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October 2021

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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment has recently reconstituted the expert group responsible for determining the national floor-level minimum wages under the Code on Wages. It will now be headed by the labour expert **SP Mukherjee** instead of Ajit Mishra.
- The Defence Accounts Department (DAD) under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence has recently developed an IT-enabled payment and accounting system called **PRABAL** to ensure that the domestic defence suppliers get payments without any delay.
- The Central Government has recently unveiled the famous Indian comic book character **Chacha Chaudhary** as the mascot of the '**Namami Gange Programme**' at an executive committee meeting of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG). NMCG has partnered with Diamond Toons to develop and distribute comics, e-comics, and animated videos featuring the cartoon character.
  - The total estimated budget for the project is **Rs 2.26 crore**. The comics will initially be launched in Hindi, English, and Bengali languages.
- Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav has recently launched a digital skills program to enhance the employability of youth by imparting digital skills named '**DigiSaksham**'.
  - It is a joint initiative of **Microsoft India** and the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**.
- The Central Government has launched a **SACRED** portal, an online employment exchange platform to cater to senior citizens seeking job opportunities.
  - SACRED** stands for '**Senior Able Citizens for Re-Employment in Dignity**'.
  - Developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
  - Citizens above **60 years** of age can register on the portal.

6. The central government has recently extended the timeline of the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)** up to **31<sup>st</sup> March 2022** or till the release of Rs 4.5 lakh crore guarantee under the scheme, whichever is earlier.
- The last date of disbursement has also been extended to **30<sup>th</sup> June 2022**.
7. **Ministry of Coal** has recently constituted a committee to review and benchmark the timelines in project execution, including tendering process by examining tenders having a value of more than Rs 300 crore of Coal India Limited (CIL), its subsidiaries, and other PSUs.
- The committee is headed by Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor **Nirupama Kotru**. The committee also includes representatives of NTPC, IOCL, PGCIL, and Director (T), and ECL as member secretary.
8. **Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development** has recently launched the “People’s Plan Campaign 2021 - Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas” and Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard.

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9. Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACIC) has been inaugurated at Vivekananda Global University (VGU), Jaipur in **Rajasthan**. It is the **first centre** in India which has been set up by Government of India, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and NITI Aayog.
10. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently launched the Jal Jeevan Mission App and Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh in a hybrid format.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission App** – It has been launched to improve awareness among stakeholders and for greater transparency and accountability of schemes under the Mission.
  - **Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh (RJJK)** - It will facilitate contribution for providing tap water connection in each rural household, school, Anganwadi centre, etc. Contribution can be made by any individual, organization, philanthropist, whether in India or abroad.
11. **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change** has recently launched the ‘Wetlands of India’ Portal, single-point access to all information relating to wetlands. The portal is a dynamic system to process the information and make it available to the stakeholders in an efficient and accessible manner.
12. The Ministry of Railways has recently announced that the **2.05 km** new Pamban Railway Bridge at Mandapam, Tamil Nadu will be completed by **March 2022**. This bridge will connect **Rameswaram** to the mainland in Tamil Nadu.
13. The Central Government has recently approved **Rs 1 lakh crore** for **Oil and Gas** projects of the North-eastern region. It will be completed by **2025**. The exploration acreage in the region will be doubled from the existing 30,000 sq. kms to 60, 000 sq. kms by 2025.

14. Indian Railways has recently started two long-haul freight trains for South Central Railway (SCR) named **Trishul** and **Garuda**.
15. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ICAR-Central Citrus Research Institute (ICAR-CCRI), Nagpur to promote the export of the **citrus product**.
  - The collaboration aims to promote product-specific clusters, expand export baskets and destinations through global market linkages.
16. Adani Group has recently taken over the responsibility of the **Jaipur International Airport** from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for a period of 50 years.
17. As per the data released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, the Retail Inflation based on the CPI has declined to **4.35%** in September 2021 as compared to 5.30% in August 2021. The reason behind this decline is lower food prices.
  - The inflation in the food segment eased to 0.68% in September, significantly down from 3.11% in the preceding month.
18. **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways** has recently launched a scheme named '**Good Samaritans**'. Under the scheme, a cash prize of **Rs 5,000** will be provided per accident, to those saving the life of a road accident victim by rushing the person to the hospital within the 'Golden Hour' of the accident.
  - The scheme will run from **15th October 2021** to **31st March 2026**.
19. India's total installed solar power capacity will need to increase to **5630 gigawatt (GW)** by **2070** in order to achieve net zero emissions, according to a new report released by independent think tank Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). At present, India has **100 GW** of installed renewable energy capacity, of which solar comprises 40 GW.
  - The government has set an ambitious target to scale up its total renewable energy capacity to **450 GW by 2030**.
20. **India** has signed a long-term Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Russia** on DAP fertiliser supply to stabilize prices of **Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP)** fertiliser and reduce dependency on the countries like Jordan, Morocco, China, etc.
  - The government has recently increased the subsidy to **140 percent** on DAP fertiliser in order to retain the selling price for farmers at the current level.
21. Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has launched the **anthem on India's Covid-19 vaccination** recently. The song has been sung by eminent singer **Kailash kher**.
22. India has opened up yet another door in cooperation with its strategic energy partner **Russia**. Union Minister of Steel, Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Russia's minister of energy Nikolay Shulginov, for collaboration in the mining and steel sectors, with special focus on coking

coal.

- The move is part of India's **National Steel Policy 2017** under which the country is aiming to reach **300 million tonne steel production by 2030** while simultaneously working on forward and backward integration.
23. **NITI Aayog** has recently launched the **Geospatial Energy Map of India**. The map attempts to identify and locate all primary and secondary sources of energy and their transportation networks to provide a comprehensive view of energy production and distribution in a country.
24. **Dr. Jitendra Singh** has launched **Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS)** on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav week.
- Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), an autonomous Institute of Ministry of earth Sciences has developed a new **Decision Support System (DSS)** and extended the ability of the existing air quality early warning system (AQEWS) to have decision-making capability for air quality management in Delhi - NCR region.
25. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **Kushinagar International Airport in Uttar Pradesh**, which will help connect key Buddhist pilgrimage sites.
- Kushinagar is an important Buddhist pilgrimage site, where Buddhists believe Gautam Buddha attained **Mahaparinirvana** after his death. It is an international Buddhist pilgrimage centre.
26. Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** has flagged off '**Modi Van**' under the '**Seva hi Sangathan**' programme to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 20 years in public life. The special van will operate under the aegis of Kaushambi Vikas Parishad, which is run by BJP's National Secretary Vinod Sonkar.
27. The **52nd edition of the IFFI** will be held in **Goa** from November 20 – 28. Considering the present COVID-19 situation, the 52nd IFFI will be held in a hybrid format.
28. Cabinet has approved release of an **additional installment of Dearness Allowance (DA)** to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief to Pensioners.
- Dearness allowance (DA) for central government employees has been hiked three per cent from **28 to 31 percent**.
29. The government has set up an **expert group** led by a senior official in the health ministry to prepare a **comprehensive tax policy proposal covering all tobacco products** from a public health perspective.
- The 9- member expert group will be headed by the Health Ministry's additional secretary, **Vikas Sheel**.
  - The panel will develop a roadmap for reducing tobacco demand according to the WHO's plan.
  - The tobacco products are in the 28% GST slab. However, the GST slab for tobacco leaves is 5%.
30. **Defence Ministry** has signed a contract with the **US Government** under Foreign Military Sale (FMS) for procurement of **MK 54 Torpedo and Expendable Chaff and Flares** for the Indian Navy.
- These weapons are the outfit of P-8I Aircraft which is used for Long range Maritime Surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare and Anti-Surface Warfare. The ministry will spend **423 crore rupees** for the

Torpedos.

31. **Textiles Ministry** has issued notification for setting up of **seven PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks**.
- The scheme is aimed at realising the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi of building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat and to position India strongly on the Global textiles map.
  - PM MITRA is inspired by the 5F vision of Prime Minister. The '5F' Formula encompasses – **Farm to fibre; fibre to factory; factory to fashion; fashion to foreign**. This integrated vision will help furthering the growth of textile sector in the economy.
32. **ABHYAS** – the High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) was successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur.
- Abhyas is designed and developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru.
33. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** dedicated to the nation **seven new defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs)**, created by incorporating the dissolved erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).
- The OFB was dissolved on October 1, following a decision of the Union cabinet in June. It was the country's primary producer of weapons and military equipment.
  - **Seven new companies:** Munitions India Limited, Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited, Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited, Troop Comforts Limited, Yantra India Limited, India Optel Limited, Gliders India Limited
  - 70,000 OFB employees to be transferred to the corporate entities on deemed deputation for 2 years.
34. Road Transport and Highways Minister **Nitin Gadkari** has launched knowledge App and platform **CUNSULT**. Emphasizing on innovation, entrepreneurship, science technology, research and skill for knowledge transformation, the minister said, conversion of knowledge into wealth is the future.
- CUNSULT app will be a forum for mentors to share their life experiences. He said, the app will allow people to learn from the wisdom which has been acquired over the lifetime.
  - CUNSULT app is the first such global facility by which people who need information, advice, counsel, and guidance can contact and call up experts in multiple sectors on-the-go.
35. Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** arrived in **Dehradun** to participate in various events in the state.

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- Shah launched '**Ghasiyari Kalyan Yojana**' in Dehradun. 2,000 farmers will cultivate maize on about 1,000 acres of land and a plan has been made to make nutritious animal feed in a scientific way, which will benefit about one lakh farmers.
  - After this event, he addressed the Shantikunj Golden Jubilee Year lecture series in Haridwar.
  - He also launched Cooperative Training Center and computerization of cooperative societies in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
36. Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Bhupender Yadav** has said that **India** and the **UK** have agreed to **strengthen climate initiatives** and further their green partnership.
- Mr. Yadav held a bilateral meeting with UK Foreign Minister Elizabeth Truss in New Delhi.
  - The UK will host the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Glasgow from 31st of this month to 12th November.
37. Unique Identification Authority of India (**UIDAI**) is going to host **Aadhaar Hackathon 2021** for young innovators. This is the first ever Hackathon, which will start on October 28 (midnight) and will run till October 31.
- The UIDAI has come up with two themes for Aadhaar Hackathon 2021 and is also looking for ways to find technological solutions to the problems. The first theme of the event is '**Enrollment and Update**', which covers the challenges being faced by the common man while updating their address.
  - The second theme is '**Identity and Authentication**' solution offered by the Aadhaar team under which UIDAI is seeking innovative solutions to prove Identity without sharing the Aadhaar number and other demographic information.
38. Amethi-based flying training institute **Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA)** and **Drone Destination** have jointly signed an initial pact with the Haryana Government's initiative **DRIISHYA** to commence drone training in Haryana.
- The **Drone Imaging and Information Service of Haryana Ltd (DRIISHYA)** initiative aims at speedy implementation of various types of surveys and imaging work using drones as manual surveys which are conducted at regular intervals are very time consuming, costly and require more manpower.
39. The Government of India has recently handed over the Jaynagar-Kurtha rail link to Nepal to enhance trade and commerce activities. It is **34.9 km** long cross-border rail link that connects **Jayanagar in Bihar to Kurtha in Nepal**.
- It has been constructed under the grant assistance programme of the Indian government.
  - The project has been completed at a cost of Rs 619 crore.
  - It has five stations in the section namely, Jayanagar, Khajuri, Inarwa, Baidehi, and Kurtha near Janakpur in Nepal.
40. The Indian Railways has ordered to dissolve **Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC)**.
- This is in line with recommendation from the cabinet secretariat to integrate, and undertake structural reforms in various bodies under Railways Ministry. It had also suggested merger of various railway's institutions.
  - These recommendations were part of a report on the Rationalisation of Government Bodies under the Ministry of Railways prepared by **Sanjeev Sanyal**, Principal Economic Advisor, and Ministry of

Finance.

