PLUTUS ACADEMY

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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06/09/2021 to 12/09/2021

Basement C59 Noida, Oppposite to Priyagold Building Gate, Sector-2, Pocket-1, Noida

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CURRENT AFFAIRS SEPTEMBER 2021

National News

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

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has made an allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) 12.57 billion to India. (approx USD 17.86 billion). With this, the total SDR holding of India has gone upto SDR 13.66 billion (equivalent to around USD 19.41 billion).
- SDR is one of the components of the Foreign Exchange Reserves (FER) of India. Hence the Foreign Exchange Reserves (FER) has also increased now. IMF has allocated a total of SDR 456 billion to all its member countries out of which India has got SDR 12.57.
- IMF Headquarters: Washington, D.C. U.S;
- IMF Managing Director and Chairman: Kristalina Georgieva;
- IMF Chief Economist: Gita Gopinath.

State News

2. Maharashtra to set up science city named after Rajiv Gandhi in Pune

- The Maharashtra Government has decided to set up a world-class science city at Pimpri-Chinchwad near Pune to develop a scientific outlook among the students and prepare them to become students in future.

- To be named as 'Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Science Innovation City', a science Centre will be developed on the one-acre area in an eight-acre complex in the PCMC area. The Centre has granted assistance of Rs 191 crore to build the Science city in the PCMC area.
- Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari;
- Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai;
- Maharashtra CM: Uddhav Thackeray.

Appointments News

3. Vartika Shukla becomes first woman CMD of Engineers India Ltd

- Vartika Shukla took charge as the first woman Chairperson and Managing Director of public sector enterprise Engineers India Ltd. She spearheaded the company's innovative energy programmes, including biofuels, coal gasification, waste to fuel and hydrogen energy, among others.
- A graduate in Chemical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, Shukla joined EIL in 1988 and has extensive consulting experience comprising design, engineering, and implementation of complexes in refining, gas processing, petrochemicals and fertilisers.
- Engineers India Ltd Founded: 1965.

Business News

4. HDFC Life to acquire Exide Life Insurance for Rs. 6,687 crore

- HDFC Life has announced to acquire a 100 per cent stake in Exide Life Insurance Company in a stock and cash deal, for Rs 6,887 crore. Subsequently, Exide Life will be merged with HDFC Life, subject to regulatory approvals.
- Exide Life is a wholly-owned subsidiary of battery maker Exide Industries. This acquisition will mark one of the first and the largest acquisitions in the life insurance space.
- From the total deal value of Rs 6,887 crore, HDFC Life will pay Rs 725 crore in cash, while the balance amount will be in form of shares.
- HDFC Life will issue 87.02 million equity shares of the face value of Rs 10 at a price of Rs 685 per share to Exide Industries Limited.
- Post the acquisition, Exide Industries will hold a 4.1 per cent stake in merged HDFC Life and mortgage lender HDFC Ltd will hold 47.9 per cent. Currently, HDFC Ltd. holds a 49.9 per cent stake in HDFC Life.
- HDFC Life Headquarters: Mumbai;
- HDFC Life CEO: Vibha Padalkar;
- HDFC Life Founded: 2000.

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Ranks and Reports News

5. University of Oxford tops Times World University Rankings 2022

- The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2022 has been announced. The University of Oxford is at the top of the list, followed by the California Institute of Technology and Harvard University at the second and third positions, respectively.

- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, is placed between the 301-350 position. Incidentally, it is also the only university in the top 350 rankings.

Three Indian educational institutes have found a place in the top 400 list:

1. IISc Bangalore – 301-350 bracket
2. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar – 351-400 bracket.
3. IIT Indore – 401-500 bracket.

Top Five Universities in the world:

1. University of Oxford, UK
2. California Institute of Technology, US
3. Harvard University, US
4. Stanford University, US
5. University of Cambridge, UK

6. India becomes 3rd largest Unicorn ecosystem in the world

- Hurun Research Institute has released the Hurun India Future Unicorn List 2021, as per which India is the third-largest Unicorn/startup ecosystem in the world. The USA is on top followed by China on second.
- India has 51 unicorns according to the list. The USA has 396 and China has 277 unicorns. Zilingo is the top unicorn in the ranking in India with funding of USD 310. The headquarters of Zilingo is in Singapore.
- Bengaluru is the top Indian city in terms of the number of Unicorns headquartered in a city. Bengaluru has 31 unicorns followed by Mumbai which has 12 unicorns.

7. India to host conference on International Climate Summit 2020-21

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

8. PM Modi Virtually Addresses 6th Eastern Economic Forum 2021

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

Sports News

9. Paralympics 2020: Archer Harvinder Singh Clinches Bronze in Men's Individual Recurve

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

10. Tokyo Paralympics: Manish Narwal wins gold in 50m Mixed Pistol

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

Miscellaneous News

11. Canadian City Burnaby to Observe September 5 As Gauri Lankesh Day

- The Canadian city of Burnaby has declared September 5 as "Gauri Lankesh Day", as a tribute to the dead journalist on her death anniversary, her sister Kavitha Lankesh.
- The proclamation issued by the office of the Mayor of Burnaby Mike Hurley said Gauri Lankesh was a courageous Indian journalist who stood up for truth and justice, challenged superstition and social ills, and dedicated her life to serving the poor and oppressed.
- Gauri Lankesh, a left-leaning journalist who brought out a magazine "Gauri Lankesh Patrike", was shot dead by two assailants on September 5, 2017 evening just outside her house in Bengaluru allegedly for her anti-Hindutva stand.

BY SOHIL SINGH

National News

1. India becomes first Asian nation to launch 'Plastics Pact'

- India has become the first Asian country to create the Plastics Pact, a new forum to promote a circular plastics system.
- On September 3, 2021, the British High Commissioner to India, Alexander Ellis, introduced the India Plastic Pact platform during the Confederation of Indian Industry's 16th Sustainability Summit (CII).
- The Future-Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF India) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have collaborated on the new platform 'India Plastic Pact,' which aims to build a world where plastic is valued and does not poison the environment.

- The Pact targets the businesses to transition towards a circular economy for plastics by 2030.
- The initiative is supported by UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) and WRAP, a global NGO based in the UK, and endorsed by the British High Commission in India.

2. GoI launches AYUSH AAPKE DWAR campaign to distribute medicinal saplings

- The Ministry of AYUSH has initiated a campaign called "AYUSH AAPKE DWAR" as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, with the goal of distributing medicinal plant saplings to 75 lakh families in a year.
- Union Minister of AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal of Mumbai launched the programme, during which he gave medicinal plant saplings to locals. Following that, the campaign was launched in over 45 different sites around the country.
- The medicinal plants being distributed include Tejpatta, Stevia, Ashoka, Giloy, Ashwagandha, Lemongrass, Tulsi, Sarpagandha and Amla. Under this campaign, it is proposed to undertake the cultivation of medicinal plants across 75,000 hectares in one year.

