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November 2021

# BAZOOKA

Monthly Current Affairs PDF

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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs & Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Hardeep S. Puri has inaugurated the 14th edition of **Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference 2021**.
  - The main theme of this year's conference is "**Mobility for All**" which focuses on providing equitable access and promote inclusive urban transportation which aims to provide affordable, clean, safe, informative, efficient and accessible transport systems, with special attention to the diverse needs from all factions of the society, especially the specially-abled, elderly, women and children.
2. Shri Amit Shah, Union Minister of Home Affairs has launched the "**Dairy Sahakar**" scheme at Anand, Gujarat, during the function organised by Amul for celebration of **75th** Foundation Year of Amul. The Dairy Sahakar with a total investment of **Rs 5000 crore** will be implemented by **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** under Ministry of Cooperation.
3. The Ministry of Defence has recently proposed that school students should be made to undertake the projects based on the valour of armed and paramilitary forces to make school students aware of the stories of bravery of Indian Armed Forces. The Department of School Education & Literacy, Education Ministry would organise the **Veer Gatha Project** starting from October 21 till November 20, 2021.
  - **Veer Gatha Project** would be launched on **CBSE IT platform** for CBSE schools and for the state government run schools on MyGov platform.
  - Teachers should explain to students about the gallantry award winners and motivate them to learn about the gallantry award winners and encourage students to participate in the project.
4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the **Initiative for the Resilient Island States (IRIS)** for developing infrastructure of small island nations, saying it gives a new hope, a new confidence and satisfaction of doing something for the most vulnerable countries.
5. The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (**IREDA**), under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (**MNRE**), has launched a "**Whistle-blower Portal**", as a part of '**Vigilance Awareness Week 2021**' celebrated from 26th October to 2nd November 2021.
6. The annual 'Ganga Utsav 2021-The River Festival' was organized virtually on November 1-3 by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) to mark the anniversary of announcement of River Ganga as the 'National River' i.e. **November 4<sup>th</sup>**.
  - This year marked the **5<sup>th</sup>** edition of the festival which was celebrated under the leadership of Union Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, Ministry of Jal Shakti, as a part of the ongoing celebrations for 75 years of Independence and AzadikaAmritMahotsav.
  - The minister launched the '**Ganga Atlas: River of the Past**' developed by **Prof Rajiv Sinha**, IIT Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

7. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), under the Ministry of Communications, has formed a technology innovation group on the Sixth Generation (6G), to take lead in the development of 6G Technology globally.
  - **K. Rajaraman**, Chairman Digital Communications Commission & Secretary (Telecom) has been named the chairperson of the initiative.
8. Ministry of Education has recently launched the '**BhashaSangam**' initiative for schools, BhashaSangam Mobile App and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Quiz App, to commemorate RashtriyaEkta Diwas which is celebrated on October 31 every year to mark the birth anniversary of Shri SardarVallabhbbhai Patel.
  - It is an initiative of the Ministry of Education under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, to teach basic sentences of everyday usage in 22 Indian languages (Eighth Schedule languages).
  - It is developed by the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**.
9. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently unveiled AdiShankaracharya Samadhi (final resting place) at the premises of the **Kedarnath Temple** in *Rudraprayag* district of Uttarakhand and has also unveiled the statue of Shri AdiShankaracharya at the Samadhi.
  - The 12-foot long statue weighing around 35 tonnes (35,000kg) has been constructed by Mysore-based sculptor **Arjun Yogiraj**.
10. The government has approved **8.5% rate of** interest on employees' provident fund for the 2020-21 fiscal.
11. On the occasion of **RashtriyaEkta Diwas** and marking the birth anniversary of SardarVallabhbbhai Patel, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has dedicated "**Sardar Patel Leadership Centre**" at **Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA)** in Mussoorie to the nation.
  - The Sardar Patel Leadership Centre aims to lay the foundation capacity building for future generations of Civil Servants from India and Abroad, as visualised by the Father of All India Services.
  - The Centre aims to emerge as a Huge Resource Centre to provide continuous study and learning opportunities to Civil Servants so that they learn from the best practices of leadership across the world while remaining connected with their cultural ethos, values and roots.
12. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has inaugurated a two-day long **Apple Pageant-2021** organised in Srinagar within the digital presence of Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar.

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13. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has launched the nationwide expansion of the **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)**, and said it will help reduce childhood mortality by around 60 percent. For the first time in the country that the PCV will be available for universal use.

14. The Centre has constituted a **20-member** Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS), which will be a monitoring mechanism for the development and implementation of the **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP)**.
  - The Cabinet Secretary, **Rajiv Gauba** will be its Chairperson.
15. The National Commission for Women (NCW), along with the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), has launched a pan-India Legal Awareness Program for Women titled “**Empowerment of Women through Legal Awareness**” to impart practical knowledge about legal rights and remedies provided under various women related laws, thereby making them fit to face the challenges in real-life situations.
16. Home Minister Amit Shah has launched the ‘**Ayushman CAPF**’ Scheme health cards at the national level in New Delhi. The Home Minister launched the scheme by handing over the Ayushman card to a personnel.
17. **Indian Railways** will develop an Art Gallery with Souvenir Shop at Kevadiya Railway Station under Public-Private Partnership. This Art Gallery showcases different Art and Craft forms of Gujarat and India. Vadodara Division of Western Railway has awarded first its kind contract in Indian Railways for the development of Art Gallery with Souvenir Shop.
  - This Art Gallery will be developed and operated by a private party with earnings to Railways of 24.7 lakh rupees and potential revenue of 2.83 crore rupees.
18. Union Power Minister R K Singh has virtually inaugurated the diversion of Marusudar River of **PakalDul Hydro Electric Project** in Kishtwar, J&K.
  - PakalDul HE Project (1,000 MW) is being constructed by Chenab Valley Power Projects Pvt Limited (CVPPPL), a joint venture company of National Hydro Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) and Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC).
  - *Marusudar River is a major tributary of the **Chenab River**.*
19. In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, **Army** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Kashmir enabling the soldiers posted in J&K to seek admission in various courses.
20. Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collections in October (for sales in September) rose **23.7 per cent** year-on-year to **Rs 1,30,127 crore**, the second highest revenue collection under GST ever since its rollout in July 2017 and the fourth consecutive month when collections crossed the Rs 1 lakh mark.
21. Delhi Government has launched the ‘**ShramikMitra**’ scheme for construction workers.
  - Under the scheme, around **800** ShramikMitras will go door-to-door of all construction workers in the national capital to make them aware of several government schemes in the interest of the workers.
  - These ShramikMitras will work as District, Ward, and Vidhan Sabha level coordinators.

22. The Karnataka government at the cabinet meeting held 8 November, has decided to rename the 'Mumbai-Karnataka' region as '**Kittur Karnataka**'.
23. Union Minister of State Civil Aviation V.K. Singh has launched *India's first Centre* for Excellence in Research on Drone/UAV Technology and Artificial Intelligence at **Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati**.
24. The Uttar Pradesh cabinet has approved the proposal for implementation of 'MathrubhumiYojana' to facilitate individuals or private institutions to contribute in the development of any village.
25. Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs & Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Hardeep S. Puri has unveiled the **statue of Rani Lakshmi Bai** at the Maharani Lakshmi Bai College for Women, BhiwaniRohilla in Hisar (Haryana) through video conferencing.
26. The government has constituted a committee for the determination of **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products** (RoDTEP) rates for exports from special economic zones (SEZs) and export-oriented units (EOUs), as these sectors were left out in the earlier exercise, according to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
- The member committee is chaired by former secretary **G K Pillai**, former CBEC member **Y G Parande** and former customs member **Gautam Ray**.
27. The state of **Meghalaya** has recently observed the '**Wangala**', the festival of **100 drums**. It is an annual post-harvest festival of the **Garos tribes** of North-East India. Generally, it is celebrated in the second week of November every year.
28. Ministry of Tourism in its ongoing effort to strengthen the Hospitality & Tourism Industry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (**IRCTC**).
29. Ministry of Tourism has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation** (IRCTC) to strengthen the Hospitality & Tourism Industry.
- The primary objective of this MOU is to provide extensive visibility to accommodation units, which have self-certified themselves on **SAATHI** (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for the Hospitality Industry) on the OTA platform.
  - **OTA platform**: Over-The-Air (OTA) is a technology that updates and changes data in the SIM card without having to reissue it. It is also referred to as Over-the-Air provisioning. It's both crucial for subscribers and carriers.
30. The Department of Expenditure under Ministry of Finance has released an amount of over **8,453 crore** rupees as health sector grant for rural and urban local bodies of 19 States. The grants have been released as per the recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission.

31. India has successfully launched the 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica with the arrival of the first batch of its contingent at the southern white continent. The first batch comprising of 23 scientists and support staff reached the Indian **Antarctic station Maitri** last week.
32. The Centre has brought ordinance to extend the tenure of Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) directors up to 5 years.
- At present, director of CBI and ED have been appointed for two-year tenure in office by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act, 2003.
33. Union Minister of Law and Justice Shri Kiren Rijiju has launched the **Citizen's Tele-Law Mobile App**. He also felicitated the Tele-Law Frontline Functionaries. The event was part of **Azadika Amrit Mahotsav** celebrations, celebrated by the Department of Justice from 8th to 14th November 2021.
34. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has unveiled a plaque to rename Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses after late Manohar Parrikar.
- The renaming as *Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses* (MP-IDSA) by the Defence Minister, who is the President of the Institute, follows the unanimous decision by the general body earlier this year.
35. Union Minister for Commerce, Industry, Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal has virtually launched India's first Food Museum in **Thanjavur District**, Tamil Nadu and said measures were on to make the country go up the ladder from currently being the fifth largest agricultural exporter in the world.
- The museum has been established by **Food Corporation of India** (FCI) in association with Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum (VITM), Bengaluru, at an investment of about ₹ 1.1 crore.
36. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched key initiatives for the Janjatiya community on **Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas Mahasammelan**. Among the schemes introduced, the PM launched the 'Ration Aapke Gram' scheme in Madhya Pradesh, the Madhya Pradesh Sickle Cell Mission, and laid the foundation of 50 Eklavya Model Residential Schools across the country.
37. Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh has inaugurated '**Bhumi Samvaad**' – a National Workshop on Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) at India Habitat Centre in the national capital.
38. The Hingoli revenue department has handed over 225 hectare of land in Maharashtra to authorities of the **Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory** (LIGO) project for setting up the first such facility in the country.

39. The Indian Navy has conducted a security exercise, called “**Prasthan**”, in the Offshore Development Area (ODA) off the coast of Mumbai.
40. As per the defence ministry, the government has signed a contract for procurement of two simulators at a cost of **Rs 357 crore** for imparting training to pilots of Jaguar fighter jets.
41. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) has recently completed its five years on 20th November 2021.
- Rs. 7775.63 crores have been allocated to the PMAY-G for FY 2021-22.
  - 1.63 Crore houses completed under the scheme.
  - PMAY-G was launched on 20th November 2016 with effect from **1st April 2016** by the Ministry of Rural Development. The program envisages the completion of 2.95 crore PMAY-G households with all basic amenities by the year 2022.
42. Kartika Purnima (Boita Bandana) is celebrated on the full moon of the Kartika month where Odisha people across the State head for the nearest water body to set afloat tiny banana, paper or thermocol boats with diyas, betel leaves, crackers, fruits and coins.

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43. Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) has projected a real rate of growth of **7 to 7.5 per cent** and a nominal rate of growth of more than 11 per cent in 2022-23.
44. The Union Government has notified uniform goods and services tax rate at 12 percent on Man-Made Fibre (MMF), MMF yarn, MMF fabrics, and apparel.
- The changed rates will come into effect from 1st January of next year. This will help the MMF segment grow and emerge as a big job provider in the country.
45. Atal Innovation Mission, a flagship initiative of NitiAayog has announced a collaboration with **VigyanPrasar** to drive synergies between AIM’s Atal Tinkering Labs and VigyanPrasar’s unique interactivity platform, Engage with Science.
46. The fifth edition of the EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation is being organised on November 23 and 24 in Kolkata by ASEAN India Centre and National Maritime Foundation in collaboration with the MEA and Government of Australia.
47. President Ram Nath Kovind has recently announced the 'Swachh Survekshan 2021' awards at the 'Swachh Amrit Mahotsav' organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.



SwachhSurvekshan 2021	
Category	Winners
Cleanest City (more than 1 lakh population)	1. Indore (Madhya Pradesh) 2. Surat (Gujarat) 3. Vijaywada (Andhra Pradesh)
Cleanest City (population between 1-10 lakh)	1. New Delhi 2. Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh) 3. Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh)
Cleanest City (population less than 1 lakh)	1. Vita (Maharashtra) 2. Lonavala (Maharashtra) 3. Sasvad (Maharashtra)
Best Ganga Town	Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)
Cleanest Cantonment	1. Ahmedabad 2. Meerut 3. Delhi
Fastest Mover City (more than 1 lakh population)	Hoshangabad (Madhya Pradesh)
Cleanest State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chhattisgarh (more than 100 Urban Local Bodies)</li> <li>Jharkhand (less than 100 Urban Local Bodies)</li> </ul>
Fastest Mover States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karnataka (more than 100 Urban Local Bodies)</li> <li>Mizoram (less than 100 Urban Local Bodies)</li> </ul>

48. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has recently approved **Rs 2,135 crore** for the continuation of the Atmospheric and Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems and Services (ACROSS) scheme along with its eight sub-schemes to the next finance (15th) cycle of five years (**2021-2026**). This will enhance and upgrade the country's weather forecasting and climate services, along with providing the latest computing capabilities and infrastructure.
- The 8 sub-schemes are Commissioning of Polarimetric Doppler Weather Radars (DWRs), Upgradation of Forecast System, Weather & Climate Services, Atmospheric Observations Network, Numerical Modelling of Weather and Climate, Monsoon Mission III, Monsoon Convection, Clouds and Climate Change (MC4) and High-Performance Computing System (HPCS).
  - It will be implemented by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** through its institutes namely India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Service (INCOIS).

