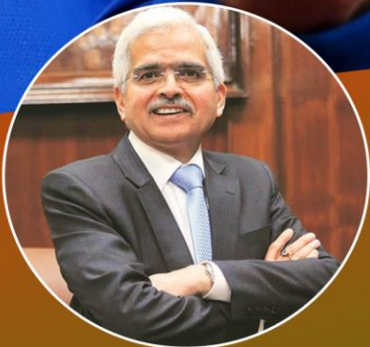




adda247

# THE HINDU REVIEW August 2021



- CURRENT AFFAIRS
- MONTHLY CAPSULE

## Contents

The Most Important Current Affairs August 2021.....	3
Banking and Financial Current Affairs.....	8
Economy Current Affairs.....	10
Business Current Affairs.....	11
International Current Affairs.....	12
National Current Affairs.....	14
States Current Affairs.....	16
Schemes/Committees.....	18
Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).....	19
Appointments/Resignations (National & International).....	20
Ranks and Reports.....	22
Sports Current Affairs.....	24
Summits And Conferences.....	26
Awards & Recognition.....	27
Important Days.....	29
Defence Current Affairs.....	31
Science and Technology.....	34
Books & Authors.....	35
Miscellaneous Current Affairs.....	36
Obituaries.....	38
Static Takeaways.....	39

## The Most Important Current Affairs August 2021

### 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.

#### Medal Tally:

- The **United States** has topped the overall medal table with 113 medals, which includes 39 Gold, 41 Silver and 33 Bronze Medal.
- **Indian Contingent** managed to win **7 medals** comprising 1 Gold, 2 Silver and 4 Bronze Medals. The country stood at the **48th position** in the medal table out of 86 countries.

#### Top Five Nations in the Medal Tally:

- United States: 113 (Gold: 39, Silver: 41, Bronze: 33)
- China: 88 (Gold: 38, Silver: 32, Bronze: 18)
- Japan: 58 (Gold: 27, Silver: 14, Bronze: 17)
- Great Britain: 65 (Gold: 22, Silver: 21, Bronze: 22)
- Team ROC (the Russian Olympic Committee): 71 (Gold: 20, Silver: 28, Bronze: 23)

#### India in the Tokyo Olympics 2020

- India finished the Games with its best-ever Olympic medal tally of 7 in Tokyo Games 2020, surpassing the previous best record of 6 medals at the **2012 London Olympics**.
- **MC Mary Kom**, and men's hockey team skipper, **Manpreet Singh**, were flag-bearers for the Indian contingent at the opening ceremony.
- Bronze-medalist **Bajrang Punia** was the flag-bearer at the closing ceremony of the event.

#### Indian Medal Winners List

##### **Gold**

- Men's Javelin Throw: **Neeraj Chopra**

##### **Silver**

- Women's 49kg Weightlifting: **Mirabai Chanu**
- Men's Freestyle 57kg Wrestling: **Ravi Dahiya**

##### **Bronze**

- Women's Welterweight boxing: **Lovlina Borgohain**
- Women's Singles Badminton: **PV Sindhu**
- Men's 65kg Freestyle Wrestling: **Bajrang Punia**
- Men's hockey: **India men's hockey team**

### Khel Ratna Award renamed as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award

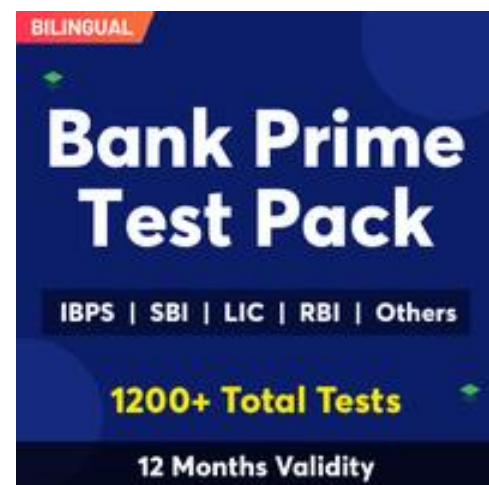
Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has announced that **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** will be renamed as **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**. The Prime Minister said the move was based on the numerous requests he received from across the nation. **Dhyan Chand**, whose birthday is celebrated as **National Sports Day**, won three Olympic golds for the country in Hockey.

#### **About the award:**

The award was inaugurated in **1991-92**, the award comprises a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of **₹ 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.

### 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)**.



**The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and bank rates remain unchanged:**

- Policy Repo Rate: 4.00%
- Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 4.25%
- Bank Rate: 4.25%
- CRR: 4%
- SLR: 18.00%

**RBI Monetary Policy Highlights & Key Decisions:**

- RBI keeps the **GDP growth forecast for FY22** unchanged at **9.5%**.
- RBI to conduct two more auctions of ₹25,000 crores each on August 12 and August 26 under the G-sec Acquisition Programme (GSAP).
- CPI inflation is projected at 5.7 % during 2021-22 – this consists of 5.9% in Q2, 5.3% in Q3 and 5.8% in Q4 of 2021-22 with risks broadly balanced. CPI inflation for the first quarter of 2022-23 is projected at 5.1%.

**The composition of the Monetary Policy Committee is as follows:**

- Governor of the Reserve Bank of India – Chairperson, ex officio: **Shri Shaktikanta Das**.
- Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, in charge of Monetary Policy– Member, ex officio: **Dr Michael Debabrata Patra**.
- One officer of the Reserve Bank of India to be nominated by the Central Board – Member, ex officio: **Dr Mridul K. Sagar**.
- A professor at the Mumbai-based Indira Gandhi Institute of Developmental Research: **Prof. Ashima Goyal**.
- A professor of finance at the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad: **Prof. Jayanth R Varma**.
- An agricultural economist and a senior adviser with the National Council of Applied Economic Research in New Delhi: **Dr Shashanka Bhide**.

**Some important instruments of Monetary Policy:**

The RBI’s Monetary Policy has several direct and indirect instruments which are used for implementing the monetary policy. Some important instruments of Monetary Policy are as follows:

**Repo Rate:** It is the (fixed) interest rate at which banks can borrow overnight liquidity from the Reserve Bank of India against the collateral of government and other approved securities under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF).

**Reverse Repo Rate:** It is the (fixed) interest rate at which the Reserve Bank of India can absorb liquidity from banks on an overnight basis, against the collateral of eligible government securities under the LAF.

**Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF):** The LAF has overnight as well as term repo auctions under it. The term repo helps in the development of the inter-bank term money market. This market sets the benchmarks for the pricing of loans and deposits. This helps in improving the transmission of monetary policy. As per the evolving market conditions, the Reserve Bank of India also conducts variable interest rate reverse repo auctions.

**Marginal Standing Facility (MSF):** MSF is a provision that enables the scheduled commercial banks to borrow an additional amount of overnight money from the Reserve Bank of India. Bank can do this by dipping into their Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) portfolio up to a limit at a penal rate of interest. This helps the banks to sustain the unanticipated liquidity shocks faced by them.