Appointments News

3. Cyrus Poncha becomes new Vice-President of Asian Squash Federation

- Cyrus Poncha, Secretary-General of the Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI), was unanimously chosen as Vice-President of the Asian Squash Federation (ASF) at the ASF's 41st annual general meeting. The Dronacharya Awardee has been chosen to serve a four-year term.
- For a second term, Hong Kong's David Mui was elected President of ASF without opposition. Mr Fayez Abdullah S.Al-Mutairi of Kuwait and Tae-sook Hee of Korea were both elected as Vice-Presidents of the ASF, in addition to Cyrus Poncha.
- Asian Squash Federation Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
- Asian Squash Federation General Secretary: Duncan Chiu;
- Asian Squash Federation Founded: 1980.

Agreements News

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

- A Project Agreement (PA) for Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicles was signed between the Ministry of Defence, the Government of India, and the US Department of Defense (ALUAV). This agreement is part of the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative's Joint Working Group Air Systems (DTTI).
- The two countries will collaborate on the design, development, demonstration, testing, and evaluation of systems in order to jointly create an ALUAV prototype.
- The DTTI's goal is to maintain a strong leadership focus on collaborative technology exchange and potential for co-production and co-development of future technologies for Indian and US military forces.

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Defence News

5. 28th Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise 'SIMBEX-2021'

- The 28th edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) took place from September 02 to 04, 2021. The SIMBEX-2021 annual bilateral maritime exercise was hosted by the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) in the southern fringes of the South China Sea.

- The Indian Navy was represented by Guided Missile Destroyer INS Ranvijay with a shipborne helicopter, ASW Corvette INS Kiltan and Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora and one P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.
- The exercise aimed to strengthen the bilateral defence ties between both countries. This year's edition of SIMBEX is also a special occasion as it takes place during the ongoing celebrations of the 75th year of India's independence.
- The success of SIMBEX-2021 is yet another demonstration of the mutual resolve on both sides to strengthen the bilateral partnership further in the years ahead.

Business News

6. LIC buys 3.9% stake in Bank of India via open market acquisition

- Through an open market acquisition, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) purchased 3.9 percent (15,90,07,791 shares) of the Bank of India. LIC had a 3.17 percent ownership in Bank of India prior to this transaction.
- After this buy, LIC currently owns 7.05 percent of Bank of India, or 28,92,87,324 shares. The Bank of India informed SEBI of this information. Companies must notify stock exchanges when an entity owns more than 5% of a listed firm, according to SEBI requirements.
- LIC Headquarters: Mumbai;
- LIC Founded: 1 September 1956;
- LIC Chairman: M R Kumar.

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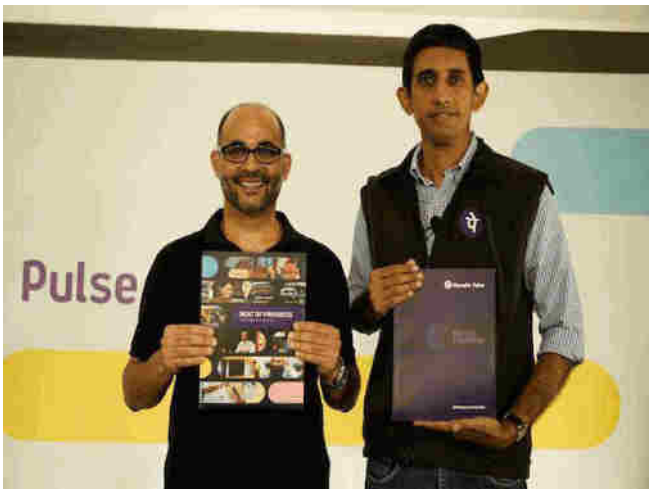
भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

7. PhonePe launches digital payment interactive geospatial platform "Pulse platform"

- PhonePe has launched a platform named PhonePe Pulse. Pulse is India's first interactive platform with data insights and trends on digital payments.
- The platform shows more than 2000 crore digital transactions by customers on an interactive map of India. PhonePe also launched the Pulse Report, an in-depth study on the evolution of digital payments over the past 5 years.

- The report also has insights about how digital payment adoption across India has evolved since 2016 and includes detailed geographical and category-specific trends.
- The insights on the website and in the report have been drawn from two key sources – the entirety of PhonePe's transaction data combined with merchant and customer interviews.
- The report is available as a free download on the PhonePe Pulse website. This new product is relevant to multiple ecosystem stakeholders including the government, policymakers, regulatory bodies, media, industry analysts, merchant partners, startups, academic institutions and students.



- CEO of Phonepe: Sameer Nigam
- Headquarters location of Phonepe: Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Economy News

8. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs 24th meeting of FSDC

- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has chaired the 24th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC). Finance Minister is the chairperson of FSDC. It must be noted that FSDC Sub-Committee is chaired by the Governor, RBI.
- Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) is the apex level forum set up by the Government of India for strengthening and institutionalizing the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development.

9. Tokyo Paralympics 2020: India finishes 24th with record 19 medals

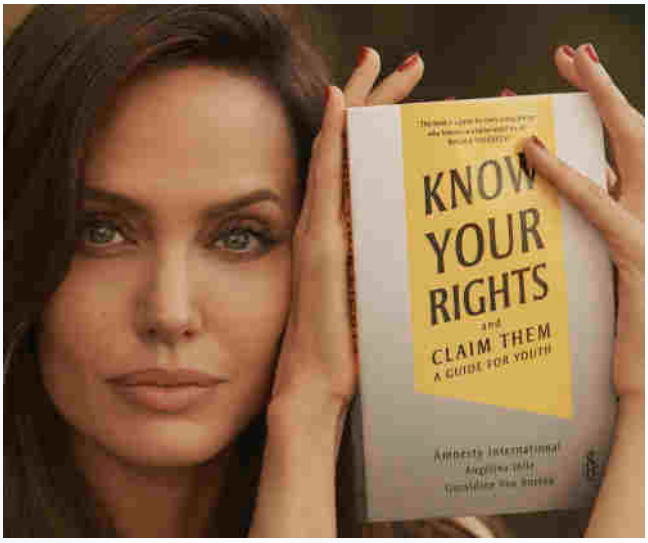
- India finished their campaign at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020 with an all-time high of 19 medals which includes five gold, eight silver, and six bronze.
- This is the best medal tally for India a single edition of the Paralympic Games. India is placed at 24th position in the overall medal tally out of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