**Other Cabinet approvals (November 2021):**

- Cabinet has approved the extension of the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** (PMGKAY-Phase V) for a period of another 4 months i.e. December 2021 till March 2022 @ 5 kg per person per month free of cost for all the beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) including those covered under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), with an estimated additional food subsidy of Rs 53344.52 crore.
  - Cabinet has approved the formation of a **special purpose vehicle (SPV)** to privatise the electricity distribution business in the union territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.
  - Cabinet has approved the continuation of the **National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS)** for the next five years (till 2026). It has also approved the stipendiary support of Rs. 3,054 crore.
  - Cabinet has approved the continuation of the umbrella scheme of the Ministry of Earth Sciences "**Ocean Services, Modelling, Application, Resources, and Technology (O-SMART)**" for the 2021-26 period at a cost of Rs 2,177 crore.
49. Union Minister of Science and Technology Jitendra Singh has recently announced to set up **30** Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Hubs for Scheduled Tribes (STs) by the end of 2022. The aim is to promote scientific talent among tribal communities and for their overall socio-economic development.
- **Note:** Out of 75 proposed STI Hubs for SCs/STs, 20 have already been established by the Department of Science and Technology.
  - Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has also launched "**Tech NEEV/नीव @75**" to highlight the impact of Science Technology Innovation (STI) in empowering the community for creating equitable inclusive economic growth.
50. The **first International Conference on Hydrogen Energy** – Policies, Infrastructure Development and Challenges is being organized by Central Board of Irrigation and Power in New Delhi.
- The two day conference aims to bring key stakeholders on the same platform to discuss all facets of Hydrogen Energy in India.
51. The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind visited **Sui village** in the Bhiwani district of Haryana, to inaugurate various public facilities in the village.
- This village is being developed as **Adarsh Gram** (Model village) by Mahadevi Parameshwaridas Jindal Charitable Trust under the *Swa-Prerit Adarsh Gram Yojana* (SPAGY) scheme of the Haryana Government.
52. The **Kempegowda International Airport** (KIA) has become the first airport in South Asia to commission a Rosenbauer Tactical Simulator which allows firefighters to train in a realistic environment and be battle-ready for extreme aircraft fire emergencies.
53. The Delhi airport will become a **net zero carbon emission** facility by 2030, said its operator DIAL.
54. India now ranked third in the world in organ donation and transplantation as the total number of organ transplants done per year in the country has increased to 12,746 in the year 2019.

55. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has recently inaugurated the 24th edition of Karnataka's flagship three-day technology event 'Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS)-2021'. The event has been held in a hybrid format. For the first time, BTS has hosted the United States Tech Conclave.
- Theme 2021: '**Driving The Next**'
  - The Prime Minister of Israel Naftali Bennett and Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison have participated during the inaugural event.
  - For the first time, South Africa, Vietnam and the UAE will participate in the Bengaluru Tech Summit.
56. Indian Army's Pune-based Southern Command has concluded a four-day multi-agency exercise '**Sagar Shakti**' involving army, navy, air force, coast guard, Border Security Force and Gujarat state security in Kutch's Creek sector.
57. **INS Vela**, the fourth Scorpene-class submarine was commissioned into the Indian Navy, a short while ago, in the presence of Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh, at the naval dockyard in Mumbai.
58. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated the state-of-the-art Centre for Nanotechnology (CNT) and Centre for Indian Knowledge System (CIKS) at **IIT Guwahati**. He has also released a book on **NEP 2020 implementation**.
59. The fifth World Congress on Disaster Management on the overarching theme of "Technology, Finance and Capacity for Building Resilience to Disasters in the Contexts of Covid-19" was organised the IIT Delhi campus.
60. After freight and passenger segments, the railways is set to begin a third segment dedicated to the tourism sector and launch a set of around 190 theme-based trains called **Bharat Gaurav trains**.
61. **Ministry of Labour** has recently released a new series of Wage Rate Index (WRI) with base year **2016**, being compiled and maintained by the Labour Bureau. The new series of WRI with base 2016=100 will replace the old series with base **1963-65**.
- A total of 37 industries have been covered in the new WRI basket (2016=100) as against 21 industries in the 1963-65=100 series.
  - The selected 37 industries in the new series are categorized as 30 industries from the manufacturing sector, 4 industries from the mining sector and 3 industries from the plantation sector.
  - The New WRI Series with base 2016=100 would be compiled twice a year on a point-to-point half-yearly basis, as on 1st January and 1st July of every year.
  - About 700 occupations have been covered under 37 selected industries in new series of WRI.
  - In the new series, oil mining industry has been introduced in the basket in place of mica mines industry.

**Note:** The WRI numbers have been revised based on the recommendations of the International Labour Organization and the National Statistical Commission.

62. The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Science and Technology, DrJitendra Singh has inaugurated **Project SWADESH**. The project SWADESH is a first of its kind large-scale multimodal neuroimaging database designed specifically for the Indian population.
63. **Skyroot Aerospace**, a Hyderabad-based space technology startup, has test fired *India's first privately developed fully cryogenic rocket engine*, successfully demonstrating the technology that will power the upper stages of its upcoming Vikram-2 orbital launch vehicle.

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64. Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said about **Rs 64,000 crore** will be invested by the Centre in creating health infrastructure in the country over the next five years.
65. The Finance Ministry has allocated additional funds of ₹ 10,000 crore as an interim measure for the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act** (MGNREGA) scheme after it ran out of funds allocated in the budget, according to the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).
66. The Centre has constituted a Central Vista Oversight Committee to directly oversee the **Rs 20,000 crore** project for a period of two years.
- Former finance secretary **Ratan P Watal** has been appointed the chairman of the panel, which will submit its reports or recommendations to the Housing and Urban Affairs ministry.

## STATES AFFAIRS

67. The **National Tribal Dance Festival and Rajyotsava 2021** was held at Science College ground in **Raipur**, the capital of Chhattisgarh. Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh BhupeshBaghel presided over the inaugural ceremony.
68. Manipur Government has revived its initiative to deliver governance at doorstep and bring inclusive development in the state with launching the Go to **Village 2.0** in Thoubal district.
69. Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister (CM) of Haryana has launched the '**Uttam Beej portal**' which will benefit the farmers of Haryana by providing quality seeds with transparency.
70. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that **Indian Space Research Organisation** (ISRO) will soon provide the world a solar power calculator application that can measure solar energy potential of any region across the globe.

71. Karnataka Chief Minister, Basavaraj S Bommai, has launched the state's ambitious '**Janasevaka**' (peoples' servant) scheme and '**Janaspandana**', an Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System (IPGRS).
72. '**Gorehabba Festival**', a cow-dung fight, has been organized annually in **Karnataka**. This festival is celebrated a day after Diwali's Balipadyami in Gummatapura village of Karnataka.
73. The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Anand signs a pact with Uttar Pradesh (UP) government to manage Varanasi Milk Union for a period of 5years.
74. Bamboo and Cane Development Institute (BCDI) of **Tripura** along with North East Centre of Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR) has claimed to have developed the **country's first-ever bamboo made cricket bat** maintaining all the standard protocols used for manufacturing cricket bats.
75. The Punjab Cabinet has approved the '**Punjab Tissue Culture Based Seed Potato Rules-2021**' to develop Punjab as a standard potato seed centre.
- The centre would further help in achieving the target of agriculture diversification of the state government by increasing the potato acreage with the production of **4 LMT** of potato from 1 lakh hectare.
  - With this decision, Punjab has become the first state in the country to have the facility of tissue culture-based certification, which would further lead to developing the Jalandhar-Kapurthala belt as the export hub of potato.
76. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma has inaugurated the newly created **Eastern West Khasi Hills district** which will be the **12th** district of the state.

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77. An idol of **Maa Annapurna** that was stolen from Varanasi about 100 years ago and later found in Canada recently was handed over to the Uttar Pradesh government.
- The idol will be installed at the **Kashi Vishwanath Temple**. The idol is 17 cm in height and 9 cm in breadth.
78. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched '**Rakshak**' road safety initiative, under which 30,000 first responders will be trained by 300 master trainers across all 30 districts.
79. The Hindu pilgrimage site **Bhadrachalam in Telangana** has been added as one of the destinations in the Ramayana Circuit of the Pilgrim Special Train of IRCTC.

80. The **Maharashtra** government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian arm of the USA-based *Rocky Mountain Institute* (RMI) to support adoption of **electric vehicles** (EVs) in Maharashtra.
81. The Gujarat government has launched '**Niramay Gujarat Yojana**' to screen and protect people above 30 years from non-communicable diseases.
- The scheme includes the screening of those above 30 years of age against such diseases at primary health centres and community health centres every Friday — also known as Mamta Divas.
82. The Government of Gujarat has recently launched the '**Niramay Gujarat Yojana**' for screening and protection of people above **30 years** from Non-Communicable diseases like high blood pressure, heart attack, paralysis, cancer, renal diseases, anemia, diabetes, etc.
- People under the age of 30 will be screened at government healthcare centres and hospitals free every Friday (Mamta Divas).
  - A 'Niramay Gujarat Card' containing findings and health status will be given to the patients.
83. For the first time, Arunachal Pradesh's cabinet meeting was held outside the state capital of Itanagar and at the Pakke Tiger Reserve in PakkeKessang district instead.
84. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently addressed the Tribal Pride Day Mahasammelan held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. In 2020, the state government of Madhya Pradesh has declared to observe Tribal Pride Day annually on **15<sup>th</sup> November** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Birsa Munda**.
- During the Mahasammelan, PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated **India's first PPP (Public-Private Partnership) mode built Rani Kamlapati Railway Station** (formerly Habibganj railway station) in Bhopal.
  - Rani Kamlapati was the first Gond queen of Bhopal.
  - The station has been built at an estimated cost of Rs 100 crore.
  - He has also launched Sickle Cell Eradication Mission and Ration AapkeDwarYojana in Madhya Pradesh.
85. India's first grass conservatory or germplasm conservation centre has been developed by the research wing of **Uttarakhand** Forest Department in Ranikhet, Almora district in Uttarakhand. It aims to create awareness about the importance of grass species, promote their conservation, and facilitate research in the field.
- It is funded under the Central Government's CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) scheme.
86. The All India Presiding Officers' Conference, AIPOC, the apex body of the Legislatures in India, is celebrating its hundred years this year. To commemorate the Centennial Year of AIPOC, the 82nd edition of the All India Presiding Officers' Conference begin in Shimla.

87. Punjab Education Minister Pargat Singh has unveiled a career portal aimed at providing professional guidance to students of schools and colleges of the State.
- The state education department has launched the portal in association with UNICEF India and Aasman Foundation.
88. The state government of **West Bengal** has recently launched a “Duare Ration Scheme” for doorstep delivery of ration. This will benefit around 10 crore people of the state. For this scheme, the government will be spending **Rs 160 crore**.
- The government has also inaugurated the “KhadyaSathi: Amar Ration Mobile App”. This app will help people to apply for ration cards and get related information.
89. Under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the Cabinet has given its approval to start **MukhyamantriUdyamKrantiYojana** to connect educated youths of the State with self-employment.
- The benefit of the scheme will be available to the minimum 12th class pass youths of the State between the ages of 18 to 40 years.
90. West Bengal’s Food & Supplies department has launched a dedicated **WhatsApp chatbot** to make it easier for the citizens of the State to apply for a ration card, lodge grievances and get access to other critical resources.
91. The Union Minister of Textiles Piyush Goyal has announced that the **Ministry of Textiles** has decided to set up a Handloom Village at Moirang of Manipur.
92. The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has recently launched the 7th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF). IISF 2021 will be held from 10th-13th December in **Panaji, Goa**. It is being organised jointly by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Ministry of Science & Technology, in collaboration with VijnanaBharati.
- **Theme 2021:** Celebrating Creativity in Science, Technology and Innovation for Prosperous India
93. Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Central Board of Secondary Education, CBSE has jointly launched an online certificate course on Experiential Learning for the 21st Century for Eklavya Model Residential School and CBSE teachers.
- It was jointly launched by Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Anil Kumar Jha and CBSE Chairman Manoj Ahuja.
94. Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched first of its kind, latest, world’s most sophisticated MRI facility at the **National Brain Research Centre (NBRC)**, Manesar in Haryana.
95. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the country’s northeast, where people speak in at least 180 different languages, epitomise diversity, and Assam, being the gateway to the region, will be made a “laboratory” for mother tongue-based education.