**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 year’s 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)

**The top 10 Global Companies in the list:**

- Walmart (US)
- State Grid (China)
- Amazon.com (US)
- China National Petroleum (China)
- Sinopec (China)
- Apple (US)
- CVS Health (US)
- UnitedHealth Group (US)
- Toyota Motor (Japan)
- Volkswagen (Germany)

**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.

**Shakib Al Hasan, Stafanie Taylor voted ICC players of the month for July**

Bangladesh all-rounder **Shakib Al Hasan** and West Indies skipper **Stafanie Taylor** were named the **ICC Player of the Month for July** in men's and women's categories respectively. Shakib, who was nominated alongside West Indies' Hayden Walsh Jr and Australia's Mitchell Marsh.

**Shakib Al Hasan:**

- Shakib's contributions in all three formats of the game helped Bangladesh win their series against Zimbabwe last month. He had scored an unbeaten 96 in Bangladesh's three-wicket win over Zimbabwe in the second ODI at the Harare Sports Club.
- In the T20Is, Hasan took three wickets at an economy rate of seven, leading his country to a series win against Zimbabwe. He is also the top all-rounder in the latest ICC men's T20 Rankings.

**Stafanie Taylor:**

- Taylor was the standout performer for West Indies in the limited-overs series against Pakistan.
- She was nominated for the award alongside teammate Hayley Matthews and Pakistan's Fatima Sana, but her all-around performance in the series helped her claim the most votes.

**4 more sites in India added to Ramsar list**

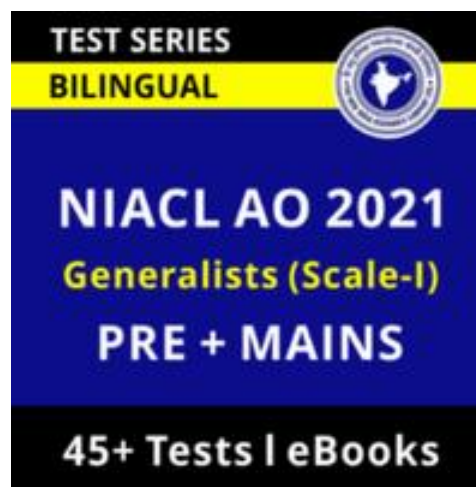
Four more wetlands from India have been added to the list of Ramsar sites, giving it the status of **'Wetland of International Importance'**. With this, the total number of Ramsar sites in India have reached 46, covering a surface area of **1,083,322 hectares**. The sites have been recognised as wetlands 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

**What is the Ramsar Convention?**

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty adopted on **February 2, 1971**, in the **Iranian city of Ramsar**, on the southern shore of the Caspian Sea. It came into force for India on **February 1, 1982**. Those wetlands which are of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites. Last year, Ramsar declared 10 more wetland sites from India as sites of international importance.



## 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

## 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.

### Shaurya Chakra

- Major Arun Kumar Pandey, The Rashtriya Rifles, Indian Army
- Major Ravi Kumar Chaudhary, The Rashtriya Rifles, Indian Army
- Captain Ashutosh Kumar, The Madras Regiment (Mysore)
- Captain Vikas Khatri, The Rashtriya Rifles
- Kumar, The Rashtriya Rifles
- Sepoy Neeraj Ahlawat, The Rashtriya Rifles
- Captain Sachin Reuben Sequeira, Indian Navy
- Group Captain Perminder Antil, Flying (Pilot), Air Force
- Wing Commander Varun Singh Flying (Pilot), Air Force
- Shri Chitesh Kumar, Deputy Commandant, CRPF
- Shri Manjinder Singh, Sub Inspector, CRPF
- Shri Sunil Choudhary, Constable, CRPF
- Shri Debasis Sethy, Commando, Odisha Police (Posthumous)
- Shri Sudhir Kumar Tudu, Commando, Odisha Police (Posthumous)
- Shri Shahbaz Ahmad, Special Police Officer, J&K Police (Posthumous)

### Bar To Sena Medal (Gallantry)

- Lieutenant Colonel Krishna Kant Bajpai, The Rajput Regiment
- Major Surendra Singh Lamba, The Grenadiers, 29th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles
- Major Rahul Balamohan, The Mahar Regiment, First Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles
- Major Ankit Dahiya, The Punjab Regiment, 22nd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles

### Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry)

- Wing Commander Uttar Kumar, Flying (Pilot)
- Squadron Leader Deepak Mohanan, Flying (Pilot)

### 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.

#### Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index):

- 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.

### 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

### 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)**.

#### What is the aim of EASE 4.0?

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

### Govt introduces "Bharat series (BH-series)" registration

**Ministry of Road Transport & Highways** has introduced a new registration mark for new vehicles i.e. **"Bharat series (BH-series)"**. The vehicles bearing the BH-series mark will not have to require the assignment of a new registration mark when the owner of the vehicle shifts from one State to another.

Earlier, under **section 47 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**, if a person moves from one state to another, a person is allowed to keep the vehicle for not more than 12 months in any state other than the state where the vehicle is registered, but a new registration with the new state- registering authority has to be made within the stipulated time of 12 months.

#### Who can apply for "BH-Series"?

This facility is available on a voluntary basis to **Defense personnel, employees of Central Government/ State Government/ Central/ State Public Sector Undertakings** and private sector companies/organizations, which have their offices in **four or more States/Union territories**.

**Format of Bharat series (BH-series) Registration Mark:**

- YY – Year of first registration
- BH- Code for Bharat Series
- ####- 0000 to 9999 (randomized)
- XX- Alphabets (AA to ZZ)
- The motor vehicle tax will be levied for two years or in multiple of two. This scheme will facilitate the free movement of personal vehicles across States/UTs of India upon relocation to a new State/UT. After completion of the fourteenth year, the motor vehicle tax shall be levied annually which shall be half of the amount which was charged earlier for that vehicle.

**9 new Supreme Court judges, including 3 women, takes oath**

Nine new judges, including three women, have been administered the oath of office as judges of the Supreme Court by Chief Justice of India (CJI) **NV Ramana**. The strength of the Supreme Court would go up to **33**, including the CJI, out of the sanctioned strength of **34**, after the swearing-in of the nine new judges. Three out of these nine new judges – **Justice Vikram Nath and Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice PS Narasimha** – are in line to become the chief justice of India.

This is the first time that nine judges were sworn in together in the history of the top court. Traditionally, new judges take the oath of office in the CJI’s courtroom, but due to that Covid pandemic, the swearing-in ceremony would be held in the auditorium of the Supreme Court’s additional building complex.

**Here are the names of nine new judges of the Supreme Court:**

1. **Justice Vikram Nath:** Justice Nath, who was the chief justice of the Gujarat High Court, is in line to become the CJI upon the retirement of sitting top court judge Justice Surya Kant in February 2027.
2. **Justice BV Nagarathna:** Justice Nagarathna was a judge of the Karnataka High Court. Justice Nagarathna is in line to become the first woman CJI in September 2027.
3. **Justice PS Narasimha:** Justice Narasimha was a senior advocate and former additional solicitor general. Justice Narasimha would succeed Justice Nagarathna as the CJI and would have a tenure of over six months.
4. **Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka:** Justice Oka was the chief justice of the Karnataka High Court).
5. **Justice Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari:** Justice Maheshwari was the chief justice of the Sikkim High Court.

