

THE HINDU REVIEW DECEMBER 2021

- **Monthly**
Capsule
- **Current**
Affairs



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The Most Important Current Affairs December 2021

India's Harnaaz Sandhu crowned 70th Miss Universe 2021

Actor-model **Harnaaz Sandhu** made history as she was crowned **Miss Universe 2021** beating contestants from 80 countries, 21 years after India last brought home the title. While Paraguay's **Nadia Ferreira**, 22, finished second, South Africa's **Lalela Mswane**, 24, came third.

History of India in Miss Universe title:

Only two Indians before Ms Sandhu have won the title of Miss Universe – actors **Sushmita Sen** in 1994 and **Lara Dutta** in 2000. The 70th edition of the event was held in Eilat, Israel, where the 21-year-old bagged the coveted pageant.

Career of Harnaaz Sandhu:

The Chandigarh-based model, who is pursuing her master's degree in public administration, was crowned by her predecessor Andrea Meza of Mexico, who won the pageant in 2020. Ms Sandhu started her journey in pageantry when she won Times Fresh Face in 2017, representing Chandigarh at the age of 17. She later won the LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2021 title.

About the ceremony:

The ceremony was hosted by **Steve Harvey** and saw performances from American singer **JoJo**. The selection committee included actor and Miss Universe India 2015 **Urvashi Rautela**, Adamari López, Adriana Lima, Cheslie Kryst, Iris Mittenaere, Lori Harvey, Marian Rivera and Rena Sofer.

Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 Announced

Sahitya Akademi announced its prestigious **Sahitya Akademi Awards, Yuva Puraskar and Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021** in various languages. According to the board, an engraved copper plate, shawl and an amount of **Rs 1 lakh** will be given to the main **Sahitya Akademi prize** winner and an engraved copper plate and an amount of **Rs 50,000** each will be given to the **Yuva Puraskar and Bal Sahitya Puraskar**.

Sahitya Akademi Award 2021:

The Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 was given in 20 Indian languages, the winner of **Gujarati, Maithili, Manipuri, and Urdu languages** will be announced at a later date. Seven books of poetry, two novels, five books of short stories, two plays, one book each of biography, autobiography, criticism, and epic poetry have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021. Author, **Namita Gokhale** was awarded for her novel **Things to Leave Behind**

1. Anuradha Sarma Pujari (Assamese)
2. Bratya Basu (Bengali)
3. Mwdai Gahai (Bodo)
4. Raj Rahi (Dogri)
5. Namita Gokhale (English)
6. Daya Prakash Sinha (Hindi)
7. DS Nagabhushana (Kannada)
8. Wali Mohd Aseer Kashtawari (Kashmiri)
9. Sanjiv Verenkar (Konkani)
10. George Onakkoor (Malayalam)
11. Kiran Gurav (Marathi)
12. Chhabilal Upadhyaya (Nepali)
13. Hrushikesh Mallick (Odia)
14. Khalid Hussain (Punjabi)
15. Meethesh Nirmohi (Rajasthani)
16. Vindeshwariprasad Mishr "Vinay" (Sanskrit)
17. Nirajan Hansda (Santali)
18. Arjun Chawla (Sindhi)
19. Ambai (Tamil)
20. Gorati Venkanna (Telugu)

Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021:

The Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021 were awarded for 22 Indian languages and the award in **Tamil** will be declared later, there was no award given in **Rajasthani language** this year. Author **Megha Majumdar** won the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021 for her debut book '**A Burning**', published in 2020.

1. Abhijit Bora (Assamese)
2. Gouro Chakraborty (Bengali)
3. Gautom Daimary (Bodo)
4. Arun Akash Dev (Dogri)
5. Megha Majumdar (English)
6. Drashti Soni (Gujarati)
7. Himanshu Vajpai (Hindi)
8. L.Lakshmi Narayan Swamy (Kannada)
9. Razi Tahir Bhagat (Kashmiri)
10. Sharaddha Garad (Konkani)
11. Amit Mishra (Maithili)
12. Mobin Mohan (Malayalam)
13. Lenin Khmancha (Manipuri)
14. Pranav Sakhadeo (Marathi)
15. Mahesh Dahal (Nepali)
16. Debabrata Das (Odia)
17. Veerdavinder Singh (Punjabi)
18. Swetapadma Satapathy (Sanskrit)
19. Kuna Hansdah (Santali)
20. Rakesh Shewani (Sindhi)
21. Thagulla Gopal (Telugu)
22. Umar Farhat (Urdu)

Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021:

The **Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021** was given in 22 Indian languages, no Bal Sahitya Puraskar was given in **Gujarati and Punjabi languages** this year. **Anita Vachharajani** has been named as the recipient of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021 for the biography "**Amrita Sher-Gil: Rebel with a Paintbrush**". Hindi writer **Devendra Mewari** won the award for his play titled "**Natak Natak me Vigyan**".

