off Oman killed a British national and a Romanian citizen.
- The UK and the US pointed fingers at Iran for the attack on MV Mercer Street, operated by an Israeli-owned firm.



- In December 2020, Army Chief Gen MM Naravane visited the UAE and Saudi Arabia in a first-ever visit ahead of the Indian Army to the two important Gulf countries.

5. 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 a few minutes from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.
- Air Chief Marshal: Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria;
- Indian Airforce founded: 8 October 1932;



- Indian Airforce Headquarters: New Delhi.

6. DRDO SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRES NIRBHAY MISSILE

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired medium-range subsonic cruise missile Nirbhay from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, off Odisha coast.
- Nirbhay is India's first Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM).
- ITCM Nirbhay was successfully test-launched with a Made-in-India Manik turbofan engine.
- This was the first successful test-firing of the missile with the indigenous booster engine. It can use both conventional and nuclear weapons of 200 to 300 kilograms.
- The missile can be launched from multiple platforms. ITCM Nirbhay can travel at a speed of 0.7 to 0.9 Mach, or 4 to 7 times faster than the speed of sound.
- Chairman DRDO: Dr G Satheesh Reddy.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- DRDO Established: 1958.



7. QUAD NAVIES TO UNDERTAKE EX-MALABAR 2021

- The Quad country navies including, India, the US, Japan and Australia, will be conducting the annual Malabar naval exercises, from August 21, off the coast of Guam, in the Indo-Pacific.
- The harbour phase of the Malabar naval exercises will take place from August 21 to 24, 2021. The sea phase of the exercise will be held on August 25 to 29, 2021.
- Indian Navy will be represented by two surface combatants led by Guided Missile Destroyer INS Ranvijay and Frigate INS Shivalik along with maritime reconnaissance aircraft P-8I, ASW helicopters and Special Forces (Marine Commandos-MARCOS).
- The objective of the Malabar series of Exercises is to increase the interoperability of naval powers of the four QUAD countries.



Banking News

8. RBL BANK SELECTS AWS AS PREFERRED CLOUD PROVIDER

- RBL Bank has chosen Amazon Web Services (AWS), an Amazon.com company, as its preferred cloud provider. AWS helps RBL bank to strengthen its AI-powered banking solutions and drive digital transformation at the Bank, adding significant value to the Bank's innovative offerings, saving costs, and tightening risk controls.
- The Bank is building on its analytics practice and investing in AI capabilities to implement various use cases across multiple segments, including Risk, Customer Service, Human Resources, and Operations.



- The Banks AI Center of Excellence worked with AWS to create a templated framework to roll out use cases using Amazon SageMaker to quickly and easily build, train, and deploy machine learning (ML) models as part of the Banks larger AI roadmap.
- RBL Bank Founded: August 1943;
- RBL Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- RBL Bank MD & CEO: Vishwavir Ahuja.

Summits and Conference News

9. 28th ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM MINISTERIAL MEETING

- The Minister of State for External Affairs, Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh led India's delegation to the 28th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Foreign Ministers Meeting. The Meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam.
- The ARF member countries exchanged views on international and regional issues, as well as the future direction of the ARF. Dr Singh presented India's perspectives on the Indo-Pacific, the threat of terrorism, the importance of UNCLOS in the maritime domain and cybersecurity.
- The ARF Ministers adopted a Joint Statement on Promoting the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda. India engages actively in ARF activities and initiatives on Maritime Security; Counter-Terrorism; Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs); Disaster Relief etc.



Science and Technology News

10. ISRO CHIEF K SIVAN INAUGURATES HEALTH QUEST STUDY

- ISRO chief, Dr K Sivan has formally inaugurated the Health QUEST study (Health Quality Upgradation Enabled by Space Technology of ISRO) which will be undertaken by 20 private hospitals across India.

The event was co-organised by the Association of HealthCare Providers India (AHPI) and the Society for Emergency Medicine in India (SEMI).



- The objective of the study is to strive towards reducing human errors and achieve zero defect and quality service in the emergency and intensive care units of the hospital. The study aims to upgrade healthcare standards in line with ISRO quality standards and best practices.
- The quality assurance mechanism in vogue in ISRO will be shared with the study team to establish the parameters for healthcare quality standards.
- ISRO Chairman: K.Sivan.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.



11. ICC TO PUSH FOR CRICKET'S INCLUSION IN OLYMPICS 2028

- The International Cricket Council has confirmed it will campaign for the inclusion of the sport at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. The ICC's bid to end what will by then have been an absence from Olympic schedules will include multiple demonstrations of cricket's suitability for multisport events.
- Cricket, till now, has made just one appearance in the Olympics, way back in 1900 in Paris when only two teams competed at the event Great Britain and hosts France meaning the sport's inclusion in 2028 would mark the end of a 128-year absence.

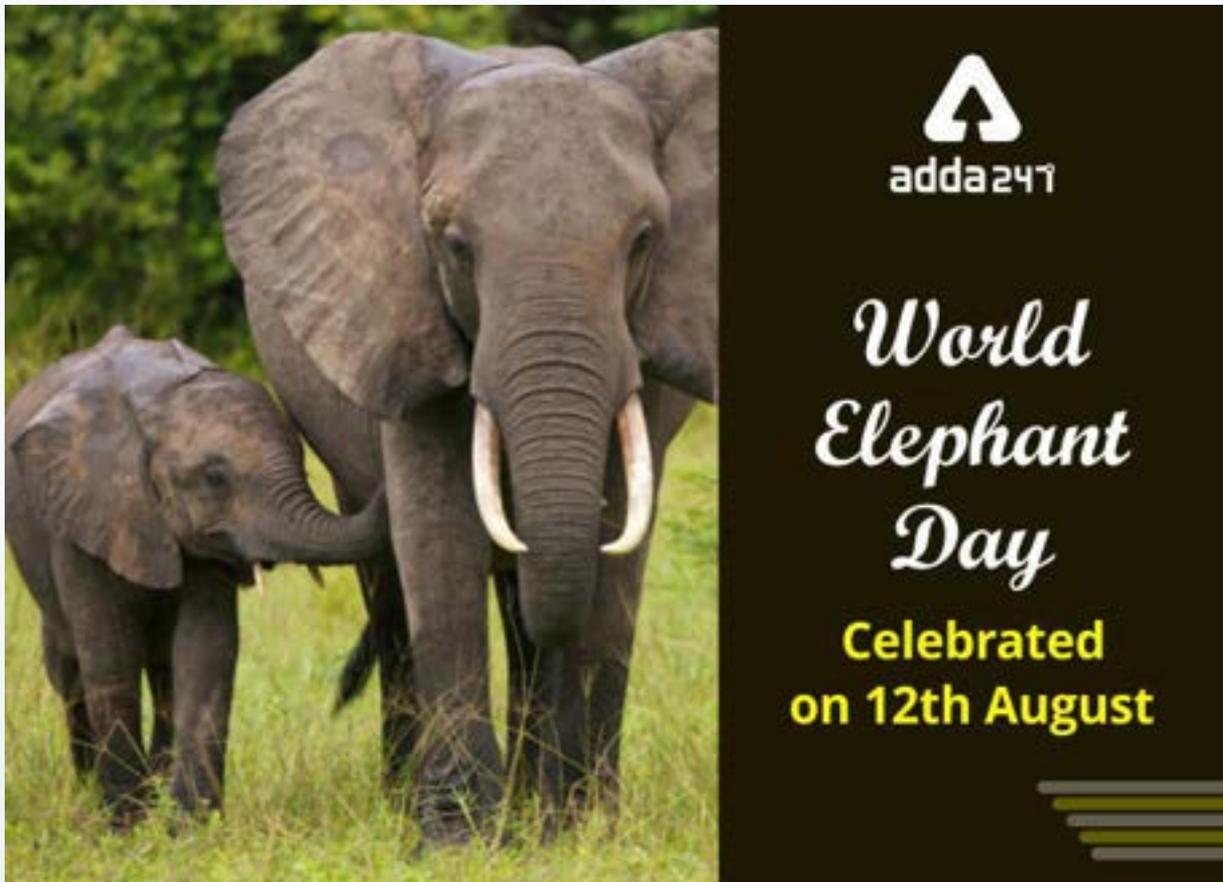


- The sport will feature in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games next year, which shapes as a perfect showcase for what the sport can bring to the Olympics, as well as being a momentous occasion on its own.

Important Days

12. WORLD ELEPHANT DAY OBSERVED ON 12 AUGUST

- World Elephant Day is observed every year on August 12 worldwide for the preservation and protection of the global elephants. The main objective of World Elephant Day is to create awareness on elephant conservation and to share knowledge and positive solutions for the better protection and management of wild and captive elephants.



- The World Elephant Day was initiated on August 12, 2012, when Thailand-based Elephant Reintroduction Foundation teamed up with Canadian filmmaker Patricia Sims. This is not just a day but a movement in itself. Since 2012, Ms Sims has been leading World Elephant Day.

13. INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY OBSERVED ON 12 AUGUST

- The International Youth Day is observed on August 12 annually to draw the attention of governments and others towards youth issues worldwide. This day is celebrated to recognize the efforts put in by the youth for the betterment of society.
- The Day aims to promote the ways to engage the youth and make them more actively involved in their communities through positive contributions.

- The theme of International Youth Day 2021, “Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health”.
- In 1999, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998) that 12 August be declared International Youth Day.



Miscellaneous News

14. KAKORI TRAIN CONSPIRACY NOW RENAMED TO KAKORI TRAIN ACTION

- The Uttar Pradesh government has renamed a landmark freedom movement event as Kakori Train Action while paying tributes to the revolutionaries who were hanged for robbing a train at Kakori to buy weapons in 1925. The new name was used in official communications to refer to the event, usually described as the ‘Kakori train robbery’ or the ‘Kakori train conspiracy’.
- UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Governor Anandiben Patel attended a programme held on the anniversary of the event at Kakori-based Kakori Shaheed Smarak on the outskirts of Lucknow.
- Family members of the freedom fighters were honoured on this occasion, and an art exhibition was also held. A government official stated it was derogatory to describe the robbery that was a part of the freedom movement as “conspiracy”.



BY SOHIL SINGH



CURRENT AFFAIRS

AUGUST 2021

International News

1. PAKISTAN SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRES NUCLEAR-CAPABLE BALLISTIC MISSILE GHAZNAVI

- The Pakistan Army successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile Ghaznavi.
- The Ghaznavi missile can strike targets up to 290 kilometres and is capable of carrying both nuclear as well as conventional warheads.
- 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.
- President of Pakistan: Arif Alvi.
- Prime Minister of Pakistan: Imran Khan.



Agreements News

2. INDIAN NAVY, IDFC FIRST BANK BRING 'HONOUR FIRST' BANKING SOLUTIONS

- The Indian Navy has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) First Bank to initiate 'Honour FIRST'.



- 'Honour FIRST' is a premium banking solution for serving personnel and veterans of the Indian Navy. Designed especially keeping in mind the needs of the Armed Forces and its veterans, the Honour FIRST Defence Account is supported by a dedicated team of defence veterans.
- The MoU for Honour FIRST was signed at the Naval Headquarters in New Delhi between Commodore Neeraj Malhotra, Commodore – Pay and Allowances, Indian Navy and IDFC FIRST Bank's senior officials.
- IDFC First Bank Establishment: 2018;
- IDFC First Bank MD & CEO: V. Vaidyanathan;
- IDFC First Bank Headquarters; Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Defence News

3. INDIAN NAVY TAKES PART IN US NAVY-LED MULTINATIONAL SEACAT EXERCISES

- The Indian Navy participated in the U.S. Navy-led Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) military exercise in Singapore, to demonstrate its maritime manoeuvres.
- 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 approximately 400 personnel and 10 ships.
- The 20th edition of the exercise was organised by the U.S. Navy, in Hybrid format, and included 20 other partner nations from the Indo-Pacific region, including India.
- SEACAT was held for the first time in 2002. The exercise aims to foster enhanced cooperation between Southeast Asian countries by incorporating standardized training, tactics and procedures when faced with crises, contingencies or illegal activities in the maritime domain.



Summits and Conferences News

4. INDIA ORGANISES 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.
- 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.

5. NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR ADDRESSES 6th SCO MEET OF AGRICULTURE MINISTERS

- The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar has addressed the 6th meeting of Agriculture Ministers of the member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), through videoconferencing. The meeting was organized under the chairmanship of Tajikistan in Dushanbe.
- During the meeting, Narendra Singh Tomar highlighted the taking several steps being taken by the Government of India to develop innovative technologies and their dissemination from Lab to Land to empower rural youth, farmers and farm women.
- Apart from Tomar, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shobha Karandlaje also attended the meet.



Business News

6. HCL TECHNOLOGIES BECOMES 4th IT FIRM TO HIT RS 3 TRILLION MARKET-CAP

- HCL Technologies' market capitalisation (market-cap) touched Rs 3 trillion for the first time. HCL becoming the fourth Indian information technology (IT) firm to achieve this milestone after Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys and Wipro.



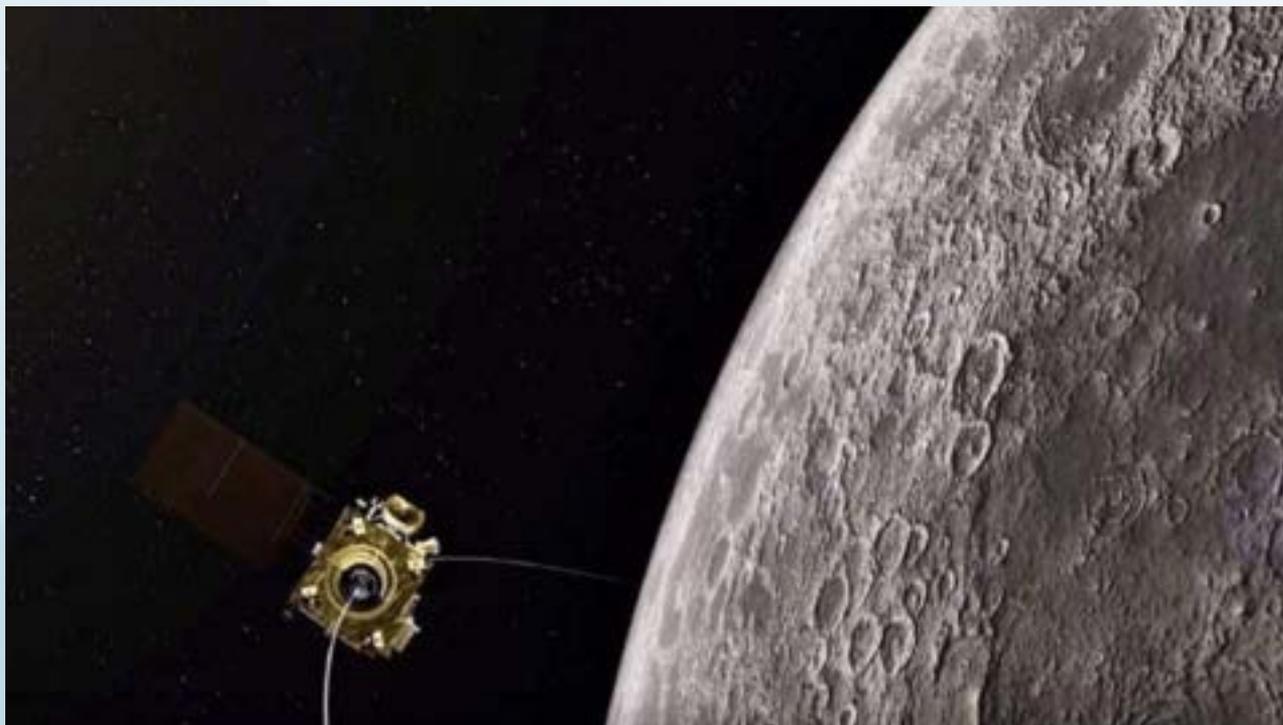
- Shares of HCL Tech hit a fresh record high of Rs 1,118.55, up 2 per cent on the BSE in intra-day trade, surpassing its previous high of Rs 1,101 touched on 12th Aug in intra-day deal.

- HCL Tech is the third-largest Indian IT services company by revenue, after TCS and Infosys.
- The company has a strong globally diversified presence and provides comprehensive IT services to an established customer base. It has strong expertise in engineering and R&D services and its end customers are spread across industry segments.
- HCL Technologies CEO: C Vijayakumar.
- HCL Technologies Founded: 11 August 1976.
- HCL Technologies Headquarters: Noida.

Science and Technology News

7. 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 Chandrayaan-2 mission was launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in July 2019. But Vikram lander on-board the mission crash-landed on the lunar surface just 2.1 km from its destination in September that year.
- Chandrayaan-2 was launched with the aim of mapping the variations in lunar surface composition, as well as locating and studying the surface of the Moon for the presence of water.
- ISRO Chairman: K.Sivan.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.



Books and Authors News

8. VICE PRESIDENT RELEASES BOOK 'ACCELERATING INDIA: 7 YEARS OF MODI GOVERNMENT'

- The Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu has released a book 'Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government' at Upa-Rashtrapati Nivas.
- The book commemorates the achievement and evaluation of two elected terms of PM Modi as the Head of Parliamentary.
- Releasing the book, VP Naidu said that as India will celebrate 75 years of independence, it was time to study the progress of the constitutional promise of a 'dignified life to the common man.'



Sports News

9. INDIAN BANK SIGNS MoU WITH PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

- Public sector Indian Bank has signed an MoU with the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) as one of the banking partners of the Paralympic Games scheduled to commence from August 24 in Tokyo, Japan.
- The bank, through its year-long association with PCI, will provide financial assistance to paralympic athletes. The President of the Paralympic Committee of India is Deepa Malik.



- In a year-long association, the bank will provide financial assistance to Paralympic athletes to prepare for the coveted sporting events in the domestic arena as well as global platforms. Timely financial aid provided to these sportspersons will encourage them to focus their efforts on the game and win laurels for the country.
- Indian Bank Headquarters: Chennai;
- Indian Bank CEO: Padmaja Chundururu;
- Indian Bank: 1907.

10. WORLD CUP WINNING U19 INDIA CAPTAIN UNMUKT CHAND ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

- World Cup-winning U19 India captain, Unmukt Chand has announced his retirement from cricket in India. He had made an unbeaten 111, leading a tense victory over Australia in the 2012 U-19 World Cup final in Townsville, Australia.
- The 28-year-old, who also led India A as well as Delhi and Uttarakhand in domestic cricket, had represented Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals and Rajasthan Royals in the IPL.
- Since his debut in 2010, Chand played in 67 First-Class matches, scoring 3379 runs with an average of 31.57. In 120 List A matches, Chand amassed 4505 runs at an average of 41.33. In 77 T20s, he made 1565 runs at an average of 22.35.



11. INDIA SENDS LARGEST EVER 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 2020 Summer Paralympics Games are scheduled to be held in Tokyo, Japan from August 24 to September 05, 2021.



BY SOHIL SINGH

National News

1. 75th INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY 2021

- India is celebrating the 75th Independence Day on 15th August 2021 to mark the country's freedom from nearly two centuries of British colonial rule. India is marking its 75th Independence Day as "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav".
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is leading the celebrations from Red Fort in New Delhi and is addressing the nation from Red Fort in New Delhi. This is his eighth address as the prime minister.
- The Indian Independence movement began during World War I and was led by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. On August 15, 1947, India got its freedom, ending an almost 200-year British rule.
- India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru raised the Indian national flag above the Lahori Gate of Red Fort in Delhi on August 15, 1947. It is a tradition that has since been followed by the incumbent Prime Minister, followed by an address to the country.



2. UNION MINISTER DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR FLAGS OFF 'OPERATION BLUE FREEDOM'

- The Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar has 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.
- 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.