- The levels of popular satisfaction with the quality of policing is reported to be highest in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Assam, Kerala, Sikkim, Mizoram, and Gujarat, a new survey revealed.
96. Meghalaya government has signed an MoU with the United Nations **World Food Programme** to streamline and strengthen the public distribution system in the state.
97. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has launched '**Aatmanirbhar Gram Yatra**' from Mahemdabad near Ahmedabad to reach out to the villages in the state.
98. Uttar Pradesh's first air pollution control tower opened in **Noida**, located in the posh Sector 16A, the 20-metre-high tower with a diameter of nine metres can filter air in an area of one square kilometre around.
99. Madhya Pradesh Cabinet has approved the proposal to create cyber tehsils. It will be the first state across the country to do so.
100. Madhya Pradesh's **Patalpani Railway Station** in Indore has been named after Tantya Bhil, also known as the "Indian Robin Hood".
- MP's Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan has also announced to rename the BhanwarKuan intersection and MR 10 bus stand in Indore after Tantya Bhil
  - Tantya Bhil, who belonged to the Bhil tribe, was born in 1840 in Badada village under East Nimar, now known as Khandwa, in Madhya Pradesh. He fought against British Rule in India.
  - The sacrifice day of Tantya Bhil is observed annually on 4<sup>th</sup> December.
101. The three-day Shillong Cherry Blossom Festival 2021 was inaugurated by Chief Minister of **Meghalaya**, Conrad K Sangma, and Ambassador of Japan to India, Satoshi Suzuki. It was celebrated from November 25 to 27.
102. The Indian Railways is constructing the *world's tallest bridge pier in Manipur* which is a part of **111 km** long Jiribam-Imphal railway project.
103. Nagaland has launched the '**Call your Cop**' mobile App at Police Headquarters in Kohima.
104. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has handed over credit sanction letters of Rs 306 crore to beneficiaries in Jammu and Kashmir and announced a host of initiatives, including a Rs 200 crore cluster development fund for the Union territory.
- She also virtually laid the foundation of rural self-employment training institute buildings at Shopian and Baramulla districts of the Kashmir Valley.
105. In Madhya Pradesh '**UrjaSakshartaAbhiyan**' would be launched to make all the citizens aware about energy saving.



106. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has recently laid the foundation stone of 'Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum' in Luangkao Village in Tamenglong District of **Manipur**.

- The museum will be constructed under the funding of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs with an estimated cost of **Rs 15 crores**.
- Rani Gaidinliu was born on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1915 in Nungkao, Manipur. She was a member of the **Rongmei tribe**, a powerful Naga tribe. She received the Padma Bhushan award in 1982. She led an armed rebellion against British rule in India.

107. Maharashtra Public Health Minister Rajesh Tope has said there was hesitancy about taking anti-coronavirus vaccines in Muslim-dominated areas, and the government will take the help of Bollywood superstar **Salman Khan** to convince people to take the jab.

108. NITI Aayog has recently released the first **National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2021**. The report is based on the National Family Health Survey 4 (NFHS-4), which was conducted between **2015 and 2016**.

- It has been developed by NITI Aayog in consultation with 12 ministries and in partnership with state governments and the index publishing agencies, namely, Oxford University's Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- The report is based on **12 indicators**: nutrition, child and adolescent mortality, antenatal care, years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, assets, and bank account, and 3 parameters – **Health, Education, and Standard of Living**.
- As per the index, 51.91% of the population in **Bihar** is poor, followed by Jharkhand (42.16%), Uttar Pradesh (37.79%), Madhya Pradesh (36.65%), and Meghalaya (32.67%).
- On the other hand, **Kerala** has registered the lowest population poverty levels (0.71%), followed by Pondicherry (1.72%), Lakshadweep (1.82%), Goa (3.76%), and Sikkim (3.82%).
- Other States and UTs where less than 10% of the population are poor include Tamil Nadu (4.89%), Andaman & Nicobar Islands (4.30%), Delhi (4.79%), Punjab (5.59%), Himachal Pradesh (7.62%), and Mizoram (9.8%).

109. Kerala Tourism is set to launch "**STREET Project**" at select spots across seven districts, in order to take tourism deep into the interiors and hinterland of the state.

- **STREET** is an acronym for "**Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experiential, Ethnic, Tourism hubs**".
- Under the project, themes like Green Street, village life Experience Street, cultural street, experiential tourism street, Water Street, agri-tourism Street, and Art Street have been planned. These streets will be in line with the peculiarities of the select locations and will also focus on experiential tourism.

110. State-level scheme sanctioning committee (SLSSC) has approved drinking water supply schemes worth **Rs 225.24 Crore** for Uttarakhand.

111. In Madhya Pradesh, the '**Kranti Surya Gaurav KalashYatra**' is being launched from the birthplace of freedom fighter JannayakTantya Mama, BarodAhir village of tahsilPandhana in Khandwa district.
112. The *7th India International Science Festival (IISF) 2021* will be held in **Panaji, Goa** from 10th to 13th of December.
- The 4 days festival will be organized by the Ministry of Earth Sciences in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Department of Atomic Energy, the Department of Space and the Government of Goa.

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## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

113. Indian Air Force's **Mirage 2000 aircraft squadron** is taking part in the **Blue Flag 2021** international exercise which was launched in Israel.
- Seven countries including Israel, Germany, Italy, Britain, France, India, Greece and the US are taking part in the war games.
  - The Indian Mirages and the French Rafale are participating in the exercise for the first time.
114. The COP26 United Nations Climate Summit has been held in **Glasgow, Scotland**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the summit and stressed on a five-point plan or '**Panchamrit**', which means 'five ambrosia', to fight the devastating effects of global warming and climate change.
- Panchamrit:**
- India will increase its non-fossil energy capacity to **500 GW** (earlier 450 GW) by 2030.
  - India will meet 50% of its energy requirements, with renewable energy, till 2030.
  - India will reduce carbon emission by 1 billion tonnes by 2030.
  - India will reduce its carbon intensity by 45 percent by 2030.
  - India will achieve net-zero emissions by **2070**.
- Note:** China has set a target to reach the net-zero carbon emission goal by **2060** while the United States and the European Union are aiming for reaching the goal by **2050**.
- Other initiatives launched at COP26:**
- PM Narendra Modi has also launched the **Initiative for the Resilient Island States (IRIS)** for developing infrastructure of small island nations.
  - He has also launched the ambitious '**One Sun, One World, One Grid**' (**OSOWOG**) programme. The program has been launched along with the Green Grids Initiative (GGI) of the UK.
  - India has also joined the UK's Glasgow Breakthroughs, an international plan to deliver clean and affordable technology everywhere by 2030.
  - The UK has announced to provide an "India Green Guarantee" to the World Bank, to unlock an additional 750 million pounds for green projects across India.
  - **Global Methane Pledge** has been launched to reduce methane emissions by **30%** by the year 2030, as compared to 2020 levels. It is a joint effort of the USA and the European Union.

115. **Oxford English Dictionary** has announced '**vax**' as **Word of the Year 2021** after words related to vaccines spiked in frequency this year.
- Words related to vaccines spiked in frequency in 2021 due to the pandemic. Double vaxxes, unvaxxed and anti-vaxxer have all seen a surge in use.
116. The Government of **United Kingdom (UK)** has recently unveiled a new £5 coin to commemorate the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi. It has been launched on the occasion of Diwali. It is the **first time** that Gandhi Ji has been commemorated on an official UK coin with the final design chosen by UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak, who is the Master of the Mint.
- It has been designed by Heena Glover and features an image of a Lotus, India's national flower, alongside one of Gandhi's most famous quotes - '**My life is my message**'.
117. China sent world's first Earth-science satellite, **Guangmu-1 or SDGSAT-1** on November 5, 2021 into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the northern Shanxi Province.
118. The **Australian Space Agency** has announced plans to send an Australian-made rover to the Moon by as early as 2026, under a deal with NASA. The rover will collect lunar soil containing oxygen, which could eventually be used to support human life in space.
119. Japan has recently launched a small, low-cost **Epsilon-5** rocket carrying **nine satellites** from Uchinoura Space Center in Kagoshima Prefecture to promote educational institutions and companies in space development.
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) last launched an Epsilon in January 2019, sending seven satellites into space.
120. India and Israel have signed a pact aimed at spurring innovation and speeding up the development of dual use technologies by small and medium sized firms in both countries.
121. The European Union (EU) and the Bruhat Bengaluru MahanagaraPalike (BBMP) have recently partnered for a low-carbon Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Management system in Bangalore, Karnataka under Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) Support Project titled '**Waste Solutions for a Circular Economy in India**'.
- The project is funded by the EU and the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). It aims to provide technical and financial support to BBMP for setting up new plants and revamping existing Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), compost facilities, and bio methanation plants.
122. The United States of America has become the **101st member** country to join the **International Solar Alliance** (ISA) to catalyse global energy transition through a solar-led approach.

123. The Indian and Thai navies have begun a three-day coordinated patrol in the Andaman Sea amid growing concern over China's increasing maritime forays into the Indian Ocean region.
124. **Meta** has announced the launch of online resource centre '**Grow Your Business Hub**', for small businesses to help find relevant information, tools, and solutions curated to cater to their business goals.
- The announcement was made at the inaugural edition of the 'Grow Your Business Summit' – an event focused on the growth agenda of India's small and medium businesses (SMB).
125. South Korea has demonstrated a system for controlling **urban air mobility vehicles (UAM)**, which it hopes will serve as taxis between major airports and downtown Seoul as soon as 2025, cutting travel time by two-thirds.
126. The International Human Rights Foundation (IHRF) has appointed the **Spaniard Daniel del Valle** as the High Representative for Youth due to his achievements in the thematic area of youth empowerment and youth participation for the United Nations.
127. China has surpassed the United States to become the **richest nation in the world** as global wealth tripled over the past two decades, according to a new report by the research arm of consultants McKinsey & Co.
- The report has been prepared after examining the national balance sheets of 10 countries, representing more than 60 per cent of world income.
128. The sixth edition of Indo France joint military exercise '**EX-SHAKTI 2021**' is being conducted at the French port town of Frejus. The 12-day long bilateral exercise, will conclude on the 26th of this month.
- The exercise SHAKTI will focus on Counter-Terrorism operations in the backdrop of semi-urban terrain under UN Mandate with an aim to enhance military cooperation and inter-operability between the two Armies.
129. Indian Naval Ship INS Karmuk and an indigenously built Missile Corvette is participating in the 3rd edition of India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral two day Maritime Exercise SITMEX – 21 in Andaman Sea.
130. **Pochampally village** in Telangana about 50 km has been selected as one of the best Tourism Villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), an official release from the office of Union Minister G Kishan Reddy said.
131. **Barbados** has broken new ground as it prepares to become the first sovereign country with an embassy in the metaverse.
132. India has been re-elected to the UNESCO Executive Board, one of the three constitutional organs of the United Nations, for the 2021-25 term.

133. In a major boost to the Indian Navy, INS Visakhapatnam was commissioned by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the **Naval Dockyard in Mumbai**.
- It is the first stealth-guided missile destroyer ship of Project 15B and a crucial step for the Navy to demonstrate its indigenous capability to build complex combat platforms.
134. The 7th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs was hosted by French Navy at Paris. Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, and Western Naval Command, lead a two member Indian Naval delegation for this Conclave.
135. **Venezuela** has set a new Guinness World Record for the largest orchestra with 8,573 musicians playing together for more than five minutes.
136. The 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the biennial trilateral exercise named "DOSTI" has been conducted between the coast guard forces of the **Maldives, India, and Sri Lanka**. The five-day exercise has been conducted in the Maldives. The Indian Coast Guard vessels, ICGS Vajra and ICGS Apoorva, and the Sri Lanka Coast Guard's SLCGS Suraksha have participated in the exercise.
- **Note:** The year 2021 marks 30 years since the first edition of the exercise 'DOSTI'.
  - Exercise "Dosti" was started in 1991 between the Indian and the Maldives coast guards. Sri Lanka joined the exercise for the first time in 2012.
137. India and Nepal have inked a Memorandum of Understanding for reciprocal recognition of COVID vaccination certificate to significantly ease the travel woes for fully vaccinated people from the two neighbouring countries.
138. The Shiyang-11 satellite was launched aboard a Kuaizhou-1A carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in the Gobi Desert in Inner Mongolia.
139. India and United States have agreed on a transitional approach on **Equalisation Levy 2020**. India and United States have agreed that the same terms that apply under the October 21 Joint Statement shall apply between the two countries with respect to India's charge of two per cent equalisation levy on e-commerce supply of services and the United States' trade action regarding the Equalisation Levy.
140. Just hours after being appointed as *Sweden's first ever female prime minister*, **Magdalena Andersson** dramatically resigned after suffering a budget defeat in parliament and then losing her coalition partner in a two-party minority government
141. Kuwait's Emir has reappointed **Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid** as prime minister and tasked with forming a cabinet that would be the Gulf OPEC oil producer's third this year in a domestic political standoff.