6. **Justice Hima Kohli:** Justice Kohli was the chief justice of the Telangana High Court
7. **Justice CT Ravikumar:** Justice Ravikumar was a judge of the Kerala High Court
8. **Justice MM Sundresh:** Justice Sundresh was a judge of the Madras High Court
9. **Justice Bela M Trivedi:** Justice Trivedi was a judge of the Gujarat High Court

**Banking and Financial Current Affairs**

- 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.
- **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.
- **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)**’.
- **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.
- **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**. 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.



- **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.
- **Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB)** has launched a '**Suryoday Health and Wellness Savings Account**' to help customers grow their wealth and also take care of their family's health amid the **covid-19 pandemic**. The account offers an attractive interest rate and comes with three major benefits for a family of four -- top-up health insurance of **₹25 lakh**, annual healthcare package and on-call emergency ambulance medical care services.
- 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.
- 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 **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.
- **RBI** imposed a monetary penalty of **₹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'.
- **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.
- 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)**.
- 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.
- **RBI** appointed panel under the chairmanship of **N. S. Vishwanathan** suggests 4-tier structure for **Urban Co-operative Banks**; minimum **CRAR (Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio)** for them could vary from 9 per cent to 15 per cent. A Reserve Bank-appointed committee has suggested a four-tier structure for the urban cooperative banks (UCBs) depending upon the deposits and prescribed different capital adequacy and regulatory norms for them based on their sizes.
- 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.

- 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.
- AU Small Finance Bank, India's Largest SFB has unveiled a mega Brand Campaign, aptly titled 'BADLAAV Humse Hai'. This is the first integrated marketing communication campaign from AU Bank since its inception - a creative endeavor that will showcase the bank's passion for innovation. Aamir Khan and Kiara Advani roped in as Brand Ambassador.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has increased the limit of fund transfer under the **Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility Scheme** from **Rs 50,000 per transaction to Rs 2 lakh per transaction**. Earlier there was a ceiling limit of 12 transactions in a year. Now, this limit has also been removed.
- **State Bank of India** has opened a floating ATM on a Houseboat at Dal Lake in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar for the convenience of locals and tourists. The floating ATM was inaugurated by SBI Chairman **Dinesh Khare**. This is not the first time that SBI has launched a floating ATM as back in **2004**, the bank took this initiative in Kerala.



**Bilingual**

**Special Offer**

**IBPS RRB 2021  
PO MAINS**

**with Video Solutions**

**60 TOTAL TESTS**

## Economy Current Affairs

- **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**.
- 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.
- 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 the website of PMJDY, the total number of Jan Dhan accounts is **42.83 crore** with a balance of nearly **₹1.43 lakh crore**.
- In the pandemic-hit financial year of 2020-21, the number of billionaires in India dropped from **141 in FY20 to 136 in FY21**, as per a statement issued by Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** in the Rajya Sabha. The count is based on the gross total income declared in the income tax returns. In FY 2018-19, the number of individuals with a gross total annual income of more than **Rs 100 cr is 77**.
- **Retail inflation** eased to **5.59% in July** mainly due to softening of food prices. **The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation was 6.26% in June and 6.73% in July 2020**. Inflation in the food basket slowed down to **3.96% in July** from **5.15%** in the previous month.
- 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 **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** has increased the entry age for the **National Pension System (NPS)** from **65 years to 70 years**. Earlier the eligible age to invest in NPS was **18-65 years** which has now been revised to **18-70 years**. As per the revised norms, any Indian Citizen, resident or non-resident and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) between the age of **65-70 years** can join NPS and continue or defer their NPS Account up to the age of **75 years**.

- **Moody's** Investors Service has retained India's growth forecast for the calendar year (CY) 2021 at **9.6 per cent**, in its August update to '**Global Macro Outlook 2021-22**' report. The GDP growth forecast for calendar year **2022** is retained at **7 per cent**.

### Business Current Affairs

- **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.
- **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)**.
- **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.
- **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 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.
- **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)**.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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 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.

**International Current Affairs**

- **BharatPe** has launched a “12% Club” app that will allow consumers to invest and earn up to 12 per cent annual interest or borrow at a similar rate. BharatPe has partnered with **LenDenClub (RBI-approved NBFC)** for this app and lending arrangement. Consumers can invest their savings anytime by choosing to lend money on the “12% Club” app. Apart from this, consumers can avail of collateral-free loans of up to **Rs 10 lakh** on the 12 per cent Club app for a tenure of **3 months**.
- The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has launched the mobile application of its digital paperless solution, “ANANDA” for LIC agents. ANANDA stands for **Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital Application**. The ANANDA mobile app was launched by LIC Chairperson MR Kumar, through Video Conferencing.
- Flipkart-owned digital payments platform **PhonePe** has received an insurance broking licence from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**. This means that with the new ‘direct broking’ licence, PhonePe can now distribute insurance products from all insurance companies in India, on its platform.
- **RuPay** has launched a strategic campaign titled – **#FollowPaymentDistancing** to promote and encourage contactless payments among customers. Due to COVID-19, customers have been following several norms and measures to stay safe by following healthy habits, self-care routines, and social distancing.
- Netherlands-based **Prosus NV** has announced to acquire the Indian digital payments provider **BillDesk** and merge it with its own fintech service business **PayU**. The size of the deal is **\$4.7 billion**. This acquisition will make the combined entity of PayU and BillDesk as the leading online payment providers globally and in India by **total payment volume (TPV)**.
- **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.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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.

- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- In **Zambia**, opposition leader **Hakainde Hichilema**, of the **United Party for National Development**, has won the 2021 general Presidential election of the country.
- 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.
- Malaysia's king appointed **Ismail Sabri Yaakob** as the prime minister on 20th Aug, replacing Muhyiddin Yassin, who stepped down this week after losing his parliamentary majority.
- **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 **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.
- **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.
- The world's largest and tallest **observation wheel** is set to be unveiled in **Dubai, UAE** on **October 21, 2021**. The observation wheel called as '**Ain Dubai**', is **250 m (820 ft)** in height, located at Bluewaters Island. The record-breaking wheel is **42.5 m (139 ft)** taller than the current world's tallest observation wheel, **High Roller**, in Las Vegas, measuring **167.6 m (550 ft)**.
- **Dubai Courts** announced the establishment of a specialised court, focused on combating money laundering, within the **Court of First Instance and Court of Appeal**. This court ties into a string of initiatives aimed at reducing financial crimes and follows the recent establishment of the Executive Office of the **Anti-Money Laundering & Countering the Financing of Terrorism**.
- 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**.

## National Current Affairs

- 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”.
- 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.
- 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**.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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**.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 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**”.

- **India** has launched a tech platform named “**UNITE Aware**”, in collaboration with the UN, for improving the safety and security of the **UN peacekeepers**. 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.
- 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.
- 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**’. 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. 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%).
- **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.
- **NITI Aayog** and **World Resources Institute (WRI)**, India, jointly launched the ‘**Forum for Decarbonizing Transport**’ in India. NITI Aayog is the implementing partner for India. The aim of the project is to bring down the peak level of GHG emissions (transport sector) in Asia (in line with a well below 2-degree pathway), resulting in problems like congestion and air pollution.
- US-based **Ohmium International** has started India’s first **green hydrogen electrolyzer** manufacturing unit at **Bengaluru, Karnataka**. The factory will manufacture India-made **Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM)** hydrogen electrolyzers. Green hydrogen is made from non-fossil sources as against blue hydrogen that is made from fossil sources.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- Raksha Mantri, **Rajnath Singh** visited the **Army Sports Institute (ASI), Pune** and named the Army Sports Institute stadium as “**Neeraj Chopra Stadium**”. The focus of the Indian Army (in the field of sports) is to identify and train promising sportspersons in 11 disciplines. The Indian Army’s “**Mission Olympics**” programme was launched in **2001** with the intent to deliver medal-winning performances in the Olympics and other international events.