1. Mrinal Chandra Kalita (Assamese)
2. Sunirmal Chakraborty (Bengali)
3. Ratneshwar Narzary (Bodo)
4. Narsingh Dev Jamval (Dogri)
5. Anita Vaccharajani (English)
6. Devendra Mewari (Hindi)
7. Basu Bevinagida (Kannada)
8. Majeed Majazi (Kashmiri)
9. Sumedha Kamat Desai (Konkani)
10. Anmol Jha (Maithili)
11. Raghunath Paleri (Malayalam)
12. Ningombam Jadumani Singh (Manipuri)
13. Sanjay Wagh (Marathi)
14. Sudarsha Ambatey (Nepali)
15. Digaraj Brahma (Odia)
16. Kirti Sharma (Rajasthani)
17. Asha Agarwal (Sanskrit)
18. Sova Hansda (Santali)
19. Kishin Khubchandani "Ranjayal" (Sindhi)
20. Mu. Murugesh (Tamil)
21. Devaraju Maharaju (Telugu)
22. Kausar Siddiqui (Urdu)



World Athletics Awards 2021: Full list of winners:

Legendary Indian long jumper **Anju Bobby George** has won the **Woman of the Year Award** by **World Athletics** at the **World Athletics Awards 2021** for grooming talent in the country and advocating gender equality. **She is the first Indian to be honoured by the sport's world body** during its annual awards function.

Category	Winners
World Athletes of the Year	Elaine Thompson-Herah (Jamaica) and Karsten Warholm (Norway)
Female Rising Star	Athing Mu (United States)
Male Rising Star	Erriyon Knighton (United States)
Member Federations Award	Federacion Costarricense de Atletismo (Costa Rica) Brazil
Inspiration Award	Mutaz Barshim (Qatar) and Gianmarco Tamberi (Italy)
President's Award	Peter Diamond, Executive Vice President of NBC Olympic Programming (US)
Coaching Achievement Award	Bobby Kersee (United States)
Woman of the Year Award	Anju Bobby George
Jean-Pierre Durand World Athletics Photograph of the Year	Photograph by Ryan Pierse of the women's high jump qualifying at the Tokyo Olympic Games

RBI Monetary Policy: Repo rate unchanged for the 9th consecutive time

The **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** headed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor **Shaktikanta Das** kept the repo rate unchanged at **4 per cent** for the **ninth consecutive time** while maintaining an 'accommodative stance' as long as necessary. The reverse repo rate will continue to be **3.35 per cent**. The central bank had last revised the policy rate on May 22, 2020, in an off-policy cycle to perk up demand by cutting the interest rate to a historic low. The meeting was held between December (6 to 8). The remaining will take place in **February (7 to 9, 2022)**.

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

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

RBI Monetary Policy Highlights & Key Decisions:

- The projection for real GDP growth is retained at 9.5% in 2021-22, consisting of 6.6% in Q3, & 6% in Q4. Real GDP growth is projected at 17.2% for Q1 of 2022-23 and at 7.8% for Q2 of 2022-23.
- The inflation projection was retained for FY22 at 5.3%, 5.1% for Q3, 5.7% for Q4, and 5% for Q1 FY23.

The composition of the Monetary Policy Committee is as follows:

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

World Inequality Report 2022 announced

France-based World Inequality Lab published its report titled "World Inequality Report 2022". This report was authored by **Lucas Chancel**, who is the co-director of World Inequality Lab. It was coordinated by famed French economist **Thomas Piketty**. In 2021 the top 10 percent and top 1 percent of the Indian population hold 57 percent and 22 percent of total national income respectively, whereas the share of the bottom 50 percent has gone down to 13 percent.

Key Findings analysis on inequalities in India:

- The report notes that the top 1 % of India's population owns more than one-fifth of the total national income in 2021.
- The bottom half of the population earns just 13.1 per cent.

- It highlights that economic reforms and liberalization that India has adopted, have mostly benefited the top 1 per cent.
- The report identifies India as a poor and unequal country, with an affluent elite.
- 1 per cent richest people in India hold 22% of the total national income in 2021, while the top 10 % owns 57 per cent of the income.
- The average national income of the Indian adult population is Rs 204,200 in 2021, on the basis of purchasing power parity.
- However, the report clarified that the average national income of a country masks inequalities.

The scenario in the world's richest nation

The ratio in the richest nation that is the **US**, is **1 to 17**. The richest ten of the global population owns 52 per cent of global income. On the other hand, the poorest half of the population earns 8.5 per cent of the global income.

Global Scenario

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) are the most unequal regions in the world, whereas Europe has the lowest inequality levels. In Europe, the top 10 per cent income share is around 36 per cent, whereas in MENA it is 58 per cent.