10. Max Verstappen wins Dutch Grand Prix 2021

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

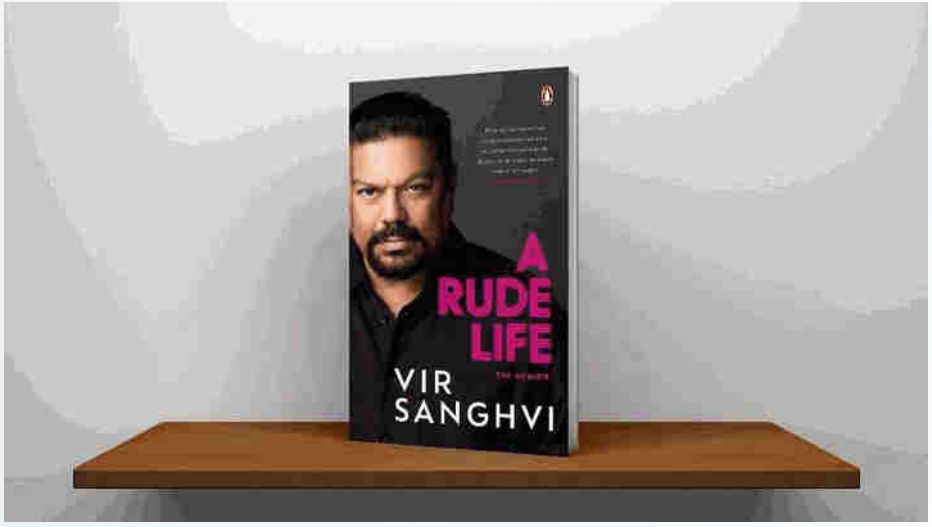
11. Know Your Rights and Claim Them: A Guide for Youth by Angelina Jolie

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



12. A book title "A Rude Life: The Memoir" by Vir Sanghvi

- Vir Sanghvi, one of India's most recognised journalists, has come out with a memoir titled A Rude Life. 'A Rude Life: The Memoir' has been published by Penguin Random House.
- Through this book, the author has shared his views and experience of the most eventful careers in Indian journalism, including his personal life, stories of and about celebrities and politicians, middlemen and behind-the-scene actors.



Important Days

13. National Teachers' Day: 05 September

- The 5th of September is celebrated as teacher's day all over India. This day is celebrated as the teacher's day to mark the birthday of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan who was the former president of our country.
- He was a philosopher, a scholar, and the Bharat Ratna Awardee. He was the second President of India (1962 to 1967) and the first Vice President of India (1952–1962).
- The Ministry of Education presents the National Teachers Awards on this occasion every year. In 2021, the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind will confer National Awards on 44 teachers from across the country.

14. International Day of Charity: 05 September

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

Obituaries News

15. Former IOC President Jacques Rogge passes away

- Former President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Jacques Rogge has passed away.

- He had spent 12 years as president of IOC, from 2001 to 2013, overseeing three summer Games and three winter Games, as well as creating the Youth Olympics. He was then succeeded by Thomas Bach. He was the 8th President of IOC.

BY SOHIL SINGH

State News

1. India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve to come up in Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu state government has announced to set up India's first dugong conservation reserve at the northern part of the Palk Bay. Dugong are commonly known as sea cows.

- According to Wildlife Institute of India (WII) estimates, only 200-250 Dugongs are left in the wild, of which 150 are found in the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu.
- The reserve will span the northern part of the Palk Bay from Adiramapattinam to Amapattinam. The reserve will cover an area of more than 500 sq km.
- Marine biologists and conservationists have long demanded a reserve as the population of dugongs, as known as sea cows, in Indian waters has been dropping to dangerous levels.
- According to Wildlife Institute of India (WII) estimates, only 200-250 Dugongs are left in the wild, of which 150 are found in the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu, among the last surviving natural habitats for dugongs in the world.
- Tamil Nadu Capital: Chennai.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister: MK Stalin.
- Tamil Nadu Governor: Banwarilal Purohit.
- Tamil Nadu State Dance: Bharathanatyam.

Appointments News

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

- The central government has selected S.L.Tripathy as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of United India Insurance Company Limited.
- He is currently General Manager and Director at The New India Assurance Company Limited.
- He is appointed as CMD of United India from the date of assumption of charge of the office and up to the date of attaining the age of superannuation.
- United India Insurance Company Limited Headquarters: Chennai;
- United India Insurance Company Limited Founded: 18 February 1938;
- United India Insurance Company Limited CEO: Shri Girish Radhakrishnan.

3. Equitas Bank appoints Rani Rampal & Smriti Mandhana as brand ambassadors

- Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB) has roped in Indian women hockey player, Rani Rampal and cricketer Smriti Mandhana as the brand ambassadors of the company. The announcement was made during the 5th anniversary of the ESFB on September 5, 2021.

- Rampal holds the record for being the youngest player to play in the national hockey team while Mandhana was recognised as the Best Women's International Cricketer by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB) headquarters: Chennai;
- ESFB MD & CEO: Vasudevan P N.

Defence News

4. Naval exercise between India and Australia- 'AUSINDEX' begins

- The 4th edition of AUSINDEX, a bilateral navy exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy has begun from September 06, 2021, and will continue up to September 10, 2021.
- Indian Navy Task Group comprises INS Shivalik and INS Kadmatt. This edition of AUSINDEX includes complex surface, sub-surface and air operations between ships, submarines, helicopters and Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft of the participating Navies.

- Commenced in 2015 as a bilateral IN-RAN maritime exercise, AUSINDEX has grown in complexity over the years and the 3rd edition of the exercise, held in 2019 in the Bay of Bengal, included anti-submarine drills for the first time.
- Australia Prime minister: Scott Morrison;
- Australia Capital: Canberra;
- Australia Currency: Australian dollar.

5. IAF chief attends Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 in Hawaii

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

Awards News

6. President Ram Nath Kovind presents National Award for Teachers 2021

- National Teachers' Award 2021 was awarded by President Ram Nath Kovind, September 5, 2021. President Kovind gave the awards to 44 finest teachers in the country for their dedicated contribution.

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

Science and Technology News

7. India's first bio-brick based building opened at IIT Hyderabad

- India's first building made of bio-bricks from agro-waste has been inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad. The sample building is made up of bio-bricks supported by a metal framework.

- The roof is also made of bio-bricks over PVC sheets to reduce heat. It is part of the Bold Unique Idea Lead Development (BUILD) project to demonstrate the strength and versatility of the material.
- A prototype of the guard cabin was designed and set up in the space allocated by IIT-H. It is part of the Bold Unique Idea Lead Development (BUILD) project to demonstrate the strength and versatility of the material.
- The sample building is made up of bio-bricks supported by a metal framework. The roof is also made of bio-bricks over PVC sheets to reduce heat. Both inside and outside walls are cement-plastered to protect the bio-bricks from rain.

Sports News

8. 130th edition of Durand Cup kicks off in Kolkata

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

9. Former Australian pacer Shaun Tait appointed bowling coach of Puducherry

- Former Australia pacer Shaun Tait has been roped in as the bowling coach of the Puducherry cricket team, sources in the Cricket Association of Pondicherry.
- Tait joins a coaching team that includes head coach Dishant Yagnik and manager and strength and conditioning coach Kalpendra Jha.