## States Current Affairs

- **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.
- **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 **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**.
- **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**.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- India's cleanest city, **Indore** in **Madhya Pradesh**, has achieved another feat of being declared as the country's first '**water plus**' certified city, under the **Swachh Survekshan 2021**. Swachh Survekshan is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India launched as part of the **Swachh Bharat Mission**.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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**.



**NRA-CET Ready**

**BANK MAHA PACK**

Live Class, Video Course,  
Test Series, eBooks

Bilingual (with eBooks)

**6+6 Months Validity**



- Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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**.
- 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.
- **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**.
- **Tiwa tribesmen perform** their traditional dances as they take part in **Wanchuwa Festival** in **Assam**. This festival is celebrated by Tiwa tribesmen to mark their good harvest. It comes with songs, dances, a bunch of rituals and people clad in their native attires.
- The Tamil Nadu government has constituted a seven-member committee to study the exploration of hydrocarbon projects which will be headed by Sultan Ahmed Ismail, part-time member, State Development Policy Council. The committee constituted will have freedom to conduct the study in areas other than the protected agricultural zone as the terms of reference have been revised.
- The permanent campus of Skill Development Institute (SDI) at Bhubaneswar was dedicated to the nation by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The permanent campus of SDI, located at Jatni Tahsil of Khurda district, has been built over an area of 16 acres allotted by the Government of Odisha. ICT-IOC was founded to enrich the nation's technical education.
- 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'.
- In Manipur, a consignment of one Metric Tonne of organic Chak-Hao was exported to Europe. Locally known as Chak-Hao, the Black Rice found in Manipur had got the GI tag and it had good demands from different parts of the country and abroad. For the first time, one Metric Ton of this highly nutritious rice variety was being exported officially to different European countries.
- **Maharashtra government** launched a special mission called "**Mission Vatsalya**" in order to help women who lost their husbands to **COVID-19**. Mission Vatsalya will provide several services and some 18 benefits under one roof to those women. It been designed for widows, with a special focus on widows coming from rural areas, poor backgrounds and deprived sections. Under this mission, schemes like **Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana and Gharkul Yojana will benefit those for women**.
- The **Punjab Cabinet** gave a nod to a new scheme that will help the unemployed youth in the state to hone their skills and increase their chances of getting a job. These youngsters will be given short-term skill training free of cost under the "**Mera Kaam Mera Maan**" scheme of the state government. A target of 30,000 beneficiaries has been proposed, at a cost of **₹ 90 crores**.

- In Tripura, Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has inaugurated a project called 'My Pad, My Right' initiated by **NABARD** and **NABFOUNDATION** at Killa village in Gomati district on the second and concluding day of her visit to the state. The project aims to bring livelihood and menstrual hygiene closer to rural women by way of grant, wage support and capital equipment.

### Schemes/Committees

- 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**.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- PM Narendra Modi will launch the second phase of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (Ujjwala 2.0) by handing over the LPG connections at Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh. Under Ujjwala 2.0, one crore LPG connections will be provided to those low-income families who could not be covered under the first phase of the scheme. Ujjwala 1.0 covered more than 1.47 cr connections.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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**.

## Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- **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.
- 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)**.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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 **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.
- 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**.
- 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).
- **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.
- **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.
- **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 Credits Solutions. The main objective of this DIY digital repayment platform is to make repayments for outstanding loans more convenient for customers.

## Appointments/Resignations (National & International)

- 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**.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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**.
- US Agency for **International Development & US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)** would jointly sponsor a **\$50 mn.** loan portfolio guarantee to **Kotak Mahindra Bank** to support increased financial access to women borrowers, and MSMEs in India. Under the program, Kotak Mahindra Bank will provide loans to NBFCs operating in the MSME and Microfinance (MFI) space.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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**.
- **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.
- **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, (ret'd) Justice **M L Tahaliyani** had completed his tenure in August 2020.

- 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.
- **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"**.
- 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.
- 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**.
- The **Government of India** has given a three-year extension to **Rekha Sharma** as Chairperson of the **National Commission for Women (NCW)**.
- 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.
- **Cashify**, a re-commerce marketplace announced that it has appointed **Rajkumar 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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**.
- 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.
- 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**.
- **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 **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** has announced the re-appointment of **T M Bhasin** as chairman of the **Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF)**.
- 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.
- 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.
- **Abhay Kumar Singh** has been appointed as **joint secretary** in the **Ministry of Cooperation**. This ministry was recently formed with an aim to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the re-appointment of **Sandeep Bakhshi** as the MD & CEO of **ICICI Bank**. This will be with effect from **October 15, 2021**, till October 3, 2023.
- **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**.
- 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.
- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, **Mansukh Mandaviya** has taken over charge as the Chairperson of **Stop TB Partnership Board**. He has replaced former 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**.
- Union Home Ministry appointed **Pankaj Kumar Singh** as the new **Director General of Border Security Force**. He is presently serving as the Special DG, BSF. The committee also appointed **Sanjay Arora** to the position of DG ITBP, Director General, Indo-Tibetan Border Police. IPS Balaji Srivastav had been appointed to hold the additional charge of the new Commissioner of Delhi.
- The former State Bank of India (SBI) chairman, **Rajnish Kumar** has been appointed as an **independent director** of the **Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC)** Asia entity on August 30, 2021. He has also been appointed as a member of the **Audit Committee and Risk Committee of the company**.
- **Dorje Angchuk**, an Engineer in charge at the **Indian Astronomical Observatory of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)** at Hanle in the Ladakh region, has been admitted as an Honorary Member of the **International Astronomical Union (IAU)**. Angchuk is the first and only Indian to bag the position in the prestigious body.
- Tamil Nadu Governor **Banwarilal Purohit** has been given the additional charge of **Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh**. Earlier, **V P Singh Badnore** was the Governor of Punjab and the Administrator of Chandigarh.
- **Adidas** has roped in Tokyo Olympic Silver-medalist **Mirabai Chanu** as the face of its "**Stay in Play**" campaign for its latest product innovation designed to keep more menstruating women in sports. The new TechFit Period Proof tights, featuring an absorbent layer to help protect against leaks when worn with a tampon or pad.

## Ranks and Reports

- **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**.
- **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.

- 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**. Preceding Ghaziabad, the Chinese city of **Hotan in Xinjiang province** has been named the most polluted city with a PM2.5 of 110.2µg/m<sup>3</sup>. 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 2.4µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- **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.
- **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**. **Reliance Industries (USD 188 billion)** ranked at **57** is the top Indian company in the list.
- **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**. **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.
- **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)**. **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. **Yangon** is at the bottom of the index, as least safe city, with a score of 39.5.
- **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.
- **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**.
- **Amul**, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) has dropped two places to rank **18th** in **Rabobank's 2021 Global Top 20 Dairy Companies list**. Amul was placed at **16th** spot in 2020. Amul has achieved an annual turnover of **\$5.3 billion**. French-based dairy company **Lactalis** has topped the list as the world's largest dairy company with a turnover of **US \$23.0 billion**. It has unseated Switzerland-based global behemoth **Nestle**, which dominated the list for decades.