41. The **Indian Navy** has received the **11th anti-submarine warfare aircraft P-8I** from the U.S.-based aerospace company Boeing.
- This is the **third aircraft** to be delivered under the option contract for four additional aircraft that the Indian Ministry of Defence awarded in 2016.
42. India's apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**) has announced the launch of a **mobile application to improve connect with consumers** and food business operators (FBOs).
- The app, **Food Safety Connect**, will help food businesses, particularly hawkers, vendors and start-ups, to apply for FSSAI registration through a faster and convenient mode, the regulator.
43. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has recently launched an app named '**Garuda**' for digital mapping of all polling stations. It will ensure faster, smarter, transparent, and timely completion of election work.
44. **Comptroller and Auditor General of India** and **Auditor General of Maldives** have signed a memorandum of understanding to **strengthen the audit process of public finance**. The MoU was signed by Girish Chandra Murmu, CAG of India and Hussain Niyazy, Auditor General of Maldives in Male.
45. The Central Government has recently constituted a **National Steering Committee (NSC)** for the implementation of the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN) Bharat Mission.
- The committee will be chaired by the Union Education Minister, **Dharmendra Pradhan** and the Vice Chairman of the committee will be Minister of State for Education, **Annpurna Devi**.
  - It seeks to develop a methodology of assessment to analyze the progress of education and provide feedback to States/UTs.
46. The **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** has recently launched the '**Veer Gatha**' project to raise awareness about the brave acts and sacrifices of the Gallantry Award winners among school students. It is being conducted from 21<sup>st</sup> October – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

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47. The government has received **52 crore rupees** from National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) Limited, as dividend tranches.
- The government has also received 24 crore rupees dividend from Cochin Shipyard Limited and 94 crore rupees from NALCO.
48. The government has reconstituted the seven-member **Economic Advisory Council to the PM** for a period of two years after its term came to an end last month.



- **Rakesh Mohan, Poonam Gupta and TT Ram Mohan** have been appointed as part-time members of the reconstituted EAC-PM while V Anantha Nageswaran has been dropped.
  - **Bibek Debroy** continues to be the chairman of the Council. The other part-time members of the Council include Sajid Chenoy, Neelkanth Mishra and Nilesh Shah.
49. The Supreme Court set up a three-member expert committee, to be supervised by a former judge of the top court, to inquire into the alleged use of **Israeli spyware Pegasus** for surveillance of Indian citizens, as it noted that the issues raised directly concern “the potential chilling effect” on right to privacy and freedom of speech.
- A bench, headed by **Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana**, said that retired SC judge RV Raveendran will supervise the functioning of the technical committee, which will look into the “truth or falsity of the allegations” and will submit a report “expeditiously”.
50. Union Minister of State of the Ministry of Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh has recently launched India’s first manned ocean mission **Samudrayaan** at the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) in Chennai.
- The 200-crores Samudrayaan Mission will send three persons in a manned submersible vehicle **MATSYA 6000** to a depth of 6000 meters into the sea for deep underwater studies. The mission is a part of the Rs 6000-crores Deep Ocean Mission.
51. Health Minister **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** has launched the **6th edition of National Formulary of India** to promote rational use of medicines in the country.
- Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission has published the National Formulary of India, NFI. Speaking at the event, Dr. Mandaviya appreciated the efforts of all the experts, doctors and researchers who contributed in the compilation of new edition.
52. In a boost to the maritime safety and security of the nation, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) got a new indigenous ship, named ‘**Sarthak**’. It was commissioned and dedicated to the nation in **Goa** by Director General of ICG K Natarajan.
- ICGS Sarthak will be based at Porbandar in Gujarat and operate on India’s Western Seaboard under the Operational and Administrative Control of the commander of Coast Guard Region (Northwest).
53. Surface to surface ballistic missile, **Agni-5** was successfully launched from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in **Odisha**.
- Agni-5 is capable of striking targets at ranges up to **5,000 kilometers** with a very high degree of accuracy. It uses a three-stage solid-fuelled engine.
  - The successful launch is in line with India’s policy to have ‘credible minimum deterrence’ that underpins the commitment to ‘No First Use’.
54. **The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** has launched an initiative to enable rural **SHG (Self Help Group)** women to **Lakshpati** and take women to the higher economic order by earning at least **Rs 1 lakh** per annum.
55. The **Finance Ministry** has released **44 thousand crore rupees** to the **States and Union Territories** with Legislature under the back-to-back loan facility in lieu of GST Compensation.
- After taking into account earlier release of one lakh 15 thousand crore rupees, the total amount released in the current financial year is **one lakh 59 thousand crore rupees**.
  - The Ministry said, this release is in addition to normal GST compensation being released every two months out of actual cess collection.

56. Union Minister of MSME **Narayan Rane** has launched 'SAMBHAV' a national level awareness programme for **promoting entrepreneurship** leading to the economic development of the country.
- The mass outreach program will be a one-month long initiative under the Ministry of MSME in which students from different colleges/ITIs from all parts of the country will be encouraged by 130 field offices of the Ministry to take up entrepreneurship.
  - During the campaign, the college students will be made aware of the various schemes being implemented by the Ministry of MSME through audio/video film presentations.

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## STATES AFFAIRS

57. **Maharashtra** government has recently launched a mobile application named '**Digital Baramati Umbrella App**' to provide all citizen-centric facilities at a single click to residents of Baramati in the Pune district in Maharashtra. It is a collection of apps for various needs.
- The app is financially supported by **ICICI Foundation** and is developed by Unnati Digital Pvt Ltd.
58. The CSIR's Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) has recently introduced cinnamon cultivation in **Himachal Pradesh** on a pilot basis. With this, *Himachal Pradesh has become the first state to start organized cultivation of cinnamon.*
59. **Rajasthan** government has recently launched 'Mukhyamantri Paryatan Udyog Sambal Yojana-2021' to provide relief to the entrepreneurs of the tourism and hospitality sector affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
60. The city of **Varanasi** in Uttar Pradesh will become the first Indian city to use ropeway services in public transportation. With this, India will be the third country in the world after Bolivia and Mexico City, to have a ropeway for public transport.
61. Bollywood actress **Kangana Ranaut** has recently become the brand ambassador of the Uttar Pradesh government's 'One District, One Product' (ODOP) scheme.
- ODOP scheme is the initiative of the UP govt. to encourage and revive aboriginals' arts and craft products. The scheme will help Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) to produce and promote products that are unique in Uttar Pradesh.
62. **Assam** Minister for Fisheries, Environment and Forest and Excise, Parimal Suklabaidya has recently launched an App **Fishwaale**, *India's first e-fish market*. It has been developed by Aqua Blue Global Aquaculture Solutions Pvt. Ltd. in collaboration with the fisheries department of the state.

63. **Bathukamma**, the flower and cultural festival, has been celebrated in the state of **Telangana** and some parts of Andhra Pradesh. It is a nine-day long festival which is mainly celebrated by young girls and women. The festival begins on the day of Mahalaya Amavasya and concludes on Durga Ashtami.
64. **Telangana** has recently developed India's first smartphone-based eVoting solution to enable 'e-Voting' facility for senior citizens, citizens employed in notified essential services, sick people, polling personnel and IT professionals, etc. It will be tested in a dummy election, and a dry run will be held in the **Khammam district** of Telangana.
65. The state government of **Maharashtra** has recently launched a special Covid-19 vaccination drive named '**Mission Kavach Kundal**' to vaccinate 15 lakh people every day. The drive has been organised from 8<sup>th</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021.
66. The Maharashtra government is likely to launch the '**Mukta**' scheme to release women prisoners who have been in jail for years and have not been able to pay their bail amounts and fulfill other legal requirements. The 'Mukta' scheme would bring relief to the women prisoners who have been languishing in jails for minor crimes, and would also reduce the burden on prisons.
67. **Varanasi** will soon become the first Indian city to use ropeway services in public transportation. The **world's third** and **India's first public transport ropeway** is planned to be built from Cantt Railway Station (Varanasi Junction) to Church Square, the ropeway promises to curb the traffic snarls in the city.
68. The state government of Rajasthan has launched a mega campaign '**Prashasan Gaon ke Sang**' to enable access to 22 departments of the local administration for people of the remotest villages in **Rajasthan**.
- Under the campaign, the departments would be holding camps at every gram panchayat to offer on-spot solutions to the applicants.
69. IISc-incubated startup **L2MRail**, Society for Innovation and Development (**SID**), and **IISc** have signed an **MoU** with **Kerala Rail** aimed at **enhancing rail safety, especially in risk-prone terrains**.
70. **Jammu and Kashmir** administration and the **Dubai** Government have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) for **real estate development**, industrial parks, super specialty hospital and various business enterprises in the Union Territory.
71. The Union government has decided to rename **Mount Harriet**, an island peak in Andaman and Nicobar islands, as a **tribute to the freedom fighters of Manipur**. It will now be known as **Mount Manipur**. It was announced by Union home minister Amit Shah.
72. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has launched **Shree Dhanwantri Generic Medical Store Yojna** through video conference. Under this scheme, he launched 84 shops in the state.
73. Tamil Nadu FibreNet Corporation Ltd (**TANFINET**) has signed the Master Service Agreement for the implementation of **BharatNet Project in Tamil Nadu** (two packages) with various system integrators.
- The project aims at providing **1 Gbps bandwidth connectivity to all Gram Panchayats**. The project will cover Gram Panchayats through optical fibre cable with high-speed bandwidth connectivity.

74. **Haryana** Health Minister Anil Vij has launched “**Swasth Haryana**” mobile app to provide people relief from long queues at civil hospitals.
75. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has e-inaugurated the “**Jashn-e-Zafraan**”, Harvesting Saffron in presence of Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, Kailash Choudhury.
76. **Madhya Pradesh** government has announced the implementation of **Mukhyamantri Ration Aapke Dwar Yojana** in the state from next month.
- The objective of Mukhyamantri Ration Aapke Dwar Yojana is to provide ration material to Divyanga and senior citizens near their homes so that they do not need to go to the ration shop of other villages to get their monthly food.
77. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **M K Stalin** has launched **two web portals** that use Tamil computing software to ensure micro governance, ease of doing business and develop a competitive edge for the state’s IT and ITES sectors.
- The two web portals are named **e-Munnetram** and **IT Nanban**. The e-Munnetram portal will review progress by capturing key details such as the agreement date, start date, cost estimates, project progress. The portal allows Heads of Departments to update the progress periodically.
78. Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Uddhav Thackeray has recently inaugurated **India’s first state-owned wildlife DNA analysis laboratory** at the Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) in **Nagpur**. He has also launched 3 fast-track DNA testing units in Mumbai and Pune.
- This specialised facility, the **first in Maharashtra**, will ensure that evidences in crimes like poaching and seizures of wildlife contraband like tiger skin can be analysed faster, leading to speedier investigations and trials.
  - There are two central government-owned Wildlife DNA laboratory at **Dehradun and Hyderabad**.
79. India's largest aromatic garden has recently been developed at Lalkuan in **Nainital district in Uttarakhand**.
- The garden has been developed over an area of three acres by the research wing of the Uttarakhand Forest Department.
  - It has been funded under Centre's compensatory afforestation scheme (CAMPA).
80. Gujarat Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** launched a **scheme to provide electric two-wheelers at subsidised rates** to construction and industrial workers of the state. He launched the ‘**Go-Green**’ scheme and its portal at a function held at Mahatma Mandir.
- Under the scheme, a worker of the organised sector, such as an industrial labourer, would get a subsidy of **30 per cent** on the vehicle’s price or **Rs 30,000**, whichever is less, on the purchase of battery-powered two-wheelers.
  - For workers in the construction sector, the criteria is 50 per cent subsidy or Rs 30,000, whichever is less.
81. **Uttar Pradesh** government has decided to rename the **Faizabad Railway Junction** as **Ayodhya Cantt**.

- Another proposal to change the name of Firozabad district to Chandra Nagar has also been doing the rounds.
82. Under the initiative ‘**Swasth Mahila, Swasth Goa**’, launched by international cricketing icon and humanitarian Yuvraj Singh’s **YouWeCan Foundation** in partnership with **SBI foundation**, state government, free breast cancer screening will be done for **1 lakh women in Goa**, thereby ensuring that 50 per cent of the age-eligible female population in the state is screened.
- Under this initiative, free breast cancer screening using ‘iBreast’ devices will be done for 1 lakh women in Goa over a period of two years.
83. **Maharashtra** has become the **first state to** release its **own Wildlife Action plan (2021-30)**. The new plan, which will be implemented over the next 10 years, recognises concerns about climate change impacts on wildlife, coastal ecosystems, marine biodiversity, flora and fauna.
- The plan will be a guiding document for an action plan for wildlife conservation for the next decade.
  - The plan has suggested integrating climate change adaption in wildlife conservation and the plan focuses on 12 areas.
84. Tamilnadu Chief Minister **M.K.Stalin** has launched a unique academic scheme, **Education at your doorstep** at Villupuram. He also released an app related to the scheme and the theme song.
- The novel and ambitious scheme is all set to give education to every child in the State, which was badly hit by the pandemic. The scheme will be operational from **15th November**.
85. **Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana** have taken the top three slots, **emerging winners** among the 18 large states in **governance performance, Public Affairs Centre (PAC)**, a Bengaluru-based nonprofit think tank, announced.
- While **Sikkim, Goa and Mizoram** have emerged winners among the small states, Puducherry, Jammu & Kashmir and Chandigarh are the toppers among the union territories.
  - Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Gujarat have performed well in the overall index, while Maharashtra, Assam, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have slipped in rankings as compared to last year, the study noted.
86. The Delhi government has launched ‘**Parents Samvad**’, a programme aimed at increasing the engagement of parents in the education of their children in government schools.
- Over 35,000 school management committee members and **school mitras** will connect with 50 parents each every month, take feedback and make suggestions about parenting and studies via a free calling system.