- The former Australia player had recently been appointed bowling coach of the Afghanistan team for a period of five months.
- Tait, who featured in three Tests, 35 ODIs and 21 T20 Internationals for Australia, had also turned out for Rajasthan Royals in the IPL during his playing career.
- The pacer had played a significant role in Australia's World Cup triumph in the West Indies in 2007, claiming 23 wickets.

Books and Authors News

10. Tamannaah Bhatia unveils her book titled 'Back to the Roots'

- Actress Tamannaah Bhatia launched her book 'Back to the Roots'. She has co-authored the book with celebrity lifestyle coach Luke Coutinho. The book is based on intensive research and mentions India's ancient secrets of health and wellness.

- All the chapters in 'Back To the Roots' are complete with tried-and-tested secrets that have served generations of this country."

Important Days

11. International Day of Clean Air for blue skies

- The International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is observed globally on September 07 to promote and facilitate actions to improve air quality.
- It is an UN-recognised day that aims to raise public awareness at all levels (individual, community, corporate and government) that clean Plutus Academy air is important for health, productivity, the economy and the environment.
- The 2021 theme for the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is "Healthy Air, Healthy Planet" which emphasizes the health aspects of air pollution, especially considering the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Resolution to hold an International Day of Clean Air for blue skies on December 19, 2019, during its 74th session and invited the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- The inaugural edition of the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies was held in 2020.

12. Food Processing Week: September 06 to 12, 2021

- To commemorate 75 years of India's independence, the Government of India is celebrating the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.'

- As a part of the celebration, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is observing 'Food Processing Week' from 6th to 12th September 2021, under which, the Ministry is organizing various programs.
- The Ministry launched the 'Food Processing Week', 6th September 2021, through an official video on social media platforms.
- The success story of the beneficiary of the PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme, Smt. Radhika Kamat was also published on the Ministry's website in the 'Atmanirbhar Enterprises' series.
- Union Minister of Food Processing Industries: Pashupati Kumar Paras;
- Minister of State for Food Processing Industries: Prahlad Singh Patel.

Obituaries News

13. Former France Footballer Jean-Pierre Adams Passes Away

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

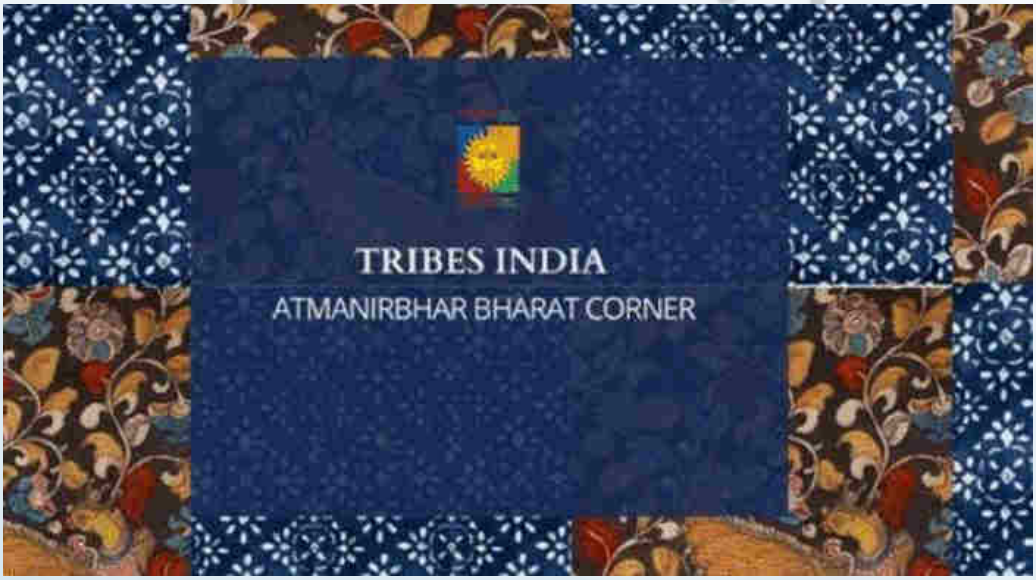
- He made a total of 22 appearances for the France National Football Team from 1972–1976. At club level, Adams played as a defender for Paris Saint-Germain, Nîmes and Nice.

BY SOHIL SINGH

National News

1. TRIFED and MEA to set up Atmanirbhar Bharat corners

- At the next three months, the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) will set up an Atmanirbhar Bharat nook in 75 Indian Missions/Embassies around the world, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs.
- On August 15, 2021, the first such Atma Nirbhar Bharat corner was successfully opened in the Indian Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Apart from that, TRIFED will set up Atmanirbhar nooks in 75 foreign embassies in India.
- Jamaica, Ireland, Turkey, Kenya, Mongolia, Israel, Finland, France, Canada, Singapore, Russia, the United States, Indonesia, Greece, and Cyprus are among the 75 countries.
- The corner will be an exclusive space to promote GI tagged tribal art and craft products besides natural and organic products.
- TRIFED will also be establishing Atmanirbhar corners in 75 embassies of foreign countries in India.
- Minister of Tribal Affairs: Arjun Munda;
- TRIFED was established on the 6th of August 1987.



2. PM Modi inaugurates Shikshak Parv-2021

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi used a video conference to address the opening meeting of the "Shikshak Parv-2021."
- "Quality and Sustainable Schools: Learnings from Indian Schools" is the theme of 'Shikshak Parv-2021.'
- The Ministry of Education organised the event, which will take place from September 7 to 17, 2021.
- The Shikshak Parv-2021 aims to promote new practises that will assure not just the continuation of education at all levels, but also the improvement of quality, inclusive practises, and long-term sustainability in schools across the country.

International News

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

- After a one-year tenure tarnished by an unpopular COVID-19 response and fast diminishing public support, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga will step down, paving the way for a new premier.
- As the country grapples with its biggest wave of COVID-19 infections ahead of a national election this year, Suga, who took office when Shinzo Abe quit last September citing ill health, has seen his popularity plummet to around 30%.
- Suga's decision not to run for prime minister in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) election in September means the party will nominate a new leader.
- Japan Capital: Tokyo;
- Japan Currency: Japanese yen;

Appointments News

4. Satish Parekh appointed as International Road Federation India president

- Ashoka Buildcon Managing Director and promoter Satish Parekh has taken over as the president of the India Chapter of the International Road Federation (IRF).
- The governing council of the International Road Federation unanimously endorsed Satish Parakh as President, IRF-IC. He takes over from Subhmay Gangopadhyay, former director of Central Road Research Institute.
- The Geneva-based global road safety body IRF is working for better and safer roads worldwide.
- International Road Federation Founded: 1948;
- International Road Federation Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.