142. **Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART)**, a new mission was launched by **NASA** to test technology for defending Earth against potential asteroid or comet hazards.
143. The 13th edition of the **ASEM** (Asia-Europe Meeting) Summit held in a virtual platform, which was hosted by Cambodia as ASEM. The Indian delegation is being led by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu through the virtual platform.
- The theme of the two-day ASEM Summit is Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth. The 2021 summit marks the 25th anniversary of the ASEM process.
144. India has made no progress on anaemia and childhood wasting according to the **2021 Global Nutrition Report (GNR, 2021)** released recently.
- The country featured among the 161 countries documented in the report as having made no progress or said to be worsening with regards to reducing anaemia.
145. **El Salvador** President Nayib Bukele has announced that the country is planning to build the world's first "Bitcoin City".
- The new city is planned to be developed in the eastern region of La Union and will be initially funded by bitcoin-backed bonds. It would get geothermal power from a volcano.

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146. India is among the six countries in South and South-East Asia that attracts most investments in the domestic seed sector from the global seed industry.
- Apart from India, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Bangladesh attract investments in breeding, production and processing.
147. Collins Dictionary has announced that its Word of the Year is "**NFT**" — digital assets that exploded in popularity this year along with the rise of cryptocurrencies.
- The term, which stands for the acronym for "**non-fungible token**", has seen a "meteoric" rise in usage this year, up 11,000 percent from the prior year.
148. External affairs minister (EAM) S Jaishankar has attended the 20th meeting of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** Council of Heads of Government (CHG). The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Kazakhstan. The meeting was held in Nur-Sultan in a virtual format.

## REPORTS & INDICES

149. As per the provisional '**State of the Global Climate 2021 report**' released by the *World Meteorological Organization (WMO)*, the past seven years from 2015 to 2021 (1st 9-months) set to be witnessed the

Warmest years on record. This increase in temperature is caused mainly due to the increase in atmospheric **Greenhouse Gas** (GHG) concentrations.

150. QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) released **QS Asia University Rankings 2022** featuring 118 Indian Universities following China with 126 universities.

- Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (42nd regionally) and IIT Delhi (45th regionally) are the **only two Indian institutions** among the Top-50. IIT Madras, which was in 50<sup>th</sup> place last year, has lost four places and now ranks 54<sup>th</sup>.

QS Asia University Ranking 2022		
Rank	University/ Institute	Country
1	National University of Singapore	Singapore
2	Peking University	China
3	Nanyang Technological University	Singapore

151. **Beating the Heat: Sustainable Urban Cooling Handbook** report by the **United Nations Environment Programme** (UNEP) indicates that cities will be the hotspots, if global warming continues.

- The temperature increases due to the urban heat island effect by an average of 4 degree Celsius by 2100.

152. In accordance with the report titled '**The State of Climate Ambition**' 2021 released by the **United Nations Development Programme** (UNDP), vulnerable nations are doing most to tackle the climate crisis while the biggest emitters or richer countries are showing slow response towards climate crisis.

153. The digitisation drive and pandemic-induced emergence of the gig economy have led to a faster formalisation of the economy, with the share of the informal sector shrinking to just 15-20 per cent in 2021 from 52.4 per cent in 2018, according to an **SBI Research report**.

- Real GDP was estimated at Rs 135.13 lakh crore in FY21 but lost 7.3 per cent of that in FY22 after the worst economic contraction on record due to the pandemic.

154. NITI Aayog has released a comprehensive report titled '**Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle**'. The report brings out the gaps in health insurance coverage in the Indian population and provides solutions to address the situation.

155. The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** has recently released a report titled "The Adaptation Gap Report 2021: The Gathering Storm" at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland.

- As per the report, if the world limits warming to **1.5 °C**, many climate risks will remain and will be irreversible. Currently, the warming level is at 1.1°C.

156. Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal has launched the 3rd edition of the **Logistics Ease across Different States (LEADS)** report, 2021.

- As per the report, **Gujarat** has been adjudged as the Best Performing State while Uttar Pradesh is the top improver. Gujarat occupied the first position, Haryana second while Punjab got the third position as per the report.
- Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu, Pondicherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep have not been ranked in the index.
- The first edition of the LEADS Index was released in 2018. The index includes the methodologies to identify the logistics infrastructure and service across India.

Category	Rank	State	Score
States	1	Gujarat	3.66
	2	Haryana	3.52
	3	Punjab	3.51
North-Eastern States and Himalayan UTs	1	Jammu and Kashmir	2.64
	2	Sikkim	2.63
	3	Meghalaya	2.51
UTs	1	Delhi	3.36
	2	Chandigarh	3.06

157. A first of its kind **global drug policy index 2021** that ranks 30 countries drawn from across regions on how humane and health-driven their drug laws and policies are, gives India a score of 46 out of 100 with Norway at the top with 74 and Brazil at the bottom scoring 26. In terms of ranking India is at **18**.

158. UNESCO has included Srinagar city of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in its coveted list of **Creative Cities Network (UCCN)**.

159. The summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, **Srinagar** has joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) 2021 under the **Crafts and Folk Arts category**.

**Indian cities in the UNESCO's network:**

- Chennai (2017) and Varanasi (2015) are included in UNESCO Cities of music.
- Jaipur (2015) is included in UNESCO's city of crafts and folk arts.



- Mumbai (2019) is included in UNESCO city of film.
- Hyderabad (2019) is included in UNESCO City of gastronomy

**Note:** In 2021, 49 new cities have joined this elite list, the total number of cities in this network stands at **295** from across 90 countries.

160. The World Economic Forum, in its latest research report, has propagated that a Green New Deal for India could represent upwards of a **\$15 trillion economic opportunity by 2070** that it has the potential to create more than 50 million net new jobs.
- In its report Mission 2070: A Green New Deal for a Net Zero India, the WEF in collaboration with Kearney and Observer Research Foundation has said that \$1 trillion of the opportunity can materialise within this decade if 'concerted action' is put in place.
161. India has retained its top 10 spot in the best performing countries for the third year in a row in the **global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)** released by Germanwatch on the side-lines of the COP26.
- No country performed well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating in CCPI, the report noted. As a result, the top three places in the overall ranking remain empty once again.
  - **Denmark placed 4th** and is the highest ranked country in CCPI 2022. However, it does not perform well enough to achieve an overall very high rating. Thus **India at the 10th slot** is the seventh best performing country. India maintained its 10th position despite pandemic-hit operational difficulties which saw some regulatory flexibility to put the country's economy back on track.
162. As per the World Health Organization report, the number of people using tobacco globally decreased to **1.30 billion in 2020**, from 1.32 billion in 2015. This number was expected to decline to 1.27 billion by 2025.

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163. *2021 TRACE Global Bribery Risk Ranking* has been released by TRACE International. India's rank has decreased to **82nd** in 2021 with a risk score of 44, while it was ranked 77th in 2020 with a risk score of 45. Countries like Vanuatu, Peru, North Macedonia, and Montenegro have also scored 44, the same as that of India, in the matrix.
- **Denmark** has topped the ranking with a risk score of 2, followed by Norway and Sweden.
  - North Korea, Turkmenistan, Venezuela, and Eritrea have the highest commercial bribery risk.
164. According to the latest **Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)** survey, the Enrolment of children in government schools has leaped from 65.8 per cent to 70.3 per cent over the last one year. The survey

aims to capture the transition in the education system in the country as the Covid-19 pandemic shows signs of receding.

165. Air Quality Index (AQI) has been published by IQAir, a Switzerland-based climate group that is also a technology partner of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP).
- **Delhi** has topped the list with an AQI of 556, while Kolkata has been ranked 4<sup>th</sup> with an AQI of 177 and Mumbai has been ranked at 6<sup>th</sup> with an AQI of 169.
  - Delhi has been followed by Lahore (354) in Pakistan, and Sofia (178) in Belgrade.
166. World Bank has recently released a report titled 'World Bank's Remittance Prices Worldwide Database'. As per the report, India has become the world's largest recipient of remittances by receiving **\$87 billion** in 2021 with the **USA** being the biggest source, accounting for over 20% of these funds.
- India is followed by China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt.
167. Renewable wood-based products can help combat climate change and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, according to a new report by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the United Nations.
168. NITI Aayog has recently launched the first "*Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Urban Index and Dashboard 2021-22*". The index ranks 56 urban areas on 77 SDG indicators across targets like zero hunger, ending poverty, quality education, good health and wellbeing, gender equality, etc. in the SDG framework.
- **Shimla** has topped the list of cities by scoring highest on the index while **Dhanbad** is at the bottom.
  - Based on the composite score, **urban areas have been classified as below:**
    - ❖ **Aspirant: 0–49**
    - ❖ **Performer: 50–64**
    - ❖ **Front-Runner: 65–99**
    - ❖ **Achiever: 100**

Top 5 Urban Areas		
Urban Area	State/UT	Score
Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	75.50
Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	73.29
Chandigarh	Chandigarh	72.36
Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala	72.36
Kochi	Kerala	72.29
Bottom 5 Urban Areas		
Dhanbad	Jharkhand	52.43
Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	54.64
Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh	55.29

Guwahati	Assam	55.79
Patna	Bihar	57.29

## BUSINESS & ECONOMY

170. Apple Inc lost its crown as the world's most valuable public company to **Microsoft Corp**, as the iPhone maker's shares fell about 2 per cent. Apple took a \$6 billion hit to its sales during the fiscal fourth quarter due to persistent global supply chain problems, leading to a miss on Wall Street expectations.
171. The Defence Ministry approved the procurement of arms and military equipment worth **Rs 7,965-crore**, including 12 light utility helicopters from **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited**, according to an official statement.
172. The Ministry of Rural Development has signed an MoU with **Flipkart** to help empower local businesses and self-help groups (SHGs) especially those that are led by women by bringing them into the e-commerce fold.
173. The Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) has approved a **\$61 million (~INR 453 Crore)** loan under '**Agartala City Urban Development Project**' to improve livability, harness technology, and promote new developments to accommodate the expanding population in the city of **Agartala, Tripura**.
174. Google's parent company **Alphabet** has launched a new company that aims to use artificial intelligence for drug discovery.
- The new company, called **Isomorphic Laboratories**, will leverage the success of DeepMind, another Alphabet subsidiary that used AI to predict the 3D structure of a protein directly from its amino acid sequence.
175. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the Inland Water Transport (IWT) department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **World Bank** for an **Rs 770 crore** loan to improve river transportation in the state.
176. Children-focused fintech, **Junio**, has launched a smart multipurpose card for pre-teens and teenagers on the RuPay platform.
177. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced its first global hackathon '**HARBINGER 2021 – Innovation for Transformation**' with the theme '**smarter digital payments**'.
178. IBM Corp. has launched a client innovation centre in Mysuru, Karnataka, with support from the **Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM)** which aims to attract companies to set up operations in cities beyond Bengaluru.

179. Mobile wallet and Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) fintech company MobiKwik has collaborated with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and **Axis Bank** to launch “MobiKwikRuPay Card”.
180. **Jana Small Finance Bank** has recently tied up with all the three existing Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platforms, namely M1xchange, RXIL, and A.TReDS to support MSMEs.
- This partnership will now provide buyers and suppliers registered on all the TReDS platforms with a variety of options to secure funds by discounting invoices after sale.
181. Retail inflation has inched up to **4.48 percent** in October due to an uptick in food prices, government data showed. The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** based inflation was at 4.35 per cent in September and 7.61 per cent in October 2020.
- According to the data released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, inflation in food basket rose to 0.85 per cent in October, compared to 0.68 per cent in the preceding month.
182. The National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL), has signed an MoU with **Japan Railway Track Consultant Co Limited (JRTC)** for the designs of High-Speed Rail (HSR) track works.
183. **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** has collaborated with the All India MSME Association (AIMA MSME) to encourage and promote the listing of MSMEs and startups.
184. **TVS Motor Company** has joined the *United Nations Global Compact*, the world’s largest sustainability initiative.
185. State-run **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** and **NTPC** have signed an agreement for collaborating on renewable energy.
- This is a first-of-its-kind novel initiative by two leading national energy majors of India, to support the country’s commitment to achieving renewable energy targets and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
186. Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati (IIT) will collaborate with **Oil India Limited (OIL)** on the development and introduction of new technologies energy, and related sectors.

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187. **Tata Projects Limited** has received an order for a 400kV double circuit transmission line project valued at around **\$ 120 million** (around ₹900 crores) from the **Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited (PGCB)**.

188. NTPC Limited, formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, has recently signed an MoU with **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** to collaborate in the field of renewable energy and mutually explore opportunities for the supply of low carbon/RE RTC (round the clock) captive power.
189. **Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati** has recently collaborated with Oil India Limited (OIL) to develop new technologies for Energy and Allied Sectors. This partnership will also focus on cooperation in the Transfer of existing technologies, Knowledge up-gradation and innovation partnership, Training and skill development, and other areas of mutual agreement.
190. Tata Projects Limited has recently bagged a \$120 million order for a 400kV double circuit transmission line project from the **Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited (PGCB)**. It is a 120-km project from Barapukuria to Bogura to be executed in 30 months. The funding will be done by **EXIM Bank** India under the Indian Line of Credit.
- It will also facilitate **1,600MW** power transmission from a power plant based in Jharkhand to Bangladesh.
191. The **World Bank** and the **Asian Development Bank** in association with the India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF) have launched the 'WePower India Partnership Forum' to boost the South Asia Women in Power Sector Professional Network (WePOWER) in India
- World Bank, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, launched the WePOWER in February 2019.
192. The Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) has inked an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Government of Navarra, Spain to further promote trade and investments between the two countries.
193. The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** has approved USD 150 million loan to the Government of India for implementation of the Sustainable Urban services program for Chennai metropolitan area (CMA).
194. **Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Limited** has recently launched its car leasing and subscription business 'Quiklyz' with which the customer can access a brand-new car without all the hassles of car ownership.
- The new venture would be called 'Quiklyz' and would target both individuals as well as corporate buyers.
195. The central board of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has approved investing up to 5 percent of the annual deposits in alternative investment funds (AIFs) including **infrastructure investment trusts** (InvITs).
- The central board also approved setting up four subcommittees on employee pension, social security and augmentation of digital capacity to make EPFO a better user-friendly organisation.