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## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

87. **Fumio Kishida**, former foreign minister, has recently been appointed as the **100<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of Japan**. He has succeeded Yoshihide Suga.

88. Earth observation satellite, **Landsat 9** has been successfully launched from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California. It is a joint mission of the **US Geological Survey (USGS)** and the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**.
- It will monitor the Earth's land surface and will help in studying climate change.
89. **India** has recently hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the world's largest virtual fintech fest named '**Global FinTech Festival**' (GFF) 2021. The event has been presented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and organised by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and Fintech Convergence Council (FCC) of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).
- The World Bank and United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) are the institutional partners of the summit.
  - The theme of the summit is "**FinTech: Empowering a Global Digital Economy**". Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, **Nirmala Sitharaman** has attended the summit as the Chief Guest.
90. The **World Expo 2020** has been held in **Dubai, UAE** from 1st October 2021 to 31st March 2022. The theme of the Dubai Expo 2020 is "**Connecting Minds, Creating the Future**".
91. The Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) has recently signed a more than **\$ 700 million** build-operate-transfer agreement with Adani Group and John Keells Holdings to develop the Western Container Terminal of the Port of Colombo (POC). The agreement will remain valid for **35 years**.
92. **Russia** has recently successfully test-fired a hypersonic missile named 'Zircon' from a nuclear 'Severodvinsk' submarine for the first time. It will be commissioned into the Russian Navy in 2022.
93. Tunisia's President Kais Saied has recently appointed **Najla Bouden Romdhane** as the first woman prime minister of Tunisia. She has succeeded Hichem Mechichi.
94. The 8th edition of "India-Sri Lanka Bilateral Joint Exercise" named '**Mitra Shakti**' has been held in **Ampara, Sri Lanka** from 4<sup>th</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021.
95. India and **Nepal** have signed two agreements worth **USD 3.15 billion** to boost cross-border train services and to improve regional connectivity and trade.
- Both the countries have also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for a final location survey (FLS) for a proposed broad gauge railway line between **Raxaul** and **Kathmandu**.
96. The High-Level Meeting to mark the 60th Anniversary of *Non-Aligned Movement* (NAM) has recently been held in **Belgrade, Serbia**. The Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi has addressed the meeting.
97. QUAD countries - India, the United States, Japan, and Australia have recently (October 12-15) conducted the second phase of the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the Malabar Exercise in the **Bay of Bengal** region. Indian Navy has been represented by INS Ranvijay, INS Satpura, P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft, and a submarine.

98. German rail operator Deutsche Bahn and industrial group Siemens have recently unveiled the world's first automated, driverless train in the city of **Hamburg, Germany**. This train is more punctual and energy-efficient than traditional trains.
99. The Joint Military Training Exercise “**Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021**” has been conducted between **India and USA** at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, **Alaska (USA)** from 15 to 29 October 2021. This is the **17th Edition** of the exercise which is hosted alternately between both countries. The exercise was first conducted in **2004**.
100. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), an American space agency, has recently launched the first of its kind mission ‘**Lucy Spacecraft**’ to study Trojan asteroids of **Jupiter**. It has been carried by an Atlas V rocket from United Launch Alliance (UAL), which is a joint venture of Boeing Co and Lockheed Martin Corp.
101. The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has recently released the **Global TB (Tuberculosis) Report 2021**.
- India has accounted for **41%** of the total global drop in reporting TB between 2019 & 2020, followed by Indonesia (14%), the Philippines (12%), and China (8%).
  - As per the report, an estimated 9.9 million people fell ill with TB in 2020.
  - TB is reported to be the second leading cause of death from a single infectious agent in 2020.
  - Globally the goal is to end TB by 2030. However, India has set a target to end TB by **2025**.
102. The **China and Russia** joint naval exercises “**Joint Sea 2021**” kicked off at Russia’s Peter the Great Gulf, in the **Sea of Japan**.
103. Chairman of Indian Council for Cultural Relations ICCR **Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe** has said that as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, **India** will host **young leaders** from 75 democracies under the initiative **Gen-Next Democratic Network**.
104. The government of **Ecuador** has recently declared a state of emergency over drug violence in the country. The President of Ecuador, Guillermo Lasso has imposed 60-days of emergency in the country.
105. **China** has successfully launched its **first solar exploration satellite** into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern Shanxi Province aboard a Long March-2D rocket.
106. **India, Israel, United Arab Emirates** and the **United States** have decided to launch a new **quadrilateral economic forum**.
- Quadrilateral builds on ongoing cooperation between U.S., Israel and UAE after the Abraham Accords last year.
107. **South Korea** has launched its **first homegrown rocket**, stepping up the country’s ambitions in space. The Korean Satellite Launch Vehicle II, known as **Nuri**, took off from Goheung, about 500km south of Seoul.
108. Former US President **Donald Trump** has announced plans to launch a new **social media network**, called **TRUTH Social**.
- He said the platform would “stand up to the tyranny of big tech”, accusing them of silencing opposing voices in the US.

109. Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has retained **Pakistan on its Grey List**.
- FATF President Marcus Pleyer announced the decision was after a three-day-long plenary session of the global terror financing watchdog in Paris.
  - Three other countries – **Turkey, Mali and Jordan** have been added to the FATF Grey List.
110. **Saudi Arabia** aims to reach **zero-net emissions by 2060** and more than double its annual target to reduce carbon emissions
- Speaking at the **Saudi Green Initiative** in the capital Riyadh, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said that the kingdom would tackle climate change while ensuring oil market stability, stressing the continued importance of hydrocarbons.
  - The Saudi Green initiative is being held ahead of COP-26, the UN climate change conference in **Glasgow** at the end of the month that hopes to agree deeper emissions cuts to tackle global warming.
111. A new **report** by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has rung alarm bells: The amount of plastics in the oceans has been estimated to be around **75-199 million tonnes** at present. Without meaningful action, emissions of plastic waste into aquatic ecosystems are projected to nearly **triple by 2040**. It could more than double by 2030, according to the assessment.
112. **Invest India** has been unanimously elected as the **President** of the **World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies** (WAIPA) for 2021-2023, officials said.
- Invest India is the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency that helps investors looking for investment opportunities and options in India.
113. **China** has successfully launched a new **satellite** to test and verify space debris mitigation technologies. It was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan Province.
- The satellite, named **Shijian-21**, was launched by a **Long March-3B carrier rocket** and it entered the planned orbit successfully.
  - The satellite will be mainly used to test and verify space debris mitigation technologies

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114. **India, the UK, and Australia**, in collaboration with Small Island Developing States (SIDS), have planned to launch a new initiative “Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)” during the Conference of the Parties (COP26).
- This initiative aims at creating an infrastructure that can withstand disasters and lessen economic losses in island nations. It will be launched with initial funding of \$10 million from Australia, India, and the UK.



115. **France** has successfully launched a **state-of-the-art satellite** into orbit, designed to allow all of France's armed forces across the globe to communicate swiftly and securely.
- The **Ariane-5 rocket** carrying the **Syracuse 4A satellite** took off from Kourou, in French Guiana.
116. The **United States successfully tested hypersonic missile technology** in Wallops, Virginia, a new weapons system which is already being deployed by China and Russia, the US Navy said.
- Hypersonic missiles, like traditional ballistic missiles, can fly more than five times the speed of sound (Mach 5).
117. The UK will host the COP26 United Nations Climate Change Conference in **Glasgow, Scotland** from October 31 to November 12.
- The COP26 summit will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
118. The sea phase of the first bilateral tri-service exercise 'Konkan Shakti 2021' has been conducted between the **United Kingdom (UK)** and Indian Armed Forces off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea.
119. **India-Israel Joint Working Group** on Bilateral Defence Cooperation has agreed to form a Task Force to *formulate a comprehensive Ten-Year Roadmap to identify new areas of cooperation*. This was decided at the 15th Joint Working Group meeting held in Tel Aviv, Israel.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary **Dr. Ajay Kumar** and the Director General of the Israel's Ministry of Defence, Major General (Retd) Amir Eshel.
120. The US Agency for International Development (**USAID**) has announced the launch of a new, five-year, **USD 49 million initiative** called the **South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP)**, which will facilitate collaboration among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka to improve access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy.

## REPORTS & INDICES

121. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Digital Quality of Life (DQL) Index 2021 has recently been released by SurfShark, an online privacy solutions provider. India has been ranked **59<sup>th</sup>** out of 110 countries, as against 57<sup>th</sup> in 2020.

Digital Quality of Life (DQL) Index 2021	
Rank	Country
1	Denmark
2	South Korea
3	Finland
110	Ethiopia

122. Reliance Industries Chairman, **Mukesh Ambani** has topped the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2021 for the 10th consecutive year with a net worth of Rs 7,18,000 crore. He has been followed by Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani with a net worth of Rs. 5, 05,900 crore and Shiv Nadar & the family of HCL technologies with a net worth of Rs 2, 36,600 crore.

123. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has recently released a report titled **Least Developed Countries (LDC) Report 2021**.
- There are **46 countries** designated as LDC.
  - GDP per capita for the LDC group represented less than 10% of the world average in 2019.
124. The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has released a '*Global Financial Stability Report 2021*'. The report states that the increasing use of cryptocurrencies could pose challenges to financial stability. Its transaction costs are fairly expensive as compared to digital money. Such transaction destabilizes the capital flows.
125. Union Health Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya has released a report titled "The State of the World's Children 2021: On My Mind: promoting, protecting and caring for children's mental health". The report is published by the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**.
- According to a UNICEF report, about **14%** of 15- to- 24-year- olds in India, which is 1 in 7, felt depressed or had little interest in working.
126. Henley Passport Index 2021 has been released by Henley & Partners. The index shows the original ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.
- India has been ranked **90<sup>th</sup>** in the Index with a visa-free score to 58 countries. India shares the rank with **Tajikistan and Burkina Faso**.
  - Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, and Yemen are among the least powerful countries in the Index.

<b>Henley Passport Index 2021 (Top 3 countries)</b>		
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Visa-free score</b>
<b>1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Japan</li> <li>• Singapore</li> </ul>	192
<b>2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Germany</li> <li>• South Korea</li> </ul>	190
<b>3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finland</li> <li>• Italy</li> <li>• Luxembourg</li> <li>• Spain</li> </ul>	189

127. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) have recently released the **Multidimensional Poverty Index, 2021**.
- As per the index, across 109 countries **21.7%** of people live in acute multidimensional poverty.
  - India has a maximum number (**381 millions**) of people living in multidimensional poverty.

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128. **World Bank** has recently released the *International Debt Statistics Report 2022*. The report states that low-income countries' debt has increased by 12% i.e. \$ 860 billion in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
129. The 58th edition of Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) has been released by the consultancy firm Ernst & Young (EY). As per the Index, India has been ranked at the **third** position.

Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI)	
Rank	Country
1	USA
2	China
3	India
4	France
5	UK

130. Reliance Industries has recently topped the Indian Corporates in the **World's Best Employers 2021** ranking published by Forbes. Mukesh Ambani-owned RIL was placed at the **52nd** position in the overall ranking of 750 global corporates.
- South Korean giant **Samsung Electronics** has topped globally, followed by US giants IBM, Microsoft, Amazon, Apple, Alphabet, and Dell Technologies.
131. An almost **USD 4 trillion investment into clean energy** is required to meet the **Paris Agreement pledge** to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in its **World Energy Outlook 2021 report**.
132. The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Mercer CFA Global Pension Index Survey (MCGPI) 2021 has been released by Mercer Consulting in collaboration with CFA Institute and the Monash Centre for Financial Studies.
- The Indian pension system has been ranked **40<sup>th</sup>** among 43 systems with an overall index value of 43.3.
  - The country has scored 33.5 in adequacy, 41.8 in sustainability, and 61.0 in integrity.