3. PM MODI SETS INDIA'S TARGET TO BECOME 'ENERGY INDEPENDENT' BY 2047

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set the target of becoming an 'energy independent country by the year 2047, the year when India will celebrate the 100th year of Independence.
- For this, PM has announced a 'Mission Circular Economy' that will replace petroleum with other forms of energy to make India achieve self-reliance in energy production by 2047.



- Mission Circular Economy would include a mix of electric mobility, gas-based economy, doping ethanol in petrol and making the country a hub for hydrogen production.
- Modi government has decided to set up the National Hydrogen Mission to make India a new global hub and the exporter of green hydrogen.

4. MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE LAUNCHES AN E-STUDY PLATFORM “TAPAS”

- 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.
- TAPAS is the initiative of the 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.
- TAPAS seeks to provide access to lectures by subject experts, study material and more, but in a manner that it supplements the physical classroom without compromising on the quality of teaching.
- The main objective of introducing the course modules, is to impart training and enhance the knowledge and skills for the capacity building of the participants. It can be taken up by anyone who wishes to enhance his or her knowledge on the topics and there is no fee for joining.



5. MOHUA LAUNCHES BRAND AND LOGO FOR URBAN 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. This initiative is a significant step of increasing visibility and global access for the products made by urban SHG women.
- Under the initiative, a variety of professionally packaged and hand-crafted ethnic products will reach the doorsteps of customers worldwide.



International News

6. AFGHANISTAN PREZ ASHRAF GHANI STEPS DOWN, AS TALIBAN FORCES TAKES POWER

- Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani will shortly tender his resignation, 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 Ahamd Jalali, a US-based academic.
- President Ashraf Ghani fled the country as the Islamist terrorists entered the city, he wanted to avoid bloodshed, while hundreds of Afghans desperate to leave flooded Kabul airport.
- Afghanistan Capital: Kabul.
- Afghanistan Currency: Afghan afghani.
- Afghanistan Official languages: Pashto, Dari.



7. WHO FORMS ADVISORY GROUP NAMED “SAGO”

- World Health Organization (WHO) has created a new advisory group named, The International Scientific Advisory Group for Origins of Novel Pathogens, or SAGO.



- 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 the SARS-CoV-2 virus.
- President of the World Health Organisation: Tedros Adhanom.
- Headquarters of WHO: Geneva, Switzerland.
- WHO founded: 7 April 1948.

State News

8. INDIA'S FIRST DRONE FORENSIC LAB COMES UP IN KERALA

- India's first Drone Forensic Lab and Research Center has come up in Kerala. The Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan was inaugurating the State police department's 'Drone Forensic Laboratory' at the Kerala State Police CyberDome.



- Cyberdome is a technological research and development centre of the Kerala Police Department.
- The centre will help in keeping a watch over unauthorized drones and also for the production of drones for the use of the police force. This lab-cum-research centre will look into both utility and threat aspects of a drone.
- Kerala CM: Pinarayi Vijayan;
- Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan.

9. KAZIRANGA BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST NATIONAL PARK WITH SATELLITE PHONES

- Kaziranga National Park (KNP) in Assam has become the first national park in India to be equipped with satellite phones. Assam Chief Secretary Jishnu Barua handed over 10 satellite phones to the forest personnel of the Kaziranga National Park.
- The satellite phones will boost the anti-poaching measures in the park. BSNL will be the service provider of these phones.
- The park which has been spread over a massive 430 sq km area and divided into six ranges in upper Assam, has certain areas with poor to no connectivity.
- The satellite phones, given to the officials of Kaziranga Parks, which draw signals from the satellites instead of mobile towers will ensure connectivity in most of the remote locations. The move will also boost anti-poaching measures undertaken by the park.
- Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi;
- Assam Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma;
- Assam Capital: Dispur.



Appointments News

10. ADI GODREJ TO STEP DOWN FROM GODREJ INDIA BOARD

- Adi Godrej will step down as the chairman of Godrej Industries on October 01, 2021. He will be replaced by Nadir Godrej, his younger brother. Godrej Industries (GIL) is the holding company of the Godrej group.

- Presently Nadir Godrej is the Managing Director of Godrej Industries. However, Adi Godrej will continue to serve as the Chairman of Godrej Group.
- Godrej Industries Founded: 1963;
- Godrej Industries Headquarters: Maharashtra.



Science and Technology News

11. HCL FOUNDATION LAUNCHES 'MY E-HAAT' PORTAL TO EMPOWER ARTISANS

- HCL Foundation, the corporate social responsibility arm of HCL Technologies has launched an online portal, 'My e-Haat', to empower artisans and strengthen the value chain of the handicraft sector in the country.
- The platform will enable artisans and primary producers to conduct their business, by listing and showcasing their products directly to customers, thereby minimising the informal intermediaries and the long supply chains. Currently, more than 30 partners from eight states with over 600 products are listed on the portal.
- The My E-Haat initiative will be a one-of-a-kind model (A2C) where artisans will directly connect with the customer for years to come. This portal would help in bringing the talent of skilled craftsmen from across the country to the world. It will also increase their recognition, appreciation and remuneration.
- HCL Technologies CEO: C Vijayakumar.
- HCL Technologies Founded: 11 August 1976.
- HCL Technologies Headquarters: Noida.



Important Days

12. PM MODI DECLARES AUGUST 14 AS 'PARTITION HORRORS REMEMBRANCE DAY'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared that, August 14 will be observed as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' or 'Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas', in memory of people's struggles and sacrifices during the partition of the country in 1947.
- The day aims to inspire us to eliminate the poison of discrimination, animosity and ill-will, as well as strengthen unity, social harmony and human sensibilities. Pakistan celebrates August 14 as its Independence Day.



Obituaries News

13. GERMAN FOOTBALL LEGEND GERD MÜLLER PASSES AWAY

- Former West Germany forward and the Bayern Munich football legend, Gerd Muller has passed away.
- At the international level, he represented West Germany, scoring 68 goals in 62 appearances, and at the 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.



14. FORMER INDIA DEFENDER CHINMOY CHATTERJEE PASSES AWAY

- Eminent India-international footballer Chinmoy Chatterjee, who played for the three Maidan heavyweights in his prime in the 1970-80s, has passed away.
- He was a member of the Indian team at the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games where they finished fourth in the quarterfinal league.



- Chatterjee played for Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting, during his domestic career. He also represented Bengal in the Santosh Trophy four times, and became champions in three of them.

Miscellaneous News

15. 4 MORE SITES IN INDIA ADDED TO RAMSAR LIST

- Four more wetlands from India have been added to the list of Ramsar sites, giving it the status of 'Wetland of International Importance'.
- With this, the total number of Ramsar sites in India have reached 46, covering a surface area of 1,083,322 hectares.
- The sites have been recognised as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. Two of these sites are in Haryana, while the other two are in Gujarat.



These sites are:

- Thol, Gujarat
- Wadhvana, Gujarat
- Sultanpur, Haryana
- Bhindawas, Haryana

16. INDIA'S FIRST CATTLE GENOMIC CHIP "INDIGAUI" RELEASED BY JITENDRA SINGH

- Dr Jitendra Singh has released India's first cattle genomic chip 'IndiGau' for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like, Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole etc.
- The 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.



BY SOHIL SINGH

PLUTUS
Academy
National News

1. NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR INAUGURATES WORLD'S SECOND-LARGEST REFURBISHED GENE BANK

- The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the world's second-largest National Gene Bank at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Pusa, New Delhi.



- The refurbished state-of-the-art National Gene Bank provides the facility for germplasm, to secure the heritage of seeds for years in minus 20 degrees Celsius temperature.
- The new facility will help in the conservation of the diversity of indigenous crops in the country, as well as benefit the farmers by making them self-reliant and providing a source of increasing their income. A National Gene Bank is a facility to preserve the seeds of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) for future generations.

2. VENKAIAH NAIDU LAID FOUNDATION STONE OF INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

- The Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation stone of the Innovation and Development Centre of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru.



- The JNCASR Innovation and Development Centre will be developed into a facility where laboratory inventions will be taken forward for scale-up and technology transfer, and in turn help in meeting the missions of “Make in India” and “Aatmanirbhar Bharat”.
- Scientists will be provided with state-of-the-art processing and prototyping tools to enable the translation of inventions. JNCASR is established by the Department of Science and Technology at Jakkur, Bangalore.

State News

3. CHHATTISGARH CM BHUPESH BAGHEL ANNOUNCES 4 NEW DISTRICTS

- 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-Bilaigarh, Shakti, Manendragarh.
- With the creation of four new districts, the total number of administrative districts in the state have reached 32.

4. HOCKEY STAR VANDANA KATARIYA MADE U'KHAND WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT AMBASSADOR

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has announced that Indian women's hockey team player Vandana Katariya will be the brand ambassador of the state's Department of Women Empowerment and Child Development.
- The announcement came at a program organized to felicitate the recipients of awardees of the Tilu Rauteli Award and the Anganwadi Workers Award.
- Earlier, Dhama had announced a cash reward of Rs 25 lakh to Indian women's hockey team player Vandana Katariya for her brilliant performance at the Tokyo Olympics.



Banking News

5. RBI CANCELS 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.
- As informed by the Reserve Bank of India, the license of Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank was cancelled due to insufficient capital and earning prospects and its continuance would have adversely affected depositors.



6. RBI IMPOSES RS. 1 CRORE PENALTY ON COOPERATIVE RABOBANK U.A

- RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs. 1 crore on Cooperative Rabobank UA. Its Mumbai Branch is a part of the Netherlands-based Rabobank Group. The penalty has been imposed for contravention of certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and directions related to 'transfer to reserve funds'.
- The RBI said it conducted a statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE) of the bank with reference to the bank's financial position as on 31 March last year.
- Examination of the risk assessment report pertaining to the same revealed contravention of the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act and the directions issued by the central bank.



7. HDFC UNVEILS 'GREEN & SUSTAINABLE' FIXED DEPOSIT

- HDFC Bank has announced the introduction of 'Green & Sustainable Deposits' to safeguard the environment from climate change. These fixed deposits will be directed towards financing green and sustainable housing credit solutions and services.

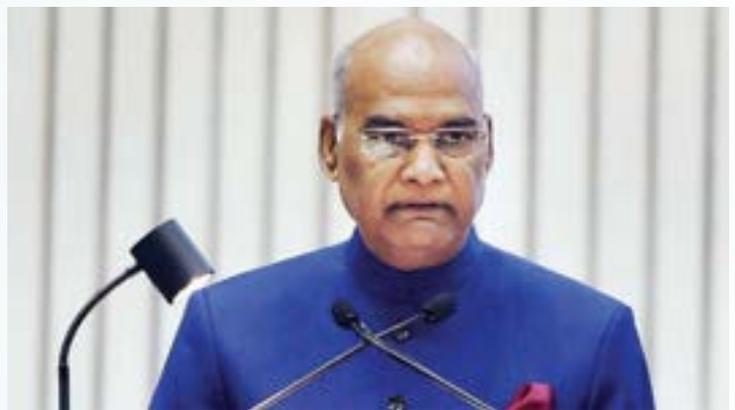


- With a deposit period of 36-120 months, both residents and NRIs can invest in this instrument that will offer interest rates up to 6.55% p.a.
- Senior citizens will be eligible for an additional 0.25% p.a. on deposits up to Rs. 2 crores.
- Additional ROI of 0.10% p.a. will be applicable on these deposits up to Rs. 50 lakh per calendar month per customer if placed/renewed through our online platform.
- Headquarters of HDFC Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- MD and CEO of HDFC Bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan;
- The tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world.

Awards News

8. PRESIDENT RAM NATH KOVIND CONFERS 144 GALLANTRY AWARDS IN 2021

- President Shri Ram Nath Kovind, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, has approved 144 Gallantry awards for armed forces, police and paramilitary personnel on the occasion of Independence Day 2021.
- Besides, President Kovide also approved 28 Mention-in-Despatches to the army personnel for their significant contributions in different military operations. The 144 Gallantry awards include:
 - Ashok Chakra: Babu Ram (posthumously), ASI, Jammu and Kashmir Police.
 - Kirti Chakra: Altaf Hussain Bhat (posthumously), Constable, J&K Police.



Schemes and Committees News

9. GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES 'PRIME MINISTER GATISHAKTI SCHEME'

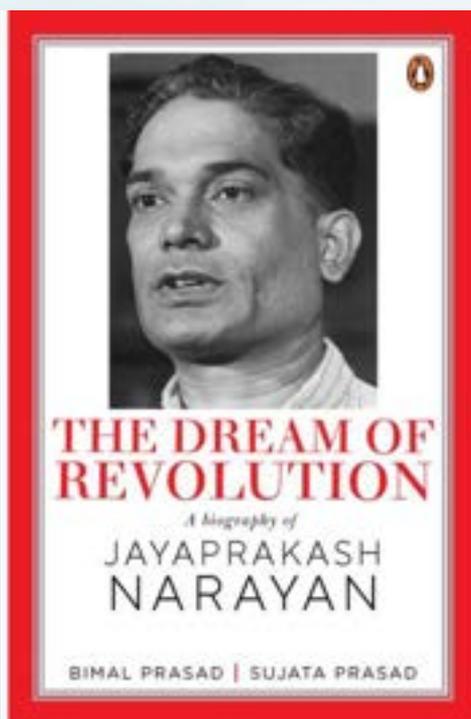
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a Rs 100 lakh crore Pradhan Mantri Gatishakti scheme while addressing the nation on the 75th Independence Day from Red Fort.
- The Pradhan Mantri Gatishakti scheme aims to adopt a holistic and integrated approach in infrastructure growth and create employment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



Books and Authors News

10. A BOOK TO EXPLORE LIFE AND WORKS OF JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN

- A new biography of revolutionary leader and independence activist Jayaprakash Narayan will hit the stands on August 23, publisher Penguin Random House India.
- The book, "The Dream of Revolution: A Biography of Jayaprakash Narayan", shares anecdotes and never-before-told stories from the life of the man who was known for his "emotional hunger for transformative politics, shunning power and incubating revolutionary ideas".



- According to the publisher, the book, written by historian Bimal Prasad and author Sujata Prasad, explores “the ambiguities and ironies of a life lived at the barricades, and one man’s unremitting quest to usher in a society based on equality and freedom”.

Sports News

11. HARSHIT RAJA BECOMES INDIA’S 69th CHESS GRANDMASTER

- The 20-year-old Chess player Harshit Raja from Pune, Maharashtra has become the 69th Grandmaster of India in Chess.
- He achieved the feat of becoming the GM at Biel Masters Open 2021 where he drew his game against Dennis Wagner to get his final GM norm with one round to spare.



- Grandmaster (GM) title is awarded to chess players by the world chess organization FIDE and is the highest title a chess player can attain.

Miscellaneous News

12. 75 NEW VANDE BHARAT TRAINS TO CONNECT ALL PARTS OF INDIA

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation on the occasion of 75th Independence Day and announced that 75 ‘Vande Bharat’ trains would connect different parts of the country in 75 weeks of the celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The 75 Vande Bharat trains will connect every corner of the country, in 75 weeks of the ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’, which is being celebrated from March 12, 2021, upto August 15, 2023.



- Presently two Vande Bharat Express trains are operating in the country by the Indian Railways. The first Vande Bharat Express operates between Varanasi and New Delhi and the other Vande Bharat Express operates between Katra and New Delhi.

13. AIIMS DELHI BECOMES FIRST INDIAN HOSPITAL TO HOUSE FIRE STATION INSIDE PREMISES

- The All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), New Delhi has become the first hospital of India to house a fire station inside the hospital premises, to meet any emergency.
- For this, AIIMS has collaborated with Delhi Fire Service (DFS). The fire station, meant for quick response in case of fire emergency, will have its infrastructure developed by the AIIMS, while the fire tender, equipment, and manpower will be managed by the DFS.
- Having a total of 61 fire stations and 3,616 personnel, including 3,280 firefighters, the DFS attends to nearly 22,000 fire and rescue calls on an average in a year.



BY SOHIL SINGH

International News

1. HAKAINDE HICHILEMA WINS ZAMBIA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

- In Zambia, opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema, of the United Party for National Development, has won the 2021 general Presidential election of the country.
- The 59-year-old Hichilema won with a landslide victory, winning 59.38% of the total vote. He will replace incumbent President Edgar Lungu of the Patriotic Front.
- Last year, Zambia, Africa's second-biggest copper miner, produced a record output of the metal.
- Zambia Capital: Lusaka;
- Zambia Currency: Zambian kwacha.



2. MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER MUHYIDDIN YASSIN RESIGNS

- The Prime Minister of Malaysia, Muhyiddin Yassin and his cabinet resigned after losing a confidence vote in parliament. The 74-year-old Muhyiddin came to power in March 2020. He will however stay on as a caretaker prime minister until a successor is named.
- The resignations plunged Malaysia even deeper into political turmoil while it contends with one of the world's worst surges of the virus.
- The nation of about 32 million people has averaged more than 20,000 cases per day in the last 14 days, and just 33 per cent of the population is fully vaccinated. The total death toll from the pandemic in the country is at least 12,510.
- Malaysia Capital: Kuala Lumpur.
- Malaysia Currency: Malaysian Ringgit.



State News

3. UP GOVT TO SET UP ANTI-TERRORIST SQUAD (ATS) TRAINING CENTRE

- The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to set up a training centre for Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) commandos in Saharanpur's Deoband.
- According to sources, the government 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 and it is an important place to help us increase our depth, presence and operation efficiency in western parts of the state.
- UP Capital: Lucknow;
- UP Governor: Anandiben Patel;
- UP Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath.



Appointments News

4. PRIYANKA CHOPRA JONAS NAMED MAMI FILM FESTIVAL CHAIRPERSON

- Actor-producer Priyanka Chopra Jonas was announced as the chairperson of Jio MAMI Film Festival, almost four months after Deepika Padukone stepped down from the position.
- The Mumbai Academy of Moving Image (MAMI) unveiled its plans for the coming year, edition and the change in leadership.



- Priyanka was unanimously nominated by MAMI's Board of Trustees which comprises Nita M Ambani (Co-Chairperson), Anupama Chopra (Festival Director), Ajay Bijli, Anand G. Mahindra, Farhan Akhtar, Isha Ambani, Kabir Khan, Kaustubh Dhavse, Kiran Rao, Rana Daggubati, Riteish Deshmukh, Rohan Sippy, Siddharth Roy Kapur, Vikramaditya Motwane, Vishal Bhardwaj and Zoya Akhtar.

5. AMWAY INDIA APPOINTS MIRABAI CHANU AS BRAND AMBASSADOR

- Direct selling FMCG firm Amway India has announced that it has appointed Olympian Saikhom Mirabai Chanu as the brand ambassador for Amway and its Nutrilite range of products.
- Chanu will spearhead the company's campaigns focused on product ranges such as Nutrilite Daily, Omega and All Plant Protein among others. Chanu, a weightlifter, won the silver medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in the women's 49kg category.



Banking News

6. RBI LAUNCHES THE FINANCIAL INCLUSION INDEX

- The Reserve Bank of India has introduced the Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index), which is a measure of the extent of financial inclusion in India.
- FI-Index incorporates the inclusion details of banking, investments, insurance, postal and pension sector in India. This was among the announcements made in the first bimonthly monetary policy in April this year.

- The value of FI-Index will range between 0 to 100. Where 0 denotes complete financial exclusion while 100 denotes full financial inclusion.
- Parameters of FI-Index: The FI-Index comprises of three parameters, namely- Access (35%), Usage (45%), and Quality (20%) with each of these consisting of various dimensions, which are computed based on a number of indicators. In total there are 97 indicators.
- The annual FI-Index for the period ending March 2021 is 53.9 while for the period ending March 2017 it is 43.4. RBI will release the FI-Index in the month of July every year. There is no base year for this Index.