196. NPCI Bharat Billpay has recently collaborated with **Tata Power** to enable customers to pay their electricity bills in a hassle-free and seamless manner. This will enable over seven lakh customers of Tata Power to pay their electricity bills through the ClickPay payment link.
197. The **World Bank** has recently signed a USD 250 million agreement for a project that aims to improve the quality of learning for over 50 lakh students in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
198. The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have recently signed a **\$ 300 million** loan to strengthen and improve access to comprehensive primary health care in urban areas of 13 states. This will benefit over 256 million urban dwellers including 51 million from slum areas.
- It will be implemented in urban areas across **13 states**: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and West Bengal.
  - ADB has also approved a **\$1.5 billion** (around Rs 11,185 crore) loan to India for Covid-19 vaccine procurement.

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199. **Equitas Small Finance Bank** has recently partnered with HDFC Bank to launch its new co-branded credit cards. The credit card can be availed in two categories:
- i. The first category is the 'Excite Credit Card' which offers a credit limit from Rs 25,000 to Rs 2 lakh.
  - ii. The second category is the 'Elegance Credit Card' which offers a credit of over Rs 2 lakh.
200. The **Asian Development Bank** has approved a USD 1.5 billion (around Rs 11,185 crore) loan to India for COVID-19 vaccine procurement.
201. Online travel services firm MakeMyTrip has partnered with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to promote regional air connectivity through the **UDAN scheme**.
202. Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited have launched a **Model Retail Outlet Scheme** and a Digital Customer Feedback Program called **Darpan@petrolpump**. The aim is to enhance service standards and amenities to serve over 6 crores consumer every day.
- The scheme involves an intense 5 Level evaluation process of over 70000 retail outlets in the country.
  - The Retail Outlets have been divided into 4 categories based on sales performance, facilities offered and their percentage of digital transactions at the point of sale.

- Top performers will be awarded the “Shresth” and “Uttam”, Awards by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the “RajyaSarvPratham” awards by the respective Oil Companies.

203. London-based Kantar has released a report for 'Most Purposeful Brands of India for 2020-21' that covers 418 brand cases across 30 categories. As per the report, E-commerce giant Amazon, Asian Paints and Tata Tea have been named as the "most purposeful" brands in India 2021 in tech, non-FMCG and FMCG categories.

Rank	Most Purposeful Technology Brands	Most Purposeful FMCG Brands	Most Purposeful Non-FMCG Brands
1	Amazon	Tata Tea	Asian Paints
2	Zomato	Surf Excel	Samsung and Jio
3	YouTube	Taj Mahal	MRF

## FINANCE & BANKING

204. **SEBI** has constituted **IT Projects Advisory Committee** that will advise the markets regulator on projects aimed to utilise advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, data analytics and cloud computing.

- The seven-member committee, headed by **AbhayKarandikar**, a director at IIT Kanpur, will provide guidance to upgrade existing SEBI's IT systems and solutions with the latest IT practices, techniques, tools and technologies, an update available with the regulator showed.

205. Indian Oil Corporation (**IOC**) will invest **Rs. 3,681 crore** in setting up **India's first mega-scale Maleic Anhydride Plant** to manufacture value-added chemical products at its **Panipat** refinery and petroleum complex (PRPC) in Haryana.

- The project is proposed to have a capacity of 120,000 tonnes per annum of Maleic Anhydride (MAH) that is used to make speciality products like polyester resins and surface coatings plasticisers, agrochemicals and lubricant additives.

206. The board of Ujjivan Financial Services has approved the amalgamation of the company with its subsidiary, **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** (USFB). This decision has been taken to meet the public shareholding norms of SEBI.

207. **Axis Bank** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Indian Navy to offer a defence service salary package under “**Power Salute**” at **New Delhi**. Through the agreement the bank will provide

several benefits to all ranks of Indian Navy veterans and cadets.

208. The Central Government, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, has recently announced the Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB) scheme 2021-22. It will be issued in **four tranches** from October 2021 to March 2022.

Tranche	Date of Subscription	Date of Issuance
2021-22 Series VII	October 25 - 29, 2021	November 02, 2021
2021-22 Series VIII	November 29- December 03, 2021	December 07, 2021
2021-22 Series IX	January 10-14, 2022	January 18, 2022
2021-22 Series X	February 28- March 04, 2022	March 08, 2022

- Ministry of Finance has fixed the nominal value for SGB at **Rs 4,761** per gram of gold with a discount of Rs 50 per gram on the nominal value. Thus, after discount, the issue price of Gold Bond will be **Rs 4, 711** per gram of gold.

209. **ICICI Lombard General Insurance** has partnered with Vega Helmets to increase road safety awareness and to promote the habit of protection. Under this partnership, ICICI Lombard will provide a personal accident policy on every online purchase of Vega Helmet.

210. On 2nd November 2021, the Bank of Baroda (BoB) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **NCDEX eMarkets Limited (NeML)**. Through this agreement BoB will work as a 'Clearing Bank' and it will handle financial transactions in the NeML marketplace and auction platform.

211. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reviewed and revised the existing **PCA framework** for all Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) excluding Small Finance Banks, Payment Banks and Regional Rural Banks.

- Under the revised framework, Capital, Asset Quality and Leverage will act as the key areas for monitoring. (Capital, Asset quality and Profitability were the key areas for monitoring in 2017's framework).
- The provisions of the revised PCA Framework will be effective from **January 1, 2022**.

212. Bombay stock exchange (BSE) has collaborated with **HDFC Bank** and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote and encourage the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and also listing of Start-ups.

213. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved **HDFC Life Insurance Company** for acquiring 100% shareholding of Exide Life Insurance Limited under **Section 31 (1)** of the Competition Law of 2002.

214. In November 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed **Bandhan Bank** as an "Agency Bank" for undertaking government business.



215. The **State Bank of India** has recently launched a '**Video life certificate**' facility for pensioners. It will allow pensioners to submit their life certificates via video from their homes. It is important for pensioners and family pensioners to submit their life certificates before November 30 every year to avoid their pensions getting suspended.
216. The finance ministry has given its go ahead to **8.5% rate of interest** on provident fund deposit for 2020-21 paving way for the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation to credit the interest in accounts of over 60 million beneficiaries.
217. **Liberty General Insurance** Ltd has recently partnered with **PhonePe** to offer motor insurance digitally. Under this, Liberty General Insurance will provide a variety of **Motor Insurance policies** to the customers, digitally through the PhonePe App.
218. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**) has recently collaborated with **ESAF Small Finance Bank** for local economic development in Kerala.
- The bank has launched State Level Local Sustainable Economic Development Training Programme in Kerala. This initiative will benefit **300 Panchayats** across Kerala.
219. The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) has recently (November 2021) allowed Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to invest in debt securities issued by Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs).
- Under this, FPIs can acquire debt securities issued by InvITs and REITs under the Medium-Term Framework (MTF) or the **Voluntary Retention Route** (VRR).
220. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed several restrictions on Maharashtra-based **Babaji Date MahilaSahakari Bank**, including capping withdrawals at **Rs 5,000** for customers, amid deterioration in the lender's financial position.
221. NPCI Bharat BillPay has tied up with **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** to provide ClickPay to the insurer's customers.
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance is the first insurance company to offer this facility of ClickPay to its customers empowering them to make renewal premium payments with ease.
222. Aadhar Housing Finance and **UCO Bank** have entered into a co-lending agreement to offer home loans at competitive interest rates.
223. The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) has recently launched a '**Digital Payment Gateway**' in partnership with **National Securities Depository Limited** (NSDL) and **PayU** to increase ease of use for NIXI's customers by offering real-time payments, providing uninterrupted services, and ensuring a seamless experience to all stakeholders.

- The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) is a non-profit Company incorporated under Section 25 of the India Companies Act, 1956. It was set up in **2003**. The current Chairman is **Ajay Prakash Sawhney**.
224. PGIM India Mutual Fund has announced the launch of *PGIM India Global Select Real Estate Securities Fund of Fund*, an open-ended equity fund of fund scheme investing in PGIM Global Select Real Estate Securities Fund.
- The fund is India's first Global Real Estate Securities Fund. The NFO will open for subscription on November 15, 2021 and will close on November 29, 2021.
225. **Axis Bank** has signed an MoU with the Army Insurance Group (AGI) to offer retail mortgage loans to the Indian Army.
- Through this partnership, it will exclusively offer higher loan amounts as well as the facility to transfer the balance of their loans from AGI to Axis Bank.
226. The Reserve Bank of India has removed restrictions, with immediate effect, imposed on **Diners Club International** regarding on-boarding of fresh domestic customers onto its card network.
227. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched two innovative customer-centric initiatives of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) namely **RBI Retail Direct Scheme** and the **Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme**.
228. In a first-of-its-kind initiative by a brokerage in India, Geojit Financial has launched a platform for Non-Resident External (NRE) and Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) categories of investors to open online trading and demat account services through **Central Depository Services Ltd (CDSL)**.
229. Fintech Company Niyu, in association with **SBM Bank India** and **Visa**, now offers a digital savings account with Niyu Global.
230. BharatPe has announced the launch of **Merchant Shareholding Program (MSP)** for its merchant partners.
- The company will be rolling out this program to its 7.5 million+ existing merchant partners and extend this to new merchants who join it.
231. SEBI has amended rules to introduce **silver exchange traded funds**, a move that will expand the options available for investing in commodities through stock exchanges.
- Currently, Indian mutual funds are allowed to launch ETFs (**Exchange Traded Funds**) tracking gold.

232. **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance** has entered into a tripartite partnership with the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and the Department of Posts (DoP), launching two insurance products to tap the vast rural customers across the country.
233. **HDFC Bank** has announced its integration with the government's National Agriculture Market (eNAM) to enable digital collections and settlement of funds to various e-NAM beneficiaries.
234. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed several restrictions on **Laxmi Cooperative Bank Ltd, Solapur**, including **Rs 1,000** cap on withdrawals for customers, due to deterioration in its financial position.
235. **HDFC Bank** has recently integrated with the government's **National Agriculture Market (eNAM)** to enable digital collections and settlement of funds to various e-NAM beneficiaries. The bank has partnered with the Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) to improve the ease of doing business on the e-NAM platform by offering collection modes like multi-net banking, debit card, NEFT/RTGS, and UPI/IMPS.
236. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed several restrictions on Laxmi Cooperative Bank Ltd, Solapur, including Rs 1,000 cap on withdrawals for customers, due to deterioration in its financial position.
237. RBI has recently introduced an **Internal Ombudsman Mechanism** for certain categories of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) that have a higher customer interface.
- These two types of NBFCs are Deposit-taking NBFCs with **10 or more branches** and Non-Deposit taking NBFCs with assets size of **Rs. 5,000 crore**.
  - The RBI has given a timeline of **six months** to the NBFCs for the appointment of the Internal Ombudsman.
238. **Paytm Money**, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Paytm Limited, has recently launched AI (Artificial Intelligence) powered '**Voice Trading**' to enable users to do trade or get information about stocks via single voice command.
239. Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) has launched the second window of Swavalamban Challenge Fund (SCF) with **Green Bharat** as prioritised theme.
- The focus of the fund is on innovative projects addressing the green, clean or efficient climate change.
240. IndusInd Bank has announced the launch of '**Indus Merchant Solutions**' a comprehensive mobile application to enable merchants, retailers and professionals to carry out banking transactions digitally, on a single platform.

241. With an aim to support and promote Indian football, the country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI), has entered into a strategic partnership with JFC, the football club owned by Tata Steel.
242. The **Karnataka VikasGrameena Bank** has recently received the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) Award for Best Digital Financial Services under the 'Regional Rural Banks' category.
243. Kotak Mahindra Bank and PVR Cinemas have launched a co-branded movie debit card.
- With the Kotak PVR Movie Debit Card, cardholders will receive joining vouchers and earn points on every transaction on the debit card at PVR and outside PVR as well, with no upper limit on the points earned.
244. Mswipe has recently partnered with **OneCard**, a mobile-first credit card company, to offer no-cost Equated Monthly Instalments (EMIs) to its retail customers while purchasing at Mswipe POS (Point of Sale) terminals.
245. State Bank of India has entered into a co-lending agreement with fintech firm **U GRO Capital** to offer financing solutions to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
246. HDFC Bank has announced the launch of micro-credit facility for street vendors, **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi** (PM SVANidhi), with common service centres (CSC).
247. HDFC Bank would facilitate PM SVANidhi for its village-level entrepreneurs (VLEs) on the digital sewa portal where vendors can complete the entire process online. It is a collateral-free affordable loan of ₹10,000 with an interest subsidy of 7%.
248. NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited, an IT-enabled services provider, has recently received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India to set up an **Account Aggregator** business under its wholly-owned subsidiary, NSDL e-Governance Account Aggregator Ltd.