Mercer CFA Global Pension Index Survey (MCGPI) 2021		
Rank	Country	Index value
1	Iceland	84.2
2	Netherlands	83.5
3	Denmark	82.0
43	Thailand	40.6

133. The 10th edition of the **Global Food Security Index (GFSI) 2021** has recently been released by the Economist Impact and Corteva Agriscience. It has ranked **India** at **71st** position out of 113 countries with a score of 57.2 points.

- Ireland, Australia, the UK, Finland, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Canada, Japan, France and the US shared the top rank. Their overall GFS score were in the range of 77.8 and 80 points on the index.

Rank	Country
1	Ireland
2	Austria
3	UK
34	China
<b>71</b>	<b>India</b>
75	Pakistan
77	Sri Lanka
79	Nepal
84	Bangladesh
113	Burundi

134. **India** has been ranked at **79th** spot among 139 countries in the **World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2021**, the world's leading source for original and independent data on the rule of law.

135. **India is ranked at the top in emissions related to crop burning**, accounting for 13 per cent of total global emissions for the 2015-2020 period, according to a new report released by climate tech startup **Blue Sky Analytics**, which is also part of global coalition "Climate TRACE".

- Blue Sky Analytics, the Indian climate tech startup founded by an IIT alumnus, also pointed towards a 12.2-per cent contribution by India to cropland fire emissions in 2020.

136. The report titled "*Five years on: Global climate tech investment trends since the Paris Agreement*" has been released by **London & Partners, and Dealroom.Co**.

- India has been ranked **9<sup>th</sup>** in the list of top 10 countries for climate technology investment from 2016 to 2021. Indian climate tech firms had received **USD 1 billion** in venture capital funding between 2016 and 2021.
- The list has been topped by the **USA** (USD 48 billion), followed by China (USD 18.6 billion), and Sweden (USD 5.8 billion).
- Global climate tech venture capital investment has increased from USD 6.6 billion in 2016 to **USD 32.3 billion in 2021**.

137. The Times Higher Education (THE) World Reputation Ranking 2021 has been released which features the top 202 universities from 29 countries.

**India's ranking:** This time, 4 Indian institutions have made it to the Times Higher Education (THE) World Reputation Ranking 2021.

- **Indian Institute of Science Bangalore** climbs into the top 100 (91-100 band), leading among the Indian institutes.
- **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay** climbs two ranking bands to 126-150th.
- **IIT Madras** retains its place in the 176-200 band while **IIT Delhi** (176-200) appears in the table for the first time.

World Reputation Ranking 2021		
Rank	Institute/University	Country
1	Harvard University	USA
2	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	USA
3	University of Oxford	UK

138. The State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2020 has been released by the **Ministry of Power**. It has been developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and the Alliance for an Energy-Efficient Economy (AEEE).

- SEEI 2020 has assessed the performance of 36 states and Union territories in energy efficiency (EE) using **68** qualitative, quantitative, and outcome-based indicators aggregating to a maximum score of 100 across **six sectors**.

State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI)		
Rank	State	Score
1	Karnataka	70
2	Rajasthan	61
3	Haryana	59.5

139. Bank accounts under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna (**PMJDY**) have increased to **44 crore in over 7 years** till October 2021, a finance ministry official said.

- The PMJDY was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address on **August 15, 2014**, and was simultaneously launched on August 28, 2014, to foster financial inclusion.

140. The Council for Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW) has recently published India's first-of-its-kind district-level climate vulnerability assessment report titled 'Mapping India's Climate Vulnerability – A District-level Assessment', which has been supported by the India Climate Collaborative and Edelgive Foundation.

- The report has analysed **640 districts** in India and found that 463 of these are vulnerable to extreme floods, droughts, and cyclones. CEEW has also presented Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI).

Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI) (States with Highest Climate- Vulnerability)	
Rank	State
1	Assam
2	Andhra Pradesh

3	Maharashtra
4	Karnataka
5	Bihar

141. **World Bank** has recently published the report titled "*The Changing Wealth of Nations 2021*". The report has measured wealth creation and distribution among 146 countries. It covers a 20-year period from 1995 to 2018.
- As per the report, **South Asia** suffers the most in terms of human capital loss due to air pollution.
  - Human capital was the largest source of worldwide wealth. In the year 2018, it comprised 64% of the total global wealth.

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

142. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has recently approved to start the **PM-POSHAN** scheme to provide mid-day meals to students of more than 11.2 lakh govt. and govt.-aided schools across the country.
- ‘National Scheme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools’ popularly known as **Mid-Day Meal Scheme** will now be known as PM Poshan Shakti Nirman or PM POSHAN.
  - It is a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme which will cover all school children studying in **Class I - VIII** of government and government-aided schools.
  - The scheme will provide one hot cooked meal in schools. The scheme will run for **5 years** (2021-22 to 2025-26) with a budget outlay of **Rs. 1, 30,794.90 crore**.
143. The Union Government has recently launched the 2nd phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U 2.0), and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0).
- Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U):**
- The aim is to make cities 100% ‘**free of garbage**’ (currently, 70%).
  - To ensure grey and black water management in all cities other than those covered under AMRUT.
  - Total outlay: Rs 1.41 lakh crore.
- Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0):**
- 100% coverage of water supply to all households in around 4,700 urban local bodies by providing about 68 crore tap connections
  - 100% coverage of sewerage and septage in 500 AMRUT cities by providing around 64 crore sewers/septage connections.
  - Total outlay: Rs 2.87 lakh crore.
144. IAS Officer **Ritesh Chauhan** has been appointed as the CEO of the *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna* (PMFBY) and Joint Secretary, Agriculture under the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for a combined tenure of 7 years that is up to 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023. He has succeeded Ashish Kumar Bhutani.
145. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched “**PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission**” on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021 from his parliamentary constituency **Varanasi** in Uttar Pradesh. The aim is to fill the gaps in public health infrastructure, especially in critical care facilities and primary care in both urban and rural areas.
146. Under **Mukhyamantri Awasiya Bhu-dhikar Yojana**, the Madhya Pradesh government will provide plots of land to families who do not have land to build their homes. The construction of houses comes under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

147. The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has recently constituted an expert committee to recommend an *approach towards the development of sustainable finance hubs* in IFSC. The 10-member committee will be headed by **C.K. Mishra**.
148. **Amazon India** has recently announced the launch of Amazon Future Engineer, its global computer science education programme in India. The objective is to provide quality computer science education and career opportunities for students from underrepresented and underserved communities.
149. Paytm has recently acquired a **100% stake** in Mumbai-based digital lending start-up CreditMate. With this, Paytm Group will become the 100% beneficial owners of the business, while the co-founders of CreditMate will exit the business.
150. World Bank has recently retained India's GDP forecast for FY22 to **8.3%** from its earlier estimate in June 2021.
151. The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has recently launched a global fintech hackathon series named '**I-Sprint'21**' to connect IFSCA and GIFT IFSC with the fintech ecosystem. The objective is to solve business problems for the banking units at GIFT IFSC, and to promote retail business for the banking units at GIFT IFSC.
152. '**Tata Sons**' has recently won the bid for Air India. The company has made a bid of **Rs 18,000 crore** to acquire a 100% stake in Air India. Notably, Air India has been making losses since its merger with domestic operator Indian Airlines in 2007.
153. **India Infoline Limited (IIFL) Finance** has recently become the first Indian non-banking financial company (NBFC) to launch instant business loans on WhatsApp.
154. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently increased its climate financing goals 2019-2030 for developing member countries (DMCs) from \$80 billion to **\$ 100 billion**. This additional \$ 20 billion will be used for climate mitigation efforts including low-carbon energy sources, climate adaptation projects, and private sector projects.
155. The Central Government has recently accorded the 'Maharatna' status to the state-owned **Power Finance Corporation Ltd** (PFC). This will enable PFC to offer competitive financing for the power sector, which will go a long way in making available affordable and reliable "Power For All 24x7".
156. The **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited** (BPCL) has recently launched an automated fuelling technology named '**UFill**' to ensure that its customers have a better experience at outlets. Initially, it has been launched in 65 cities across the country.

- It does not need any app download, customer can use any payment app already downloaded on his/her phone like GPay, PayTM, PhonePe etc.
  - It offers real-time QR and voucher code through SMS and is accepted at all BPCL Fuel Stations where the functionality is enabled.
157. **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC)** to create awareness about benefits of listing among ICT SMEs and Startups of the country.
158. **Vodafone Idea (VIL)** and smart world and communication business of engineering and construction conglomerate **Larsen and Toubro (L&T)** have joined hands for a pilot project to test **5G-based smart city solutions**.
159. National Stock Exchange of India (**NSE**) in collaboration with Bengaluru-based startup **Chainflux** has launched **NSE-Shine**, a blockchain platform for gold bullion.
- The platform will provide a data framework for bullion bar integrity for settlement of Gold derivatives contracts.
160. **Reliance Industries Ltd**, the country's largest company by revenues, profits and market value, has **topped Indian corporates** in the **World's Best Employers rankings 2021** published by Forbes.
- Reliance was placed at **52** in the overall ranking of 750 global corporates likes Phillips, Sanofi, Pfizer and Intel.
161. The International Monetary Fund (**IMF**) said it has pared down **India's potential growth forecast** by 25 basis points to **6%** due to the impact of the pandemic which hit investments and labour market badly.
162. **Ola** has bought out Pune-based geospatial service provider **GeoSpoc**, for an undisclosed sum.
163. **GAIL (India) Ltd** will build **India's largest green hydrogen plant** in the next 12-14 months, as it looks to supplement its natural gas business with carbon-free fuel.
164. **Microsoft** has launched a programme, **Microsoft AI Innovate for scaling**, nurturing leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- The initiative is aimed to bring together corporates, startups, industry bodies, venture capital firms and governments, and to create a shared platform for innovation and learning.
165. **Tata Power** has inked a pact with **IIT Delhi** to work together **on clean energy** and other projects that can be transformed from research and development level to pilot stage.
- Both the institutions have agreed to work together to identify projects that can be transformed from R&D stage to pilot projects and scaling in areas such as EV infrastructure, artificial intelligence, machine learning, hydrogen technologies, battery energy storage systems, monitoring and sensing solutions, microgrids et al.



166. The **Centre** and the **Asian Development Bank** signed a **4.5 million dollar project** readiness financing PRF loan to support project preparation and design activities to improve urban mobility in Aizawl, the capital city of the northeastern state of **Mizoram**.
167. India and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have recently signed a **\$ 100 million** loan to promote an agribusiness network to boost farm incomes and reduce food losses in **Maharashtra**.
- ADB will also provide a USD 500,000 technical assistance (TA) grant from its Technical Assistance Special Fund and USD 2 million from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction on a grant basis to improve market linkages for **farmer producer organizations (FPOs)**.
168. The Government of India and the **Asian Development Bank** signed a **251 million dollar** loan for climate-resilient, integrated urban flood protection and management in the Chennai-Kosasthalaiyar basin to strengthen resilience of **Chennai** city to floods.
169. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (**AIIB**) and the Asian Development (**ADB**) will co-finance a **USD 2 billion** loan for India to procure COVID-19 vaccines under ADB's Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX)
- AIIB is considering providing USD 500 million and the Manila-based ADB is expected to finance USD 1.5 billion.
170. The **Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** is working with caller identification platform **Truecaller** to provide passengers with greater trust in communication.
- Truecaller verified identity will aim to reduce fraud by assuring people that critical communication such as booking details and PNR status are being delivered by IRCTC.
  - With this, the integrated National Railways Helpline **139** "used by lakhs of Indians daily" will now be verified by Truecaller Business Identity solutions.
171. **MeitY Startup Hub**, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and **Google** has announced a partnership to launch a growth and development program called the **Appscale Academy**.
- The program is aimed to train early to mid-stage startups across India on building high-quality apps for the world.
172. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has recently changed the corporate name of **Facebook** to '**Meta**'. The main objective is to focus on building the "*metaverse*", a shared virtual environment that it bets will be the successor to the mobile internet.
- The names of the social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Messenger, and WhatsApp, which are now under Meta are not changed.
173. Bombay Stock Exchange (**BSE**), has signed a memorandum of understanding (**MoU**) with the Government of **Chhattisgarh** to spread **awareness about the benefits of listing SMEs** in the state. This is expected to help in the healthy growth of SMEs.