Defence News

7. INS TABAR PARTICIPATES IN EXERCISE KONKAN 2021

- The Indian Naval Ship Tabar arrived at Portsmouth in England, to undertake the annual bilateral drill 'Exercise Konkan 2021' between the Indian Navy and Britain's Royal Navy.
- The bilateral naval exercise Konkan 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.



Ranks and Reports News

8. GHAZIABAD IS WORLD'S SECOND MOST POLLUTED CITY OF 2020

- Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad was adjudged the second most polluted city out of the 50 'most polluted cities' in the world in 2020 by a report prepared by British company HouseFresh. Ghaziabad reported an average Air Quality Index (AQI) of 2.5 particulate matter (PM) in 106.6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- Preceding Ghaziabad, the Chinese city of Hotan in Xinjiang province has been named the most polluted city with a PM2.5 of 110.2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The report attributed the air pollution in Hotan to sandstorms resulting from its closeness to the Taklimakan Desert, which is the largest shifting sand desert in the world.
- According to the report, Bangladesh was the most polluted country across the world in 2020, followed by Pakistan, India and Mongolia.

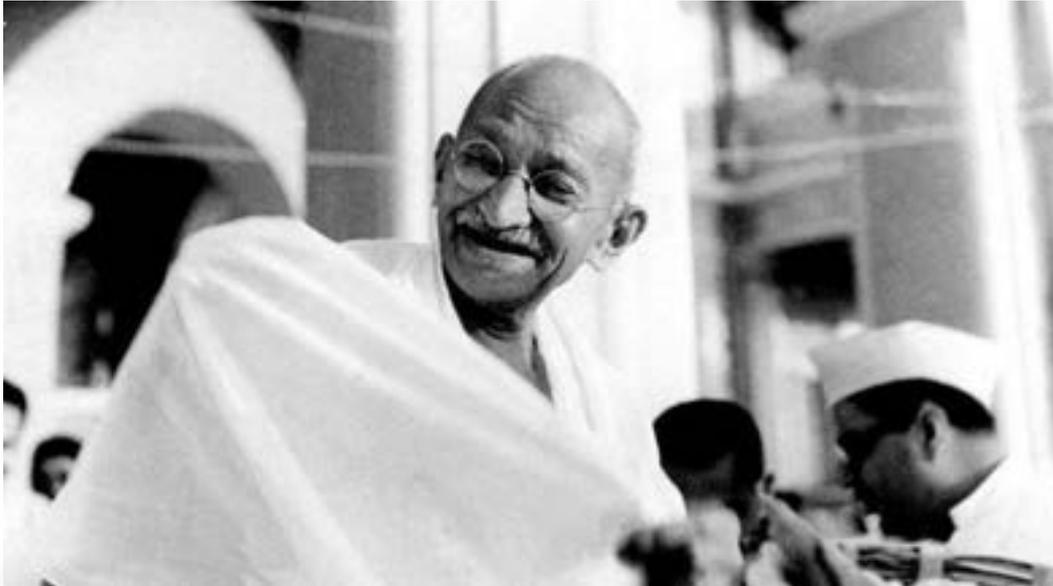


- Meanwhile, Judbury in Australia bagged the top position in the list of cities with the cleanest air with a PM2.5 level of 2.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Awards News

9. MOHAMMAD AZAM HONOURED WITH NATIONAL YOUTH AWARD

- 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.

10. MOHAMMAD AZAM HONOURED WITH NATIONAL YOUTH AWARD

- Mohammad Azam from Karimnagar district in Telangana has been awarded the National Youth Award recently by the Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur in Delhi for displaying exemplary leadership qualities.
- He has conducted several awareness programmes related to blood donation, organ donation and plantation programmes under the Haritha Haram project. The award carries an appreciation certificate and Rs 50,000 cash.



- Apart from these, he has also worked on water conservation, construction of soaking pits, works related to the Swachh Bharat mission and government welfare schemes, for the benefit of the people in various villages.
- He received the 'Indira Gandhi NSS Award' from then President of India Pranab Mukherjee. He was also awarded the Pratibha Puraskar award by the State government in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh and the Rashtriya Gaurav Samman Award.

Sports News

11. MESSI SIGNS FOR PARIS ST GERMAIN AFTER LEAVING BARCELONA

- Lionel Messi joined star-packed Paris St Germain after leaving Barcelona, the club where he had begun, after 21 years.
- Messi, a six-time winner of the Ballon d'Or for Europe's best soccer player, signed a two-year contract with an option for a third year. Paris Saint-Germain Football Club, commonly referred to as Paris Saint-Germain or PSG.
- Messi leaves Barcelona with 672 goals in 778 appearances, a record tally for one club. His trophy haul includes four Champions Leagues and 10 La Liga titles.



12. RAUNAK SADHWANI WINS 2021 SPILIMBERGO OPEN CHESS TOURNAMENT

- A 15-year-old young Indian Grandmaster Raunak Sadhwani has won the 19th Spilimbergo Open chess tournament in Italy. The fourth-seeded Sadhwani, who hails from Nagpur, remained undefeated in the tournament, with seven points from nine rounds, in which claimed five wins and four draws.
- In the ninth and final round, Sadhwani and Italian GM Pier Luigi Basso finished level on seven points, but the Indian was declared the winner on the basis of a better tie-break score.



Obituaries News

13. MAKI KAJI, CREATOR OF SUDOKU PUZZLE PASSES AWAY

- Maki Kaji, the creator of puzzle Sudoku passed away at the age of 69 years due to bile duct cancer. He was known as the father of Sodoku and was from Japan. He was the president of Nikoli Co., Ltd., a Japanese puzzle manufacturer.
- Kaji established Japan's first puzzle magazine, Puzzle Tsushin Nikoli, with pals in 1980. His most legendary creation, Sudoku, followed in 1983.



Miscellaneous News

14. PUDUCHERRY CELEBRATES ITS DE JURE TRANSFER DAY

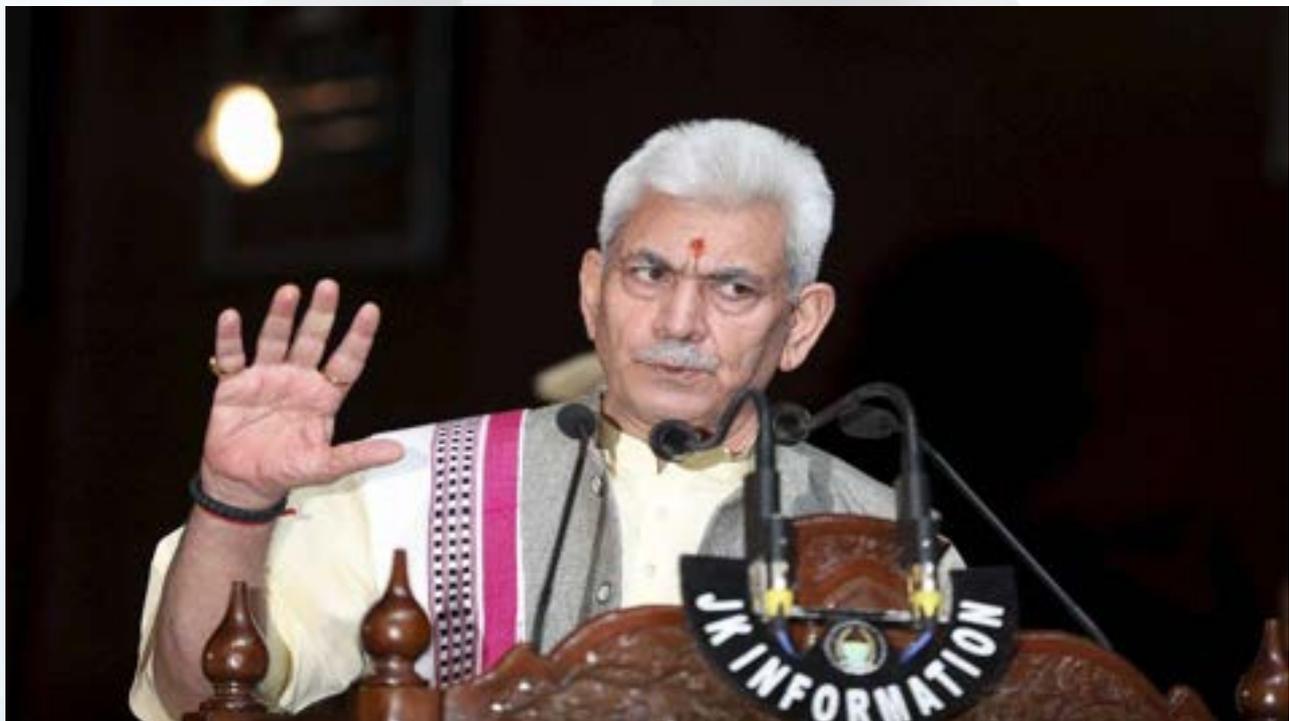
- Puducherry on 16th August celebrated its De Jure Transfer day. Speaker of the Puducherry Assembly, R. Selvam, paid floral tributes at the memorial in Kizhur, a remote hamlet in Puducherry, where the transfer of power took place on the same day in 1962.

- De Jure Transfer Day is the day it really got independence. The then Pondicherry was under French control well after 1947.
- The treaty of cession signed between the French and Indian governments was ratified by the French Parliament only on August 16, 1962.
- So on that day the “De-Jure”(The Legal Merger of the UT with the Indian Union) was effected. 178 representatives participated in the referendum in which 170 voted in favour of a merger with India and 8 against it.
- Chief Minister of Puducherry: N Rangasamy.



15. J&K Lt GOVERNOR MANOJ SINHA LAUNCHES PROOF APP

- In Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has unveiled a mobile application named PROOF, to bring more transparency and accountability in the governance system. PROOF stands for ‘Photographic Record of On-site Facility’.
- The main objective of this app is to monitor the work progress of all the projects allocated to different departments of the UT and ensure timely completion of these projects.
- The app will give a complete pictorial view of the work along with its geographical coordinates i.e. latitude and longitude and user comments on work progress
- As per the new rules of the UT government, no bills shall be entertained in the treasury unless photographs of projects are uploaded.
- In order to get the bills passed, it will be mandatory to upload geo-tagged photographs to bring in more transparency and accountability in the system.



BY SOHIL SINGH

State News

1. ODISHA TO BECOME 1ST INDIAN STATE TO PROVIDE SMART HEALTH CARDS

- Odisha is all set to launch India's first 'Smart Health Cards scheme' covering its 3.5 crore people of 96 lakh families under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana.
- The information for the same was provided by Odisha Chief Minister (CM) Naveen Patnaik while addressing the 75th Independence Day celebrations in Bhubaneswar.
- The objective behind Smart Health Cards is to provide hassle-free quality treatment at the best available health care facilities. These cards will work like debit cards for a certain amount.
- Through this scheme, Central Government health benefits can also be accessed.
- The beneficiaries of National and State Food Security Schemes, Annapurna and Antyodaya schemes will get this card and henceforth each family can avail treatment cost up to Rs 5 lakh per annum.
- Women members can avail of benefits up to Rs 10 lakh annually.
- The health benefits under this scheme can be availed in more than 200 hospital chains of the country including Odisha.
- Chief Minister of Odisha: Naveen Patnaik and Governor is Ganeshi Lal.



Appointments News

2. PR SREEJESH TO BE BRAND AMBASSADOR OF KERALA ADVENTURE TOURISM

- Olympian Parattu Raveendran Sreejesh (PR Sreejesh), goalkeeper and former captain of the Indian National Hockey team is set to be named as the brand ambassador of adventure tourism in Kerala.



- Sreejesh was a part of the Indian Hockey team that won the bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic games. PR Sreejesh hails from Ernakulam, Kerala.
- Kerala CM: Pinarayi Vijayan;
- Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan.

Business News

3. SBI LIFE LAUNCHES NEW-AGE TERM INSURANCE POLICY “SBI LIFE eSHIELD NEXT”

- SBI Life Insurance announced the launch of a unique new age protection solution called ‘SBI Life eShield Next’, which ‘levels up’ the protection coverage as the insured achieves life’s major milestones.
- This means that the policy is neither linked to the stock market nor shares any profit or dividends with the policyholders.
- It is an individual, non-linked, non-participating, life insurance pure risk premium product and works by ‘levelling up’ the required insurance protection, through an increase in sum assured linked to the significant ‘level-up milestones in one’s life, like getting married, becoming a parent or buying a new house.
- SBI Life Insurance CEO: Mahesh Kumar Sharma;
- SBI Life Insurance Headquarters: Mumbai;
- SBI Life Insurance Founded: March 2001.



Banking News

4. RBI TO INTRODUCE ‘REGULATORY GAAR’ FOR ROUND-TRIPPING

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has come up with a draft rule with modifications in the existing regulation related to foreign investment to discourage round-tripping. The central bank is looking to tweak the existing regulations and has come up with draft rules around round-tripping.
- Some of the largest Indian companies, startups and multinationals with an India presence have put their outbound investment, fundraising and restructuring plans on hold as the RBI looks to introduce fresh regulations around “round-tripping.”
- According to the draft rule, any investment made outside India is an entity, in turn, invests in India will be treated as round-tripping if the purpose is to escape tax. This is as the same definition and rationale used by the tax department under General Anti Avoidance Rule (GAAR) which companies have been complaining is quite broad in its scope.



5. RBI TO PUT IN PLACE A “PRISM” TO STRENGTHEN COMPLIANCE BY LENDERS

- The Reserve Bank of India is putting in place a Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring (PRISM), a web-based end-to-end workflow automation system, to strengthen compliance by supervised entities (SEs).
- This is aimed at helping supervised entities to strengthen their internal defences and resilience and bringing focus on root cause analysis (RCA).
- PRISM will have various functionalities (inspection; compliance; incident functionality for cybersecurity; complaints; and returns functionalities), with built-in remediation workflows, time tracking, notifications and alerts, management information system (MIS) reports and dashboards.
- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikant Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.



Defence News

6. ARMY ORGANISES 400 Km “JAZBAA-E- TIRANGA” RELAY MARATHON IN J&K

- In Jammu and Kashmir, the Army organised a 400 Km “JAZBAA-ETIRANGA” Relay Marathon.
- The event was flagged off by Major General Rajeev Puri, General Officer Commanding, Ace of Spades Division, who led the relay, closely followed by other military personnel. More than 300 troops took part, 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 the Area of Responsibility (AOR), handing it over to other units which stand shoulder to shoulder in war.



7. INDIAN NAVY CONDUCTS BILATERAL MARITIME EXERCISE WITH VIETNAM

- The Indian Navy and Vietnam People's Navy (VPN) undertook a bilateral maritime exercise in the South China Sea, to strengthen the defence ties among the two navies.
- From India, INS Ranvijay and INS Kora took part in the exercise and from the Vietnam People's Navy (VPN), frigate VPNS Ly Thai To(HQ-012) participated in the drill.
- The bilateral interaction aims to consolidate the strong bond shared by the two navies and would be another step towards strengthening India-Vietnam defence relations. Regular interactions between the two navies over the years have enhanced their interoperability and adaptability.



Summits and Conferences News

8. PIYUSH GOYAL CHAIRS 5th MEETING OF BRICS INDUSTRY MINISTERS

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has chaired the fifth meeting of BRICS Industry Ministers and called for expanding the horizon of the New Development Bank (NDB). India holds the Chairship of BRICS for 2021.
- This year, India chose the theme of 'Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus' for its chairship.
- The BRICS ministers called for the need to adopt emerging new technologies, recognising it as an important tool for modernisation and transformation of industry, and promotion of economic growth.
- They also committed to play a constructive role towards the promotion of IPR, and expressed their intention to collaborate with NDB.

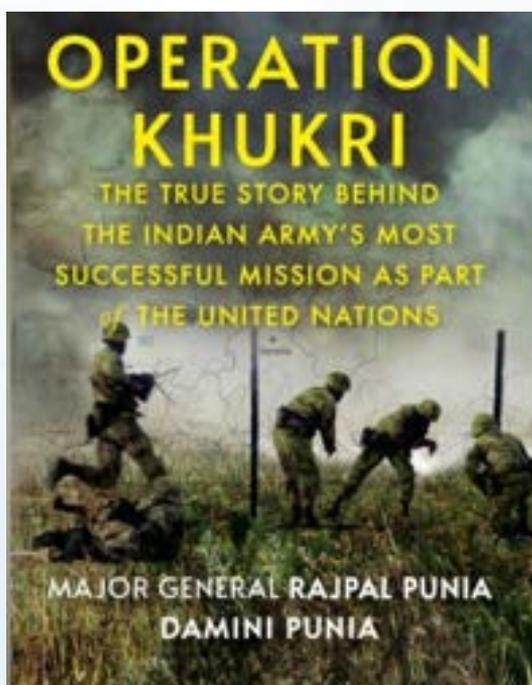


- The meeting concluded with the ministers committing to work together as a group, share best practices and move ahead in a positive and constructive manner to achieve the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Books and Authors News

9. A BOOK ON “OPERATION KHUKRI” RELEASED BY CDS GEN RAWAT

- CDS General Bipin Rawat was presented a book “OPERATION KHUKRI” by authors Major General Rajpal Punia & Ms Damini Punia. The book highlights the Indian Army’s successful rescue mission in Sierra Leone as part of the United Nations.



- The year was 2000, Sierra Leone, in West Africa, had been ravaged by years of civil strife. With the intervention of the United Nations, two companies of the Indian Army were deployed in Kailahun as part of a United Nations peacekeeping mission.

Sports News

10. WORLD ATHLETICS U20 CHAMPIONSHIPS BEGINS IN NAIROBI

- The 2021 edition of the World Athletics U20 Championships has been started in Nairobi, Kenya.
- The impact of Covid on teams travelling and logistics of moving vital equipment around the world have proven to be a challenge, the governing body said in a release.



- The event was originally scheduled for 2020. The World U20 Championships were held from 17 to 22 August, 2021.

11. ODISHA TO SPONSOR INDIAN HOCKEY TEAMS FOR 10 MORE YEARS

- The Odisha government will sponsor the Indian Hockey teams for 10 more years after the current sponsorship ends in 2023, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced. The state government started sponsoring the national hockey teams in 2018.
- The teams have scripted history with their brilliant performance at the Tokyo Olympics,” the chief minister said, handing over a cash award of Rs 10 lakh to each player.



Important Days

12. WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY: 19 AUGUST

- World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is observed every year on 19 August to pay tribute to humanitarian personnel and those workers who lost or risked their lives while doing humanitarian service. In 2021 we are celebrating the 12th WHD.
- The theme for 2021 WHD is #TheHumanRace: a global challenge for climate action in solidarity with people who need it the most.



13. WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY: 19 AUGUST

- World Photography Day is celebrated on 19 August every year to promote photography as a hobby and also inspire photographers around the globe to share a single photo with the rest of the world. The first official World Photo Day was observed on August 19, 2010.
- The origin of World Photo Day comes from the invention of the Daguerreotype, a photographic process developed by Frenchmen Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicéphore Niépce in 1837.
- It was on August 19, 1939 that the French government purchased the patent of Daguerreotype process and announced the invention as a gift “free to the world”.



Obituaries News

14. TAMIL ACTOR ANANDHA KANNAN PASSES AWAY

- Tamil star and popular TV host Anandha Kannan passed away. He started his career with Vasantham TV in Singapore before moving to Chennai where he worked with Sun Music as a video jockey.
- He made a guest appearance in Venkat Prabhu’s Saroja (2008). Anandha Kannan later did a full-fledged role in the science fiction Tamil film Adisaya Ulagam (2012).