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249. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently released the report of the **Working Group on Digital Lending**.
- Group has recommended to set-up a nodal agency in consultation with stakeholders to verify the digital lending applications.

- The group has recommended to set- up a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) covering the participants in the digital lending ecosystem to maintain a 'negative list' of Lending Service Providers.
- The group has recommended that in the medium term, the Central Government may consider bringing in legislation to prevent illegal lending activities by introducing the 'Banning of Unregulated Lending Activities Act'.
- Use of unsolicited commercial communications for digital loans to be governed by a Code of Conduct to be put in place by the proposed SRO.

250. Network International, the leading enabler of digital commerce across the Middle East and Africa, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with **NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL)**, the international arm of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), to discuss their collaboration on acceptance of NIPL's mobile-based real-time payment system, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

251. RBL Bank has been authorised by the Reserve Bank of India to collect direct taxes on behalf of the Central Board of Direct Taxes.

252. IDFC First Bank has partnered Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) to facilitate fuel payments at their retail outlets using the bank's FASTags.

253. **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has recently entered into a partnership with Google India Pvt Ltd (GIPL) for piloting a social impact lending programme with financial assistance up to **Rs 1 crore** at competitive interest rates to MSMEs.

- Under this partnership, MSMEs having turnover up to Rs 5 crore will get the loan ranging between Rs 25 lakh to Rs 1 crore which is being implemented by SIDBI.

254. A working group constituted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on digital lending through online platforms and mobile apps has submitted its report. It was headed by Jayant Kumar Dash, Executive Director of RBI.

- This report is aimed at enhancing customer protection and making the digital lending ecosystem safe while encouraging innovation.

255. ICICI Bank has announced the launch of its online platform, '**Trade Emerge**', to offer comprehensive digital banking and value-added services to exporters and importers across India.

- This platform will make cross border trade hassle-free, expeditious and convenient, as it offers an array of services in one place, eliminating the need for companies to coordinate with multiple touchpoints.

256. State Bank of India (Chennai circle) has inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Puducherry Cooperative Milk Producers Union (PONLAIT) to provide loan to individual dairy farmers.

- The loan would be given under SAFAL (*simple and fast agriculture loan*) scheme of the bank. The amount of loan is up to a limit of **Rs 3 lakh**.
257. Inching closer to resolving the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank issue, the Reserve Bank came out with a draft scheme for takeover of the crisis-hit bank by the Delhi-based Unity Small Finance Bank (USFB).
258. **JPMorgan Chase** has been named the world's most important bank to the health of the wider financial system, according to the latest annual ranking of top lenders by global regulators.
259. Union Bank of India has entered into a co-lending partnership with Capri Global Capital, under which they will disburse loans to MSMEs.
- The co-lending agreement aims to enhance last-mile finance and drive financial inclusion to MSMEs by offering secured loans between Rs 10 lakh to **Rs 1 crore**.
260. **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** has recently partnered with deep-tech start-up TropoGo for the distribution of a drone Insurance product. This will cover damage to the Drone and Payload it carries, Third Party Liability along with additional covers for BVLOS (Beyond Visual Line of Sight) Endorsement and Night Flying Endorsement.
261. BOB Financial Solutions Ltd (BFSL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB), has recently partnered with **OneCard**, to launch a co-branded mobile-first credit card. The card will be issued by BFSL and managed by OneCard on VISA's Signature platform.
262. Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has committed loans worth \$ 100 million for domestic manufacturers of Covid-19 vaccines or related products.
263. The Reserve Bank of India has recently imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 1 crore** on the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, for violating subsection (2) of section 19 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. It has been levied on SBI for holding shares in borrower companies of an amount exceeding 30% of the paid-up share capital of those companies.
264. An internal working group of the Reserve Bank on the *ownership and corporate structure of private sector banks* has favoured allowing promoters to maintain any percentage of holding in the first five years— more than the present minimum of 40 per cent now favoured — and then capping it at 26 per cent after 15 years of operations.
265. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently approved the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to increase its stake in **Kotak Mahindra Bank** to up to 9.99%. The approval is valid for 1 year.
- Currently, LIC holds a 4.96% stake in Kotak Mahindra Bank.

266. Paytm Payments Bank has recently launched a physical prepaid card named '**Paytm Transit Card**'. Through this card, users will be able to do all the banking and transaction-related work easily.
- The first phase of rollout is being launched in collaboration with Hyderabad Metro Rail, Ahmedabad Metro and the Delhi Airport Express Line.
  - The card will be used for travel in metros, buses and trains, to pay toll and parking charges, payment at offline and online stores to even withdrawal of cash from ATMs.
267. AI driven Health- tech company Fedo has recently launched a 'Health Savings Account', called **Fedo HSA**, in partnership with Asia's largest neo bank Open. The account will offer a combined account that helps customers meet their required spending through a combination of smart savings, insurance, line of credit all bundled in a powerful savings account that comes with a health Credit/ Debit card with health benefit features and rewards.
- Open has also launched a No-Code do-it-yourself (DIY) embedded fin-tech service platform **Zwitch** for fin-techs and enterprises.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

268. **South African** writer **Damon Galgut** has recently won the prestigious Booker Prize for fiction 2021 for "**The Promise**", a novel about one white family's reckoning with South Africa's racist history. He was previously shortlisted for "The Good Doctor" in 2003 and "In a Strange Room" in 2010, but lost both times.
269. A 28-year old mountaineer **Priyanka Mohite** has been selected by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for the prestigious '**Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2020**' for outstanding contribution in the field of land adventure.
270. Nelson Mandela Nobel Peace Award 2021 has been awarded to **Ajay Sharma**, Managing Director, Moral Group of Companies for his outstanding contributions in the field of entrepreneur's development, creating employment for all, and the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission with Social Responsibilities. It has been awarded by **Nelson Mandela Nobel Peace Award Academy**.
271. Kannada actor PuneethRajkumar will be posthumously conferred the **Basavashree award 2021** by the Bruhanmutt.
272. The President of India has recently presented the Padma Awards to **119 recipients** for the year 2020 at RashtrapatiBhavan. It consist of 7 Padma Vibhushans, 10 Padma Bhushans, and 102 Padma Shri awards.
273. The Union ministry of home affairs (MHA) has recognised **Bhattu Kalan police station** of Fatehabad district in Haryana among the top three police stations in India in 2021.
- Also the Gangapur police station in Odisha's Ganjam district has been selected as one of the top three police stations in the country for the current year by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

274. Nepal Army Chief General Prabhu Ram Sharma was conferred the honorary rank of General of the Indian Army by President Ram Nath Kovind at a ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
275. Sri Lankan great Mahela Jayawardena, former South Africa all-rounder Shaun Pollock and ex England batter Janette Brittin will be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame before the T20 World Cup final gets underway.
276. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has recently (Nov 2021) inducted three new cricketers into the ICC Hall of Fame.
- **Mahela Jayawardene** – Sri Lanka
  - **Shaun Pollock** – South Africa
  - **Janette Brittin** – England (She passed away in 2017 due to cancer)

Indian players in ICC Hall of Fame	
Player	Induction year
<b>Bishan Bedi</b>	2009
<b>Kapil Dev</b>	2009
<b>Sunil Gavaskar</b>	2009
<b>Anil Kumble</b>	2015
<b>Rahul Dravid</b>	2018
<b>Sachin Tendulkar</b>	2019
<b>Vinod Mankad</b>	2021

277. The West Bengal school education, higher education and tourism departments have been conferred with the prestigious **Skoch Gold Award**.
278. Mukundan's "Delhi: A Soliloquy", translated from Malayalam by Fathima E.V. and Nandakumar K., was announced winner of the **JCB Prize for Literature**.
- While Mukundan will receive a prize amount of Rs 25 lakh, Fathima and Nandakumar will receive an amount of Rs 10 lakh.
  - Besides the cash amount, M. Mukundan won a trophy created by Delhi artist duo Thukral & Tagra, titled 'Mirror Melting'.
279. Two Indian teenage brothers have won the **2021 KidsRights International Children's Peace Prize** for tackling pollution from household waste.
- Vihaan (17) and Nav Agarwal (14) have developed the "One Step Greener" initiative segregating recyclables and organising pickups for trash from thousands of homes.



280. Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has announced Karnataka Ratna award for the film star **Puneeth Rajkumar** popularly known as Power Star who passed away last month. He will be the 10th recipient of the state's highest civilian honour.
281. Rajeev Chaudhry has received the Guinness World Records certificate for the achievement of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) of constructing and black topping the World's highest motorable road.
282. **Jason Mott's Hell of a Book**, a surreal meta-narrative about an author's promotional tour and his haunted past and present, has won the National Book Award for fiction — a plot twist Mott did not imagine for himself.
283. In a great achievement for the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has adjudged **Basantgarh Police Station in Udhampur district** of Jammu division as 'one among 10 Best Police Stations' in the country in the Annual Ranking of Police Stations for the year 2021.
284. The Governor conferred the 12th Manipur State Award for Literature on **Beryl Thanga**, a 65 year old writer, for his book 'Ei Amadi Adungeigilthat' a novel published in the year 2015.
285. The Sports Authority of India gave out its first-ever Institutional Awards to a total of **162 athletes and 84 coaches** for their performance in national and international competitions.
286. **Prakash Padukone** will receive the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award this year from the Badminton World Federation (BWF).
287. **Anita Desai** has been awarded the Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021 to recognise her long literary career which spans over 50 years.
288. Indian poet **Adil Jussawala** has been conferred with the Poet Laureate award for 2021 to recognise exceptional work which has made a significant impact in the Indian literary field.
291. The 4th Digital Transformation Awards Summit titled Towards Integrated Digital Health Infrastructure has been organized by Governance Now.
- **National Health Mission, Jammu, and Kashmir** has received the award for the Swasthya Nidhi survey app in the Digital Health category.
  - Himachal Pradesh has also received the award for the project Digital Health Approaches for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).
292. **Pratham NGO** has been awarded the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2021 for its work on expanding the scope for education in India. This NGO was co-founded by Farida Lambay and Madhav Chavan in 1995.

- The Indira Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual prestigious award. It is conferred every year since 1968 by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. It consists of a monetary award of ₹25 lakh along with a citation.

293. Founder and CEO of Aries Group of Companies **SKSohan Roy** has recently become the first Indian to be awarded the Knighthood of Parte Guelfa for his humanitarian and environmental protection efforts in business and movies. He has been honoured at the prestigious Basilica of Santa Croce and the Palagio di Parte Guelfa in Florence, Italy.

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294. Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and the Dairying, Parshottam Rupala has recently presented the World Fisheries Day awards on the occasion of World Fisheries Day (21<sup>st</sup> November).

- Note:** India has set a target of Rs 1 lakh crore export from the fisheries sector by 2024-25.

World Fisheries Day awards 2021		
<b>Best Marine</b>	<b>State</b>	Andhra Pradesh
	<b>District</b>	Balasore (Odisha)
<b>Best Inland</b>	<b>State</b>	Telangana
	<b>District</b>	Balaghat (Madhya Pradesh)
<b>Best hilly and north-eastern</b>	<b>State</b>	Tripura
	<b>District</b>	Bongaigaon (Assam)

295. Himachal Pradesh's KamdhenuHitkariManch, Namhol in district Bilaspur has been selected as '**Best Milk Cooperative Society**' and is being awarded 'Gopal Ratna' Award by the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India.

296. The HUNAR HAAT, organized by the Ministry of Minority Affairs at PragatiMaidan, New Delhi, received the prestigious **India International Trade Fair, 2021 Silver Medal** for strengthening commitment to "Vocal for Local" and its strong presence at the Trade Fair.

297. A Kerala-based medical technology start-up has been adjudged the winner of Startup India Grand Challenge 2021 in the medical device category of the Government of India.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

298. A new book titled "**John Lang: Wanderer of Hindoostan, Slanderer of Hindoostanee, Lawyer for the Ranees**" by **Amit Ranjan** has been released recently.