- Through the MoU, BSE will provide training and capacity building support to District Industries Centre officials of Government of Chhattisgarh.

174. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved the **250 million USD** (~Rs 1873 crore) loan to support the National Industrial Corridor Development Program (NICDP) of India.
- This is the first subprogram of the programmatic USD 500 million loan to develop 11 industrial corridors across 17 states.

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## FINANCE & BANKING

175. RBI has recently removed Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) from the **Prompt Corrective Action** Framework (PCAF). It is noteworthy that IOB was placed under PCA in 2015.
176. **IDBI Bank** has recently signed a co-lending agreement with U GRO Capital, an MSME lending fintech platform, to provide credit support to underserved MSMEs at affordable rates.
177. Dairy-tech start-up, Stellapps has recently collaborated with **Airtel Payments Bank** to enable cashless payment transfer to small dairy farmers. With this, over 120 Stellapps milk collection centres will now act as banking points, enabling farmers to open bank accounts, withdraw and deposit cash, earn interest on savings, etc.
- This partner ecosystem has been piloted in **Uttar Pradesh** (Varanasi & Kanpur) and **Madhya Pradesh** (Gwalior).
178. Indel Money has recently tied up with **IndusInd Bank** for a gold loan co-lending partnership to offer gold loans at competitive rates. **80%** of gold loans will be funded by IndusInd Bank while the remaining 20% will be funded by Indel Money.
179. NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL) has recently signed its first green term loan agreement of **Rs 500 crore** at a very competitive rate with a tenor of 15 years with **Bank of India** for its 470 MW solar project in Rajasthan and 200 MW solar project in Gujarat.
180. **State Bank of India (SBI)** has recently signed an agreement with three non-banking finance company-microfinance institutions (NBFC-MFIs) for co-lending to Joint Liability Groups (JLGs). The lender has signed the agreement with Vedika Credit Capital Ltd (VCCL), Save Microfinance Pvt Ltd (SMPL), and Paisalo Digital Ltd (PDL).
181. **Payback India**, a BharatPe company, has recently launched the 'PAY feature' on its mobile app that provides the integrated facility of QR (Quick Response) code-based payment and loyalty points in a single app. It is the first of its kind initiative in the industry that integrates QR-based UPI payments and loyalty in a single app.

182. **AU Small Finance Bank** has recently signed an agreement with the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** to boost the ongoing rural development initiative in Rajasthan. It will benefit farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), rural artisans, agri-entrepreneurs, and agri-startups in the state.
183. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently made new auto-debit rules mandatory from **1st October 2021** to strengthen the safety and security of card transactions.
- Banks have to inform the customers in advance about the recurring payments due.
  - Customers are required to follow the one-time registration process. After this process, further transactions can be done without any additional factor authentication.
  - Banks are required to send a one-time password to customers for recurring payments above **Rs 5000**.
184. The Indian Navy and **State Bank of India (SBI)** has recently launched SBI's NAV-eCash Card onboard India's largest Naval Aircraft Carrier INS Vikramaditya. The card has dual-chip technology that will facilitate both online and offline transactions.
185. **ESAF Small Finance Bank** has recently launched a current account product '**Supreme**' for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs). This will be available at 277 branches across Kerala out of the total 550 branches pan India.
186. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently granted a license to the **Rs 6000 crore National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)** under **Section 3** of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (**SARFAESI Act 2002**).
187. **BharatPe** has recently announced its entry into the 'Buy Now Pay Later' (BNPL) category with the launch of '**Postpe**'. The new platform will offer customers an interest-free credit limit of up to **Rs 10 lakh**. BharatPe aims to facilitate a loan book of \$ 300 million on Postpe in the first 12 months for its lending partners.
188. **Federal Bank** has recently collaborated with CredAvenue for the portfolio management of its securitization book and implemented CredPool, an institutional lending platform of CredAvenue.
189. The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has recently sanctioned an assistance of **Rs 303 crore** to the **Odisha** government for the construction of **24 bridges** in the state. The project has been approved under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of NABARD.
190. RBI has recently given in-principle approval to BSE Technologies Limited for setting up and operating **trade receivables discounting system (TReDS)** under the Payments and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
191. SEBI has recently revised norms on the minimum percentage of monthly trades to be carried out by mutual funds on the **Request For Quote (RFQ)** platform of stock exchanges. As per the new norms, mutual funds will have to undertake at least **25%** of their total secondary market trades by value in **Corporate Bonds** and **10%** of their total secondary market trades by value in **Commercial Papers** by placing/seeking quotes through one-to-many mode on the RFQ platform.

192. The State Bank of India has recently extended its partnership with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to drive innovation and technology solutions for **5 years**. Under this partnership, SBI uses TCS BaNCS for which TCS maintains and enhances SBI's application for core banking, trade finance, financial reporting, and financial inclusion.
193. TCS is also helping SBI to build **Bharat Craft** – an omnichannel, online B2B e-commerce platform that would serve as a marketplace for MSMEs.
194. **Punjab National Bank** has recently launched the “6S Campaign” under the customer outreach program to accelerate credit growth, improve penetration of social security schemes and drive digital banking push. The ‘6S’ denotes different schemes such as – **Swabhiman, Samruddhi, Sampark and Shikhar, Sankalp, and Swagat**.
195. Ezetap, a digital payments leader, has recently collaborated with **Axis Bank** to introduce 'My Vyappar', the latest offering for retail businesses in India. Under this partnership, over 50,000 smart Point of Sales (POS) devices has been deployed with My Vyappar across 1600+ cities in India.
196. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently issued a Small Finance Bank (SFB) license to the consortium of Centrum Financial Services Limited (Centrum) and Resilient Innovations Private Limited (BharatPe). The new SFB has been incorporated as '**Unity Small Finance Bank**'.
- With this, the total strength of SFB in India is **12**.
197. **Shivalik Small Finance Bank** has recently partnered with Bengaluru-based insurtech company, Go Digit General Insurance, to provide an array of instant, easy-to-understand insurance products. It will include health insurance plans, motor insurance, and home and shop insurance.
198. Vested Finance has recently tied up with SBM Bank India for *facilitating forex transfers*. With this, Vested users will be able to open accounts with SBM Bank and transfer money abroad at low costs.
199. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has recently constituted a four-member high-powered advisory committee on settlement orders and compounding of offenses. The committee will work as per the Settlement Proceedings Regulations, 2018.
- The committee will be chaired by **Vijay C Daga**, retired judge of High Court of Bombay.
200. The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of **one crore rupees** on the **State Bank of India** and **1.95 crore rupees** on **Standard Chartered Bank**.
201. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has authorised **Karur Vysya Bank to collect direct taxes** on behalf of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

202. **Tata AIG General Insurance Co. Ltd** announced the launch of **Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) insurance**, and distribution tie-up with **TropoGo**, a deep-tech startup.
203. **IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited** (IndiaFirst Life), promoted by Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India, has introduced **IndiaFirst Life Saral Bachat Bima Plan**, a savings and protection cover for the entire family.
- This non-linked, non-participating, individual, limited premium policy provides a shorter pay commitment of five or seven years while keeping you and your entire family protected for **12 or 15 years**.
204. Agri-fintech firm **Dvara E-Dairy Solutions Pvt Ltd** has entered into a partnership with Jana Small Finance Bank (Jana SFB) to **service small dairy farmers**.
205. **NABARD** has sanctioned **Rs 608 crore** to government of India for different infrastructure projects in rural areas in **Assam**.

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206. **HDFC Bank, Mastercard**, US International Development Finance Corporation (**DFC**), and US Agency for International Development (**USAID**) have launched a **\$100 million credit facility**.
207. SME lender and fintech **Rupifi** has partnered with non-banking financial company **Muthoot Finance** aims to power 15 million small and medium-sized enterprises with **access to instant credit in the next few years**.
208. **Bharti AXA Life Insurance** announced its bancassurance partnership with **Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited** (USFBL) for the distribution of life insurance products through the bank's network of branches across the country.
209. Rupifi, India's Embedded Finance Fintech for SMEs, has recently collaborated with **Muthoot Finance** to support 15 million small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with access to instant credit over the next few years.
210. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has tied up with **Pine Labs** to **expand its point-of-sale (PoS)** services to more merchants, especially retailers.
- Through this tie-up, merchants in India will now be able to get the advantage of Kotak Mahindra Bank's PoS payment solutions bundled with Pine Labs' technology stack to help grow their business
211. State-owned India Infrastructure Finance Co. Ltd. (**IIFCL**) is set to finance infrastructure investment trusts (InVITs), adding a new funding avenue for infrastructure projects.
- The state agency that offers long-term financial assistance to viable infrastructure projects has **received approval from the Reserve Bank of India** to back InVITs and will spend about **₹ 4,000 crore** in this

segment this fiscal.

212. **ITILITE**, an all-in-one business travel and expense management platform, announced an exclusive tie-up with **ICICI Bank** to issue **commercial credit cards** to businesses in the country.
- With this, companies can now get an '**ICICI Bank Central Travel Account Card (CTA card)**' and make travel bookings for employees seamlessly at a discounted rate on the ITILITE platform.
213. The **Union Bank of India** has recently signed an MoU with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (**CDAC**), Hyderabad under which CDAC will assist it to impart cyber security awareness and education to customers and employees. It is the first of its kind initiative on cyber security awareness.
214. The **Reserve Bank of India** has announced a scale-based **regulation of non-banking finance companies**, which include a ceiling on IPO funding per borrower as well as changes in the minimum net owned fund, classification of non-performing assets, and capital requirements.
- Under the new framework, there will be a **ceiling of ₹ 1 crore per borrower** for financing subscription to an initial public offering (IPO). While the overall guidelines shall be effective from **October 1, 2022**, the instructions relating to the ceiling on IPO funding will come into effect from April 1, 2022.
  - "NBFCs can fix more conservative limits," the RBI said in the 'Scale Based Regulation' (SBR): A Revised Regulatory Framework for NBFCs.
215. **AU Small Finance Bank** has recently launched a **QR Code Sound Box** to offer instant voice-based payment alerts to merchant partners. It is aimed at enhancing the bank's reach in digital payments. It will be available in **5 languages** namely, Hindi, English, Punjabi, Gujarati, and Marathi.
- With this, AU Small Finance Bank has become the first bank to launch such a product.
  - With an objective for digital innovation, the QR Sound Box will help small merchants to run their operations smoothly without the hassle of reading SMS every time a customer makes a payment.
216. **Future Generali India Insurance (FGII)**, the general insurance arm of the joint venture between Future Group and global insurer Generali, has recently entered into a bancassurance tie-up with **Bank of India** to increase the reach of its insurance products.
217. **ICICI Bank** has crossed the market capitalisation of Hindustan Unilever to become the **fifth largest company** by market value.
- According to BSE data, ICICI Bank's market capitalisation (m-cap) stood at **₹ 5.83 lakh crore**, just above HUL's ₹5.76 lakh crore.
  - This follows the bank posting its highest ever quarterly net profit in the July to September 2021 quarter.
218. ICICI Lombard General Insurance has recently launched a service named '**BeFit**' to provide the benefit of OPD (Outpatient Department) services i.e. doctor consultation, pharmacy and diagnostics services, and physiotherapy sessions to its customers in a cashless manner.
- Under this service, medicine will be delivered at home within 60 minutes and lab tests both at home and centre visit.

- It will also offer 24×7 consultations (tele and virtual) by a panel of doctors.
219. **Max Life Insurance Company** has recently become the first life insurance company to join the Account Aggregator (AA) framework, which was introduced by RBI in September 2021.
- The company has partnered with a non-banking finance company (NBFC) FinVu, which is also an AA, and Finarkein, a data analytics company, to join the network as a Financial Information User (FIU).
220. **Kotak Mahindra Bank**, in association with IndiGo, has recently launched a co-branded credit card named "*Ka-Ching*". It has been launched under IndiGo's 6E Rewards programme.
- This collaboration will create value for customers in the form of a powerful product proposition offering a premium rewards experience to customers.
221. **YES Bank** has launched its **YES Family** proposition, which offers services and privileges for the family of an account holder. The bank claims that the offering is packed with exclusive benefits, which have been curated thoughtfully.