## Sports Current Affairs

- 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.
- **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.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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**.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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**.
- 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) **Zavur 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.
- 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**.
- **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.



- **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**.
- The **International Cricket Council** has confirmed it will campaign for the inclusion of the sport at the **2028 Los Angeles Olympics**. 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**.
- **Durand Cup**, Asia's oldest and world's third oldest football tournament, is all set to make a comeback, after a year's gap. The **130th edition** of the **Durand Cup** is scheduled to be held in and around **Kolkata** between **September 05 to October 03, 2021**. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the competition was cancelled last season.
- The upcoming **Tokyo Paralympics** will witness the largest ever Indian contingent being send, with **54 para-sportspersons** participating across 9 sports disciplines. The **54-member Indian** contingents were given a formal and virtual send-off on August 12, 2021, by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag. The 2020 Summer Paralympics Games are scheduled to be held in Tokyo, Japan from **August 24 to September 05, 2021**.
- 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 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.
- A 15-year-old young Indian Grandmaster **Raunak Sadhwani** has won the **19th Spilimbergo Open chess tournament** in Italy.
- **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**.
- 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.
- 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**.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull - Netherlands) has been declared the winner of the **Belgian Grand Prix 2021**. The Belgian Grand Prix was stopped due to rain and only two laps were completed.

- In **table tennis**, Indian paddler **Bhavinaben Patel** has claimed the historic **silver medal** at the **2020 Paralympic Games** at Tokyo, in the women's singles summit clash. The 34-year-old Patel lost to Chinese paddler **Ying Zhou**, 0-3, in her maiden Paralympic Games.
- India's **Nishad Kumar** has clinched a **silver medal** in the men's **high jump T47 event** at the **Tokyo Paralympics 2020**. This is the second medal for India at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. The 23-year-old Nishad made a jump of 2.06m, and in doing so created an Asian record. He also equalled his jump with USA's Dallas Wise, who also took home silver.
- In Chess, Indian Grandmaster **S P Sethuraman** has won the **2021 Barcelona Open chess tournament title**, remaining unbeaten through the nine rounds, winning six matches and drawing three.
- India's **Sumit Antil** has won the gold medal in the **men's javelin throw F64 final** event at the Tokyo Paralympics, and in the process set a new world record throw of **68.55m**. The 23-year-old Sumit hails from Sonapat in Haryana. **Michal Burian** of Australia won the silver medal (66.29m), while Sri Lanka's **Dulan Kodithuwakku** won the bronze medal.
- Indian all-rounder cricketer, **Stuart Binny** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket on August 30, 2021. He had represented Team India in six Tests, 14 ODIs and three T20Is, scoring a total of **459 runs and 24 wickets**.
- At the ongoing **Tokyo Paralympics 2020**, India's greatest paralympian, **Devendra Jhajharia** won the silver medal in the **men's javelin throw - F46** final event on August 30, 2021. The 40-year-old Devendra performed his best throw of **64.35**, for the silver. In the same event, **Sundar Singh Gurjar** won the **bronze medal**, with his best throw of **64.01**. With this, the total medal tally of India at the Paralympics 2020 Games reaches to seven.
- India's discus thrower **Yogesh Kathuniya** has clinched the **silver medal** at the ongoing Tokyo Paralympics in the **men's Discus Throw F56** final event. Yogesh claimed the second spot with a throw of 44.38m. **Batista dos Santos** from Brazil won gold, setting a Paralympic record with a throw of 45.59m. **L. Diaz Aldana** from Cuba bagged bronze.
- Shooter **Avani Lekhara** has scripted history as she became the **first Indian woman** to win a **gold medal** at the Paralympics, firing her way to the top of the podium in the R-2 women's **10m Air Rifle Standing SH1** event.
- In **table tennis**, Indian paddler **Bhavinaben Patel** has claimed the historic **silver medal** at the **2020 Paralympic Games** at Tokyo, in the women's singles summit clash.
- **South African** cricketer **Dale Steyn** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket with immediate effect on August 31, 2021, ending his 20 years long cricket journey.
- India's **Mariyappan Thangavelu** has won the silver medal in the **men's high jump (T63)** at the **Tokyo Paralympics**. He cleared the **1.86m mark** to take home silver. In the same event, Sharad Kumar won the bronze medal, clearing **1.83m mark**.
- **Tokyo Paralympics 2020**, Indian shooter **Singhraj Adana** has won the **bronze medal** in the P1 Men's **10m Air Pistol SH1** final. China dominated the finals with defending champion **Chao Yang** (237.9 – Paralympic record) and **Huang Xing** (237.5) winning the gold and silver medals respectively.

### Summits And Conferences

- **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.
- **Meenakshi 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 **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 Union Law Minister **Kiren Rijju** has virtually attended the eighth meeting of Ministers of Justice of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**. The three days' meeting was hosted by **Tajikistan**, and chaired by Tajikistan's Justice Minister, **MK Ashuriyon**. During the virtual event, Rijju highlighted the initiatives taken by the Government of India for providing affordable and easy access to justice for all.
- 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**'.
- 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**.
- **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 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 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**.
- 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 **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**".
- 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 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.

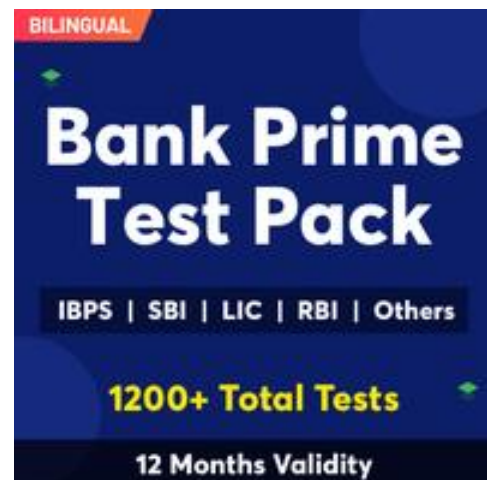
### Awards & Recognition

- **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**.
- **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 **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).

- 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.
- Bhutan's India-assisted **Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project** was conferred with the **Brunei 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**.
- 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)**.
- **SoftWorthy** has been conferred the prestigious **National Science Foundation Innovation-Corps (NSF I-Corps) Teams Award** in the **United States**.
- The **Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport** in **New Delhi** has found place among world's top 50 best airports in the **2021 Skytrax World Airport Awards**. Delhi airport has improved its overall ranking by five places. In 2020, it was placed at **50th spot**. With this, it has also become the first Indian airport to be placed among top 50 list. The **Hamad International Airport in Doha, Qatar**, has been named the **"Best Airport in the World"**.
- 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.**

- **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.
- **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.
- **Dr Basant Kumar Misra** has been conferred the prestigious American Association of Neurological Surgeons' **'International Lifetime Achievement Award in Neurosurgery'**. Misra is the first Indian physician to receive the AANS honor which was conferred on him at a virtual ceremony during the **AANS Annual Scientific Meeting 2021** held in Orlando, Florida. He was the world's first surgeon to perform Computer-Guided Aneurysm surgery.