299. The book titled “**The Story of the First Civilizations: From Mesopotamia to the Aztecs**”, by **Subhadra Sen Gupta**, is published under Speaking Tiger’s ‘Talking Hub’ imprint.
- The book informs children about the ancient civilisations from across the world – Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus Valley, China, Greece, Rome, the Americas and Africa - in a fun manner.
  - The writer passed away due to Covid-19 this year.
300. A book titled “**The Sage with Two Horns: Unusual Tales from Mythology**” has been authored by **SudhaMurty**. This is the fifth and last book of her ‘Unusual Tales from mythology’ series featuring kings and queens, gods and goddesses, sages and extraordinary men and women of wisdom.
- The book has been published by **Penguin Random House India** imprint Puffin.
301. A book titled “**Not just cricket: A Reporters Journey**” by **Pradeep Magazine** is going to be released in December 2021. It is published by *HarperCollins Publishers India*.
302. Noted Economist and former Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, **Dr. Shankar Acharya** has authored a new book titled “**An Economist at Home and Abroad: A Personal Journey**”.
- The book features the professional and personal life of the most accomplished policy economist Dr. Shankar Acharya.
303. A new book titled ‘**The Cinema of Satyajit Ray**’ written by the author Bhaskar Chattopadhyay and published by Westland details the life of legendary Indian Filmmaker – ‘Satyajit Ray’. The book is divided into two sections, first is about art and second is the artist.
304. Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister (CM) of Haryana has released the book titled “**MODERN INDIA: For Civil Services and Other Competitive Examinations**” authored by **Poonam DalalDahiya**. The book is published by McGraw Hill.
305. The Bangla version of the book ‘Operation X’ about the naval commando operation jointly launched by the Indian Navy and the MuktiBahini of Bangladesh was launched in Dhaka.
- The book is written by **Capt MNR Samant** and **Sandeep Unnithan**. Bangladesh Minister of Liberation War Affairs AKM MuzammelHaq was the Chief Guest on the occasion.
306. **Aseem Chawla** has announced the release of his new book titled ‘Finding a Straight Line between Twists and Turns – An Imperfect, Yet Honest Reflections on the Indian Tax Landscape’.
307. A book titled “**Nehru: The Debates that Defined India**” is co-authored by Tripurdaman Singh and Adeel Hussain.
308. A new book titled “**Sunrise over Ayodhya – Nationhood in our Times**” has been authored by former union minister and Congress leader **Salman Khurshid**. The book features the Supreme Court verdict on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute.

309. Navdeep Singh Gill has recently authored a new book titled '**UddnaBaaz**'. The book depicts the biography of the first Arjuna awardee Olympian **Gurbachan Singh Randhawa**.
- Gurbachan Singh Randhawa is a former Indian athlete who won a gold medal at the 1962 Asian Games in the decathlon. He is the first **Arjuna Awardee** in 1967. He is honored with the **Padma Shri** in 2005.
310. A new book titled 'The Disruptor: How VishwanathPratap Singh Shook India' has been authored by **DebashishMukerji**. The book has been published by HarperCollins India.
- The book features a detailed account on India's 8<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister **VishwanathPratap Singh**.
311. A book titled 'Shuttlers' Flick: Making Every Match Count' has been authored by Pullela Gopichand. The book has been co-authored by **Priya Kumar**. The book features the autobiography of the former badminton player **Pullela Gopichand**. The book is published by Simon & Schuster India.
312. The book titled '*Unshackling India: Hard Truths and Clear Choices for Economic Revival*' co-authored by Ajay Chhibber and Salman AneesSoz.
- The book examines whether India can use the next 25 years, when it will reach the hundredth year of independence, to not only restructure its economy but rejuvenate its democratic energy and unshackle its potential to become a genuinely developed economy by 2047.
313. Union Minister of Women and Child Development **Smriti Zubin Irani** has recently authored his debut novel named '**Lal Salaam: A Novel**'. The book depicts the story of a young officer, VikramPratap Singh, and of the challenges he faces against a system that is steeped in backroom politics and corruption. The book has been published by Westland Publications.
314. The book titled "*Cooking to Save your Life*" written by Economist **Abhijit Banerjee** has been released recently.
- The book is published by Juggernaut.
  - In this book, Banerjee explores the social dimension of food in his latest book 'Cooking to Save Your Life' with grocery runs, dinner parties and lemon dal.
315. Nobel Laureate and Indian-born American Economist, **Abhijit Banerjee**, has authored a book titled "**Cooking to Save Your Life**". The book has been illustrated by France-based illustrator Cheyenne Olivier. It has been published by Juggernaut Books.
316. The book titled "*Resolved: Uniting Nations in a Divided World*" written by Former UN Secretary General – **Ban Ki-moon** has been released recently.
317. A new book titled 'India Vs UK: The Story of an Unprecedented Diplomatic Win' has been authored by Indian diplomat **Syed Akbaruddin**. The book narrates the story of an unprecedented diplomatic win in 2017, complete with twists and turns, in the campaign for India's candidature in the election to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The book has been published by Harper Collins India.

318. A new book titled 'Indian Innings: The Journey of Indian Cricket from 1947' has been authored by **AyazMemon**. The book is an anthology of Indian cricket and marks many insights into Indian cricket of the last 70 years.
319. Former Army Officer **Maroof Raza** has authored a new book titled 'Contested Lands: India, China, and the Boundary Dispute'. The book is published by Westland.
320. HarperCollins is proud to announce a new perspective on business and life, '**The Ambuja Story: How a Group of Ordinary Men Created an Extraordinary Company**' releasing in December 2021.
- The book is written by **NarotamSekhsaria** is the chairman of ACC Limited, Ambuja Cements Ltd, and Ambuja Cements Foundation, which runs one of India's most extensive CSR programmes. He also manages the NarotamSekhsaria Foundation, a leading philanthropic funding agency.

## PERSON IN NEWS

321. Former judge of the Supreme Court of India, Justice **Ashok Bhushan** has been appointed as chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). He has replaced Justice Bansi Lal Bhat who served as the acting chairperson of the NCLAT.
- Justice **RamalingamSudhakar**, former Chief Justice of Manipur High Court, has been appointed as President of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
322. Industry chamber Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) has recently appointed **Arun Chawla** as its new Director-General. He will assume charge with immediate effect.
323. Hurun India and EdelGive have recently released the **EdelGiveHurun India Philanthropy List 2021**. The list has been topped by the founder chairman of WIPRO, **Azim Premji**. He has donated Rs. 9,713 crore during fiscal 2020-21 i.e. Rs 27 crore per day.
- He has been followed by Shiv Nadar, MukeshAmbani and Kumar Mangalam Birla.
324. Morinari Watanabe has been re-elected as the President of the International Gymnastics Federation or FédérationInternationale de Gymnastique (FIG) for 3 years. He was first elected FIG president in 2016 for a four-year term.
325. India's **Sankalp Gupta** from Nagpur, Maharashtra has recently become the 71st Grandmaster of India by scoring 6.5 points and has finished second in the GM tournament held in Arandjelovac, Serbia. He has lost to RudikMakrarian of Russia.
326. Bandhan Bank has announced Popular Assamese & Bollywood singer **Zubeen Garg** as the brand ambassador for the Bank in Assam.
327. Amway India has announced the appointment of Bollywood actor **Amitabh Bachchan** as its brand ambassador.

- He will endorse the brand Amway and the Nutrilite range of products across all platforms, encourage women and youth empowerment through guided entrepreneurship thereby reinforcing Amway's vision of helping people live healthier and better lives.

328. Astronaut **Wang Yaping**, a crewmember of China's Shenzhou-13 mission, has become the first woman from the country to walk in space.
329. Plaeto, a footwear brand for children, has roped in **Rahul Dravid** as its brand ambassador and mentor. The brand has announced the partnership along with a campaign featuring Dravid.
330. After retiring as a Head Coach for Men in Blue, former cricketer **Ravi Shastri** has joined Legends League Cricket (LLC) as commissioner.
331. Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) President, SouravGanguly has recently confirmed, that former India batter **VVS Laxman** will be the next head of the National Cricket Academy (NCA). He will succeed Rahul Dravid.
332. Professor **Bimal Patel**, Vice-Chancellor, RashtriyaRaksha University and Member of National Security Advisory Board of India, has been elected to the International Law Commission for a five-year term starting January 1, 2023 in a hard-fought election at the United Nations.
333. Children's footwear brand Plaeto has recently appointed Indian cricketer **Rahul Dravid** as its brand ambassador and mentor. Plaeto is India's first D2C foot-health-focused footwear brand designed specifically for Indian children. It was founded in March 2020 by Ravi Kallayil, Sara Kilgore, and PavanKareti.
334. After retiring as a Head Coach for Men In Blue, former cricketer Ravi Shastri has joined Legends League Cricket (LLC) as commissioner.
335. The United Nations (UN) secretary-general Antonio Guterres has recently appointed **Shombi Sharp** of the United States as the United Nations Resident Co-ordinator in India. He will lead the UN team in India, and work towards India's COVID-19 response plans to recover better for the Sustainable Development Goals.
336. **SouravGanguly**, the BCCI president, has been appointed as the Chairman of the ICC Men's Cricket Committee. He will replace Anil Kumble who assumed the charge in 2012.
- Johnny Grave, CEO of Cricket West Indies, has been appointed to the ICC Women's Cricket Committee.
337. Australian Geoff Allardice has been appointed as permanent **CEO of the International Cricket Council** after serving the role on an interim basis for more than eight months

338. Romanian President Klaus Iohannis has nominated Defence Minister **Nicolae Ciuca** to form a new government as Prime Minister.
339. India's candidate, **Praveen Sinha**, Special Director of Central Bureau of Investigation was elected as Delegate for Asia on the Executive Committee of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).
340. Noted mountaineer from Uttarakhand **Harshwanti Bisht** has earned the distinction of being elected the first woman president of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF).
341. Czech President **Milos Zeman** appointed the leader of a centre-right alliance Petr Fiala as prime minister in a ceremony he performed from a plexiglass cubicle after testing positive for COVID-19.
342. Social media platform Twitter went through a major organisational change as the company's co-founder Jack Dorsey resigned as the chief executive officer (CEO), paving the way for Indian origin **Parag Agrawal** to the top post.
343. **Admiral R. Hari Kumar** has assumed charge as the 25th Chief of the Naval Staff. He received Guard of Honour at the South Block lawns in New Delhi as the new Chief of Naval Staff.
344. **Rajnish Kumar**, former chairman of State Bank of India (SBI), has been appointed as an independent non-executive director on the board of Hero Motocorp.
345. 1985-batch Indian Revenue Service officer **Vivek Johri** has been appointed as the chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs CBIC.

## OBITUARIES

346. The Australian all-rounder **cricketer Alan Keith Davidson** passed away at the age of 92. He was the first player to score 100 runs and take 10 wickets in a single Test match.
347. 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.
348. Afghanistan's former Prime Minister Ahmad **Shah Ahmadzai** has passed away at the age of 78.
349. Former Australia all-rounder **Peter Philpott** has died at the age of 86 following a long battle with illness.
350. Renowned Cricket Coach and **Dronacharya Awardee Tarak Sinha** passed away due to cancer at the age of 71 in New Delhi. He was fondly referred to as "Ustadji" by his disciples.

351. Former chancellor of GITAM deemed-to-be University and former vice-chancellor of Andhra University (AU), **Padma Shri Koneru Ramakrishna Rao**, died in Visakhapatnam, after a brief illness. He was 89.
352. Former South African president **FW de Klerk** died at his Cape Town home at the age of 85, his organization announced.
353. Renowned author Anand Shankar Pandya has passed away at the age of 99.
354. **Anand Shankar** was the Former Vice President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP).
355. Noted historian and Padma Vibhushan awardee **Balwant Moreshwar Purandare**, popularly known as Babasaheb Purandare, died at a Pune hospital after a brief illness. He was 99.
356. Eminent **historian and author** Babasaheb Purandare has passed away recently in Pune, Maharashtra. He was born on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1922 in Saswad, Pune.
357. Renowned writer of **Hindi** language Mannu Bhandari has passed away recently in Gurugram, Haryana. She was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1931 in Bhanpura, Madhya Pradesh.
- **Literary works**- Ek Inch Muskaan, Aapka Bunty, Mahabhoj, Teen Nigahon Ki Ek Tasvir, Trishanku, and Aankhon Dekha Jhooth, etc.
358. Renowned legendary **author** Wilbur Smith has passed away recently in South Africa. He was born in Zambia in 1933 to a British family.
- He published his first novel named "When the Lion Feeds" in 1964. He published his autobiography "**On Leopard Rock**" in 2018.
359. Veteran author, football journalist and **sports commentator** Novy Kapadia has passed away recently due to health complications. He was popularly known as 'the voice of Indian football'. He had covered nine FIFA World Cups, as well as Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.
- **Literary Works**: 'Barefoot To Boots', 'The Many Lives Of Indian Football', etc.
360. Acclaimed short-story writer and **literary figure** of Bangladesh Hasan Azizul Haque passed away at Rajshahi. He was 82.
361. Renowned **Punjabi folk singer** Gurmeet Bawa has passed away recently in Amritsar, Punjab. She was born on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1944 in Kothe village in Punjab.
362. Sahitya Akademi Award-winning **Assamese poet** Sananta Tanty has passed away recently in New Delhi. He was born on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1952 in Karimganj district of Assam.



- He won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2016 for 'Kailoir Dinto Amar Hobo' (Tomorrow Will Be Ours), a collection of his poems.

363. Robert Bly, one of the most prominent **American poets** of the last half century and author of the best-selling men's movement classic "Iron John," has died. He was 94.

364. **Veteran songwriter** Stephen Sondheim, who redefined the American musical theatre, has passed away.

365. Popular **choreographer** Sivasankar, who rose to prominence through his work in Telugu and Tamil films, passed away, after weeks of battling COVID-19.

## SPORTS

366. Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced the **National Sports Awards 2021** to recognize and reward excellence in sports. The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at a specially organized function at the Darbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan on 13th November, 2021.

The National Sports Awards 2021 includes:

- Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (12 awards)
- Arjuna Award (35 awards)
- Dronacharya Award (10 awards)
- Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime achievement (5 awards)
- Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar (2 awards)
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy (1 award)

367. The Senior **Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) team for deaf** has secured 1st position in 1st World Deaf Judo Championship 2021 organised in Paris Versailles, France from 26-30th October 2021. The championship is organized by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD).