5. Harsha Bhupendra Bangari becomes new MD of EXIM Bank

- The government has appointed Harsha Bhupendra Bangari as the new Managing Director (MD) of the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank). Before this Bangari was posted as deputy managing director at EXIM Bank.
- She has been appointed for a period of three years or until further orders of the government. He will replace the incumbent MD David Rasquinha, who was appointed for five years on July 20, 2014.
- Export-Import Bank of India Founded: 1 January 1982;
- Export-Import Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Defence News

6. Indian Navy's aviation wing honoured with prestigious President's Colour award

- At a ceremonial procession held at the INS Hansa base near Panjim in Goa, President Ram Nath Kovind presented the Indian Naval Aviation with the President's Colour. On this occasion, the Indian Navy presented the president with a guard of honour.
- The President's Color is the highest honour awarded on a military unit for outstanding service to the country.

- The Indian Navy was the first of the Indian Armed Forces to be given the President's Colour by Dr Rajendra Prasad, India's then-President, on May 27, 1951.

Awards News

7. Namita Gokhale honoured with 7th Yamin Hazarika Woman of Substance Award

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

8. Ramesh Narayan to be inducted into AFAA Hall of Fame

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

9. Indian biologist Shailendra Singh wins global award in turtle conservation

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

- The Behler Turtle Conservation Award was established in 2006 to recognise outstanding achievements, contributions and leadership excellence in international turtle conservation and biology.

Ranks and Reports News

10. Bank of Baroda tops the MeitY Digital Payment Scorecard for 2020-21

- Bank of Baroda, announced that the bank has Ranked #1 with a total of 86% marks on the scorecard issued by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for the month of February and March 2021.

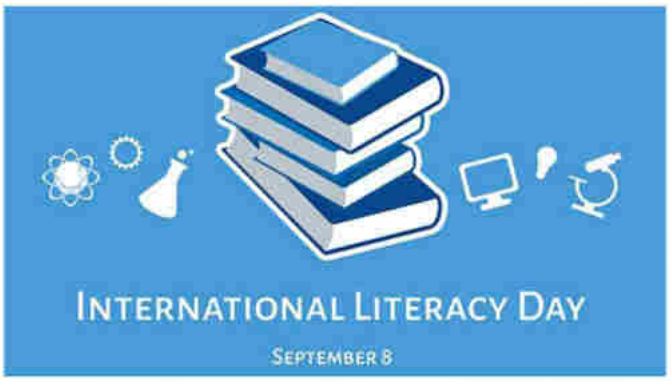
- The scorecard ranks 44 banks (Public Sector Banks, Private Banks, Foreign Banks, Payments Banks, Small Finance Banks) on various parameters on the digital business. In the same period last year, BOB was rated "Average" by Meity, which has now been upgraded as "Good".

Important Days

11. International Literacy Day: 08 September

- Every year on September 8th, the world celebrates International Literacy Day. The day raised awareness on the value of literacy for individuals, communities, and societies, as well as the necessity for further efforts to make society more literate.
- Literacy for a human-centered recovery: Narrowing the digital divide is the subject of the 55th International Literacy Day.

- In 1966, UNESCO declared September 8th as International Literacy Day to remind the international community of the value of literacy for people, communities, and societies, as well as the necessity for further efforts toward more literate society. In 1967, it was the first time it was commemorated.
- UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France.
- UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay.
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945.



Obituaries News

12. Rajni Kaul, the first News Broadcaster for BBC Hindi passes away

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

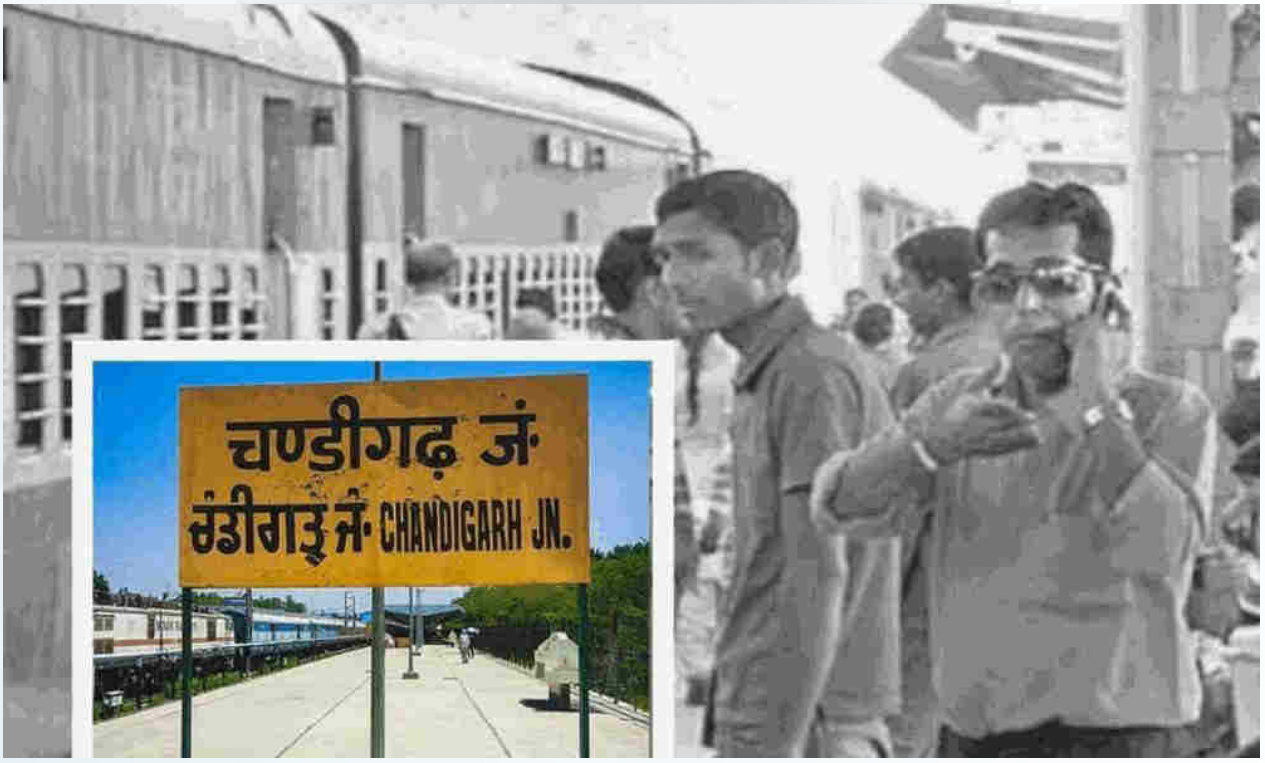
13. Former Union Health Secretary Keshav Desiraju Passes Away

- Former Union health secretary Keshav Desiraju has passed away, due to "acute coronary syndrome". Desiraju was the grandson of former president Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. He was the 1978 batch IAS officer from the Uttarakhand cadre.
- He was known for his contributions to mental health and community healthcare. He was the architect of India's mental healthcare act of 2017.

Miscellaneous News

14. Chandigarh Railway Station certified five-star 'Eat Right Station'

- The Chandigarh Railway Station (CRS) received a 5-star 'Eat Right Station' certification for offering passengers with high-quality, nutritional meals.
- The accreditation was given by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) after a third-party audit was completed by an FSSAI-approved agency. CRS was chosen to enhance the World Class Railway Station's design.