## Important Days

- 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.
- 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**.
- 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. 2021 marks the **76th anniversary** of the world’s first atomic bombing.
- **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)**.
- 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.
- 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.”**
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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 **International Youth Day** is observed on **August 12** annually to draw the attention of governments and others towards youth issues worldwide. The theme of International Youth Day 2021, **“Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health”**.
- The **International Left-Handers Day** is observed on **August 13** every year to celebrate the uniqueness and differences of the left-handers and raise awareness of the advantages and disadvantages of being left-handed in a predominantly right-handed world.
- **World Organ Donation Day** is celebrated every year on **August 13**. The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and motivate people to donate organs after death.

- 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.
- **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**.
- **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**.
- **World Mosquito Day** is observed on **20 August** annually to raise awareness about the causes of malaria and how it can be prevented. This year amid the coronavirus pandemic, the theme of World Mosquito Day 2021 is "**Reaching the zero-malaria target**".
- 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.
- **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**.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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 Shraavan, which also marks the occasion of Raksha Bandhan each year.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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 **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**'.
- 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**. Thakur kicks off the '**Iconic Week**' which attract participation from across the country under the overall spirit of '**Jan Bhagidari and Jan Andolan**'.

- **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**.
- **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**.
- **Women Equality Day** is celebrated annually on **August 26**. It is celebrated to make the anniversary of the **19th Amendment to the United States Constitution giving women the right to vote**.
- The **International Day against Nuclear Tests** is observed globally on **29th August**. The day aims to increase awareness about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.
- Every year, **29th August** has been observed as **National Sports Day in India**. The first National Sports Day was celebrated on 29th August 2012, on the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand who was the star of hockey team of India.
- In India, the **National Small Industry Day** is celebrated on **30 August** every year, to support and promote small Industries for their overall growth potential and opportunities received for their development in the year.
- United Nations observes **International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances** globally on the **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.
- The **International Day for People of African Descent** is celebrated for the first time on **31 August 2021**. The United Nations aims to promote the extraordinary contributions of the African diaspora around the world and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against people of African descent.

## Defence Current Affairs

- 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.
- 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 **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.
- **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**.
- 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**.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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)**.
- 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.
- **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 **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has built one of the world's highest **mobile air traffic control (ATC)** towers at the **Advanced Landing Ground in Ladakh**. The ATC controls operations of the fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters operating in the eastern Ladakh region. Meanwhile, India has been considering multiple options of developing airfields in eastern Ladakh including **Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO), Fukche and Nyoma** which are at a distance of few minutes from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.
- The **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.
- 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.
- In **Jammu and Kashmir**, the Army organised a 400 Km "**JAZBAA-E- TIRANGA**" 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.
- 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.



- 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.
- 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.
- 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 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 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 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 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.

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited(HAL) signed a \$716 mn deal with GE Aviation of the U.S. for 99 F404 aircraft engines and support services that will power the indigenous Tejas Light Combat Aircraft(LCA) Mk-1A.
- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh has dedicated to the nation, the indigenously built Coast Guard Ship 'Vigraha' in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. According to the defence ministry, the 98-meter vessel will be based in Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam (Vizag) and will be operated by a company of 11 officers and 110 sailors.
- The Indian Navy and the German Navy carried out a joint exercise in the Gulf of Aden near Yemen, in the Indian Ocean leg of Indo-Pacific Deployment 2021. The Indian Navy was represented by frigate "Trikanth" while the German Navy was represented by frigate "Bayern".
- The Indian Naval Ship, INS Tabar, is on her goodwill visit to the number of ports in Africa and Europe since June 2021 till September 2021. As a part of this visit, INS Tabar took part in the Maiden Maritime Partnership Exercise with Algerian Navy, off the Algerian coast, in the Mediterranean Sea. The Algerian Naval Ship ANS Ezzadjer participated in the exercise.



## Science and Technology

- The ISRO-NASA joint mission NISER (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**.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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 sentience") 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.
- **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 Health Care Providers India (AHPI)** and the **Society for Emergency Medicine in India (SEMI)**.
- 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 (H<sub>2</sub>O) and hydroxyl (OH)** on the surface of the moon. The findings were published in the journal Current Science.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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.

- 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 Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras is working on developing an innovative digital model to address the problem of e-waste (electronic wastes). The digital platform, named as 'e-Source,' will act as an exchange platform, to serve as an online marketplace for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE).

### Books & Authors

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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".
- 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.
- 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".
- 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.
- 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.

- 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**.
- 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**.
- 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.
- The **Central Board for Indirect Taxes & Customs** launched the **Indian Customs Compliance Information Portal** at [www.cip.icegate.gov.in/CIP](http://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.
- '**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**'.
- **Jammu and Kashmir** Lieutenant Governor, **Manoj Sinha** has inaugurated the **Bungus Awaam Mela** with grand arrangements for village games, exhilarating local performances, and other activities to celebrate the **75th year of Independence at Bungus valley in Kupwara district**.
- The innovative plastic-mixed handmade paper developed by the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** to curb plastic pollution is now a patented invention. The handmade paper was developed under Project. **REPLAN(Reducing Plastic from Nature)**, launched in 2018 as KVIC's commitment towards **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**. The patent is issued for 20 years under the **Patents Act,1970**.
- **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**.
- 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**.

### Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- **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.
- **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.
- **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 **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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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**.
- 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**.
- **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.
- 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's first sectoral index in the Agri commodities basket i.e. **GUAREX** was launched by the **National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX)**. 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.
- 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.
- The **world's highest movie theatre** has recently been inaugurated in **Ladakh**, which got its first-ever mobile digital movie theatre in the **Paldan area of Leh**, at an altitude of **11,562 feet**. The inflatable theatre can operate in **-28 degrees** Celcius. The initiative aims to bring cinema watching experience to most remotest areas of India. It must be noted that four such theatres will be established in Leh in the coming period.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has dedicated to the nation the renovated complex of **Jallianwala Bagh Smarak** in Punjab's Amritsar, to mark 102 years of the **Jallianwala Bagh massacre**. The historic garden is a memorial of national importance, preserved in the memory of countless revolutionaries, sacrificers, fighters, who were killed in the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, which occurred on the festival of Baisakhi on **13 April 1919**.

## Obituaries

- 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**.
- 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**.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 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**.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.



**Bilingual**

**Special Offer**

**IBPS RRB 2021**

**PO MAINS**

**with Video Solutions**

**60 TOTAL TESTS**

- 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)**.
- 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**.
- **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**.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Former India cricketer and coach, **Vasoo Paranjape** has passed away. He was considered a mentor of stalwarts like **Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar and Rohit Sharma** to name a few. He also gave Gavaskar the nickname '**Sunny**'.
- Eminent Bengali writer **Buddhadeb Guha**, has passed away. He was the author of many notable works such as "Madhukari" (Honey Gatherer), "Koeler Kachhe" (Near the Koel bird) and "Sobinoy Nibedon" (Humble Offering). He also won several awards including **Ananda Purashkar in 1976, Shiroman Purashkar and Sharat Puraskar**.