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222. **SBI General Insurance** has announced a technological collaboration with the digital payments platform **Google Pay**.
- The collaboration will allow customers to purchase **SBI General's health insurance plan** directly through the **Google Pay app**. The partnership is in line with SBI General's plan to expand its distribution of insurance solutions through digital channels.
223. India Post Payments Bank (**IPPB**) and **HDFC** has entered into a strategic alliance to **offer home loans** to nearly 4.7 crore customers of the payments bank.
- The partnership aims to facilitate HDFC's home loans to customers, especially in unbanked and underserved areas with many of them having little or no access to finance, to fulfill their dream of owning a home.
224. **HDFC Bank** along with Mastercard, the United States Development Finance Corporation (DFC), and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) have launched a credit facility of **\$ 100 million** for MSMEs in India. This facility will be available for new-to-credit small businesses owners, including at least 50% of women entrepreneurs.
225. The Reserve Bank of India's holding of gold in foreign exchange reserves went up about **11 per cent** year-on-year (y-o-y) to **743.84 metric tonnes** as on September-end 2021 against 668.25 metric tonnes as on September-end 2020.
- However, in value terms, the share of gold in the reserves declined to about 5.88 per cent against about 6.69 per cent in the year-ago period, as per the RBI's half yearly report – Management of Foreign

Exchange Reserves: April-September 2021.

226. Global dairy major **Lactalis**, which operates in the name of Sunfresh Agro Industries Pvt Ltd (**SAIPL**) in **Maharashtra**, and State Bank of India **SBI** have joined hands to extend financial support to the dairy farmers in the state.
- The credit facility through SBI will help in improving animal health, yield and milk quality in addition to enabling marginal farmers to own more cattle.
227. **PayU** has announced the launch of its unique tokenisation solution '**PayU Token Hub**', which will enable businesses to comply with Reserve Bank of India's (**RBI's**) **latest guidelines on online card data storage**, while allowing issuing banks to also generate their own tokens.
- This solution has been built by **PayU and Wibmo**, a PayU-owned full stack global PayTech company, in partnership with major card networks such as **Visa** and **MasterCard**, and leading issuing banks.
  - The solution offers both network tokens and issuer tokens under single hub.
228. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** said it has partnered with **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to launch credit cards on the RuPay network for Indian armed forces personnel.
- The Kotak RuPay Veer Platinum and Kotak RuPay Veer Select Credit Cards are specially designed to fulfil the needs of those who have dedicated themselves to the service of the nation, i.e. the **armed forces** of the country – Army, Navy, and Air Force," the bank said.
229. **Paytm** has announced that Switzerland-based reinsurance platform **Swiss Re** will purchase a **23% stake of Paytm Insuretech**, Paytm's insurance unit, for about **920 crore rupee** (a bit more than \$122.6 million).
230. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has recently approved the reappointment of **Shaktikanta Das**, the current Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for a period of **three years** i.e. up to **December 2024**. He had assumed charge as the 25th governor of the RBI on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018.
- **Note:** If Shaktikanta Das completes his six-year term, he will be the longest-serving RBI governor after Benegal Rama Rao, who served as the head of the central bank from 1<sup>st</sup> July 1949 to 14<sup>th</sup> January 1957 (7 years and 6 months).

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

231. Right Livelihood Award 2021 has been presented to Delhi-based environmental organisation "**Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE)**" for its grassroots approach to empowering vulnerable communities in protecting their livelihoods and claiming their right to a clean environment.
232. **The Nobel Prizes 2021:**

Field	Recipient	Contribution
Physics	Syukuro Manabe and Klaus Hasselmann	for the physical modelling of Earth's climate, quantifying variability and reliably predicting global warming



	Giorgio Parisi	for the discovery of the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems from atomic to planetary scales
Chemistry	Benjamin List and David MacMillan	“for the development of asymmetric organocatalysis”
Physiology/Medicine	David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian	for their discoveries of receptors for temperature and touch
Literature	Abdulrazak Gurnah	“for his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents”
Peace	Maria Ressa and Dmitry Andreyevich Muratov	“for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace”
Economics	David Card	“for his empirical contributions to labour economics”
	Joshua D. Angrist and Guido W. Imbens	“for their methodological contributions to the analysis of causal relationships”

233. **Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development**, a humanitarian organization from Yemen, has won the 2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award. The organization was founded in 2017 by Ameen Jubran.
234. The 2021 FIH Hockey Stars Award has recently been announced by the International Hockey Federation (FIH). This is the first time that all nominees from India have won prestigious awards in their respective categories.

<b>FIH Hockey Stars Award 2021</b>	
<b>Award (Women's) Player Name</b>	
<b>FIH Women's Hockey Player of the Year</b>	Gurjit Kaur
<b>FIH Women's Goalkeeper of the Year</b>	Savita Punia
<b>FIH Women's Coach of the Year</b>	Sjoerd Marijne
<b>FIH Women's Rising Star of the Year</b>	Sharmila Devi
<b>Award (Men's) Player Name</b>	
<b>FIH Men's Hockey Player of the Year</b>	Harmanpreet Singh
<b>FIH Men's Goalkeeper of the Year</b>	PR Sreejesh
<b>FIH Men's Rising Star of the Year</b>	Vivek Prasad Sagar
<b>FIH Men's Coach of the Year</b>	Graham Reid

235. **Dr. G Satheesh Reddy**, the Chairman of DRDO and Secretary of DDR&D, has been conferred the prestigious Aryabhata Award by the Astronautical Society of India (ASI) for his outstanding lifetime contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India.
236. Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Dr. **Randeep Guleria** has been honored with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence 2021 for his pioneer and sustained work in the field of medicine.
237. The **Indian Army** won a gold medal at the **Cambrian Patrol Exercise** held in the **UK** while competing against 96 teams representing Special Forces and regiments from around the world.
- The 4/5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force) represented the Indian Army at the drill held at Brecon, Wales, during October 13-15.
  - The event is considered the ultimate test of human endurance and team spirit and is considered the “Olympics of military patrolling”.
238. **Takachar**, led by Vidyut Mohan, has recently won the “Prince William’s inaugural Earth shot Prize”, which is also known as “Eco Oscars”, under the category ‘Clean Our Air’.
- Takachar has been awarded for a portable machine developed to turn agricultural waste into fertilizer so that farmers do not burn their fields and cause air pollution.
239. Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** has conferred **Assam Government’s biennial Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi Award** for National Integration and National Contribution at a special function in Guwahati.
240. **Kung Fu Nuns** of Drukpa order of Buddhism has recently won the inaugural **UNESCO’s Martial Arts Education Prize 2021** for their brave and heroic acts of service and championing of gender equality across the Himalayas.
- The Drukpa Nuns empower young girls through martial arts, to defend themselves, build confidence, and take on leadership roles in their communities.

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241. **Parambikulam Tiger Conservation Foundation** has won the **Earth Guardian Award** for its efforts in supporting the conservation of tigers and biodiversity.
242. Imprisoned Russian Opposition leader **Alexei Navalny** was awarded the **European Union’s top human rights prize** in a clear slap to President Vladimir Putin.

243. **Dr. G Satheesh Reddy** has been conferred the prestigious **Aryabhata Award** by the Astronautical Society of India (ASI) for his outstanding lifetime contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India.
244. **National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC)**, Country's largest iron ore producer, a CPSE under Ministry of Steel has bagged **Gold Award in Environmental Sustainability category** and **Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine bagged Platinum Award in Environment Management category**.
245. The **Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award** will be conferred on filmmakers **Martin Scorsese** and **István Szabó** at the 52nd edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) being held in Goa from November 20 to 28 in a hybrid format, officials familiar with the matter said.
246. **Rajiv Nigam** (Former Chief Scientist, CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography, Goa, India), has been Selected as **2022 recipient of J.A. Cushman Award for Excellence in Foraminiferal Research**.
- This award, the highest honor the Cushman Foundation, recognizes Dr. Nigam's outstanding lifetime contributions to the field of foraminifera research.
247. Zimbabwean author and filmmaker **Tsitsi Dangarembga** has received the **2021 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade**. Along with her artistic endeavors, she has been committed to protecting civil liberties in her home country.
- Dangarembga is the **first Black woman** to win the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, which is endowed with 25,000 euros (\$29,100) and has been awarded since 1950.
248. **TVS Motor Company**, a reputed manufacturer of two-wheelers and three-wheelers in the world, has been recognised in the category '**Outstanding Renewable Energy User**' at the Third Edition of **India Green Energy Award 2020** by the Indian Federation of Green Energy (IFGE).
- The company has won this award as an acknowledgement of its sustainable efforts to increase the usage of alternative power sources in renewable energy to ensure long-term energy security and stability.
249. **Chennai – Mysore- Chennai Shatabdi Express** has become the **first Integrated Management Systems certified train of Southern Railway**.
- The certificate has been given for maintenance and better use of environment-friendly resources and for offering travel comfort.
250. **Karnataka Bank** is conferred with the prestigious '**Top Organizations with Innovative HR Practices**' award at the 19th edition of Asia Pacific HRM Congress held on October 26, 2021 at Bengaluru.
- The award is presented to the Bank for effectively implementing innovative HR practices for Human Resource Development and Talent Management.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

251. **Wole Soyinka** has authored a new book titled "**Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth**". *He is Africa's first Nobel laureate in Literature* (1986). His debut novel 'The Interpreters' was published in 1965.
- He wrote his last novel 'Season of Anomy' in 1973.

252. Former Indian Ambassador to Nepal, **Ranjit Rae** has recently authored his debut book titled “**Kathmandu Dilemma: Resetting India-Nepal Ties**”. The book has been published by Vintage Books, Penguin Random House.
253. **Jaithirth Rao**, also known as Jerry Rao, has recently authored a book titled “**Economist Gandhi: The Roots and the Relevance of the Political Economy of the Mahatma**”. It has been published by Penguin Random House.
254. Former Chairman of SBI, **Rajnish Kumar** has recently authored his debut book titled “**The Custodian of Trust: A Banker's Memoir**”. It will be released on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021. It has been published by Penguin Random House India.
255. **Sujeet Sarkar** has recently authored a book titled “**Quest For A Stable Afghanistan: A View From Ground Zero**”. The book has been published by Rupa Publications. He has also authored a book titled “**In Search of a New Afghanistan**”.
256. Professor **Shafey Kidwai** has recently authored a book titled “**Sir Syed Ahmad Khan: Reason, Religion and Nation**”. The book depicts the attitude of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan towards the congress leaders and his concept of nation and community and his views on girl education. The book has been published by Routledge India.
- *The year 2021 marks the 204<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan on 17<sup>th</sup> October.*
  - Shafey Kidwai is a reputed scholar, well-known literary critic, and columnist who is teaching communication studies for more than 35 years at the Aligarh Muslim University. He has been honoured with **Sahitya Academy Award** for Urdu in **2019**.
257. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched a book titled 'Veer Savarkar: The Man Who Could Have Prevented Partition'. The book has been authored by **Uday Mahurkar** and **Chirayu Pandit**.
- The book is being published by Rupa publications.

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258. Bollywood actress **Divya Dutta** has recently authored her second book titled ‘**The Stars in My Sky: Those Who Brightened My Film Journey**’. The book has been published by Penguin eBury Press. The foreword of the book is written by Amitabh Bachchan.
259. Indian writer and actor **Venkataraman Subha Srinivasan** has recently authored his first non-fiction book titled “**The Origin Story of India's States**”. The book has been published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).
- The book depicts the incredible origin stories of each of India’s 28 states and 8 union territories.

260. Legendary Indian poet-lyricist-director **Gulzar** has come out with his new book title “**Actually... I Met Them: A Memoir**”. It was published by the publishing group Penguin Random House India.
261. The book titled ‘**The Origin Story of India’s States**’ published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI), is written by author **Venkataraman Subha Srinivasan**.
- A new book, slated to release on October 25, will present the incredible origin stories of each of India’s 28 states and eight union territories.
262. Indian author **Ruskin Bond** has recently authored an anthology titled “**Writing for My Life**”.
- This anthology contains some of the most exemplary stories, essays, poems, and memories of Ruskin Bond. It has been released 25 years after his first anthology titled, “The Best of Ruskin Bond”.
  - Ruskin Bond was born in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh in 1934. His first novel was ‘**The Room on the Roof**’. He received the **Sahitya Akademi Award** for English writing in India in 1992, the Padma Shri in 1999, and the Padma Bhushan in 2014.
263. The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of **NITI Aayog** has launched a **Digi-book** named “**Innovations for You**”. The sector in focus in this Digi-book is Healthcare.
- The book is a compilation of 45 health tech startups, incubated at Atal Incubation Centres spread across the country.
264. **Chidanand Rajghatta**, the Indian journalist and writer, has recently authored a new book titled 'Kamala Harris: Phenomenal Woman'.
- The book depicts the life incidents of Kamala Harris, a woman of mixed race (India and Jamaica), who became the first female Vice President of the United States of America.
  - The book has been published by **HarperCollins Publisher India**.
265. Former Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’** has recently authored a new book titled ‘**AIIMS Mein Ek Jang Ladte Hue**’. The book has been published by Prabhat Prakashan.