- The accreditation is part of the FSSAI's larger "Eat Right India" initiative, which aims to change the country's food system to guarantee that all Indians have access to safe, healthy, and sustainable food.
- Eat Right India, according to IRSDC, uses a well-balanced combination of regulatory, capacity-building, collaborative, and empower strategies.
- Lt. Governors & Administrators of Chandigarh: Banwarilal Purohit.

National News

1. Union Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurates PRANA portal

- Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav launched a portal named PRANA, for the regulation of air pollution in 132 cities across the country.
- PRANA stands for Portal for Regulation of Air pollution in Non-Attainment cities. The portal (prana.cpcb.gov.in) will support tracking of physical as well as the financial status of city air action plan implementation and disseminate information on air quality to the public.
- The cities which come under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) will be covered. Apart from this, the Union Minister also dedicated the first functional smog tower of India, installed in Anand Vihar in New Delhi to the country.

State News

2. Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya Resigns

- Uttarakhand's Governor Baby Rani Maurya resigned on September 8, 2021, more than two years before her term was set to finish, claiming personal reasons.

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

3. AP Govt. appoints former SBI Chairperson Rajnish Kumar as economic advisor

- Rajnish Kumar has been appointed as the government of Andhra Pradesh's economic advisor. Rajnish Kumar, a former chairman of the State Bank of India, will serve in the government for two years.
- Rajnish Kumar, who stepped down as chairman of SBI in October 2020, now serves on the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation as an independent non-executive director. In 1980, he joined the SBI as a probationary officer.
- The appointment comes amid mounting concerns about the state's financial predicament, which has been severely impacted by the Covid epidemic, as well as criticism from the opposition of the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy-led state government's sops and freebies.
- Andhra Pradesh Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan;
- Andhra Pradesh Chief minister: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy;
- Andhra Pradesh Capitals: Visakhapatnam (executive capital), Kurnool (judicial capital), Amaravati (legislative capital).

4. Gujarat govt launches Vatan Prem Yojana

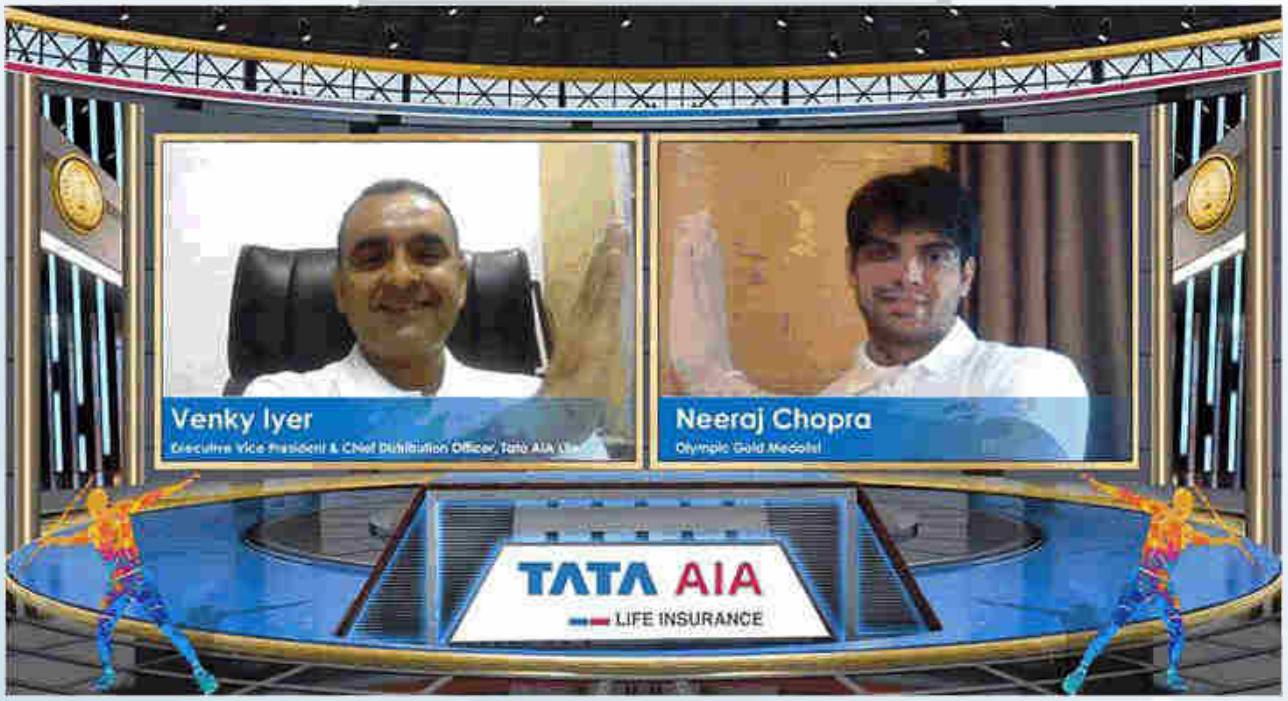
- The Government of Gujarat announced, that it plans on undertaking public welfare projects worth Rs. 1,000 crores jointly with non-resident Gujaratis by December 2022.
- The projects will be under the state government's 'Vatan Prem Yojana'. The Yojana was launched in Gujarat focusing on rural development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

- This scheme aims to provide them with an opportunity to change their love for the nation into service for the nation. This scheme aims at making the rural areas self-reliant. It is an important step in the holistic development of villages.
- Gujarat Chief Minister: Vijay Rupani;
- Gujarat Governor: Acharya Devvrat.

Appointments News

5. Tata AIA Life names Neeraj Chopra as brand ambassador

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



6. Centre appoints G.S Pannu as Officiating ITAT President

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

- Mr. Pannu was born on 01 Aug 1962 at Hoshiarpur (Punjab), he is a C.A and joined Government Service 14 September 2000. Presently posted as Vice-President at ITAT, New Delhi. Before joining ITAT, practised as a Chartered Accountant at New Delhi from 1986-2000.
- India's Income Tax Appellate Tribunal was set up on 25 January 1941.

आयकर अपीलीय अधिकरण
INCOME TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

Agreements News

7. HDFC Bank partners with NSIC to provide credit support to MSMEs

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

8. RBI removes lending curbs on UCO Bank

- Reserve Bank of India has taken public sector lender UCO Bank out of the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework on improvement in financial and credit profile.
- This decision gives the bank more freedom for lending, especially to corporations and grow the network, subject to prescribed norms.
- The Kolkata-based lender was placed under PCA in May 2017 on account of high Net Net-Performing Assets (NPAs) and negative Return on Assets (RoAs).
- Following UCO Bank's exit, two banks — Indian Overseas Bank and Central Bank of India — remain under PCA. The central bank uses the PCA framework to rein in banks that have breached certain regulatory thresholds in bad loans and capital adequacy.
- PCA entails curbs on high-risk lending, setting aside more money on provisions and restrictions on management salary.
- UCO Bank Headquarters: Kolkata;
- UCO Bank MD and CEO: Atul Kumar Goel;
- UCO Bank Founder: Ghanshyam Das Birla;
- UCO Bank Founded: 6 January 1943.