### Static Takeaways

- Armenia Capital: Yerevan; Currency: Armenian dram.
- Myanmar Capital: Naypyitaw;
- Myanmar Currency: Kyat.
- IMF Headquarters: Washington, D.C. U.S;
- Pakistan Capital: Islamabad;
- Pakistan President: Arif Alvi;
- Pakistan Prime minister: Imran Khan;
- Pakistan Currency: Pakistani rupee.
- Iran Capital: Tehran;
- Iran Currency: Iranian toman.
- Germany Capital: Berlin;
- Germany Currency: Euro;
- Germany President: Frank-Walter Steinmeier.
- Indian Bank Headquarters: Chennai;
- Indian Bank: 1907.
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Founded: 2000.
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai.
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.
- Headquarters of HDFC Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- The tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world.
- The IndusInd Bank Headquarters: Pune;
- The IndusInd Bank Owner: Hinduja Group;
- The IndusInd Bank Founded: April 1994, Mumbai.
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Axis Bank Founded: 3 December 1993, Ahmedabad.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India Founded: 12 April 1992;

- Securities and Exchange Board of India Headquarters: Mumbai;
- RBI Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- LIC Headquarters: Mumbai;
- LIC Founded: 1 September 1956;
- Aditya Birla Group Founded: 1857;
- Aditya Birla Group Headquarters: Mumbai.
- DBS Bank Headquarters: Singapore;
- United Nations Security Council Headquarters: New York, United States;
- United Nations Security Council Founded: 24 October 1945.
- World Alliance for Breastfeeding Headquarters: Penang, Malaysia;
- World Alliance for Breastfeeding Founded: 14 February 1991.
- Sri Lanka Capitals: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte; Currency: Sri Lankan rupee.
- Sri Lanka Prime Minister: Mahinda Rajapaksa; Sri Lanka President: Gotabaya Rajapaksa.
- Supreme Court of India Established: 26 January 1950;
- BRO Headquarters: New Delhi;
- BRO Founded: 7 May 1960.
- Central Board for Indirect Taxes & Customs Founded: 1 January 1964.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.
- Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States.
- NASA Founded: 1 October 1958.
- European Space Agency is an intergovernmental organization of 22 member states;
- European Space Agency was established in 1975 and headquartered in Paris.
- Iran Capital: Tehran;
- Iran Currency: Iranian toman.
- UNICEF Headquarters: New York, United States of America;
- UNICEF Founded: 11 December 1946.
- Facebook Founded: February 2004;
- Facebook Headquarters: California, United States.
- RBL Bank Founded: August 1943;
- RBL Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- SIDBI founded: 2nd April 1990;
- SIDBI Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- National Commission for Women Formed: 1992;
- National Commission for Women Headquarters: New Delhi.
- National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority Founded: 29 August 1997;
- National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority Headquarters: New Delhi.
- ITBP Founded: 24 October 1962.
- ITBP Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- DRDO Established: 1958.
- Indian Airforce founded: 8 October 1932;
- Indian Airforce Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Athletics Federation of India Founded: 1946;
- Athletics Federation of India Headquarters location: New Delhi.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland;
- International Union for Conservation of Nature Founded: 5 October 1948.
- South Africa Capitals: Cape Town, Pretoria, Bloemfontein;
- South Africa Currency: South African rand;
- South Africa President: Cyril Ramaphosa.
- IDFC First Bank Establishment: 2018;
- IDFC First Bank Headquarters; Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- HCL Technologies Founded: 11 August 1976.
- HCL Technologies Headquarters: Noida.
- Indian Bank Headquarters: Chennai;
- Department of Peacekeeping Operations Founded: March 1992;
- Department of Peacekeeping Operations Headquarters: New York, United States.
- Afghanistan Capital: Kabul.
- Afghanistan Currency: Afghan afghani.
- Afghanistan Official languages: Pashto, Dari.
- Headquarters of WHO: Geneva, Switzerland.
- WHO founded: 7 April 1948.
- Zambia Capital: Lusaka;
- Zambia Currency: Zambian kwacha.
- Malaysia Capital: Kuala Lumpur;
- Malaysia Currency: Malaysian Ringgit.



- Headquarters of HDFC Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- The tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world.
- SBI Life Insurance Headquarters: Mumbai;
- SBI Life Insurance Founded: March 2001.
- Godrej Industries Founded: 1963;
- Godrej Industries Headquarters: Maharashtra.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Establishment: 2003;
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- National Payments Corporation of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- National Payments Corporation of India Founded: 2008.
- World Resources Institute Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States;
- World Resources Institute Founded: 1982.
- Malaysia Capital: Kuala Lumpur.
- Malaysia Currency: Malaysian Ringgit.
- World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.
- World Bank Formation: July 1944.
- Stockholm is the capital of Sweden;
- The krona is the official currency of Sweden;
- The current PM of Sweden is Stefan Lofven.
- UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi;
- UAE Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham;
- UAE President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- Headquarters of HDFC Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- Paytm HQ: Noida, Uttar Pradesh;
- Paytm Founded: 2009.
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd Founded: 1952.
- ADB Headquarters: Manila, Philippines.
- Infosys Founded: 7 July 1981.
- Infosys Headquarters: Bengaluru.
- Headoffice of BharatPe: New Delhi;
- BharatPe Founded: 2018.
- Central Vigilance Commission formed: February 1964.
- Central Vigilance Commission Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Broadcast Audience Research Council Founded: 2010;
- Broadcast Audience Research Council Headquarters: Mumbai;
- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.
- Qatar Capital: Doha; Currency: Qatari riyal.
- Prime Minister of Qatar: Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdelaziz Al Thani.
- Kazakhstan PM: Askar Mamin, Capital: Nur-Sultan, Currency: Kazakhstani Tenge.
- UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France.
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945.
- Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) Headquarters: Stockholm, Sweden.
- NTPC Founded: 1975.
- NTPC Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- NCDEX Founded: 15 December 2003;
- NCDEX Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Indian Banks' Association Headquarters location: Mumbai;
- Indian Banks' Association Founded: 26 September 1946.
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Founded: 28 December 2004.
- HSBC Bank India Headquarters: Mumbai;
- HSBC Bank India Founded: 1853.
- President of the Maldives: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih;
- Capital of Maldives: Male; Currency of the Maldives: Maldivian Rufiyaa.
- Election Commission Formed: 25 January 1950;
- Election Commission Headquarters: New Delhi;
- First executive of Election Commission: Sukumar Sen.
- National Security Guard Headquarters: New Delhi.
- The motto of the National Security Guard: Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha.
- Headquarters location of Phonepe: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Supreme Court of India Established: 26 January 1950.
- HSBC Founder: Thomas Sutherland;
- HSBC Founded: March 1865.
- Algeria Capital: Algiers;
- Algeria Currency: Algerian dinar;
- Algeria President: Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

- PayU Founded: 2006; BillDesk Headquarters: Mumbai;
- BillDesk Founded: 29 March 2000.
- The Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) is an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India, headquartered in Bengaluru;
- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) headquarters: Paris, France.
- Adidas Founded: 18 August 1949;
- Adidas Headquarters: Herzogenaurach, Germany