## PERSON IN NEWS

266. Bollywood actor **Ranveer Singh** has been named as the brand ambassador for the National Basketball Association (NBA) in India. He will work with the NBA to help grow the league’s profile in India throughout its landmark 75th anniversary season in 2021-22.
267. Indian **hockey** player, Rupinder Pal Singh has recently announced his retirement from international hockey. He has represented the Indian hockey team in 223 matches in his 13 years hockey career. He was part of the Indian hockey team that won the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics 2020.
268. **Amish Mehta** has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of rating agency CRISIL with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021. He has succeeded Ashu Suyash.

269. **Wendy Werner** has recently been appointed as the new Country Head for India by the International Finance Corporation (IFC). She has succeeded Jun Zhang.
270. Amrutanjan Healthcare Limited has recently appointed Tokyo Olympic weightlifting Silver medallist **Mirabai Chanu** and wrestling Bronze medallist **Bajrang Punia** as its brand ambassador.
271. The Central Government has recently extended the additional charge of **Pravin Kumar Purwar** as the Chairman and Managing Director of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) for 1 year with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021.
272. Indian wearable brand Fire-Boltt has appointed Indian cricket captain **Virat Kohli** as its new brand ambassador. He will participate in different marketing, ad, and endorsement campaigns of the home-grown brand.
273. **Ashok Kumar Gupta**, chairman of the Competition Commission of India, has recently been given the additional charge as the chairperson of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA). He will succeed Rangachari Sridharan.
274. Crypto platform CoinSwitch Kuber has recently appointed Bollywood actor **Ranveer Singh** as its first brand ambassador. He will be featured in three ad films for CoinSwitch Kuber's ongoing 'Kuch Toh Badlega' campaign.
275. **Rajnish Kumar**, former chief of State Bank of India, has recently been appointed as the Chairman of "Bharatpe". He completed his term as chairman of SBI in October 2020.
276. **Arun Kumar Mishra** has recently been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL). He has succeeded Saurabh Kumar.
277. **Navrang Saini**, the Whole Time Member of IBBI, has been given the additional charge as the Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) for three months or till the joining of a new incumbent to the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- It is noteworthy that M.S. Sahoo has retired as Chairman of IBBI after a five-year tenure on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
278. **Jonas Gahr Store**, the leader of Norway's Labor Party, which won the elections in September, became the **Norway's new prime minister**.
279. RBI has recently approved the appointment of **Pradeep Kumar Panja** as the Chairman of Karnataka Bank Ltd. with effect from 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021, for three years. He will succeed P Jayarama Bhat, who will retire on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
280. Former Indian batsman, **Rahul Dravid**, also known as 'The Wall' of Indian cricket, has been appointed as the head coach of Team India for two years. He will succeed Ravi Shastri, whose tenure will end after the 2021 edition of the T20 World Cup in the UAE.

281. **Sahdev Yadav** was elected the **president of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF)**. Yadav, who held the post of secretary general, was elected unanimously.
282. Retired commodore **Amit Rastogi**, after spending 34 years in Indian Navy, took over as the **chairman and managing director** of the **National Research Development Corporation**.
283. Cryptocurrency exchange **CoinDCX** announced that it has signed actor **Ayushmann Khurana** as the face for its latest campaign '**Future Yahi Hain**'.
284. Director-producer **Imtiaz Ali** has been appointed as the **ambassador of the Russian Film Festival** in India. As part of the festival, ten notable Russian films of various genres will be premiered for Indian audiences on Disney+ Hotstar from 16<sup>th</sup> October to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
285. Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC's managing director and chief executive- **A Balasubramanian** has been appointed as **chairman** of mutual fund industry body **Amfi**, industry insiders said.
286. **Barbados** has elected its first president, a key step in preparations to become a republic and remove Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as head of state of the Caribbean island.
- **Sandra Mason**, the current governor-general, is set to be sworn in as president on November 30, the country's 55th anniversary of independence from Britain.
  - *It gained its independence from Britain in 1966.*
287. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed **Captain Alok Mishra** as the **Managing Director of India Ports Global Limited (IPGL)**.
288. **Adidas** has roped in Bollywood actress **Deepika Padukone** to endorse the **German** sportswear brand globally for women sports.
- Padukone is joining Adidas powerful roster of women athletes and partners around the globe, which would strengthen its focus on democratising and diversifying sport for women.
289. Indian cricketer **K L Rahul** has been appointed as the **brand ambassador** by the Chinese smartphone manufacturer, **Realme**. He will endorse its smartphone category.
290. The **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** appointed Commodore **PK Garg** as the Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)** at the Mission Olympic Cell meeting.
291. The rating agency has announced the appointment of **Ramnath Krishnan** as **managing director** and group **chief executive officer** from 23 October 2021.
- Krishnan joined ICRA in 2020 and is president – ratings and chief rating officer of the company.
  - Krishnan succeeds **N Sivaraman**, who stepped down from the position of MD & CEO on 22 October 2021, for personal reasons.
292. Uzbek President **Shavkat Mirziyoyev** has been **re-elected for a second five-year term**, according to the preliminary results of a poll that Western observers criticised as uncompetitive despite recent political reforms.

- Uzbekistan's Central Election Commission said Mr. Mirziyoyev had taken 80.1% of the vote against four token opponents.
293. FloBiz, a neobank for Small and Medium-sized Businesses (SMBs), has recently roped in **Manoj Bajpayee** as the brand ambassador for its flagship product 'myBillBook'. He will feature in the brand's 'Business Ko Le Seriously' campaign.
294. The government has announced the appointment of veteran banker **K V Kamath** as **chairperson** of the newly set up **Rs 20,000 crore National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)**.
295. **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has announced the appointment of Dr **Subhash C Khuntia** as the part-time **Chairman** to strengthen the Board and support the firm through the next phase of growth.
296. **Jammu & Kashmir Bank** said the Reserve Bank has approved the appointment of **Baldev Prakash** as its next **Managing Director and CEO** of the bank for a period of three years from the date of taking charge or April 10, 2022, whichever is earlier, J&K Bank said in a regulatory filing.

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## OBITUARIES

297. Indian **actor** Arvind Trivedi has passed away recently in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1938 in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. He was best known for his iconic role of demon-king 'Raavan' in Ramanand Sagar's TV serial *Ramayan*.
298. Vallilath Madhathil Madhavan Nair, the former **diplomat** of India, has passed away recently in New Delhi at the age of 102 years. He was born on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1919 in Mangalore, Karnataka. He was the oldest living officer from either the Indian Civil Service or the Indian Political Service.
299. Abolhassan Banisadr, who became the **first president** of **Iran** following the country's 1979 revolution, has passed away recently in Paris, France. He was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1933 in Iran.
300. Dr. **Abdul Qadeer Khan**, who is known as the "Father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb", has passed away recently in Islamabad, Pakistan due to Covid-19. He was born on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1936 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
301. Renowned **Politician** Visasolie Lhoungu has passed away recently in Kohima, Nagaland. He served as the former president of Nagaland Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and chairman of Nagaland Bamboo Development Agency.
302. Balvinder Singh Nakai, **Chairman of IFFCO & Ex-Vice Chairman IFFDC**, has passed away recently in New Delhi. He was born on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1934.



303. Veteran actor **Farrukh Jafar**, known for her performance in films “Gulabo Sitabo” and “Sultan”, died at a hospital. She was 89.
304. Former India U-19 captain **Avi Barot** has died after suffering a cardiac arrest, the Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA). He was 29.
305. Veteran News Reader and News Editor **Jaya Balaji** passed away in Chennai. She was 75. She passed away after a massive heart attack.
306. **Colin Powell**, the first Black U.S. secretary of state, a top military officer and a national security adviser, died at age 84 due to complications from COVID-19.
307. Bandula Warnapura, who led **Sri Lanka** in their maiden Test, has passed away recently in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He was born on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1953 in Rambukkana, Sri Lanka. He played 4 Test matches and 12 ODI during his international cricketering career from 1975 to 1982.
308. Former **hockey** international **Saranjeet Singh** passed away. He was 59.
309. South Korean former president **Roh Tae-woo**, a decorated war veteran who played a pivotal but controversial role in the transition to democratic elections from rule by authoritarian leaders, has died. He was 88.
310. Eminent oncologist and Padma Shri awardee **Dr. M Krishnan Nair**, the founding director of the famed Regional Cancer Centre, died in Thiruvananthapuram following age-related ailments. He was 81.
311. Veteran actor Yusuf Hussain, popularly known for films like Vivah, Dhoom 2, Raees and Dil Chahta Hai, passed away. He was 73
312. **Puneeth Rajkumar**, 46, one of the marquee names of the Kannada film industry and the youngest of the five children of matinee idol Dr. Rajkumar, passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest.
313. American **diplomat** Colin Powell has recently passed away in Bethesda, Maryland, United States. He was born on 5 April 1937 in New York, USA. He was the first Black US secretary of state who served from 2001 to 2005.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

314. International Day of Older Persons is observed annually on **1<sup>st</sup> October** to spread awareness about the need for health provisions and social care for the elderly. The theme for 2021 is “**Digital Equity for All Ages**”.
- UN General Assembly has declared October 1st as the International Day of Older Persons in 1990. The day was first observed in **1991**.
315. World Vegetarian Day is observed annually on **1st October** to bring awareness to the ethical, environmental, health, and humanitarian benefits of a vegetarian lifestyle.
- The month of October is also observed as **Vegetarian Awareness Month**. The monthly celebrations end on November 1st with World Vegan Day.

316. Gandhi Jayanti is celebrated annually on **2nd October** to mark the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. The year 2021 marks his **152<sup>nd</sup>** birth anniversary.
- United Nations General Assembly has declared 2nd October as the **International Day of Non-Violence** in 2007 in the honour of Mahatma Gandhi.
317. World Animal Day is observed annually on **4<sup>th</sup> October**. The day marks the feast day of Francis of Assisi, who was regarded as the patron saint of animals. It is also known as ‘Animal Lovers Day’. It is also celebrated to raise the status of animals and help improve welfare standards across the world.
318. National Ganga River Dolphin Day is observed annually on **5<sup>th</sup> October** to spread awareness and encourage the conservation of Ganga River Dolphins. It is celebrated by the National Mission for Clean Ganga.
- **Note:** *On 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010, the dolphins were declared the **National Aquatic Animal**.*
319. World Cotton Day is observed annually on **7<sup>th</sup> October** to celebrate the advantages of cotton, ranging from its qualities as a natural fibre to the benefits people obtain from its production, transformation, trade and consumption.
320. Indian Air Force (IAF) Day is observed annually on **8<sup>th</sup> October** to spread awareness around the world about IAF as an organization that works towards strengthening national security. The day also marks the establishment of the Indian Air Force on **8<sup>th</sup> October 1932**.
321. World Post Day is observed annually on **9<sup>th</sup> October** to raise awareness of the role of the postal sector in people’s and businesses’ everyday lives and its contribution to the social and economic development of countries.
- The theme for this year is “**Innovate to recover.**”
  - The day also marks the establishment of the **Universal Postal Union** in 1874 in Bern, Switzerland. The day was first declared as the World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan, in 1969.
322. World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is observed twice a year on the **Second Saturday of May** and again on the **Second Saturday of October** to spread awareness for the need to conserve migratory birds and their habitats. In 2021, the WMBDD falls on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021, and 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021.
- The theme for this year is ‘**Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a Bird!**’
323. World Mental Health Day is observed annually on **10<sup>th</sup> October** to create awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health. The theme for this year is ‘Mental health in an unequal world’.
324. International Day of the Girl Child is observed annually on **11<sup>th</sup> October** to spread awareness of issues facing girls internationally surrounding education, nutrition, child marriage, legal and medical rights.
- The theme for this year is “**Digital generation. Our generation**”.
325. World Arthritis Day is observed annually on **12<sup>th</sup> October** to spread awareness about arthritis, an inflammatory condition that causes pain and stiffness in joints that can worsen with age.