9. Karnataka Bank launches POS device 'WisePOSGo'

- The Karnataka Bank has launched an all-in-one Point-of-Sales (POS) swiping machine dubbed as 'WisePOSGo', for its merchant customers to process business payments.
- The private sector lender has rolled out this POS device in collaboration with Mswipe Technologies Pvt Ltd.

- The introduction of 'WisePOSGo' is yet another step in the direction of expanding the digital payment infrastructure in the country and promote a cashless economy.
- WisePOSGo is a compact, lightweight and user-friendly device, designed to keep in view the specific cost-centric requirements of the bank's MSME customers.
- Karnataka Bank Headquarters: Mangalore;
- Karnataka Bank CEO: Mahabaleshwara M. S;
- Karnataka Bank Founded: 18 February 1924.

Economy News

10. S&P Global Ratings Projects India's GDP for FY22 at 9.50%

- S&P Global Ratings has revised India's growth forecast and now expects the economy to grow 9.5 per cent in 2021-22 (FY22) and 7.0 per cent in 2022-23 (FY23).

- India's external position is very strong and this is quite supportive of India's sovereign rating despite the fact that we have had this deterioration in fiscal position concurrently.
- India is expected to post strong economic growth in the coming quarters, even as inflation, led by food prices, is likely to remain elevated.

Summits and Conferences News

11. India to host G-20 summit in 2023

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

Sports News

12. Guinness World Records recognise Ronaldo for most goals scored

- Portuguese captain Cristiano Ronaldo has broken the world record for most goals scored in men's international football. Ronaldo surpassed Iranian striker Ali Daei's long-held record of 109 international goals by scoring a brace against Ireland in a World Cup Qualifier.
- Ronaldo at 36 years of age is now a Guinness world record holder of most international goals of all time with 111 goals.

- The Guinness world book of records has recognised Cristiano Ronaldo as a world record breaker for the most goals scored in international football (soccer) matches scored by an individual (male).

Books and Authors News

13. A book titled "Gita Govinda: Jaydeva's Divine Odyssey" by Utpal K. Banerjee

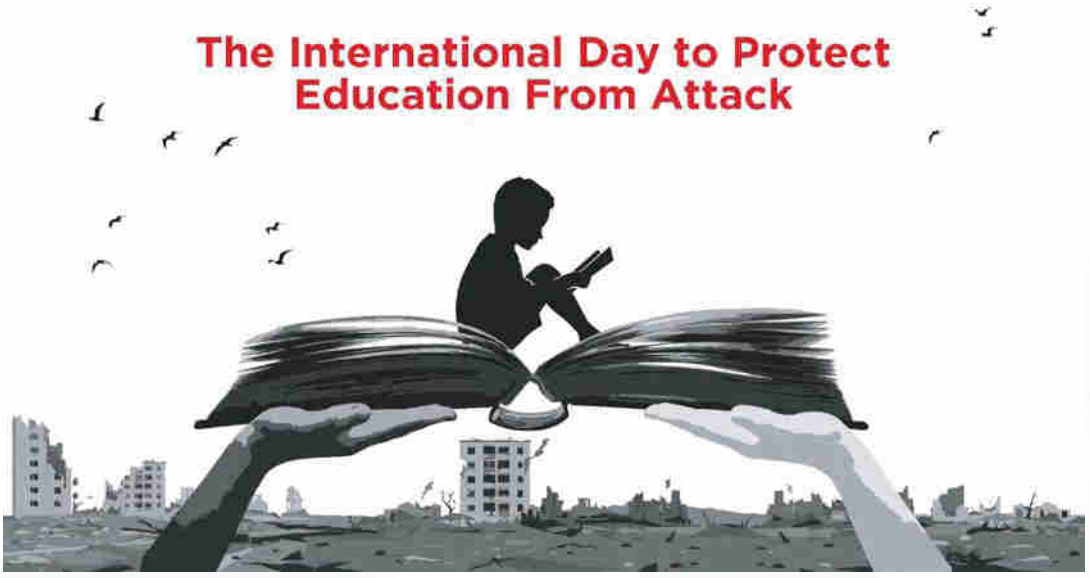
- Union Minister of Culture Shri Kishan Reddy Gangapuram has launched a book titled "Gita Govinda: Jaydeva's Divine Odyssey" authored by Dr Utpal K. Banerjee. The book is the first-ever fully-rhymed translation of the book GeetaGovindam by great 12th-century poet Jayadeva.

- Union Minister also launched a programme named 'BujurgonkiBaat–DeshKeSaath' that aims at enhancing the interaction between the youth and the elder persons who are 95 years and above and thus have spent around 18 years in India before independence.

Important Days

14. International Day to Protect Education from Attack: 09 September

- International Day to Protect Education from Attack is observed globally on 9th September. In proclaiming the International Day to Protect Education from Attack to be celebrated for the first time in 2020.
- The purpose of the day is to raise awareness regarding the importance of safeguarding schools as places of protection and safety for students and educators and the need to keep education at the top of the public agenda.



- The day was established by a unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly, calling on UNESCO and UNICEF to raise awareness of the plight of millions of children living in countries affected by conflict. The resolution proclaiming the Day was presented by the State of Qatar and co-sponsored by 62 countries.
- UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France.
- UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay.
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945.
- UNICEF Executive Director: Henrietta H. Fore.
- UNICEF Founded: 11 December 1946.
- UNICEF Headquarters: New York, United States.

Miscellaneous News

15. India's tallest air purifier tower installed in Chandigarh

- India's tallest air purification tower has been inaugurated in the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The tower has been installed at the initiative of the Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee (CPCC) at Transport Chowk, Sector 26, by Pious Air Pvt Limited.
- This is the highest air purifier tower of the country and covers an area of around a 500-metre radius and is 24-metre-high. The purification tower will clean 3.88 crore cubic ft of air from the surrounding environment.

–BY SOHIL SINGH

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National News

1. Uttarakhand, Punjab, Tamil Nadu get new Governors

- President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Lt Gen Gurmit Singh, who retired as the deputy chief of Army, governor of Uttarakhand, a post which fell vacant after Baby Rani Maurya tendered her resignation.
- According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique, President Ram Nath Kovind accepted the resignation of Maurya and appointed Singh as the governor of the state.
- The President also appointed Banwarilal Purohit, currently the Governor of Tamil Nadu, as the Governor of Punjab.
- R.N.Ravi, presently the Governor of Nagaland, has been made the Governor of Tamil Nadu.
- Professor Jagdish Mukhi, Governor of Assam is appointed to discharge the functions of the Governor of Nagaland in addition to his own duties until regular arrangements are made.