**States and their Chief Ministers & Governors:**

Sr. No.	State	Chief Minister	Governor
1	Andhra Pradesh	YS Jagan Mohan Reddy	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Pema Khandu	Brig. (Dr.) B. D. Mishra
3	Assam	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Prof. Jagdish Mukhi
4	Bihar	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
5	Chhattisgarh	Bhupesh Baghel	Sushri Anusuiya Uikey
6	Goa	Pramod Sawant	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
7	Gujarat	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Dev Vrat
8	Haryana	Manohar Lal Khattar	Bandaru Dattatraya
9	Himachal Pradesh	Jairam Thakur	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
10	Jharkhand	Hemant Soren	Ramesh Bais
11	Karnataka	Basavaraj S Bommai	Thaawarchand Gehlot
12	Kerala	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
13	Madhya Pradesh	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
14	Maharashtra	Uddhav Thackeray	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
15	Manipur	N. Biren Singh	La. Ganesan
16	Meghalaya	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Satya Pal Malik
17	Mizoram	Pu Zoramthanga	Dr. Kambhampati Haribabu
18	Nagaland	Neiphiu Rio	R. N. Ravi
19	Odisha	Naveen Patnaik	Prof. Ganeshi Lal
20	Punjab	Capt. Amarinder Singh	Banwarilal Purohit
21	Rajasthan	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
22	Sikkim	PS Golay	Ganga Prasad
23	Tamil Nadu	MK Stalin	Banwarilal Purohit
24	Telangana	K Chandrasekhar Rao	Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan
25	Tripura	Biplab Kumar Deb	Satyadeo Narain Arya
26	Uttar Pradesh	Yogi Aditya Nath	Smt. Anandiben Patel
27	Uttarakhand	Pushkar Singh Dhami	Baby Rani Maurya
28	West Bengal	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar

**Union Territories and their Chief Ministers & Lt. Governors:**

Sr. No.	Union Territory	Chief Minister	Lt. Governors & Administrators
1	Andaman and Nicobar Island		Admiral D K Joshi (Lieutenant Governor)
2	Chandigarh		Banwarilal Purohit (Administrator)
3	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu		Shri Praful Patel (Administrator)
4	Delhi	Arvind Kejriwal	Shri Anil Bajjal (Lieutenant Governor)
5	Jammu and Kashmir		Shri Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor)
6	Lakshadweep		Shri Praful Patel (Administrator)
7	Puducherry	N. Rangaswamy	Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge) (Lieutenant Governor)
8	Ladakh		Shri Radha Krishna Mathur (Lieutenant Governor)

**Union Ministers in News in month of August 2021:**

Sr No	Ministry	Union Minister
1	Union Minister for Science & Technology	Jitendra Singh.
2	Finance Minister of India	Nirmala Sitharaman
3	Union Minister of Cooperation	Amit Shah
4	Union Minister of Civil Aviation	Jyotiraditya M. Scindia
5	Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports,	<b>Anurag Singh Thakur</b>
6	Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy	R K Singh
7	Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment	<b>Dr Virendra Kumar</b>
8	Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare,	<b>Narendra Singh Tomar</b>
9	Union Minister of State (MoS) for Tourism	<b>Shripad Naik</b>
10	Minister for Labour and Employment,	<b>Bhupender Yadav</b>
11	Union Minister of State (IC) for the Ministry of Science and Technology,	<b>Jitendra Singh</b>
12	Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare,	<b>Mansukh Mandaviya</b>
13	Union Law Minister	<b>Kiren Rijju</b>
14	Union Minister of Tourism of India	<b>G. Kishan Reddy</b>
15	Union Minister of Women & Child Development,	<b>Smt. Smriti Irani</b>
16	Union minister for information and broadcasting	<b>Anurag Thakur</b>
17	Union Education Minister	<b>Dharmendra Pradhan</b>
18	Union External Affairs Minister	<b>S. Jaishankar</b>

**Heads of various organizations in News in month of August 2021 :**

Sr No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
1	IMF Managing Director and Chairman	Kristalina Georgieva
2	IMF Chief Economist	Gita Gopinath
3	Indian Bank CEO	Padmaja Chundururu
4	ICICI Prudential Life Insurance CEO	N. S. Kannan
5	SBI Chairperson	Dinesh Kumar Khara
6	MD and CEO of HDFC Bank	Sashidhar Jagdishan
7	The IndusInd Bank CEO	Sumant Kathpalia
8	Axis Bank CEO	Amitabh Chaudhry
9	Securities and Exchange Board of India Agency executive	Ajay Tyagi
10	DBS Bank CEO	Piyush Gupta
11	Director-General of BRO	Lt. Gen. Rajeew Chaudhary
12	ISRO Chairman	K.Sivan
13	NASA administrator	Bill Nelson
14	UNICEF Executive Director	Henrietta H. Fore
15	Facebook CEO	Mark Zuckerberg
16	RBL Bank MD & CEO	Vishwavir Ahuja
17	CMD of SIDBI	S Ramann
18	ITBP DG	S S Deswal
19	Chairman DRDO	Dr G Satheesh Reddy
20	Athletics Federation of India President	Adille J Sumariwalla
21	International Union for Conservation of Nature CEO	Bruno Oberle
22	IDFC First Bank MD & CEO	V. Vaidyanathan
23	HCL Technologies CEO	C Vijayakumar
25	Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations	Jean-Pierre Lacroix
26	President of the World Health Organisation	Tedros Adhanom
27	MD and CEO of HDFC Bank	Sashidhar Jagdishan
28	SBI Life Insurance CEO	Mahesh Kumar Sharma
29	Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO	Uday Kotak
30	National Payments Corporation of India MD & CEO	Dilip Asbe
31	World Bank President	David Malpass
32	Paytm Founder & CEO	Vijay Shekhar Sharma
33	CMD Of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd	Arun Kumar Singh
34	President of ADB	Masatsugu Asakawa
35	Infosys CEO	Salil Parekh
36	Chief Executive Officer of BharatPe	Ashneer Grover
37	Chairman of Broadcast Audience Research Council	Punit Goenka
38	NTPC Chairman and Managing Director	Shri Gurdeep Singh

Sr No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
39	NCDEX CEO	Vijay Kumar Venkataraman
40	Indian Banks' Association Chairman	Rajkiran Rai G
41	Indian Banks' Association CEO	Sunil Mehta
42	Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Founder	Samit Ghosh
43	Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) Executive Director	Torgny Holmgren
44	UNESCO Head	Audrey Azoulay
45	World Alliance for Breastfeeding Founder	Anwar Fazal
46	Aditya Birla Group Founder	Seth Shiv Narayan Birla
47	LIC Chairman	M R Kumar
48	RBI 25th Governor	Shaktikanta Das
49	The IndusInd Bank Founder	S. P. Hinduja
50	Chief Justice of India Justice	NV Ramana
51	Central Board for Indirect Taxes & Customs Chairperson	M. Ajit Kumar
52	World Resources Institute Founder	James Gustave Speth
53	CEO of Phonepe:	Sameer Nigam
54	48th Chief Justice of India (CJI)	Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana
55	HSBC CEO	Peter Wong
56	Air Chief Marshal of India	Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria
57	International Union for Conservation of Nature Founder	Julian Huxley
58	PayU CEO	Laurent le Moal
59	BillDesk Founder(s)	M.N. Srinivasu, Ajay Kaushal and Karthik Ganapathy
60	Adidas Founder	Adolf Dassler
61	Adidas CEO	Kasper Rorsted