BY SOHIL SINGH

National News

1. INDIA LAUNCHES UNITE AWARE PLATFORM IN COLLABORATION WITH UN

- India has launched a tech platform named “UNITE Aware”, in collaboration with the UN, for improving the safety and security of the UN peacekeepers. The platform was launched in the presence of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the UN headquarters.
- The launch of the UNITE AWARE platform came as India assumed the Presidency of the 15-nation UN Security Council for the month of August.
- India has contributed USD 1.64 million for UNITE Aware. UNITE Aware platform will provide terrain-related information to the United Nations military personnel (Blue Helmets) in the line of duty. India has developed the technology platform in partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Operational Support.
- Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations; Jean-Pierre Lacroix;
- Department of Peacekeeping Operations Founded: March 1992;
- Department of Peacekeeping Operations Headquarters: New York, United States.



Agreements News

2. BRICS SIGNS DEAL ON COOPERATION IN REMOTE SENSING SATELLITE DATA SHARING

- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) signed an agreement for cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing, according to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).



- The pact inked on August 17 enables building a virtual constellation of specified remote sensing satellites of BRICS space agencies and their respective ground stations will receive the data.
- This will contribute in strengthening multilateral cooperation among BRICS space agencies in meeting the challenges faced by mankind, such as global climate change, major disasters and environmental protection. The agreement was signed under India's BRICS Chairship.
- ISRO Chairman: K.Sivan.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.

Defence News

3. DRDO DEVELOPS ADVANCED CHAFF TECHNOLOGY TO PROTECT IAF JET

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have jointly developed an advanced chaff technology to safeguard fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) from enemy radar threats.
- Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur, and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune, have developed the chaff cartridge meeting qualitative requirements of IAF.
- The Indian Air Force has started the process of induction of this technology after the completion of successful user trials.
- Chairman DRDO: Dr G Satheesh Reddy.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- DRDO Established: 1958.



4. ALL-WOMEN TEAM OF THREE ARMED FORCES SUMMITS Mt MANIRANG IN HIMACHAL

- An 'All Women Tri-Services Mountaineering Team' successfully scaled Mt Manirang (21,625 ft) in Himachal Pradesh on August 15, 2021, and unfurled the national flag as a part of commemorative activities for 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav', to celebrate the 75 years of Independence.



- The 15-member expedition team was flagged off on August 01, 2021, from Air Force Station, New Delhi, by the Indian Air Force. The team was led by Wing Commander Bhavana Mehra of the Indian Air Force.

5. RAJNATH SINGH LAUNCHES DEFENCE INDIA STARTUP CHALLENGE- DISC 5.0

- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh launched Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC) 5.0 under Innovations for Defence Excellence – Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO) initiative, on August 19, 2021, in New Delhi.
- The Ministry of Defence has earmarked Rs 1,000 crore for domestic procurement through the iDEX initiative for the financial year 2021-2022.
- The Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence has approved budgetary support of Rs. 498.80 crore for iDEX for the next 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- DISC is a platform wherein the Government, Services, think tanks, industry, startups and innovators can work together to help the defence & aerospace sectors reach full potential by creating a strong, modern & well-equipped military and equally capable & self-reliant defence industry.



Economy News

6. IND-RA REVISES GDP GROWTH PROJECTION TO 9.4% IN FY22

- India Ratings (Ind-Ra) has projected the GDP growth rate for India for FY22 at 9.4%. Earlier Indi-Ra had projected the rate at between 9.1-9.6%. It would be 15.3 per cent in the first quarter, 8.3 per cent in the second quarter and 7.8 per cent in each of the remaining two quarters of the year.
- The agency's estimate suggests that 5.2 million daily doses would have to be administered from now on to fully vaccinate more than 88 per cent of the adult population as well as to administer single doses to the rest by March in the current financial year.



Ranks and Reports News

7. INDIA RANKS SECOND IN TERMS OF CRYPTO ADOPTION IN THE WORLD

- India has ranked second in terms of crypto adoption worldwide behind Vietnam, but ahead of countries such as the US, UK, and China, according to the 2021 Global Crypto Adoption Index by blockchain data platform Chainalysis.
- This comes even as worldwide crypto adoption grew by 880% between June 2020 and July 2021, according to the report.
- A report by US-based research platform Finder released this month corroborated that the top five countries in terms of crypto adoption were all from Asia.
- The company surveyed 47,000 users worldwide and 30% of those surveyed in India said they owned cryptocurrencies.
- Bitcoin is the most popular coin in India, followed by Ripple, Ethereum and Bitcoin Cash, according to the report.



- Crypto adoption in India has also been led by smaller towns in the country. The largest crypto exchange in the country by trading volume, WazirX, said last week that it had seen more than 2,648% growth in user sign-ups from tier II and tier III cities in India.

Science and Technology News

8. DHARMENDRA PRADHAN INAUGURATES CENTRE FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION IN AI SET UP AT IIT-H

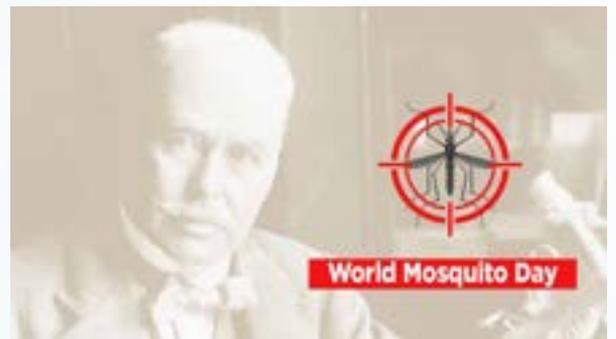
- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has virtually inaugurated the Centre for Research and Innovation in Artificial Intelligence set up at the Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H).
- He also inaugurated the first Academic Building of the Department of Materials Science & Metallurgical Engineering, High-Performance Computing Centre and High-Resolution Electron Microscopy Facility.
- The Centre for Research and Innovation in Artificial Intelligence in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA is the best example of international cooperation. The University has an agreement with Honeywell Technology Solutions for setting up the lab.



Important Days

9. WORLD MOSQUITO DAY OBSERVED ON 20th AUGUST

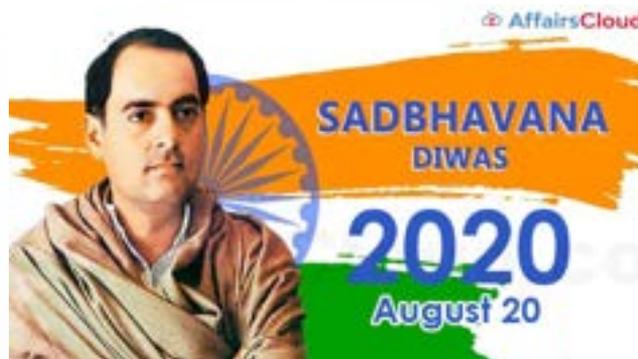
- World Mosquito Day is observed on 20 August annually to raise awareness about the causes of malaria and how it can be prevented. This day is observed to highlight the efforts of healthcare officials, NGOs, and others in fighting diseases caused by malaria.
- On World Mosquito Day every year, awareness is created around diseases caused by mosquitoes.
- This year amid the coronavirus pandemic, the theme of World Mosquito Day 2021 is “Reaching the zero-malaria target”.
- The day also commemorates the discovery made by British doctor Sir Ronald Ross in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans. In 1902, Ross won Nobel Prize for Medicine becoming the first British person to receive the award.



10. SADBHAVANA DIWAS: 20 AUGUST

- Every year India observes Sadbhavana Diwas on August 20 to commemorate the birth anniversary of late erstwhile Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi.

- This year on 20th August 2021, we are going to celebrate the 77th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The Indian National Congress instituted Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award in 1992, a year after his death.
- Every year this day is celebrated in the memory of the late Rajiv Gandhi who was the youngest Prime Minister of India at the age of 40 years. In lieu of paying tribute to his vision for India, on this occasion contributions to society betterments are made.



11. AKSHAY URJA DIWAS 2021: 20 AUGUST

- Akshay Urja Diwas (Renewable Energy Day) is observed every year on 20 August to raise awareness about the developments and adoption of renewable energy in India.
- The Akshay Urja Day was initiated by the Indian Ministry for New & Renewable Energy Sources in 2004. Energy such as Biogas, Solar Energy, Wind energy, hydroelectrical power is a few examples of Akshay Urja.
- The main motive of Akshya urja Diwas is to make people aware that they have to think about renewable energy (Akshya Urja) apart from traditional energy.
- Indian Akshay Urja Day was established in 2004 to support renewable energy development programs and promote its use instead of traditional sources of energy. The very first event relating to Akshay Urja Diwas was organized in New Delhi.



Miscellaneous News

12. DELHI-CHANDIGARH HIGHWAY FIRST EV-FRIENDLY HIGHWAY IN INDIA

- With a network of solar-based electric vehicle charging stations, the Delhi-Chandigarh Highway has become the country's first EV-friendly highway in the country.



- The network of stations was set up by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) under the FAME-1 (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles) scheme of the Ministry of Heavy Industries.
- Union Minister of Heavy Industries (MHI) Mahendra Nath Pandey remotely inaugurated the state-of-the-art charging station at Karna Lake Resort.
- The EV charging station at Karna resort is strategically located at the midpoint of the Delhi-Chandigarh highway. It is equipped to cater to all types of e-cars currently in the country.

13. AMAZON ALEXA GETS AMITABH BACHCHAN'S VOICE IN INDIA

- Amazon has launched the voice of the 78-year-old Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan as a part of its efforts to amuse existing users and attract new consumers to use its voice assistant over Google Assistant and Apple's Siri.
- With the new launch, the US tech giant has also brought its celebrity voice feature to India. The feature initially arrived in the US with the voice of American actor and producer Samuel L. Jackson in 2019.



14. DELHI CM ARVIND KEJRIWAL TO INAUGURATE COUNTRY'S FIRST SMOG TOWER

- Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will inaugurate the country's first smog tower on August 23, 2021, at Baba Kharak Singh Marg, Connaught Place. The smog tower will clean 1,000 cubic metres of air every second and reduce PM 2.5 and PM 10 levels in Delhi.

- The smog tower will work with full force after the monsoon season. The scientists of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee will accordingly assess the performance of the tower and present a monthly report.
- Chief Minister of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal; Lieutenant Governor of Delhi: Anil Bajjal.



15. FARIDABAD SMART CITY ‘ROPES IN’ COMIC BOOK ICON CHACHA CHAUDHARY TO AID MISSION

- Faridabad Smart City Limited has roped in an unlikely collaborator to help promote its initiatives on social media – comic hero Chacha Chaudhary. The social media campaign’s objective will be to promote the steps taken by the agency.



- The initiative will involve excerpts of Talking Comics. Each social media post will depict Chacha Chaudhary and Sabu, his loyal sidekick, guiding and teaching people on effectively using the infrastructure put in place.
- The objective of the social media campaign would be to promote the steps the agency had taken, including the installation of CCTVs for surveillance, traffic rules, road safety, and waste management.

BY SOHIL SINGH



CURRENT AFFAIRS

AUGUST 2021

National News

1. PM MODI INAUGURATES MULTIPLE PROJECTS AT SOMNATH IN GUJARAT

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple projects in Somnath, Gujarat on August 20, 2021, via video conferencing. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Minister of State (MoS) for Tourism Shripad Naik were also present at the event through video conferencing.
- The projects inaugurated include the Somnath Promenade, Somnath Exhibition Centre, and the reconstructed temple precinct of Old (Juna) Somnath.



Appointments News

2. SHANTI LAL JAIN APPOINTED MD AND CEO OF INDIAN BANK

- Shanti Lal Jain has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Bank for a period of three years. He will replace Padmaja Chundururu as MD and CEO of Indian Bank. He is currently the Executive Director (ED) at the Bank of Baroda.

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposal of the Department of Financial Services for the appointment of Jain as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer in Indian Bank for a period of three years with effect from the date of assumption of office on or after September 1, 2021.
- Indian Bank Headquarters: Chennai;
- Indian Bank Founded: 1907.



Banking News

3. KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LAUNCHES 'NEO COLLECTIONS' DIGITAL REPAYMENT PLATFORM

- Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched a platform named 'Neo Collections', which is a Do It Yourself Digital Repayment Platform for missed loan repayments. Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched the Neo Collections platform in tie-up with Creditas Solutions.
- The main objective of this DIY digital repayment platform is to make repayments for outstanding loans more convenient for customers.
- Powered by artificial intelligence and machine learning, the 'Neo Collections' platform delivers a personalised and non-intrusive experience thereby enabling customers to manage their dues seamlessly on their own through an intuitive repayment platform.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Establishment: 2003;
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO: Uday Kotak.



4. NPCI PARTNERS WITH MASHREQ BANK TO LAUNCH UPI IN THE UAE

- NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has partnered with Mashreq Bank to launch the payment system facility of Unified Payments Interface (UPI), in the UAE. Mashreq Bank is the oldest privately owned bank in the United Arab Emirates.



- This step will benefit the Indian tourists and who travel to UAE for business or leisure purposes to pay for their purchases using UPI-based mobile applications across shops and merchant stores in the UAE.
- This partnership will enable over two million Indians who travel to UAE for business or leisure purposes every year to pay for their purchases seamlessly using UPI-based mobile applications across shops and merchant stores in the UAE.
- National Payments Corporation of India MD & CEO: Dilip Asbe.
- National Payments Corporation of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- National Payments Corporation of India Founded: 2008.

Business News

5. FACEBOOK LAUNCHES “SMALL BUSINESS LOANS INITIATIVE” IN INDIA

- Facebook India has launched the “Small Business Loans Initiative” in India in partnership with the online lending platform Indifi. India is the first country where Facebook is rolling out this programme.



- The objective of this initiative is to help small and medium businesses (SMBs) that advertise on Facebook to get quick access to credit/loans through independent lending partners.
- This will make business loans more easily accessible to small businesses, and reduce the credit gap within India's MSME sector. It is open to businesses registered across 200 towns and cities of India.
- Indifi is the first lending partner that Facebook has tied up with and the programme is built with the potential to bring more partners on board.
- Facebook Founded: February 2004;
- Facebook CEO: Mark Zuckerberg;
- Facebook Headquarters: California, United States.

Awards News

6. INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF MELBOURNE AWARDS 2021 ANNOUNCED

- The Family Man 2 actors Manoj Bajpayee and Samantha Akkineni were among the winners of the latest edition of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards. The IFFM 2021 were held virtually on Friday with several stars from various film industries in attendance.
- Eminent Indian artists like Shoojit Sircar, Anurag Kashyap, Thiagarajan Kumararaja, Sriram Raghavan were amongst the presenters, along with Richa Chadha, Guneet Monga, Onir and others as jury members. Here is the full list of winners of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2021:
- Best Feature Film: Soorarai Pottru
- Best Performance Male (Feature): Suriya Sivakumar (Soorarai Pottru)
- Best Performance Female (Feature): Vidya Balan (Sherni) & Honourable mention to Nimisha Sajayan (The Great Indian Kitchen)
- Best Director: Anurag Basu (Ludo) & Honorary Mention Prithvi Konanur (Pinki Elli?)
- Best Series: Mirzapur Season 2
- Best Actress in a Series: Samantha Akkineni (The Family Man 2)



- Best Actor in a Series: Manoj Bajpayee (The Family Man 2)
- Equality in Cinema (Short Film): Sheer Qorma
- Equality in Cinema Award (Feature Film): The Great Indian Kitchen
- Best Indie Film: Fire in the Mountains
- Diversity in Cinema Award: Pankaj Tripathi
- Disruptor Award: Sanal Kumar Sasidharan
- Best Documentary Film: Shut Up Sona

Ranks and Reports News

7. APPLE TOPS HURUN GLOBAL 500 MOST VALUABLE COMPANIES LIST 2021

- Apple is the world's most valuable company (USD 2,443 billion) according to the Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021.
- The world's top six valuable companies remained unchanged as Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Alphabet, Facebook and Tencent.
- Globally, the US-led with 243 companies, up by one; followed by China 47, down by four, Japan was third with 30 and the UK was fourth with 24.
- While India is ranked 9th with 12 companies. Reliance Industries (USD 188 billion) ranked at 57 is the top Indian company in the list. As many as 12 Indian companies found a place among the Hurun Global 500 for 2021 as Wipro Ltd, Asian Paints Ltd and HCL Technologies Ltd made it to the list of 500 most valuable firms in the world, while ITC Ltd dropped out.



Important Days

8. INDIA CELEBRATES SANSKRIT WEEK 2021 FROM AUGUST 19 TO 25

- In 2021, India is observing the Sanskrit Week from August 19 to August 25, 2021, to promote, popularise and cherish the importance of ancient language. In 2021, Sanskrit Day will be celebrated on August 22, 2021.

- The day is celebrated on the full moon day of the month of Shravan, which also marks the occasion of Raksha Bandhan each year. World Sanskrit Day was first declared in 1969, by the Indian Government on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.



9. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

- United Nations observes 21st August every year as the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.
- The day is observed to pay tribute to the individuals across the globe who have been attacked, injured, traumatized or lost their lives because of terrorist attacks.
- This year, the 3rd commemoration of the day will focus on the response to the pandemic and cancellation of many memorials and commemorations, it is critical to take the time to remember and honour the victims of terrorism.
- The day was designated by United Nations General Assembly in 2017 and the first time the day was observed in 2018.




**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
 REMEMBRANCE OF AND TRIBUTE
 TO THE VICTIMS OF TERRORISM**

10. WORLD SENIOR CITIZEN DAY: 21 AUGUST

- World Senior Citizen Day is observed globally on August 21 every year. The day is celebrated to raise awareness about issues affecting older people, such as deterioration with age and the abuse of the elderly and support, honour and show appreciation to seniors and to recognize their achievements.
- The Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 14, 1990. The day was officially founded by the former President of the United States of America, Ronald Reagan in 1988 to dedicate a day to older adults and their issues.



BY SOHIL SINGH

PLUTUS International News

1. WORLD BANK OPENS NEW CYBERSECURITY MULTI-DONOR TRUST FUND

- The World Bank has launched a new 'Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund', to better roll out cybersecurity development agenda in a systematic manner. The new fund has been developed as an associated trust fund under the broader Digital Development Partnership (DDP) umbrella program.
- World Bank has partnered with four countries, namely Estonia, Japan, Germany, and the Netherlands, to launch the fund.
- The main aim of this new fund is to enhance cyber and digital security capability and capacity in World Bank member countries, with the development of global knowledge, country assessments, technical assistance, capacity building and training, along with necessary investments in infrastructure and technology.
- World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.
- World Bank Formation: July 1944.
- World Bank President: David Malpass.



Cybersecurity
MULTI-DONOR TRUST FUND

2. ISMAIL SABRI YAAKOB APPOINTED AS NEW PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

- Ismail Sabri Yaakob has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Malaysia. Before this, he was the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia.



- He will succeed Muhyiddin Yassin as the PM, who resigned from the post after losing majority support in the lower house of parliament. The appointment of Yaakob was done by Malaysia's King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah.
- Malaysia Capital: Kuala Lumpur.
- Malaysia Currency: Malaysian Ringgit.

States News

3. HISAR AIRPORT RENAMED AS MAHARAJA AGRASEN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has announced to rename the Hisar Airport as Maharaja Agrasen International Airport.



- The Hisar Airport is a domestic airport and the first DGCA licensed Public Aerodrome of the State. This airport is presently under up-gradation to be transformed as an international airport by 30 March 2024.
- Haryana Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya;
- Haryana Capital: Chandigarh;
- Haryana Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar.

4. ONAM, HARVEST FESTIVAL OF KERALA

- Onam is the most revered and celebrated festival of Kerala, is celebrated every year by the Malayali community across the world.
- The 10-day long festival marks the beginning of harvest season as well as the appearance of the Vaman avatar of Lord Vishnu along with the homecoming of King Mahabali.