2. India's 1st Emergency Landing Facility on National Highway in Rajasthan

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

International News

3. Cuba becomes first country in world to begin vaccinating toddlers

- Cuba became the first country in the world to vaccinate children from the age of two against COVID-19, using home-grown jabs not recognised by the World Health Organisation.

- The communist island of 11.2 million people aims to inoculate all its children before reopening schools that have been closed for the most part since March 2020.
- Countries such as China, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela have announced they plan to vaccinate younger children, but Cuba is the first to do so. The Cuban vaccines, the first developed in Latin America, have not undergone international, scientific peer review.

Appointments News

4. RBI approves re-appointment of V. Vaidyanathan as MD & CEO of IDFC FIRST Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted its approval for the re-appointment of V. Vaidyanathan as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer ('MD & CEO') of the IDFC First Bank.
- Vaidyanathan has been appointed for a further period of three years, which will be effective from December 19, 2021. He first took charge as the MD & CEO of IDFC FIRST Bank in December 2018, after the merger of IDFC Bank and Capital First.
- IDFC First Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- IDFC First Bank Founded: October 2015.

5. Nirlep Singh Rai is new CMD of National Fertilizers Ltd

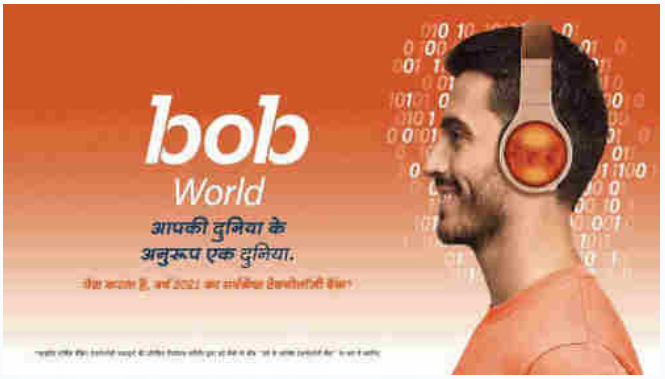
- State-owned fertiliser firm National Fertilizers Ltd (NFL) has Nirlep Singh Rai has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of the company.
- In a regulatory filing, NFL informed that Nirlep Singh Rai, Director (Technical), has been appointed as Chairman & Managing Director, on the Board of the company with effect from the date of his assumption of charge.
- National Fertilizers Ltd Headquarters: Noida;
- National Fertilizers Ltd Founded: 1 September 1979.

Banking News

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

- The government of India has appointed 10 merchant bankers for managing the Initial Public Offering of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- The IPO of LIC is likely to be launched in the January-March quarter of 2022. The role of merchant bankers in the case of IPO is of Issue management, Promotional activities, Credit syndication, Project counselling, and Portfolio management, etc.
- The name of these merchant bankers are- Goldman Sachs (India) Securities, Citigroup Global Markets India, Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities India, SBI Capital Market, JM Financial, Axis Capital, BofA Securities, JP Morgan India, ICICI Securities, and Kotak Mahindra Capital Co Ltd.

7. Bank of Baroda's launches digital platform 'bob World'



- Bank of Baroda has announced the launch of its digital banking platform named 'bob World'. The aim of the platform is to provide all banking services under one roof. The pilot test of the platform began on August 23, 2021.
- Over 220 services will be converged into one single app, covering nearly 95 per cent of all retail banking services, which can be accessed by customers domestically and globally.
- bob World' will offer a wide gamut of banking products and services, to be rolled out in phases, under four key pillars — Save, Invest, Borrow and Shop. It has also integrated e-commerce to provide a wholesome and rewarding experience of banking and beyond, under one roof to the customers.
- Bank Of Baroda Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat, India;
- Bank Of Baroda Chairman: Hasmukh Adhia;
- Bank Of Baroda MD & CEO: Sanjiv Chadha.

Ranks and Reports News

8. IIT Madras Retains Top Spot in Overall Category of NIRF India Ranking 2021

- The Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan released the NIRF India Rankings 2021, on September 09, 2021, through video conferencing.
- The NIRF India Rankings 2021 is the sixth edition of the annual list which ranks higher educational institutions in the country based on objective criteria to promote competitive excellence.
- In Overall Winner: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has retained the top spot in the overall category.

List of Winners:

- Overall: Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)
- University: Indian Institute of Science, (IISc) Bangaluru
- Management: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad
- College: Miranda House, Delhi
- Pharmacy: Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi
- Medical: All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi
- Engineering: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras
- Architecture: Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee
- Dental: Manipal College of Dental Sciences, Udupi
- Law: National Law School of India University (NLSUI), Bengaluru
- Research Institutions: Indian Institute of Science, (IISc) Bangalore

Business News

9. ADB approves $300 million loan to expand rural connectivity in Maharashtra

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

10. ADB approves $112 million loan to improve water supply in Jharkhand

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed a USD 112 million loan to develop water supply infrastructure and strengthen capacities of urban local bodies (ULBs) for improved service delivery in four towns in the state of Jharkhand. This is the first project of ADB in the state of Jharkhand.
- The project will be ADB's first urban project in the state and help establish a model for continuous water supply combined with policy reforms for the sustainable operation which can be replicated by other low-income states for providing safe drinking water to urban households as envisaged under national Jal Jeevan Mission.
- President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa; Headquarters: Manila, Philippines.

Awards News

11. Trichy Golden Rock Workshop bags best Energy Efficient Unit Award

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

Important Days

12. World Suicide Prevention Day: 10 September

- International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) observes World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) on 10 September every year. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness around the globe that suicide can be prevented.
- The theme for the 2021 World Suicide Prevention Day is "Creating hope through action".
- The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) collaborates with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) to host World Suicide Prevention Day with various activities around the world since 2003.
- IASP Founded by the late Professor Erwin Ringel and Dr Norman Farberow in 1960.

13. World EV Day: September 9

- World EV Day is observed on September 9 every year. The day marks the celebration of e-mobility. Special awareness campaigns are organised globally to educate people about the benefits of electric vehicles.

- World EV Day was an initiative created by the sustainability media company GreenTV.
- The first World EV day was observed in 2020. China is the largest EV market in the world. It was largely a social media campaign that encouraged drivers to recognise the benefits of electric vehicles and make a commitment that the next car they drive will be electric and not run on conventional fuels.

Miscellaneous News

14. India's first high ash coal gasification based methanol production plant inaugurated

- India's first indigenously Designed High Ash Coal Gasification Based Methanol Production Plant at Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) Research and Development Centre, Hyderabad was inaugurated.

- The project was funded by the Department of Science and Technology, which provided a Rs 10 crore grant, at the initiative of NITI Aayog, PMO-India and the Ministry of Coal.
- The facility can create 0.25 ton per day (TPD) Methanol from high ash Indian coal using a 1.2 TPD Fluidized bed gasifier.
- The purity of the crude methanol produced is between 98 and 99.5 per cent.

BY SOHIL SINGH