326. The United Nations International Day for Disaster Reduction is observed annually on **13<sup>th</sup> October** to promote a global culture of risk awareness and disaster reduction.
- The theme for this year is “**International cooperation for developing countries to reduce their disaster risk and disaster losses**”.
  - The day was first observed in **1989**.
327. World Standards Day or International Standards Day is observed annually on **14 October** to spread awareness about the importance of standardization to the global economy among consumers, regulators, and industry.
- The theme for this year is “**Standards for sustainable development goals – shared vision for a better world**”.
328. International Day of Rural Women is observed annually on **15<sup>th</sup> October** to recognize the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security, and eradicating rural poverty.
- The theme for 2021 is “**Rural women cultivating good food for all**”.
329. World Food Day is observed annually on **16<sup>th</sup> October** to commemorate the date of the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in **1945**.
- The theme for World Food Day 2021 is “Our actions are our future- Better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life”.
330. World Student’s Day is observed annually on **15<sup>th</sup> October** to commemorate the birth anniversary of the former president of India, Late Dr. **APJ Abdul Kalam**.
- The theme for 2021 is “Learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace”.
  - The day was first observed in **2010**.
331. World Osteoporosis Day is observed annually on **20<sup>th</sup> October** to create and raise global awareness of the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease.
- The theme for 2021 is “**Serve Up Bone Strength**”.
  - The day is organized by the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF).
332. Every year, the **Raising Day of NSG** is celebrated on **Oct 16**. This year marks the **37<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of establishment of NSG, popularly known as Black Cats.
333. Every year, **October 17** is observed as the **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**. This day is a means to recognize and acknowledge the efforts and struggles that people, who are pushed to live in poverty, face.
- This year’s theme is “Building forward together: Ending Persistent Poverty, Respecting all People and our Planet.”
334. National Police Commemoration Day is observed annually on **21<sup>st</sup> October** to remember and honour the brave policemen who have laid down their lives in the line of duty. The day also commemorates the day in **1959**, when twenty Indian soldiers were attacked by Chinese troops in the Hot Springs area of Ladakh, in which ten

Indian policemen lost their lives and seven were imprisoned.

335. **October 24** is observed as the **United Nations Day** every year. 2021 mark this intergovernmental organization's (dedicated to the crucial role of primarily ensuring global peace and security) 76th year since the foundation.
- The UN came into existence on **October 24, 1945**. The name 'United Nations' was coined by the United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt and was first used in the Declaration of the United Nations on January 1, 1942, during the Second World War.
336. Indo-Tibetan Border Police (**ITBP**) has celebrated its **60th Raising Day** on October 24, 2021.
337. World Polio Day is observed annually on **24<sup>th</sup> October** to spread awareness for polio vaccination and eradication of polio.
- The theme for 2021 is "One Day. One Focus: Ending Polio - delivering on our promise of a polio-free world".
  - The World Polio Day was established by Rotary International over a decade ago to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis.
338. The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has recently decided to observe Vigilance Awareness Week from **26th October to 1st November 2021** to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability amongst public servants and create awareness about the existence, causes, and gravity of corruption.
- The theme for 2021 is "**Independent India@75: Self Reliance with Integrity**".
  - This week is observed annually to mark the birth anniversary of **Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel**, which falls on 31<sup>st</sup> October.
339. World Day for Audio-visual Heritage is observed annually on **27<sup>th</sup> October** to spread awareness of the significance and preservation risks of recorded sound and audio-visual documents.
- The theme for 2021 is "Your Window to the World".
340. International Animation Day is observed annually on **28<sup>th</sup> October** to celebrate the art of animation and also recognize the artists, scientists, and technicians behind animation.
- The year 2021 marks the **20th** International Animation Day.
341. International Internet Day is observed annually on **29<sup>th</sup> October** to celebrate the usage of the internet for the first time. The day marks the sending of the first electronic message which was transferred from one computer to another in 1969.
- The day was first observed in **2005**.
342. World Stroke Day is observed annually on **29th October** by the World Stroke Organization (WSO) to increase awareness and drive action on stroke around the world.
- The day focuses on the **Precious Time campaign** which aims to raise awareness about stroke symptoms and the benefits of acting FAST (Facial drooping, Arm weakness, Speech difficulty and Timely emergency service) to identify a stroke and access emergency medical care.
  - The World Stroke Day was established by the World Stroke Congress in **2004**.

343. In India, World Thrift Day is observed annually on **30<sup>th</sup> October** to promote the importance of savings and how saving money is important in today's world. However, globally, the day is celebrated annually on 31<sup>st</sup> October.
- The theme for this year is “**Understanding the Importance of Savings**”.
344. National Unity Day is observed annually on **31<sup>st</sup> October** to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. This year marks his 146th anniversary.
- The Indian government in **2014** declared October 31st as the National Unity Day or *Rashtriya Ekta Diwas*.
  - The Statue of Unity at Kevadiya in the *Narmada district* of Gujarat was built in his honor in **2018**.

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## SPORTS

345. Philippines' **boxing legend** Manny Pacquiao has recently announced his retirement from **professional boxing**. He started his professional career in 1995 at the age of 16. He is the only boxer to hold world championships in four different decades.
346. Indian Super League (ISL) side **Football Club Goa** has recently won the 130<sup>th</sup> edition of Durand Cup 2021 against Mohammedan Sporting Club in the final at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata.
347. Indian woman cricketer, **Smriti Mandhana** has become the first Indian woman to score a Test century in Australia. She has completed her century to shape up India's first innings on the second day of the first pink ball day and night at the Carrara Oval in Queensland, Australia. She has scored **127 runs** with 22 fours and a six.
348. Indian **shooter**, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar has recently won a gold medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event at the ISSF Junior World Championships in Lima, Peru with a score of 463.4. Lucas Kryzs of France has won the silver and Gavin Barnick of the USA has won the bronze in the event.
349. Indian **wrestler** Anshu Malik has recently become the first Indian female finalist at the World Championship, and also the first female player from India to claim a silver medal at the 2021 World Wrestling Championships held in Oslo, Norway.
350. Asian Table Tennis Championships 2021 has recently been held in Doha, Qatar. For the first time, India has won **3 bronze medals** in the championship.

351. Finland's Mercedes Driver **Valtteri Bottas** has recently won the F1 Turkish Grand Prix 2021. This is his first title of this season. Netherland's Red Bull Driver Max Verstappen has finished second while Mexico's Red Bull Driver Sergio Perez has finished third.
352. The ISSF Junior World Championship 2021 has been held in Lima, Peru from 27<sup>th</sup> September to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2021. **India** has topped the medal tally in the tournament.

ISSF Junior World Championship 2021 (Medal Tally) Top 3 countries					
Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	India	17	16	10	43
2	USA	7	8	6	21
3	Italy	3	3	4	10

353. The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has recently unveiled the official mascot of the U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 i.e. "**Ibha**" an Asiatic lioness representing 'women power'.
- The tournament will be held in India from 11<sup>th</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022.
354. Ireland's **Cricketer** Amy Hunter has recently become the youngest player to score an ODI century. She has scored 121 not out against Zimbabwe on her 16th birthday.
- She has broken the record held by India's **Mithali Raj**, who scored 114 not out against Ireland in June 1999 at the age of 16 years and 205 days.
355. The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the 2021 SAFF Championship title has recently won by **India** after defeating Nepal at the National Football Stadium in Male, Maldives. Previously, the Indian team had won the title in 1993, 1997, 1999, 2005, 2009, 2011, and 2015.
356. The ICC has partnered with UNICEF to **amplify awareness around mental health** and well-being of children and adolescents throughout the men's T20 World Cup.
- The partnership will amplify UNICEF's global campaign **#OnYourMind** which calls for commitment, communication and action to promote good mental health for every child.
357. **India** has won a whopping **43 medals**, including 17 gold, to finish on **top of the pecking order** in the just-concluded **ISSF Junior World Championship** at the Las Palmas Shooting range in Lima, Peru. India was followed by the US and Italy.
- India concluded the meet with 16 silver and 10 bronze medals, in addition to the 17 gold.
358. **Nagaland** will host the **South Asian Athletics Federation (SAAF) Cross Country Championship** in the state capital Kohima on January 15 next year.
359. Nineteen-year-old Indian Grandmaster **Iniyam Pannerselvam** has won the **La Nucia Open** held in Spain.
360. **China** has recently won the Uber Cup Title 2020 by defeating Japan. The tournament has been held in Aarhus, Denmark. This is China's 15th Uber Cup title win in 19 finals.

361. **Indonesia** beat defending champion **China** to win a record-extending **14th Thomas Cup title** at the Ceres Arena in Aarhus, Denmark.
362. Indian fencer **Bhavani Devi** has recently won the Charlellville National Competition held in France. She is ranked **50th** in the world and is the top-ranked fencer from India.
- Bhavani Devi hails from Chennai, Tamil Nadu. She is the first Indian Fencer to qualify for Olympics (Tokyo Olympics 2020).
363. Sixteen-year-old Indian Grandmaster **Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa** has won the **Julius Baer Challengers Chess Tour** finals after defeating Christopher Yoo of the USA.
364. Australia fast bowler **James Pattinson** has announced his **retirement from international cricket** ahead of the upcoming Ashes series against England, Cricket Australia said.
365. Karnataka swimmer **Ridhima Veerendrakumar** came up with yet another **record-breaking performance at the 37th Sub Junior and 47th Junior National Championships** as she bagged the **gold medal in 50 m backstroke** for group II girls, in Bengaluru.
366. Netherlands all-rounder **Ryan ten Doeschate** announced his **retirement from international cricket** after his side failed to qualify for the Super 12 stage of the T20 World Cup.
367. **India** rise one spot to **106th**, **Belgium** hold onto **top position**. India has also moved one spot ahead to the 106th position after the Sunil Chhetri-led side won the SAFF Championship. **Brazil** remain second but are breathing down the neck of Belgium, just 12 points behind. England, meanwhile, dropped two places to fifth.
368. **Kishore Kumar Jena of Odisha** has won the **National Open Javelin Throw Championships** title with a best effort of 74.26m at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.
369. Yamaha's **Fabio Quartararo** has become the **first Frenchman to win the MotoGP world championship** following a fourth-placed finish in the **Emilia Romagna Grand Prix** as his closest title contender Francesco Bagnaia of Ducati crashed.
370. Netherlands Red Bull Racing- Honda driver **Max Verstappen** has recently won the **Formula 1 Aramco United States Grand Prix 2021**. He has defeated UK's Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton. The event has been organized by Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).
371. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (**BCCI**) unveiled **Ahmedabad and Lucknow** as the two **new teams for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022** after CVC Capitals Partners and Sanjiv Goenka's RPSG Group successfully bid for the franchises in Dubai's Taj Hotel.
- The RPSG Group picked Lucknow as their home base with a winning bid of **Rs 7090** crores while CVC Capital Partners have opted for Ahmedabad with a bid of **Rs 5625** crores.
  - The IPL 2022 season will comprise ten teams and will have 74 matches, wherein each team will play 7 home and 7 away matches.

372. Danish Olympic champion **Viktor Axelsen** has won the **Mens' single 2021 Denmark Open Badminton** held at the Odense Sports Park, Denmark. He defeated world number one Kento Momota of Japan.
373. The **world's largest cricket** bat, certified by Guinness World Records was unveiled in **Hyderabad**. The event was held on the eve of ICC Men's T20 World Cup. The cricket bat was unveiled by the former captain of the Indian cricket team **Mohammed Azharuddin**. The bat was a tribute to the Indian cricket team from **Pernod Ricard**.
374. Netherlands all-rounder **Ryan ten Doeschate** has announced his **retirement from international cricket** after his side failed to qualify for the Super 12 stage of the T20 World Cup in Sharjah.
375. England's **Fran Wilson** has announced her **retirement from international cricket**.
376. Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (**KISS**), **Bhubaneswar**, has launched the **world's first-ever FIFA Football for School Programme** at KISS. Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of Odisha has virtually launched the Programme.
- Football for Schools (F4S) is an ambitious world-wide programme run by FIFA, which aims to contribute to the education, development and empowerment of around 700 million children.

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