- The festival begins from Atham (Hasta) nakshatram, and ends on Thiruvonam (Shravana) nakshatram. This year, the harvest festival began on August 12 and will conclude on August 23. The 10 days of the festival are named on the names of astrological stars as per the Malayalam calendar.

5. INDIA'S HIGHEST HERBAL PARK INAUGURATED IN UTTARAKHAND

- India's highest altitude herbal park has been inaugurated at Mana village in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. The herbal park is situated at a height of 11,000 feet and is close to the Indo-China border.
- Mana is the last Indian village in Chamoli bordering China and is adjacent to Badrinath temple. The herbal park has around 40 species found in high altitude alpine areas in the Himalayan region.
- The main aim of this high altitude herbal park is to conserve various medicinally and culturally important alpine species and to do research on their propagation and habitat ecology.
- The park has been developed on an area of three acres given by Mana Van Panchayat by the Research Wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department.
- It has been developed in three years under the central government's Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) scheme.
- Uttarakhand Founded: 9 November 2000;



- Uttarakhand Governor: Baby Rani Maurya;
- Uttarakhand Chief minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami;
- Uttarakhand Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer).

Appointments News

6. NAKUL CHOPRA APPOINTED AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF BARC INDIA

- Television monitoring agency Broadcast Audience Research Council (Barc) has announced the appointment of Nakul Chopra as its chief executive officer (CEO) effective 25 August 2021.
- Former CEO Sunil Lulla has resigned to pursue his ambition as an entrepreneur. This announcement comes as Sunil Lulla has decided to resign from the position of CEO to pursue his entrepreneurial ambitions.
- Chopra had joined the BARC India Board in 2016 and had been elected as the Chairman during 2018-19. In January 2020, he was appointed as a member of BARC's Oversight Committee. The media and advertising industry veteran had earlier served as the CEO, India and South Asia of Publicis Worldwide for over a decade.
- Broadcast Audience Research Council Founded: 2010;
- Broadcast Audience Research Council Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Chairman of Broadcast Audience Research Council: Punit Goenka.



7. CVC RE-APPOINTS T M BHASIN AS CHAIRMAN OF ADVISORY BOARD

- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has announced the re-appointment of T M Bhasin as chairman of the Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABFF).
- The panel was constituted to examine bank frauds of over Rs 50 crore and recommend action. The former vigilance commissioner, CVC, Mr Bhasin will now continue to head the board for a further period of two years, with effect from August 21, 2021.
- Central Vigilance Commission formed: February 1964.
- Central Vigilance Commission Headquarters: New Delhi.



Business News

8. BPCL LAUNCHES AI-ENABLED CHATBOT 'URJA'

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) launched (after pilot test) an AI-enabled chatbot, named Urja to provide its customers with a platform for seamless self-service experience and faster resolution of queries/issues.
- URJA is the first such chatbot in the oil and gas industry in India. URJA has been launched under the Project Anubhav of BPCL and it currently supports 13 languages.
- With the objective of making BPCL's customer interface comprehensive and integrated digitally, Urja, the chatbot is now available on the company website for any queries for both B2B & B2C.
- Under Project Anubhav, Urja represents an integrated communication platform that connects all BPCL communication to any channel, unifying all customer touchpoints with a single and cohesive voice.
- CMD Of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd: Arun Kumar Singh;
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd Founded: 1952.



Schemes and Committees News

9. FINANCE MINISTRY LAUNCHED 'UBHARTE SITAARE FUND'

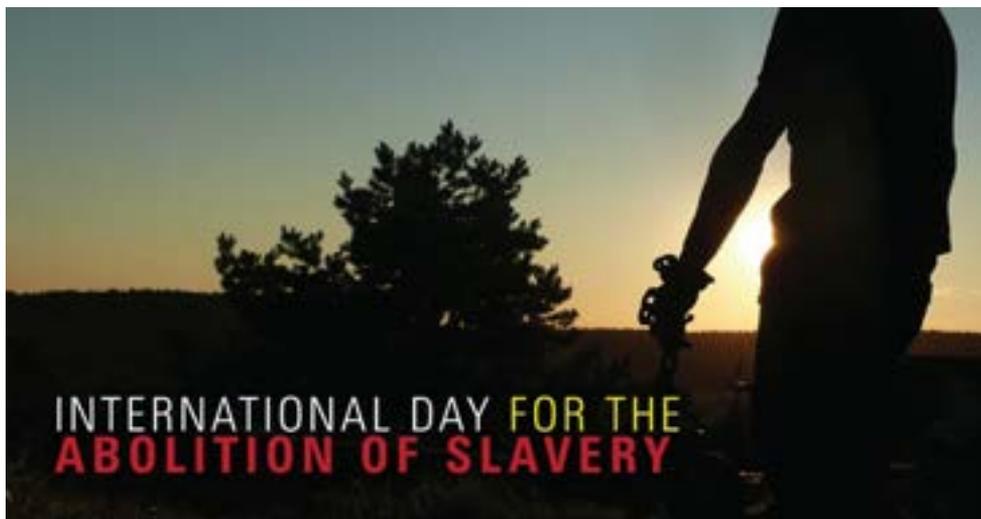
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched an ambitious 'Ubharte Sitaare Fund' -USF for export-oriented firms and startups in a program at Lucknow.
- The Fund aims at arranging funds for the promotion of micro, small and medium companies. The fund has been set up by Exim Bank and SIDBI. This scheme will be successful in Uttar Pradesh as the state has the highest number of MSMEs.
- India Exim Bank's Ubharte Sitaare Programme (USP) identifies Indian companies that have the potential to be future champions in the domestic arena while catering to global demands.
- The fund is a mix of structured support, both financial and advisory services through investments in equity or equity-like instruments, debt (funded and non-funded) and technical assistance (advisory services, grants and soft loans) to the Indian companies.



Important Days

10. INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION

- United Nations observes 23 August every year as "International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition". The Day is observed to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples.



- It is a day to honour the memory of the men and women who, in Saint-Domingue in 1791, revolted and paved the way for the end of slavery and dehumanization.
- UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France.
- UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay.
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945.

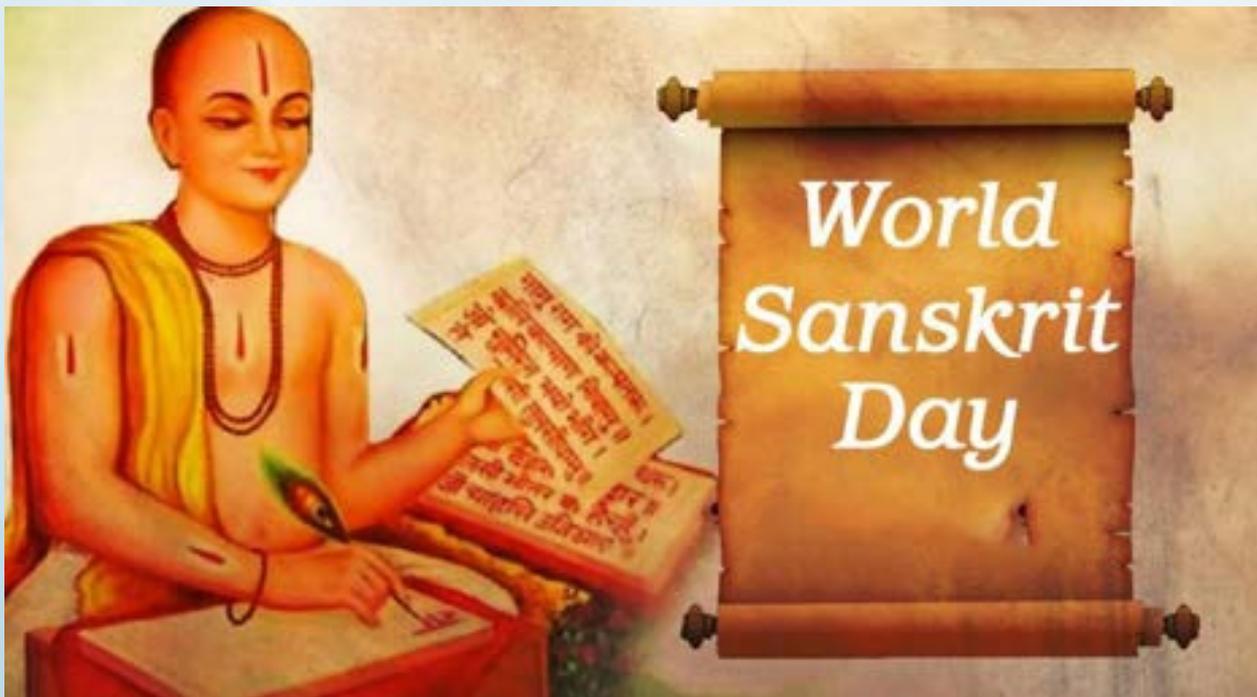
11. INTERNATIONAL DAY COMMEMORATING THE VICTIMS OF ACTS OF VIOLENCE BASED ON RELIGION OR BELIEF

- The International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief is observed on August 22 every year since 2019.
- The day aims to remember the victims and survivors of evil acts on the basis of or in the name of religion or belief.
- The day was adopted at the 73rd UN General Assembly on 28 May 2019 as proposed by Poland. It spreads awareness that international communities must work together to achieve justice for the survivors of past abuses by holding perpetrators accountable and demonstrating to governments that action must be taken to 'never again' tolerate genocide or other atrocities.



12. WORLD SANSKRIT DAY 2021: 22 AUGUST

- World Sanskrit Day, (also known as Sanskrit Diwas), is celebrated every year on Shraavanapoornima, which is the Poornima day of the Shraavana month in the Hindu calendar, which is also marked as Raksha Bandhan. In 2021, this day is being observed on August 22, 2021.
- The day commemorates the ancient Indian language of Sanskrit and aims to promote its revival and maintenance. The Government of India decided to celebrate World Sanskrit Day in 1969, on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan that falls on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Shraavana.



Obituaries News

13. RENOWNED ATHLETICS COACH OM NAMBIAR PASSES AWAY

- O.M. Nambiar, the man who transformed a village girl P.T. Usha into Asia's Golden Girl, passed away. One of India's most famous coaches, Nambiar spotted Usha at a very young age in 1976 and soon began coaching her at the Kannur Sports Division.
- Under his guidance, Usha began winning medals at the Asian level but his best move was making the sprinter switch to the 400m hurdles before the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.



14. FORMER UP CM KALYAN SINGH PASSES AWAY

- Former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Kalyan Singh passed away. He had served as the CM of Uttar Pradesh twice — June 1991 to December 1992 and September 1997 to November 1999 and was the CM of UP during the demolition of the Babri Masjid.
- He's a two-time Member of Parliament and a former governor of Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh.



Miscellaneous News

15. INDIA'S LARGEST FLOATING SOLAR PV PROJECT COMMISSIONED IN ANDHRA PRADESH

- NTPC has commissioned the largest floating solar PV project in India of 25MW power on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal station in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. This is also the first solar project to be set up under the Flexibilisation Scheme.



- This scheme was notified by the Government of India in 2018. NTPC is also planning to set up a hydrogen-based micro-grid system on a pilot basis at Simhadri.
- NTPC's floating solar installation covers 75 acres of the Simhadri reservoir's surface. It will produce power from more than a lakh of solar PV modules for lighting 7,000 households.
- The project will annually save 46,000 tonnes of CO2 emission and 1,364 million litres of water, which is adequate to meet the requirement of 6,700 households in a year.
- NTPC Chairman and Managing Director: Shri Gurdeep Singh;
- NTPC Founded: 1975.
- NTPC Headquarters: New Delhi, India.

BY SOHIL SINGH

National News

1. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN LAUNCHES THE NATIONAL MONETISATION PIPELINE

- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman has launched the asset monetisation pipeline of Central ministries and public sector entities: 'National Monetisation Pipeline'.
- Asset Monetisation, means a limited period license/ lease of an asset, owned by the government or public authority, to a private sector entity for upfront or periodic consideration.
- The National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) lists out assets and asset classes, under various infrastructure ministries, which will be monetised over a period of time. Which means assets will be monetised.
- The pipeline has been developed by NITI Aayog, in consultation with infrastructure line ministries, based on the mandate for 'Asset Monetisation' under Union Budget 2021-22.
- NMP estimates aggregate monetisation potential of Rs 6.0 lakh crores through core assets of the Central Government, over a four-year period, from FY 2022 to FY 2025.
- The top 5 sectors capture about 83% of the aggregate pipeline value. These top 5 sectors include- Roads (27%) followed by Railways (25%), Power (15%), oil & gas pipelines (8%) and Telecom (6%).



2. MYGOV & UN WOMEN TIE-UP TO LAUNCH AMRIT MAHOTSAV SHRI SHAKTI CHALLENGE 2021

- MyGov under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and UN Women have joined hands to launch the Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Innovation Challenge 2021.
- The aim of this challenge is to encourage technology solutions developed by Women Entrepreneurs related to Women's Safety and Empowerment.
- The initiative will promote 'Nari Sashaktikaran', and empower women to help them achieve their full potential. The Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Challenge 2021 is being implemented under the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (COVID-19) Programme.



International News

3. WORLD'S FIRST FOSSIL-FREE STEEL MANUFACTURED IN SWEDEN

- Swedish green steel venture HYBRIT, which had made the 'world's first' customer delivery of steel produced without using coal.



- The steel was made using Hydrogen Breakthrough Ironmaking Technology, which uses 100% fossil-free hydrogen instead of coal and coke. The venture has started delivering the fossil-free steel to the Volvo Group as part of its trial run.
- Development for the Hybrit project, which was set up in 2016 and is owned by SSAB, energy firm Vattenfall and LKAB, a mining and minerals group.
- Both Vattenfall and LKAB are owned by the Swedish state. The idea underpinning Hybrit is to use “100% fossil-free hydrogen” rather than coal and coke in steel production.
- Stockholm is the capital of Sweden;
- The krona is the official currency of Sweden;
- The current PM of Sweden is Stefan Lofven.

Appointments News

4. TAMIL NADU BJP LEADER LA GANESAN APPOINTED AS MANIPUR GOVERNOR

- Senior BJP leader from Tamil Nadu, La. Ganesan, has been appointed as the new Governor of Manipur with effect from August 23, 2021.
- The post was lying vacant after the retirement of Najma Heptulla on August 10, 2021. Since then Sikkim Governor Ganga Prasad was holding the additional charge of the position.
- Chief Minister of Manipur: N. Biren Singh



Agreements News

5. PAYTM & HDFC BANK TIE-UP TO PROVIDE SOLUTIONS ACROSS PAYMENT GATEWAY

- HDFC Bank and Paytm have partnered to build comprehensive solutions across payment gateway, point of sale machines and credit products. This includes Paytm Postpaid which is a Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) solution, Eazy EMI and Flexi Pay.

- The partnership will also deliver enhanced SmartHub solutions to the market. HDFC Bank SmartHub solutions is an integrated platform offering merchants a one-stop solution shop for all their business needs payments.

- First: HDFC Bank will drive merchant partnerships across India, to whom Paytm will offer its existing range of Android POS devices. Here, HDFC Bank will be the payment partner, while Paytm will be the distribution and software partner.

- Second: HDFC Bank and Paytm will jointly launch a co-branded PoS product in the retail segment, which Paytm will have the option to offer it to its own customer base.

- Headquarters of HDFC Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- MD and CEO of HDFC Bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan;
- The tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world.
- Paytm HQ: Noida, Uttar Pradesh;
- Paytm Founder & CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma;
- Paytm Founded: 2009.



Business News

6. INDIA, ADB SIGN \$500 MILLION LOAN TO EXPAND METRO RAIL NETWORK IN BENGALURU



- Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed a \$500 million loan to expand the metro rail network in Bengaluru with the construction of two new metro lines totalling 56 km in length.
- The project will construct two new metro lines, mostly elevated, along Outer Ring Road and National Highway 44 between Central Silk Board and Kempegowda International Airport with 30 stations.
- The new metro lines will further strengthen safe, affordable and green mobility in Bengaluru, having a positive impact on enhancing the quality of life, sustainable growth in urban habitat and livelihood opportunities.
- President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa; Headquarters: Manila, Philippines.

Schemes and Committees News

7. JITENDRA SINGH LAUNCHES “YUKTDHARA” PORTAL TO FACILITATE PLANNING OF NEW MGNREGA ASSETS

- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh launched a new Geospatial Planning Portal under Bhuvan named “Yuktdhara” to enable the planning of new MGNREGA assets using Remote Sensing and GIS-based information.
- The portal has been jointly developed by ISRO and the Ministry of Rural Development.
- Yuktdhara will serve as a repository of assets (Geotags) created under various national rural development programmes such as MGNREGA, Integrated Watershed Management Programme, Per Drop More Crop and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana etc., along with field photographs.
- The Yuktdhara portal would ensure the quality of the plan, enable a long term monitoring of the assets created over the years for relevance, facilitate identification of new works for resource allocation.



Defence News

8. 2nd INDO-QATARI JOINT NAVAL EXERCISE “ZAIR-AL-BAHR” IN PERSIAN GULF

- The second edition of the joint naval exercise, Zair-Al-Bahr, between the Indian Navy and Qatar Emiri Naval Force (QENF) was conducted between August 9 and 14 in the Persian Gulf. This edition of the exercise included a three-day harbour phase followed by a two-day sea phase.

- The sea phase is comprised of tactical maritime exercises involving surface action, anti-piracy exercises, air defence, maritime surveillance, boarding operations and SAR exercises.
- In the sea phase of the exercise, the Indian Navy's Stealth Frigate INS Trikand, QENF's missile boats of Barzan and Damsah class, fast-attack crafts of MRTP 34 class and Rafale fighter aircraft participated.
- Qatar Capital: Doha; Currency: Qatari riyal.
- Prime Minister of Qatar: Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdelaziz Al Thani.



Summits and Conferences News

9. WEF'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPACT SUMMIT 2021

- The World Economic Forum's annual Sustainable Development Impact Summit will take place on September 20-23, 2021 in Geneva, Switzerland. This year's event will focus strongly on inclusively revitalizing economies.
- The United Nations General Assembly, the summit convenes under the theme "Shaping an Equitable, Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery". It will welcome almost all leaders from government, business and civil society who will work together to drive action and build momentum for a more sustainable and inclusive future.



Science and Technology News

10. IIT MADRAS DEVELOPS INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS MOTORISED WHEELCHAIR 'NEOBOLT'

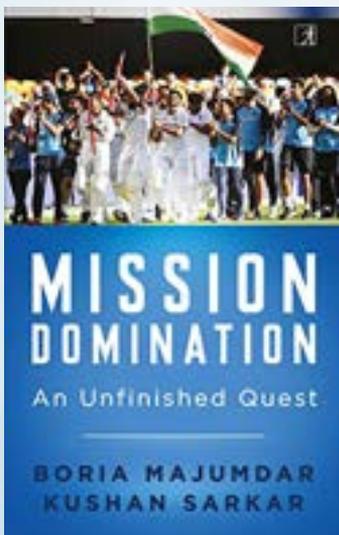
- IIT Madras has developed India's first indigenous motorized wheelchair vehicle named 'NeoBolt', which can be used not only on roads but even on uneven terrains. It has a maximum speed of 25 kmph.
- The researchers collaborated extensively with organisations and hospitals working for people with locomotor disabilities and built the products after factoring in their experiences and making constant design adjustments.
- IIT Madras said the wheelchair will be available to users at an approximate price of Rs. 55,000.
- It is powered by a Lithium-Ion Battery and can travel up to 25 km per charge. It empowers wheelchair users with a convenient, safe and low-cost mode of outdoor mobility when compared to cars, auto-rickshaws or modified scooters.