368. The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has approved **Kerala** as the venue for the women's national championship to be held from November 25 to December 9.

369. Hardened by the difficult circumstances of his personal life, young boxer **Akash Kumar** (54kg) has secured India's first medal at the ongoing **AIBA Men's World Championships** by advancing to the semifinals with a superb win over former Olympic silver-medallist Yoel Finol Rivas of Venezuela.

370. The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) has recently released the list of 18 Cricketers who have been selected for the MCC awards Honorary Life Membership of the Club. The list witnessed the names of 2 former Indian cricketers – **Harbhajan Singh and JavagalSrinath**.
371. Indian Grandmaster **P Iniyan** has emerged winner in the **5th Rujna Zora chess tournament** held with seven points from nine rounds.
372. Former U-19 World Cup-winning captain **Unmukt Chand** is set to become the **first Indian cricketer to play in Australia's Big Bash League** after he signed for Melbourne Renegades for the 2021-2022 season.
373. Red Bull Racing's driver **Max Verstappen** of Netherlands has recently won the 2021 Mexican Grand Prix held at the Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez in Mexico City. He has been followed by Mercedes's driver Lewis Hamilton and Red Bull Racing's driver Sergio Pérez.
374. **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has joined iconic British racing team Jaguar Racing as title partner, ahead of the 2021/22 ABB FIA Formula E World Championship.
- The team will be known as Jaguar TCS Racing. Tech Mahindra is already active in this space through its Mahindra Formula E racing team.
375. Afghanistan leg-spinner **Rashid Khan** has become the youngest bowler to take 400 T20 wickets during his team's crucial Super 12 encounter against New Zealand in Dubai. Rashid has joined an elite list of cricketers as he picked up his 400th wicket in the ongoing New Zealand vs Afghanistan T20 World Cup game.
376. Kolkata-based player **MitrabhaGuha** has become India's 72nd chess Grand Master by bagging his third and final GM norm during a tournament in Serbia.
377. India will face Australia in the opening match when women's cricket makes its debut at the 2022 Commonwealth Games on July 29 while the final will be played on August 7, the event organisers announced. India will take on Pakistan on July 31.
378. **Asif Ali** (Pakistan batter) was selected for the ICC Player of the Month award in men's category.
- In the women's category Ireland all-rounder **Laura Delany** beat teammate Gaby Lewis and Zimbabwe's Mary-Anne Musonda to the women's prize.

379. India finished the inaugural ISSF President's Cup with five medals, including two Gold, two Silver and one Bronze. The invitation-only tournament was held at the Wroclaw in Poland, featuring the top-12 shooters in each of the shotgun, pistol and rifle categories.
380. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** (UNODC) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to further strengthen the cooperation between the two organisations in fighting corruption and crime in sport.
381. **Rohit Sharma** has become the third batter in men's T20 Internationals to score 3000 runs in the T20 World Cup clash against Namibia.
382. **Australia** has become the new world champions after beating New Zealand by 8 wickets in the finale of the 2021 ICC T20 World Cup at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.
- Man of the Match: *Mitchell Marsh*
  - Player of the Tournament: David Warner – *289 runs*.
383. Former India batter **VVS Laxman** will be the next head of the National Cricket Academy (NCA), a senior BCCI official confirmed.
384. **Australia** has recently won their maiden ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 title by defeating New Zealand in the final match held at the Dubai International Stadium, Dubai in UAE. Mitchell Marsh has been named as the player of the match. It has been hosted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- **Player of the Series** – David Warner (Australia)
  - **Top Run Scorer** – Babur Azam (Pakistan)
  - **Highest Wicket Taker** - Wanindu Hasaranga (Sri Lanka)
385. **Alexander Zverev**, a German professional tennis player, has recently won his fifth ATP title of the season and 18th overall by defeating American Frances Tiafoe at the Vienna Open 2021 or Erste Bank Open.
- Note:** At present, Alexander Zverev is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the ATP World Ranking.
386. American **high jumper** Erik Kynard has recently received his gold medal from the 2012 London Olympics after the International Olympic Committee approved reallocating some results from those games because of doping cases.
- With Kynard upgraded to men's gold, the three bronze medalists in 2012 will each now get silver medals: Derek Drouin of Canada, Robbie Grabarz of Britain, and Mutaz Essa Barshim of Qatar.

387. UK's Mercedes driver **Lewis Hamilton** has recently won the Brazilian Grand Prix 2021 held at the Interlagos Circuit in São Paulo, Brazil. This marks the 101<sup>st</sup> victory of Lewis Hamilton in Formula One Racing, and the 6<sup>th</sup> win in 2021.

388. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has recently announced 14 host nations for the upcoming One-Day International (ODI) World Cups, Twenty20 World Cups, and Champions Trophy tournaments from 2024 to 2031.

#### Host countries of ICC Events 2024 to 2031:

##### T20 World Cup:

- 2024: US and West Indies
- 2026: India and Sri Lanka
- 2028: Australia and New Zealand
- 2030: England, Ireland and Scotland

##### ODI World Cup:

- 2027: South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia
- 2031: India and Bangladesh

##### Champions Trophy:

- 2025: Pakistan
- 2029: India

389. Former South Africa captain and superstar batter **AB de Villiers** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, thus ending his 10-year-long association with the Indian Premier League franchise, Royal Challengers Bangalore.

390. The Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) has announced that Tashkent will host the 2025 Asian Youth Para Games.

391. The decision was taken by the APC's executive board following a bidding process that saw a number of national Paralympic committees express interest in hosting the event.

392. India bagged a total of seven medals at the Asian Archery Championships 2021 held in Dhaka. India's recurve archery teams added two silver medals and a bronze on the final day of the Championships. India ended the week-long continental event with seven medals – one gold, four silvers and two bronze.

393. Lewis Hamilton has won the 2021 F1 Qatar Grand Prix. Max Verstappen came second while Fernando Alonso came third. With this win, Lewis Hamilton has become the first driver to have won at 30 different circuits in Formula 1.

394. In badminton, top-seeded Kento Momota of Japan beat Anders Antonsen of Denmark 21-17, 21-11 to win men's singles title at **2021 Indonesia Masters Super 750** badminton tournament.

- Men's Single – KentoMomota (Japan)
- Women's Single – An Seyoung (South Korea)

395. Pakistan pacer **Usman Khan Shinwari** has announced his retirement from the longest format to "prolong his cricket career"

- Shinwari, who has played 17 ODIs and just one Test for Pakistan, informed that he is absolutely fit after undergoing treatment for back injuries.

396. The senior women's national football championship is all set to kick off from November 28 in four venues across Kerala. The championship will conclude on December 9.

397. **Parmjeet Kumar** has become the first Indian para-powerlifter to win a medal in World Championships as he claimed a bronze at the ongoing edition in Tbilisi, Georgia.

398. Indian tennis player **RamkumarRamanathan** has won his maiden Challenger level singles title, 12 years after turning a Pro, when he outplayed EvgenyKarlovskiy in the summit clash of the ATP80 Manama event.

399. Squash star **SauravGhosal** made history as he became the first Indian to win the Malaysian Open Championships after beating Miguel Rodriguez in the men's singles final.

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## IMPORTANT DAYS

400. **World Vegan Day** is annually observed by vegans across the globe on November 1st to encourage people to follow a vegan lifestyle which is beneficial to one's health as well as good for the environment.

401. India celebrates **Ayurveda Day** every year on the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras. This day has been marked every year since 2016 on the occasion of Dhanwantri Jayanti.

- As this year, Dhanteras fall on November 2, so Ayurveda Day 2021 is being celebrated on November 2, 2021.

402. **International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (IDEI)** is annually observed across the globe on **2nd November**.

- The day aims to create awareness and to formulate ways to counter the threats of violence and crimes against journalists to protect the freedom of expression for all.

- The **first** ever International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists was observed on **2nd November 2014**.
403. The **International One Health Day** is annually observed across the globe on **3rd November** to create awareness about the need for a **One Health approach** to address the shared health threats at the human-animal-environment interface.
- **3rd November 2021** marks the **6th** One Health Day, a global campaign that highlights the importance of one health approach.
404. **World Tsunami Awareness Day** is observed annually on **5<sup>th</sup> November** to create awareness among people across the world in matters related to the dangers of tsunami. The day was first observed in **2016**.
- The United Nations has designated 5<sup>th</sup> November as World Tsunami Awareness Day on **22<sup>nd</sup> December 2015**. The day aligns with the International Day for Disaster Reduction (October 13) and the seven targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
405. **International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict** is annually observed across the globe on **November 6th** to create awareness about the damages caused to the environment due to war and armed conflicts.
- The **first** ever International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict was observed on **6th November 2002**.
406. **International Day of Radiology** is observed annually on 8th November to promote the role of medical imaging in modern healthcare. The day is a joint initiative of the European Society of Radiology (ESR), the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), and the American College of Radiology (ACR).
- The year 2021 marks the **10th** International Day of Radiology.
  - Theme 2021 - '**Interventional Radiology – Active care for the patient**'
407. **National Legal Services Day** is observed annually on 9th November to create awareness for ensuring reasonable fair and justice procedure for all citizens. The day also marks the enactment of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987.
- The day was first started by the Supreme Court of India in 1995 to provide help and support to poor and weaker sections of society.
408. **World Science Day for Peace and Development** is observed annually on 10th November to focus on the important role of science and the need to engage the public widely in debates on emerging scientific issues.
- The year 2021 marks the 20th edition of World Science Day for Peace and Development. Theme 2021- "Building Climate-Ready Communities".
409. World Pneumonia Day is observed every year on **November 12** to raise awareness about the disease.

410. **World Urbanism Day**, also known as “World Town Planning Day”, is observed annually on 8th November to recognise and promote the role of planning in creating livable communities.
- The day is organised by the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP). The day was founded in 1949 by the late Professor Carlos Maria dellaPaolera of the University of Buenos Aires.
411. World Usability Day, also known as the Make Things Easier Day, is celebrated on the **second Thursday of November** every year. This year it is fall on November 11, 2021.
- The theme for World Usability Day 2021 is “Design of our Online World: Trust, Ethics, and Integrity.”
412. The World Health Organization annually hosts the **World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW)**, also known as World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WHO). WAAW will be observed this year from November 18 to November 24.
413. The Union Cabinet has approved the declaration of 15 November, the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, as ‘**Janjatiya Gaurav Divas**’.
414. **World Diabetes Day** is celebrated every year on November 14 to mark the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who discovered the insulin hormone along with Charles Herbert Best in 1922.
415. International Day for Tolerance is observed annually on **16<sup>th</sup> November** to raise awareness about the dangers of intolerance. The UN General Assembly adopted 16 November as the International Day for Tolerance in 1966. The day also marks the anniversary of UNESCO’s Declaration of Principles on Tolerance.
- The theme for International Day of Tolerance is based upon the basic premise that ‘Tolerance is respect, acceptance, and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world’s cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human’.
416. **National Press Day** is observed annually across India on **16th November** to recognize the importance of the free and responsible press in a democratic society. The day also marks the establishment of the Press Council of India.
- Press Council of India is a statutory and quasi-judicial body that works as a watchdog to oversee the print media’s conduct. It works under the Press Council Act 1978. It was formed on the recommendations of the First Press Commission in 1966.
417. National Newborn Week is observed every year from **15 to 21 November**.

- The objective of the week is to reinforce the importance of new-born health as a key priority area of the health sector and reduce the infant mortality rate by improving healthcare conditions for babies in the neonatal period.
- The theme of National New-born Week 2021 is 'Safety, quality and nurturing care – birth right of every newborn'.

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418. India has recently observed its first edition of '**Audit Diwas**' on **16<sup>th</sup> November** to mark the historic origin of the institution of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) and the contribution it has made to the governance, transparency and accountability over the past several years.
419. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is observed annually on **25<sup>th</sup> November** to spread awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to various forms of violence and the true nature of the issue is often hidden.
- **Theme 2021:** "Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!"
420. Constitution Day is observed annually across India on **26<sup>th</sup> November** to mark the anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the country. On this day in 1949, the constitution was adopted which came into force on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950.
- **Note:** The year 2021 marks the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India.
  - The Government of India has designated 26th November as 'Constitution Day' on 19 November 2015, during the year-long celebration of the 125th birth anniversary of the Father of the Indian Constitution, Dr. BR Ambedkar. Earlier, this day was celebrated as Law Day.
421. National Organ Donation Day is observed annually across India on **27<sup>th</sup> November** to spread awareness among people and to recognize the selfless efforts made towards mankind, and re-establish our belief in humanity. The year 2021 marks the **12th National Organ Donation Day**.
- The day is organized by the **National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO)** under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
422. World Antimicrobial Awareness Week observed this year from **November 18 to November 24**. The event's major objective is to raise global awareness of antibiotic or antimicrobial resistance.
- The theme for WAAW 2021 is: **Spread awareness, stop resistance**.



- World Antimicrobial Awareness Week's primary tagline is 'Antimicrobials: Handle with Care.'

423. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is observed annually on **29<sup>th</sup> November** to mark the anniversary of resolution 181, wherein the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1947.

- In **1977**, the United Nations General Assembly designated 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

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