Books and Authors News

11. A BOOK "MISSION DOMINATION: AN UNFINISHED QUEST" BY BORIA MAJUMDAR & KUSHAN SARKAR

- A new book titled "Mission Domination: An Unfinished Quest" authored by Boria Majumdar & Kushan Sarkar. The Book Published by Simon & Schuster Publisher India Private Limited.



- The Book talks about the short story of several Indian cricketers life events such as Rishabh Pant, Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, R. Ashwin, Cheteshwar Pujara.

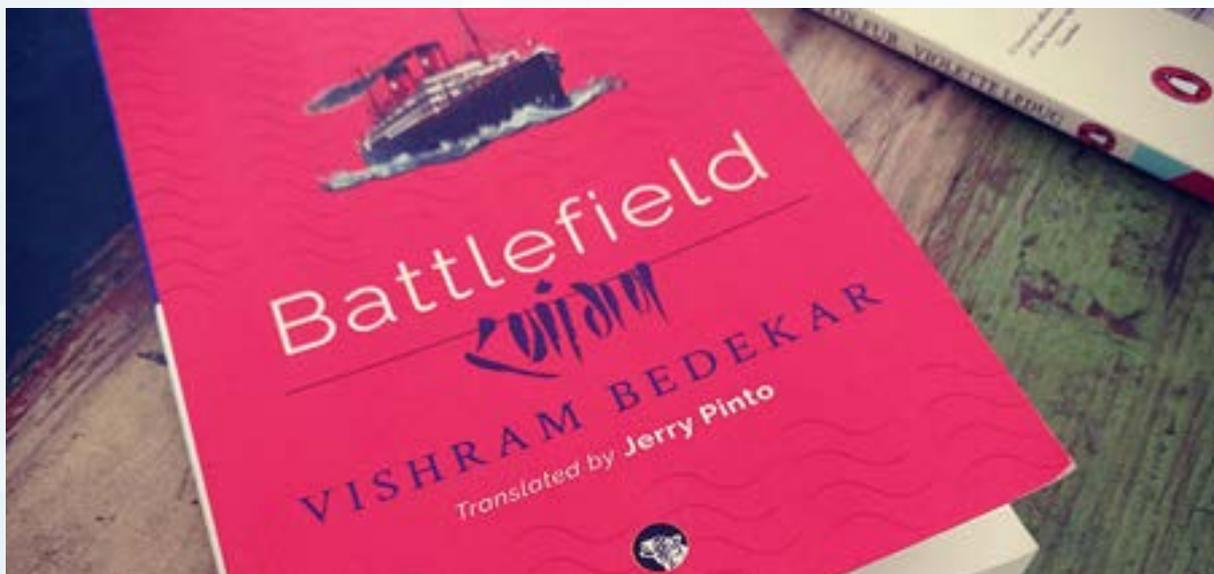
12. A BOOK 'ADDRESS BOOK: A PUBLISHING MEMOIR IN THE TIME OF COVID' BY RITU MENON

- A book titled has 'Address Book: A Publishing Memoir in the time of COVID' by Ritu Menon.
- Menon, who co-founded Kali for Women, India's first feminist press in 1983, is founder-director of Women Unlimited, an associate of KfW. Weeks after the March 2020 lockdown began, Menon started to write a diary.



13. A BOOK TITLED 'BATTLEFIELD' AUTHORED BY VISHRAM BEDEKAR

- A book titled 'Battlefield' has been authored by Vishram Bedekar, translated from the Marathi original Ranaangan by Jerry Pinto.
- The book is the story of a shipboard romance between an Indian man and a German-Jewish woman, both fleeing Europe before the Second World War.



Important Days

14. WORLD WATER WEEK 2021: 23-27 AUGUST

- The World Water Week is an annual event organized by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) since 1991 to address the global water issues and related concerns of international development.
- The World Water Week 2021 has been organised from 23-27 August, in entirely digital format. The theme for World Water Week 2021 is 'Building Resilience Faster'.
- SIWI Executive Director: Torgny Holmgren.
- SIWI Headquarters: Stockholm, Sweden.



BY SOHIL SINGH

National News

1. NITI AAYOG AND WRI JOINTLY LAUNCH 'FORUM FOR DECARBONIZING TRANSPORT'

The 'Forum for Decarbonizing Transport' was launched in India by NITI Aayog and the World Resources Institute (WRI). India's implementing partner is NITI Aayog. The project's goal is to reduce Asia's peak level of GHG emissions (in line with a well-below-2-degree trajectory), resulting in issues such as traffic congestion and air pollution. The NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) initiative has launched the Forum. The NDC Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA 2020-2023) is a collaborative effort by seven organisations to promote a holistic approach to decarbonizing transportation in China, India, and Vietnam.

- NITI Aayog Formed: 1 January 2015;

- NITI Aayog Headquarters: New Delhi;
- NITI Aayog Chairperson: Narendra Modi;
- NITI Aayog CEO: Amitabh Kant;
- World Resources Institute Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States;
- World Resources Institute Founder: James Gustave Speth;
- World Resources Institute Founded: 1982.



State News

2. ASSAM CELEBRATES WANCHUWA FESTIVAL 2021

At the Wanchuwa Festival in Assam, Tiwa tribesmen perform their traditional dnac. Tiwa tribesmen celebrate this celebration to commemorate a successful harvest. It includes songs, dances, a variety of rites, and people dressed in their traditional garb. The Tiwa, also known as the Lalung, are an indigenous people that live in Assam and Meghalaya, as well as parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. Within the state of Assam, they are classified as a Scheduled Tribe. Jhum, or shifting cultivation, is what they do.

- Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi;
- Assam Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma.



Appointments News

3. ABHAY KUMAR SINGH APPOINTED AS JOINT SECRETARY IN MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

The Ministry of Cooperation has nominated Abhay Kumar Singh as joint secretary. This ministry was recently established with the goal of bolstering the country's cooperative movement. The Appointments Committee

of the Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Modi, has approved Abhay Kumar Singh's appointment. Singh, a Bihar cadre officer from the 2004 batch of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), has been appointed as joint secretary in the ministry for a cumulative tenure of seven years.

- Union Minister of Cooperation: Amit Shah.



Banking News

4. RBI APPOINTED PANEL SUGGESTS 4-TIER STRUCTURE FOR URBAN CO-OPERATIVE BANKS

The RBI-appointed panel, chaired by N. S. Vishwanathan, proposes a 4-tier structure for Urban Co-operative Banks, with a minimum CRAR (Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio) ranging from 9% to 15%. A committee created by the Reserve Bank has proposed a four-tier structure for urban cooperative banks (UCBs) based on deposits, and has mandated varying capital adequacy and regulatory criteria for them based on their sizes.

- Tier-1 with deposits up to Rs 100 crore;
- Tier-2 with deposits between Rs 100-Rs 1,000 crores;
- Tier-3 with deposits between Rs 1,000 crore to Rs 10,000 and
- Tier-4 with deposits of over Rs 10,000 crore.



Business News

5. INFOSYS HITS \$100 BILLION M-CAP, FOURTH INDIAN FIRM TO REACH MILESTONE

- The shares of Information Technology major, Infosys hit a record high during intraday trading, which helped the company cross \$100 billion in market capitalisation. Infosys is the fourth Indian company to achieve this milestone.
- Reliance Industries (m-cap of \$140 billion), Tata Consultancy Services (m-cap \$115 billion) and HDFC Bank (m-cap \$100.1 billion) are the other Indian firms in the club with Infosys.
- Infosys has been one of the fastest-growing companies in India, providing business consulting, information technology and outsourcing services. In the quarter ending June 2021, Infosys reported a net consolidated profit of ₹5,195 crores, showing a growth of 2.3 per cent.



- Infosys Founded: 7 July 1981.
- Infosys CEO: Salil Parekh.
- Infosys Headquarters: Bengaluru.

Ranks and Reports News

6. INDIA EMERGES AS SECOND IN GLOBAL MANUFACTURING RISK INDEX

- India has emerged as a global manufacturing hub and effectively surpassed the United States to become the world's second most desired manufacturing destination.
- This indicates the growing interest in India by manufacturers as a preferred manufacturing hub over other countries including the United States and the manufacturing giant nation, China.



- India's ranking was reflected in Cushman & Wakefield's 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index. The index ranks 47 countries across Europe, the Americas, and the Asia Pacific.

7. COPENHAGEN TOPS EIU'S SAFE CITIES INDEX 2021

- Copenhagen, the capital city of Denmark, has been named as the world's safest city from among 60 global cities, in Safe Cities Index 2021, released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- Copenhagen scored 82.4 points out of 100, to top the fourth edition of the EIU's biennial index, which measures the level of urban safety. Yangon is at the bottom of the index, as least safe city, with a score of 39.5.
- From India, New Delhi and Mumbai have found a place in the index. New Delhi is placed at 48th position with a score of 56.1, while Mumbai is at 50th place with a score of 54.4.



- The EIU's Safe Cities Index is a global, policy benchmarking tool developed to measure global urban safety. The Index was first released in 2015.
- In 2021, cities are ranked based on 76 indicators of security across five broad pillars, which are digital, health, infrastructure, personal and environmental.

Awards News

8. SRI BASAVA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR SEER OF BHALKI HIEMATH

- Karnataka government has selected Sri Basavalinga Pattaddevaru, senior seer of Bhalki Hiremath, for the prestigious Sri Basava International Award. Minister for Kannada and Culture V. Sunil Kumar will present the award at Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru.

- The septuagenarian seer has spent over five decades in the Lingayat religious institution in the Bidar district.
- The centre was set up in 2003 when an abandoned baby from Ujani village near Aurad in Bidar district was adopted. The seer moved the court to adopt the child. The Central and State governments later recognised the centre as an authorised Central adoption resource agency.
- Chief Minister of Karnataka: Basavaraj S Bommai;
- Karnataka Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot;
- Karnataka Capital: Bengaluru.



PLUTUS
Sports News
Academy

9. TEKCHAND AS INDIA'S NEW FLAG-BEARER IN TOKYO PARALYMPICS

- Mariyappan Thangavelu, 2016 Rio Paralympic Games gold medalist will be replaced by Asian Games gold medalist Tekchand as the new flag-bearer of India at the opening ceremony.
- The Paralympic Committee of India reported, "On his flight to Tokyo, Mariyappan came in close contact with a Covid positive foreign passenger.
- Though on reaching the village he has been tested for 6 days and all his reports are negative, but the Organizing Committee has advised not to make Mariyaapan participate in the Opening Ceremony. India will be represented by 54 para-athletes.



10. SHAILI SINGH BAGS LONG JUMP SILVER IN WAU20 CHAMPIONSHIPS



- Shaili Singh claimed the women's Long Jump silver medal in the World Athletics U20 Championships. Her slight wind-aided effort of 6.59m was only 1cm short of the gold medal jump by Sweden's Maja Askag but her silver medal ensured that Indian athletics continues to showcase the progress it has been making.
- Shaili Singh's was India's third medal in the World Athletics U20 Championships, coming after the bronze won by the Mixed Team in the 4x400m Relay and the silver by Amit Khatri in the men's 10,000m Race Walk. India finished 21st on the medal table, aware that a gold would have lifted it to the top 15.

11. PRINCEPAL SINGH BECOMES FIRST INDIAN TO BE PART OF NBA CHAMPIONSHIP ROSTER

- Princepal Singh became the first Indian to be part of an NBA title-winning team when his side Sacramento Kings clinched the 2021 NBA Summer League crown.
- The 6-foot-9 forward made history by being the first Indian to be part of a championship roster at any level of the NBA. The Kings dominated the championship game against the Boston Celtics, clinching the title with a 100-67 win.



Important Days

12. UNION MINISTER ANURAG THAKUR TO KICK-OFF 'ICONIC WEEK' CELEBRATIONS

- Union minister for information and broadcasting Anurag Thakur has kicked off a series of activities to celebrate the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' starting August 23. The series of events will go on till August 29.
- The activities organised by the ministry will aim to 'showcase the convergence of the values and glories of the freedom struggle of the past with the aspirations and dreams of a young, new and iconic India.'
- Thakur kicks off the 'Iconic Week' which attract participation from across the country under the overall spirit of 'Jan Bhagidari and Jan Andolan'. During the Iconic Week, the ministry showcases the journey of new India and celebrate the contribution of freedom fighters, including the 'Unsung Heroes of the freedom struggle, through massive outreach activities.



Obituaries News

13. FORMER NATIONAL FOOTBALL COACH SS HAKIM PASSES AWAY

- Syed Shahid Hakim, former India footballer and member of the last national team that played in the 1960 Rome Olympics, passed away. Hakim 'saab', as he was popularly known, was 82 years old.
- In his more than five-decade association with Indian football, Hakim, a Dronacharya Awardee, has also been an assistant coach to late PK Banerjee during the 1982 Asian Games in Delhi.
- A former Squadron Leader of the Indian Air Force, Hakim was also a Regional Director of Sports Authority of India and his last assignment was as Project Director in charge of scouting before the 2017 U-17 FIFA World Cup.



14. BRITISH COMEDIAN SEAN LOCK PASSES AWAY

- British comedian Sean Lock has passed away. He was one of Britain's finest comedians, his boundless creativity, lightning wit and the absurdist brilliance of his work, marked him out as a unique voice in British comedy.
- In the year 2000, Sean Lock had won the gong at the British Comedy Awards for the best live stand-up performance.



Miscellaneous News

15. INDIA'S EVACUATION MISSION FROM AFGHANISTAN NAMED AS 'OPERATION DEVI SHAKTI'

- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has given a name to India's complex mission of evacuating its citizens from war-torn Afghanistan, as 'Operation Devi Shakti'.
- The name of the operation was known when External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar mentioned it in a tweet on August 24 while referring to the arrival of a fresh batch of 78 evacuees in Delhi.
- India began the complex evacuation mission by airlifting 40 Indians from Kabul to Delhi on August 16, a day after the Taliban seized control of the Afghan capital city. So far, India has evacuated over 800 people amid a deteriorating security situation in Kabul and scramble by various nations to rescue their citizens.



BY SOHIL SINGH

National News

1. OHMIUM LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST GREEN HYDROGEN ELECTROLYZER GIGAFACTORY

- Ohmium International, based in the United States, has opened India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer manufacturing facility in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The plant would produce hydrogen electrolyzers built in India using Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) technology. Green hydrogen comes from non-fossil sources, and blue hydrogen comes from fossil fuels.
- Rather than importing green hydrogen, producers will save money by producing it in India. The gigafactory will produce Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) hydrogen electrolyzers built in India, with an initial production capacity of 500 MW per year and a capacity of 2 GW per year.



- The PEM hydrogen electrolyzer is the main equipment for the production of green hydrogen as it uses power generated from renewable resources to break water into hydrogen and oxygen.

International News

2. UAE ANNOUNCES THE WORLD'S TALLEST OBSERVATION WHEEL 'AIN DUBAI'

- On October 21, 2021, the world's largest and highest observation wheel will be revealed in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Bluewaters Island is home to the 'Ain Dubai' observation wheel, which stands at a height of 250 metres (820 feet).
- The new record-breaking wheel stands 42.5 metres (139 feet) taller than the current world's tallest observation wheel, Las Vegas' High Roller, which stands at 167.6 metres (550 ft).



- UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi;
- UAE Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham;
- UAE President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

3. DUBAI SETS UP SPECIALISED COURT TO COMBAT MONEY LAUNDERING

- The Dubai Courts announced the creation of a specialised court inside the Court of First Instance and Court of Appeal to tackle money laundering.
- The establishment of the Executive Office of the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing of Terrorism Financing This change will allow our stakeholders to increase their efficiency in implementing the National AML/CFT Strategy and National Action Plan and accomplishing its objectives through an empowered and long-term system.



Appointments News

4. RBI APPROVES RE-APPOINTMENT OF SANDEEP BAKHSHI AS ICICI BANK MD & CEO

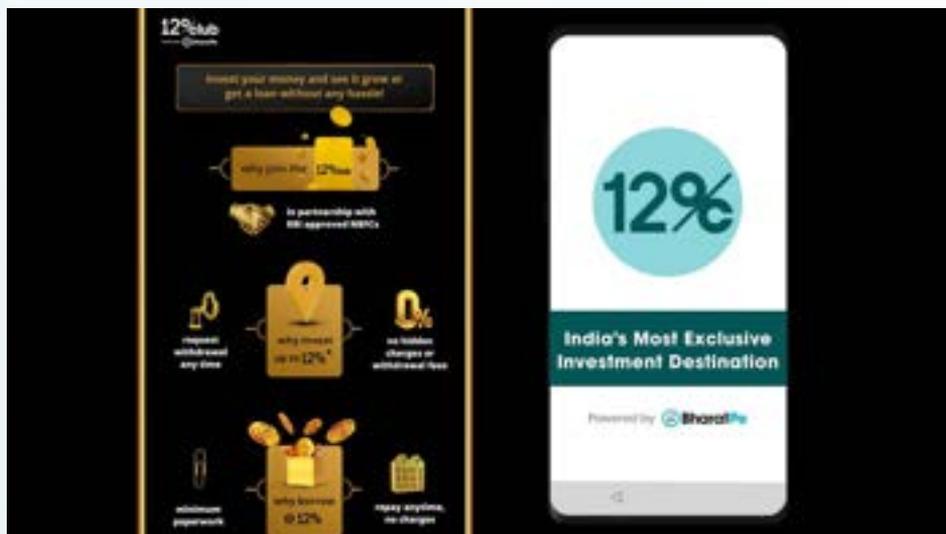
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has confirmed Sandeep Bakhshi's re-appointment as ICICI Bank's MD and CEO. From October 15, 2021, through October 3, 2023, this will be in effect.
- Mr Bakhshi's appointment has already been accepted by the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting on August 9, 2019, for a period beginning October 15, 2018, and ending October 3, 2023.
- Bakshi, who was hand-picked by his mentors KV Kamath and N Vaghul, took over as CEO in October 2018, following the departure of his predecessor Chanda Kochhar following the ICICI Bank-Videocon loan controversy.
- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.



Business News

5. BHARATPE LAUNCHES P2P LENDING APP '12% CLUB'

- BharatPe has introduced a "12% Club" app that allows customers to invest and earn up to 12% yearly interest or borrow at the same rate. For this app and lending arrangement, BharatPe has teamed with LenDenClub (an RBI-approved NBFC).
- Consumers can invest their savings at any time by using the "12 percent Club" app to lend money. Aside from that, customers can use the 12% Club app to get collateral-free loans of up to Rs 10 lakh for a three-month period.
- Chief Executive Officer of BharatPe: Ashneer Grover;



- Headoffice of BharatPe: New Delhi;
- BharatPe Founded: 2018.

Schemes and Committees News

6. MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & IT LAUNCHES SAMRIDH PROGRAMME

- The “Start-up Accelerators of MeitY for pProduct Innovation, Development, and Growth (SAMRIDH)” programme has been created by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Minister for MeitY, began the programme. The SAMRIDH program's goal is to provide a conducive environment for Indian software product start-ups to improve their products and secure funding to expand their businesses.



- The programme is being implemented by MeitY Start-up Hub (MSH). It will focus on accelerating the 300 start-ups by providing customer connect, investor connect, and international immersion in the next three years. Investment of up to Rs. 40 lakh will be provided to the start-up through selected accelerators.

7. MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI LAUNCHES 'SUJALAM' CAMPAIGN

- Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched a '100 days campaign' named SUJALAM to create more and more Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus villages by undertaking wastewater management at the village level.
- The Campaign would help in the management of the wastewater and in turn, would help to revive the water bodies through the creation of 1 million Soak-pits and also other Greywater management activities. The campaign started on August 25, 2021, is part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations. The three focus areas of the SUJALAM campaign are:



- Construction of 1 million soak pits;
- Retrofitting of toilets and
- Access to toilets for new households.
- Minister of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

Summits and Conferences News

8. AJIT DOVAL CHAIRS 11TH BRICS NSA VIRTUAL MEETING

- The 11th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives Responsible for National Security was held, via video conferencing. The National Security Advisor of India Ajit Doval hosted the meeting since India is the chair for the 2021 BRICS summit.
- The 15th BRICS Summit is scheduled to be held in September 2021. The BRICS meeting of the NSA provided a platform for the five countries to strengthen political-security cooperation.
- The BRICS NSA meeting adopted and recommended the BRICS counter-terrorism action plan for consideration by the BRICS Summit.
- NSA Ajit Doval and other top security officials of the BRICS discussed the Afghanistan scenario, and developments in Iran, West Asia and the Gulf region.



- The Action Plan aims to further strengthen existing mechanisms of cooperation in areas such as financing and combating terrorism, misuse of the internet by terrorists, curbing the travel of terrorists, border controls, protection of soft targets, information sharing, capacity building, and regional and international cooperation.

Defence News

9. 5th INDIA-KAZAKHSTAN JOINT TRAINING EXERCISE “KAZIND-21”

- The 5th edition of Indo- Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise, “KAZIND-21” will be held from August 30 to September 11, 2021, at Training Node, Aisha Bibi, Kazakhstan. The joint training exercise will boost the bilateral relations between India and Kazakhstan Armies.
- The Exercise is also a platform for the Armed Forces of India & Kazakhstan to train for Counter Insurgency/ Counter-Terrorism operations in the mountainous, rural scenarios under UN mandate.
- The Indian Army contingent represented by a battalion of the Bihar Regiment consists of a total of 90 personnel led by a Contingent Commander. The Kazakhstan Army will be represented by a company group.
- The scope of Joint Exercise includes professional exchange, planning & execution of the operation in counterterrorism environment at sub-unit level and sharing expertise on skills at arms, combat shooting and experiences in Counter Insurgency/ Counter-Terrorism operations.
- Kazakhstan PM: Askar Mamin, Capital: Nur-Sultan, Currency: Kazakhstani Tenge.



Important Days

10. INTERNATIONAL DOG DAY 2021

- International Dog Day is observed every year on August 26 to raise awareness about dog adoption and the importance of providing rescue dogs with a safe and loving environment.



- The day was started as National Dog Day in the US in 2004 by pet & family lifestyle expert, animal rescue advocate, conservationist and dog trainer Colleen Paige.
- August 26 was chosen as on this day, Paige's family had adopted their first dog "Sheltie" from an animal shelter when she was just 10 years old.

Obituaries News

11. FORMER INDIA FOOTBALLER AND OLYMPIAN O CHANDRASEKHAR PASSES AWAY

- Former India footballer O Chandrasekharan, popularly known as Olympian Chandrasekharan in his home state Kerala, passed away.
- Chandrasekharan, who played as a defender, was a member of the Indian team in the 1960 Rome Olympics the last time the country participated in football at the Games.



Miscellaneous News

12. INDIA'S FIRST AGRI SECTORAL INDEX GUAREX LAUNCHED BY NCDEX

- India's first sectoral index in the Agri commodities basket i.e. GUAREX was launched by the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX).



GUAREX

- GUAREX is a price based sectoral index that tracks the movement in the futures contracts of guar gum refined splits and guar seed on a real-time basis. This index product will offer a lot of opportunities to the value chain.
- The weightage of guarseed and guar gum refined splits in the index will be 63 per cent and 37 per cent, respectively. The index futures will be cash-settled. Initially, Guarex futures contracts expiring in September and October will be made available for trading.

BY SOHIL SINGH

National News

1. GOVT REPLACES UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS RULES 2021



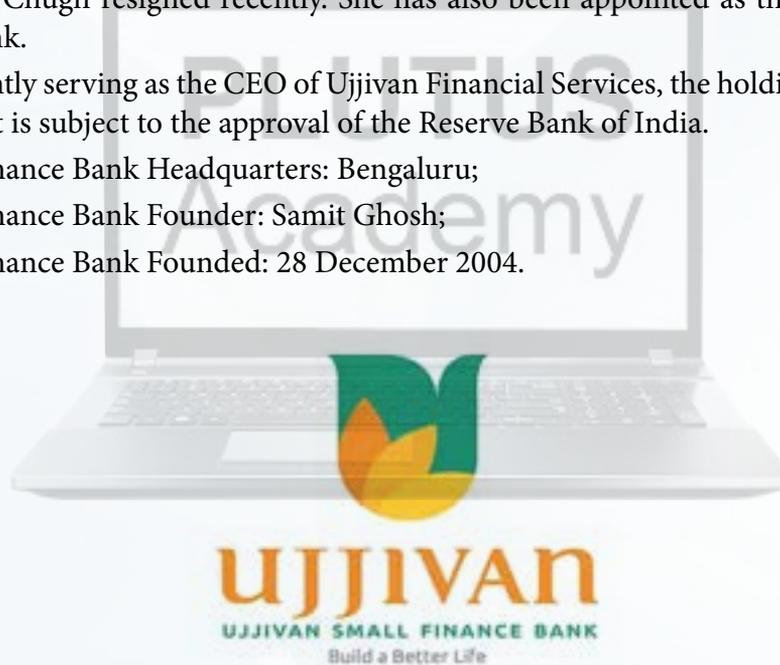
- Ministry of Civil Aviation has repealed the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Rules, 2021 and replace the same with the liberalized Drone Rules, 2021.
- The step has been taken as the earlier UAS Rules 2021 was perceived by academia, Startups, end-users and other stakeholders as being restrictive in nature as they involved considerable paperwork, required permissions for every drone flight and very few "free to fly" green zones were available.

- Drone promotion council to be set up by Government with participation from academia, startups and other stakeholders to facilitate a growth-oriented regulatory regime.
- Interactive airspace map with green, yellow and red zones shall be displayed on the digital sky platform within 30 days of publication of these rules.
- The yellow zone was reduced from 45 km to 12 km from the airport perimeter.
- The maximum penalty for violations is reduced to INR 1 lakh.
- Union Minister of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia.

Appointments News

2. CAROL FURTADO APPOINTS AS INTERIM CEO OF UJJIVAN SMALL FINANCE BANK

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has named Carol Furtado as the interim CEO of the bank after the whole time CEO Nitin Chugh resigned recently. She has also been appointed as the officer on special duty (OSD) of the bank.
- Furtado is currently serving as the CEO of Ujjivan Financial Services, the holding company of the bank. The appointment is subject to the approval of the Reserve Bank of India.
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Founder: Samit Ghosh;
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Founded: 28 December 2004.



3. RBI APPROVES APPOINTMENT OF HITENDRA DAVE AS CEO OF HSBC INDIA

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Hitendra Dave as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HSBC Bank (India).
- RBI has accorded the approval for a period of three years with effect from August 24, 2021. In June 2021, HSBC had announced the appointment of Hitendra Dave as the Chief Executive Officer of HSBC India.
- Dave succeeds Surendra Rosha who, after three years, is moving to Hong Kong as the Co-Chief



Executive of HSBC, Asia-Pacific. Hitendra Dave, formerly Head of Global Banking & Markets of HSBC India.

- HSBC Bank India Headquarters: Mumbai;
- HSBC Bank India Founded: 1853.

Agreements News

4. INDIA & MALDIVES INKS PACT ON MEGA GREATER MALE CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

- The Government of India and Maldives inked the contract for the mega Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP). The Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP) is the largest-ever civilian infrastructure project in the Maldives.
- The Government of India is funding the implementation of GMCP through a USD 400 million Line of Credit (LoC) and USD 100 million grant. The USD 400 million LoC will be provided by the Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank).
- The project will be developed by Indian construction and engineering firm, AFCONS, based in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) comprise of 6.74 km long bridge and causeway link that will connect the national capital Male with three neighbouring islands namely: Villingili, Gulhifahu and Thilafushi.
- President of the Maldives: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih;
- Capital of Maldives: Male; Currency of the Maldives: Maldivian Rufiyaa.



5. NITI AAYOG AND CISCO LAUNCHES “WEP NXT” WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PLATFORM

- NITI Aayog in partnership with Cisco has launched the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) titled “WEP Nxt” to foster women entrepreneurship in India.

- WEP, which was launched by NITI Aayog in 2017, is a first-of-its-kind, unified portal that brings together women from diverse backgrounds and offers them access to a multitude of resources, support, and learning.
- WEPNxt Platform is the next phase of this WEP and will be driven by evidence-based decision-making based on a focused study of Indian women entrepreneurs and their most urgent needs across six key verticals – community and networking, skilling and mentorship, incubation and acceleration programs, and financial, compliance, and marketing assistance.



Banking News

6. RBI EXTENDS CARD PAYMENT TOKENISATION FACILITY TO LAPTOPS, WEARABLE DEVICES

- In 2019, RBI had permitted authorized card payment networks to offer card tokenisation services to any token requestor (i.e., third-party app provider) through mobile phones and tablets.
- Now RBI has extended the scope of tokenization to include consumer devices – laptops, desktops, wearables (wristwatches, bands, etc.), Internet of Things (IoT) devices, etc.
- The permission for tokenization extends to various channels [e.g., Near Field Communication (NFC) / Magnetic Secure Transmission (MST) based contactless transactions, in-app payments, QR code-based payments, etc.] or token storage mechanisms (cloud, secure element, trusted execution environment, etc).
- The ultimate responsibility for the card tokenization services rendered rests with the authorized card networks.



- Tokenisation refers to the replacement of actual card details with a unique alternate code called the “token”, which shall be unique for a combination of card, token requestor, and device (referred hereafter as “identified device”).

7. GOVERNMENT APPROVES INCREASE OF BANK EMPLOYEES FAMILY PENSION TO 30%



- Central Government has approved the Indian Banks' Association's (IBA) proposal to increase the family pension to 30% of the last salary drawn.
- The immediate benefit of this approval will be an increase of 30,000 to 35,000 in the family pension of public sector bank employees from a maximum of 9,284 per month, depending on the last drawn salary of the deceased bank employee.
- The other big announcement is an increase in the employer banks' contribution to the pension fund of employees under the NPS (National Pension System) from the existing 10 per cent to 14 per cent. Approximately 60% of public sector bank employees are covered under NPS
- Indian Banks' Association Chairman: Rajkiran Rai G;
- Indian Banks' Association CEO: Sunil Mehta;
- Indian Banks' Association Headquarters location: Mumbai;
- Indian Banks' Association Founded: 26 September 1946.

Economy News

8. RBI INCLUDES PM SVANIDHI SCHEME BENEFICIARIES UNDER PIDF SCHEME

- The Reserve Bank of India has announced to include street vendors of tier-1 and tier-2 centres, identified as part of the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi Scheme) as beneficiaries under the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme.
- Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme was launched by RBI to encourage deployment of Points of Sale (PoS) infrastructure (both physical and digital modes) in tier-3 to tier-6 centres and northeastern states.



- So now RBI has specifically allowed street vendors of Tier-1 and Tier-2 centres, to be part of PIDF Scheme. The street vendors in tier-3 to tier-6 centres will continue to be covered under the Scheme by default. PIDF presently has a corpus of Rs. 345 crore.

9. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN UNVEILS PUBLIC SECTOR BANK REFORMS AGENDA (EASE 4.0)

- Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman has unveiled the fourth edition of the Public Sector Bank (PSB) Reforms Agenda 'EASE 4.0' for 2021-22.
- The major theme for EASE 4.0 is "Technology-enabled, simplified, and collaborative banking." EASE stands for Enhanced Access & Service Excellence (EASE).
- EASE 4.0 aims to further the agenda of customer-centric digital transformation and deeply embed digital and data into PSBs' ways of working.
- EASE 4.0 sets the agenda and roadmap to transform all PSBs into digital-attacker banks working hand-in-hand with key constituents of the financial services ecosystem to offer industry-best customer experience. Important Initiatives under EASE 4.0:
 - Smart Lending for Aspiring India
 - New Age 24x7 banking with resilient technology
 - Collaborative banking for synergistic outcomes
 - Tech-enabled Ease of Banking
 - Institutionalizing Prudent Banking
 - Governance and Outcome Centric HR



Defence News

10. INDIA PAVILION INAUGURATED AT 'ARMY-2021'

- The International Military and Technical Forum 'ARMY 2021' has been organised in Moscow, Russia from August 22 to 28, 2021, at Patriot Expo, Kubinka Air Base and Alabino military training grounds.



- The ARMY 2021 is the 7th edition of the annual International Military-Technical Forum. The forum is being organised by the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation since 2015.
- The International Military and Technical Forum 'ARMY' is the world's leading exhibition of armament and military equipment and the authoritative platform for discussing innovative ideas and developments for the armed forces by various foreign exhibitors, delegations and visitors.

Awards News

11. EASE REFORMS INDEX AWARD 2021 ANNOUNCED

- Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman has announced the EASE 3.0 Awards. State Bank of India is the Overall winner of the EASE Reforms Index Award 2021 (EASE 3.0 Awards).



- Bank of Baroda is second and Union Bank of India is third. Indian Bank won the award for the best improvement from the baseline performance.

- SBI, BoB, Union Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and Canara Bank won the top awards in different themes of the PSB Reforms Agenda EASE 3.0.

There were awards for various themes and the winners of these themes are given below:

S.No	Theme	Winner
1.	Smart Lending for Aspiring India	Bank of Baroda
2.	Tech-enabled ease of	Banking SBI
3.	Institutionalised Prudent Banking	Bank of Baroda
4.	Governance and Outcome centric HR	Union Bank of India
5.	Deepening FI and Customer Protection	Union Bank of India

Books and Authors News

12. A BOOK TITLE 'ACCELERATING INDIA: 7 YEARS OF MODI GOVERNMENT' BY K J ALPHONS

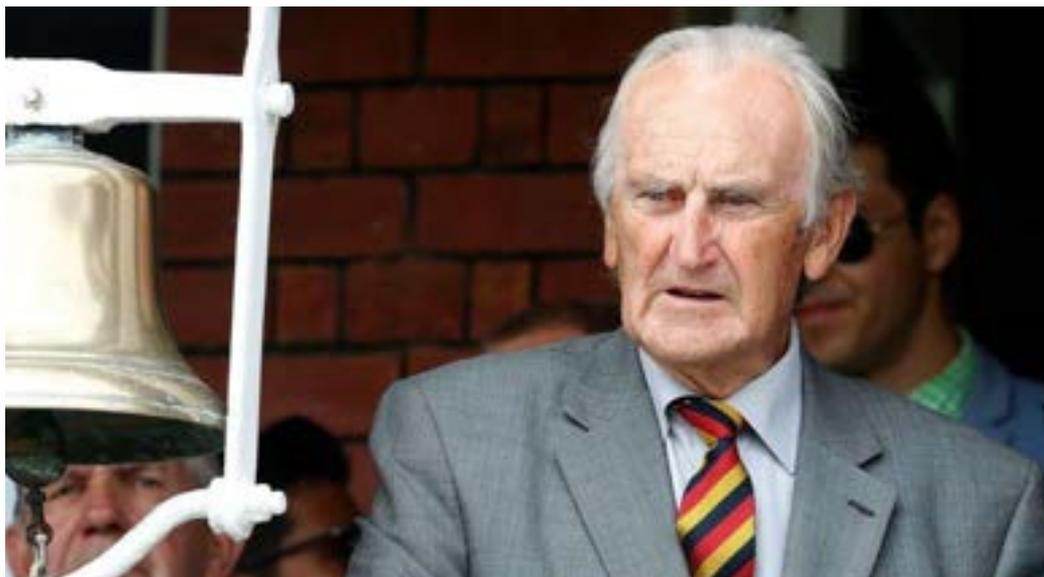
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has received a book titled 'Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government' by former Union Minister, K J Alphons.
- The book is about all the areas of India's reform journey, written by Mr Alphons. K J Alphons is the former Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge), in office from 3 September 2017 to May 2019.



Obituaries News

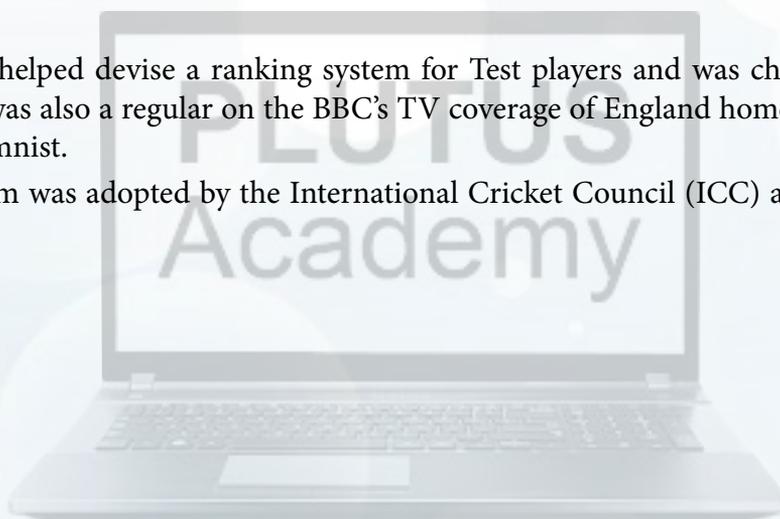
13. FORMER ENGLAND AND SUSSEX CAPTAIN TED DEXTER PASSES AWAY

- Former England and Sussex captain Ted Dexter has passed away. Dexter, nicknamed "Lord Ted", was an aggressive batsman and part-time seam bowler who played 62 tests for England after making his debut in 1958 against New Zealand and was captain between 1961-1964.



- After retiring, he helped devise a ranking system for Test players and was chairman of selectors for England. Dexter was also a regular on the BBC's TV coverage of England home Test matches and was a newspaper columnist.
- The ranking system was adopted by the International Cricket Council (ICC) and formed the basis of today's system.

BY SOHIL SINGH





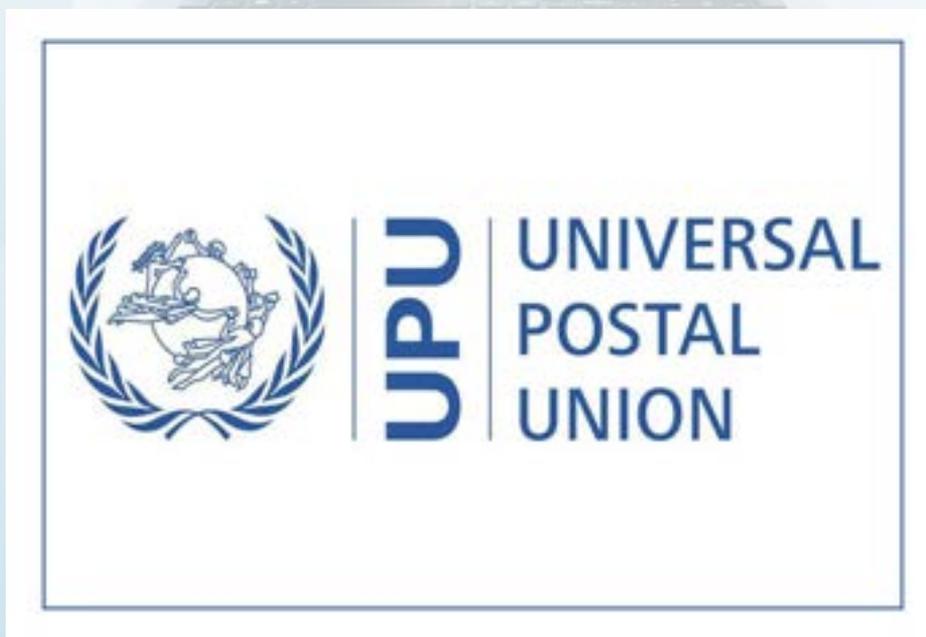
CURRENT AFFAIRS

AUGUST 2021

National News

1. INDIA ELECTED TO CA AND POC OF UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

- India has won the elections for membership of two key bodies of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), during the 27th UPU Congress in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
- India got elected to the Council of Administration (CA) with 134 votes, out of 156 countries. The country received the highest votes in CA elections from South Asia and the Oceania region.
- Apart from this, India has also been elected to the Postal Operations Council (POC) with 106 votes. India will now work with all to strengthen cooperation in the Universal Postal Union.
- Universal Postal Union Headquarters: Bern, Switzerland;
- Universal Postal Union Founded: 9 October 1874;
- Universal Postal Union Director-General; Masahiko Meteko.



2. MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT LAUNCHES E-SHRAM PORTAL

- Ministry of Labour & Employment has launched e-Shram Portal to link Unorganised Workers with social security schemes being implemented by the Central and State Governments.



- Minister for Labour and Employment, Bhupender Yadav has launched the portal where 38 crore Unorganised Workers can register themselves and in turn benefit from various social security schemes.
- Every unorganised worker who registers on the eSHRAM Portal will get Rs 2.0 Lakh Accidental Insurance cover. (Rs 2.0 Lakh on death or permanent disability and Rs 1.0 lakh on partial disability).
- Upon registration on the eSHRAM Portal, the worker will get an eSHRAM card with a unique 12 digit Universal Account Number (UAN) and will be able to access the benefits of the various social security schemes through this Card anywhere anytime.
- eSHRAM Portal will help in the creation of a National Database of Unorganized Workers (NDUW).

International News

3. CHINA, PAKISTAN, THAILAND, MONGOLIA TO HOLD MILITARY EXERCISE “SHARED DESTINY-2021”

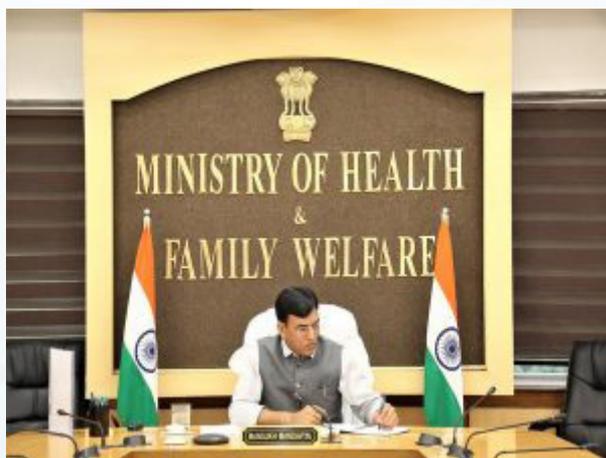
- The armed force of the country China, Pakistan, Mongolia and Thailand will take part in a multinational peacekeeping exercise named “Shared Destiny-2021”. The exercise will be held in China in the month of September 2021.
- The four countries will take part in the first multinational peacekeeping live exercise “Shared Destiny-2021” at the combined-arms tactical training base of the PLA in Henan’s Queshan county.
- All the four countries will dispatch more than 1,000 troops to participate in the drills, involving units of infantry, fast response, security, helicopter, engineering, transportation and medical services.
- The scenario of the exercise is joint operations of multinational peacekeeping forces and the exercise will be held in a close-to-real battlefield environment set in accordance with the international, professional and realistic combat standards.



Appointments News

4. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA APPOINTED CHAIRPERSON OF STOP TB PARTNERSHIP BOARD

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Mansukh Mandaviya has taken over charge as the Chairperson of Stop TB Partnership Board.
- He has replaced Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan as the chairman. India aims to end TB by 2025 while the UN aims to end TB by 2030.
- The Stop TB Partnership is a United Nations-hosted partnership program that aims to fight against tuberculosis collectively.



- The Stop TB Partnership also welcomed the incoming Board Vice-Chair Austin Arinze Obiefuna. He will take over as the Board Vice-Chair from 1 January 2022 for a period of three years.

Summits and Conferences News

5. G20 MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT HELD IN ITALY



- The First-ever G20 Ministerial Conference on Women’s Empowerment was held at Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy. It was held in mixed format i.e people participated in physical form and via video conference also.
- The Union Minister of Women & Child Development, Smt. Smriti Irani addressed the meet on behalf of India. The Union Minister reaffirmed India’s commitment towards addressing gender and women-centric issues through mutual cooperation.
- G20 Conference on Women Empowerment acknowledged the common objectives and shared responsibilities to advance the goals of equality and development of women and girls in all spheres including STEM, Financial and Digital Literacy, Environment and Sustainability.

Defence News

6. NSG COMMANDOS UNDERTAKE COUNTER-TERRORIST DRILLS ‘GANDIV’

- The third edition of the week-long annual exercise called ‘Gandiv’ was launched at these locations by the NSG from August 22 and it will continue till August 28.
- Multiple cities in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and the National Capital Region are hosting synchronised commando drills as part of a national mock exercise being carried out by the counter-terrorism force National Security Guard (NSG) to check its response time and reaction to hostage and hijack-like situations. Gandiv was the name of Arjuna’s bow in Mahabharata.
- The drills are aimed to “validate the planning parameters” of the commando force in the event of a terrorist attack, hijack of an aircraft or hostage situation.
- The NSG was raised as a federal counter-terrorism force in 1984 to undertake surgical commando operations in order to neutralise terrorist and hijack threats. It also has a special squad that provides armed security cover to at least 13 high-risk VVIPs at present.
- National Security Guard Headquarters: New Delhi.
- The motto of the National Security Guard: Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha.



7. BPR&D COLLABORATES WITH AICTE TO LAUNCH INDIA'S FIRST HACKATHON "MANTHAN 2021"



- The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) in collaboration with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have launched a unique national Hackathon named 'MANTHAN 2021'.
- The basic objective of this hackathon is to identify innovative concepts and technology solutions for addressing the security challenges of the 21st century faced by the intelligence agencies of the country and empower these enforcement agencies.
- The Hackathon is scheduled to be held from November 28 to December 01, 2021, in an online mode.
- The winning team will receive a number worth Rs. 40 Lakh.
- The Hackathon will be held under 6 themes for 20 different challenge statements using new technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Deep Learning, Augmented reality, Machine Learning among others.

Schemes and Conferences News

8. ELECTION COMMISSION ORGANIZES SVEEP CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) organized the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) Consultation Workshop. As a part of this workshop, the Chief Election Commissioner, Sushil Chandra along with Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar unveiled a new initiative.
- The main objective of the two-day workshop was to review State SVEEP Plans, conduct extensive deliberations on the important aspects of SVEEP and formulate a comprehensive strategy for future elections.
- The SVEEP program is the flagship program of the Election Commission of India for voter education & awareness.
- The new voters would send a personalized letter from the Commission when sending out their Voter ID Cards.
- The package would include a Voter Guide for new voters, a congratulatory letter and a pledge for ethical voting.
- Election Commission Formed: 25 January 1950;

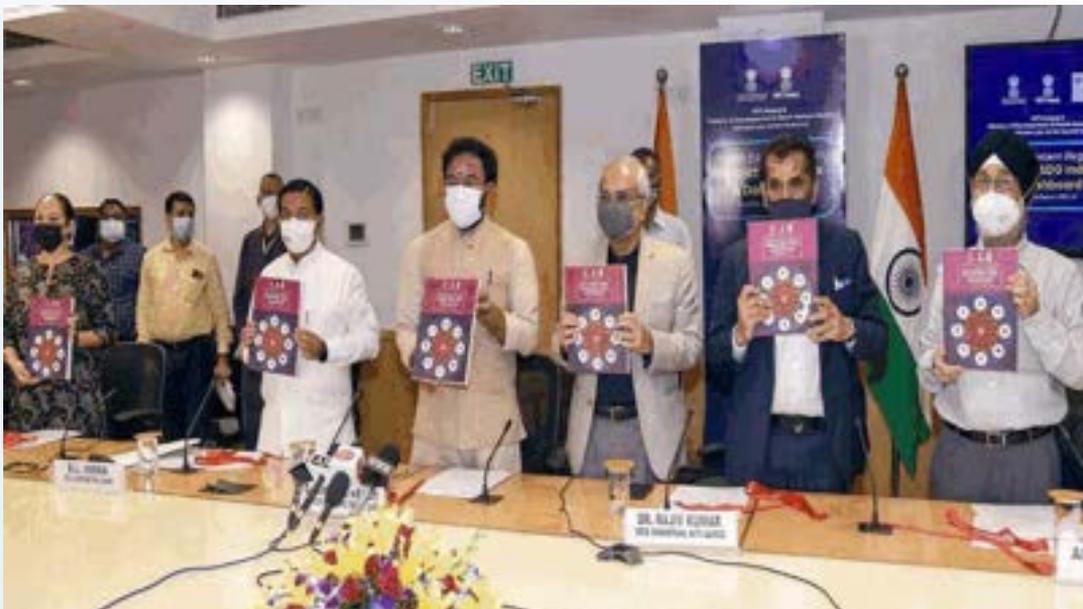


- Election Commission Headquarters: New Delhi;
- First executive of Election Commission: Sukumar Sen.

Ranks and Reports News

9. NITI AAYOG RELEASES NER DISTRICT SDG INDEX REPORT

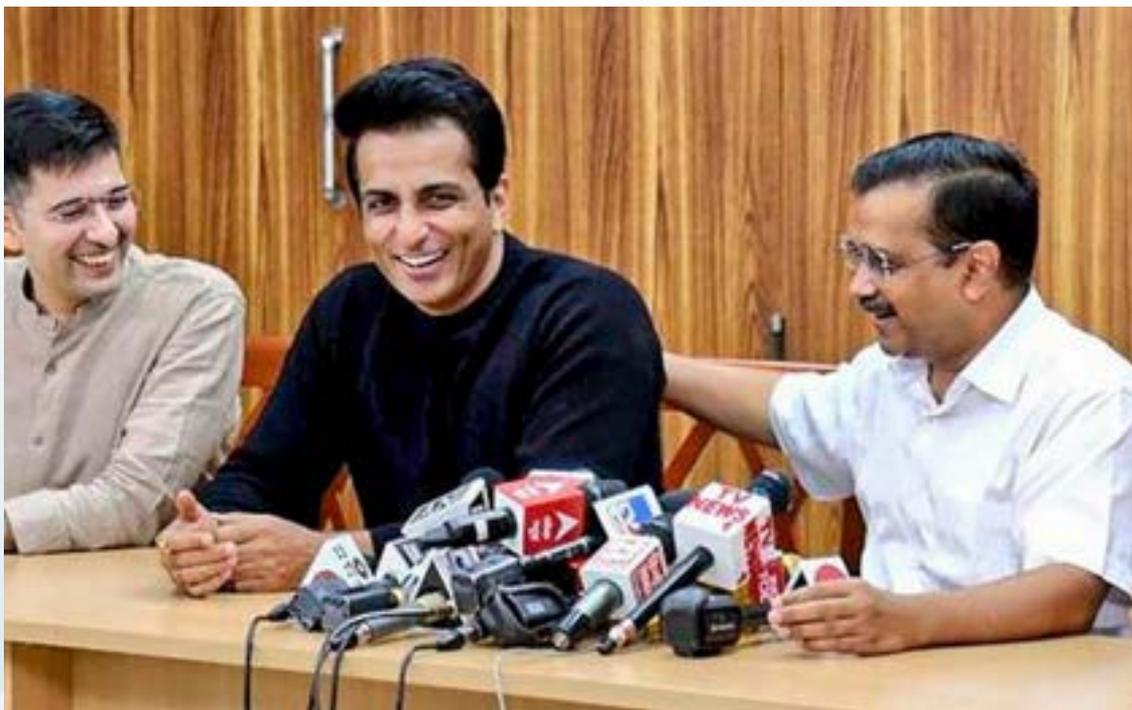
- NITI Aayog and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region have launched the North Eastern Region District SDG Index Report and Dashboard 2021–22, with technical support from UNDP. The index is based on NITI Aayog's SDG India Index.
- According to the report, the East Sikkim district of Sikkim has topped the North Eastern Region (NER) District SDG Index 2021-22 while the Kiphire district of Nagaland was ranked last amongst 103 districts in the ranking. Gomati, North Tripura is second, West Tripura is third in the ranking.
- The Index measures the performance of the districts of the eight states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura on the Sustainable Development Goals and ranks these districts on the basis of the same. NER District SDG Index is the first of its kind in the country as it focuses on the North Eastern Region.



Miscellaneous News

10. SONU SOOD TO BE BRAND AMBASSADOR BY DELHI GOVT FOR 'DESH KE MENTORS' PROGRAMME

- Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal has announced that Bollywood actor Sonu Sood will be the brand ambassador of the Delhi government's 'Desh Ke Mentors' programme. The programme will be soon launched by Delhi Government.
- The programme entails "adopting" one to ten government school students who can be mentored by citizens who are successful in their respective fields. Mentors will take out 10 minutes every week to guide students over the phone.



- Interested citizens can adopt between one to ten children studying in the city's government schools as part of the initiative.

BY SOHIL SINGH

National News

1. MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR "UNLOCK 4"

- The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued "Unlock 4" guidelines for the phased re-opening of activities in areas outside the Containment Zones.
- The "Unlock 4" guidelines will be effective from September 1, 2020.
- These guidelines have been framed on the basis of feedback obtained from States and Union Territories, and extensive consultations held with related Central Ministries and Departments. Key features of the "Unlock 4" guidelines are as follows:



- According to the new guidelines, Metro rail will be permitted to operate with effect from 7th September 2020 in a graded manner.
- New guidelines permits the Social/ academic/ sports/ entertainment/ cultural/ religious/ political functions and other congregations with a ceiling of 100 persons, with effect from 21st September 2020. All the above gatherings will have to follow mandatory wearing of face masks, social distancing, provision for thermal scanning and hand wash or sanitizer.
- It also allows the opening of Open air theatres with effect from 21st September 2020.
- No restrictions will be there on Inter-State and intra-State movement.
- The Schools, colleges, educational and coaching institutions will continue to remain closed for students and regular class activity up to 30th September 2020. Although, Students of classes 9 to 12 may be permitted to visit their schools, in areas outside the Containment Zones only, on voluntary basis, with effect from 21st September 2020.
- Cinema halls, swimming pools, entertainment parks, theatres (excluding open air theatre) and similar places will continue to remain closed.
- Lockdown shall is stated to be implemented strictly in the Containment Zones till 30th September, 2020.
- Department of Higher Education (DHE) will permit the Higher Education Institutions only for research scholars (Ph.D.) and post-graduate students of technical and professional programmes requiring laboratory/ experimental works, in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Union Minister of Home Affairs: Amit Shah.

2. UAE's DMCC LAUNCHES "AGRIOTA E-MARKETPLACE"

- Government of Dubai Authority on commodities trade and enterprise, Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC) has rolled out a technology-driven agri-commodity trading and sourcing platform "Agriota E-Marketplace".
- The platform which uses blockchain will help in bridging the gap between millions of rural farmers in India and the UAE's food industry.



- The Agriota platform will connect Indian farmers directly with the entire food industry in the UAE, including food processing companies, traders as well as wholesalers.
- The E-Marketplace will enable them to bypass intermediaries and optimise the supply chain.
- It will also ensure end-to-end traceability and transparency in order to create value for all stakeholders.
- Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Multi Commodities Centre: Ahmed Bin Sulayem.
- President of UAE: Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- Capital of UAE: Abu Dhabi; Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham.

States in News

3. INDIA'S 1ST INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S TRADE CENTRE TO BE SET UP IN KERALA

- Kerala will establish the first international women's trade centre (IWTC) of India at Angamaly.
- The IWTC would be set by Kerala in consonance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The IWTC seeks to accelerate the women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity. It will also offer a safe place away from home to women to start new businesses, set up or expand, and get their products marketed globally.
- IWTC will also enable women entrepreneurs to participate in international trade, and enhance their competitiveness to tap market opportunities. Hence, it will enable women to enjoy greater economic benefits.
- Chief Minister of Kerala: Pinarayi Vijayan; Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan.



4. UP GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES “MAJOR DHYAN CHAND VIJAYPATH YOJANA”

- “Major Dhyan Chand Vijaypath Yojana” has been launched by the Uttar Pradesh government.
- Under this scheme, 19 international players from the state of Uttar Pradesh will get road connectivity to their houses.
- The 19 international players who will be benefited from the scheme includes Indian pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, former pacer Praveen Kumar, Piyush Chawla and Mohammad Kaif. The initial list of the beneficiaries includes 19 players, and more players will be added to the scheme in the coming future.
- Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Aditya Nath; Governor: Anandiben Patel.

5. GUJARAT TO COMMENCE SEAPLANE SERVICE FROM 31 OCTOBER 2020

- The first-ever “seaplane services in Gujarat” will be commenced from 31 October 2020.
- The seaplane service will offer seamless and affordable air connectivity from Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad to Statue of Unity in Kevadia in Gujarat.
- Spicejet Airline will operate the seaplane service to be commenced on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- To start Seaplane services in the state, the Gujarat government has signed a tripartite agreement with the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), and Airports Authority of India.
- Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Aditya Nath; Governor: Anandiben Patel.



- Chief Minister of Gujarat: Vijaybhai R. Rupani; Governor: Acharya Dev Vrat.
- Minister of State (I/C) for Civil Aviation: Hardeep Singh Puri.

Sports News

6. INDIA & RUSSIA JOINTLY WINS FIDE ONLINE CHESS OLYMPIAD

- India and Russia have become the joint winners of FIDE online Chess Olympiad. World chess governing body FIDE declared both the finalists as joint winners after at least two games in the second match were affected by internet connectivity issues.



- The FIDE Online Chess Olympiad was held for the first time due to the coronavirus pandemic. This is the biggest team championship in chess as around 163 countries took part in the online tournament.

Important Days

7. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES: 30 AUGUST

- United Nations observes International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances globally on 30th of August every year.
- The day is being observed to express deep concern about the rise in enforced or involuntary disappearances in different regions of the world including the incidents of arrest, detention and abduction.
- All of the above incidents results in increasing number of reports pertaining to harassment, ill-treatment and intimidation of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of persons who have disappeared.
- UN General Assembly declared 30th of August as International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances and the day was observed for the first time in year 2011.
- Secretary-General of United Nations: António Guterres.



Obituaries News

8. VETERAN ATHLETIC COACH PURUSHOTHAM RAI PASSES AWAY

- India's former athletic coach Purushotham Rai passed away.
- The former coach passed away a few hours before receiving the Dronacharya Award, the highest sporting award for a coach in India.
- He became the third person from the state of Karnataka to win Dronacharya award in Athletics.
- He coached number of top athletes namely Olympian quarter-miler Vandana Rao, heptathlete Pramila Aiyappa, Ashwini Nachappa, Murali Kuttan, MK Asha, EB Shyla, Rosa Kutty and GG Pramila.
- Purushotham Rai's name was announced for the Dronacharya award for year 2020 among the other winners of National Sports Awards 2020.
- He trained the Indian team for the 1987 World Athletics Championship, 1988 Asian Track and Field Championships, and 1999 SAF Games.



Miscellaneous News

9. CISF DEVELOPS IN-HOUSE MOBILE APP “PENSIONERS CORNER”

- The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has made an in-house mobile app “Pensioners Corner”.
- The mobile app has been created by CISF to reach to the pensioners and to bring them on to the digital platform as a one stop solution.
- Through the mobile app “Pensioners Corner”, CISF will reach out to the Ex-Force personnel, who devoted their life for the country, in order to increase their self esteem.
- The mobile app comprises of inbuilt grievance redressal mechanism and will also contain information about all important circulars such as job opportunities and benefits pertaining to pensioners.



BY SOHIL SINGH