Indian Shuttler PV Sindhu won Silver at BWF World Tour Finals 2021

Indian Shuttler and 2-time Olympic medalist **Pusarla V Sindhu**, world's number 7, won the silver at the **2021 Badminton World Federation(BWF) World Tour Finals**, officially known as the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2021. The reigning world champion PV Sindhu has won the BWF World Tour finals in 2018 and became the only Indian to achieve the feat.

HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2021 Winners:

Category	Winner	Runner-up
Women's Singles title	An Se Young (South Korea)	PV Sindhu (India)
Men's Single title	Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)	Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thailand)
Men's double Title	Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi (Japan)	Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo. (Indonesia)
Women's Double Title	Kim So-yeong and Kong Hee-yong (South Korea)	Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida. (Japan)

Argentina beat six-time champions Germany to lift Junior hockey world cup

Argentina showcased its organised game with great composure to beat six-time champion **German** side 4-2 and win the title after 16 years in the men's Hockey Junior World Cup at the Kalinga Stadium. Argentina has become the only third team after **Germany (six wins)** and **India (2001, 2016)** to win multiple Junior Hockey WC titles. Defending champions India finished fourth in the junior hockey world cup 2021 after losing 1-3 to France in the third-place match.

Other Awards:

- Best Player of the Tournament: **Timothée Clément** (FRANCE)
- Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament: **Anton Brinckman** (GERMANY)
- Hero Top Scorer of the Tournament: **Miles Bukkens** (NETHERLANDS) (18 goals)
- Odisha Fair Play Award: Team Chile
- Odisha Fans Choice Award for Best Goal of the Tournament: Ignacio Nardolillo (ARGENTINA)
- Hockey India Maximum Team Goals: NETHERLANDS (45 goals)
- Hockey India Best Goal Saved of the Tournament: Mahmoud Seleem (EGYPT)
- AM/NS India Best Coach of the Tournament: Johannes Schmitz (GERMANY)

FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2021

The FIH Men's Hockey Junior World Cup 2021 was hosted by **Bhubaneswar, Odisha** between November 24- December 5, 2021. The top 16 teams had participated in the tournament including India, Germany, Belgium, Argentina, Canada, South Africa, Egypt, Pakistan, Korea, Malaysia, Poland, France, Chile, Spain, USA and the Netherlands.

Fortune India's Most Powerful Women in India 2021 announced

Fortune India released the list of most powerful women in India 2021 in which Union Minister, Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Corporate Affairs **Nirmala Sitharaman** ranked **1st**. She is followed by Reliance Foundation Chairperson and Goodwill Ambassador **Nita Ambani** in 2nd position, and **Soumya Swaminathan**, Chief Scientist, World Health Organization (WHO) at 3rd.

Fortune India's List of Top 5 Most Powerful Women in India:

Rank	Name	Position
1	Nirmala Sitharaman	Union Ministry, Ministry of Finance
2	Nita Ambani	Reliance Foundation Chairperson and Goodwill Ambassador
3	Soumya Swaminathan	Chief Scientist, World Health Organization (WHO)
4	Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw	Executive Chairperson, Biocon
5	Suchitra Ella	Co-founder and Joint MD, Bharat Biotech International Ltd

Sunil Gavaskar honoured with SJFI Medal 2021

The **Sports Journalists' Federation of India (SJFI)** has decided to honour former Indian Cricketer and cricket commentator **Sunil Manohar Gavaskar** with its prestigious '**SJFI Medal 2021**' at SJFI Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Guwahati, Assam. SJFI Medal is the highest honour of SJFI. SJFI was founded on 27th February 1976 at the Eden Gardens, Calcutta (now Kolkata), West Bengal.

Other SJFI Awards:

Award	Winner
SJFI Sportsman of the year 2021	Neeraj Chopra (Javelin)
SJFI Sportswoman of the year 2021	Mirabai Chanu (Weightlifting)
SJFI Team of the Year 2021	Indian Men's Hockey team
SJFI Parathletes of the year 2021 (Men)	Pramod Bhagat (Badminton) and Sumit Antil (Javelin)
SJFI Parathletes of the year 2021 (Women)	Avani Lekhara (rifle shooter)
SJFI Special Recognition Award	Olympic Gold Quest (OGQ)

David Warner & Hayley Matthews Bags ICC Player Of The Month For November

Australia opener **David Warner** and West Indies all-rounder **Hayley Matthews** have been voted the **ICC Players of the Month for November**. Warner, nominated for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award alongside Pakistan's **Abid Ali** and New Zealand's **Tim Southee**, emerged victorious with the most votes, following his crucial role in Australia's triumph in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021.

Why David Warner?

Australian opener **David Warner** has bagged the ICC Player Of The Month for November. The southpaw has been in scintillating form in recent times. He was the Player of the Tournament as Australia won their maiden T20 World Cup title. He then started the Ashes series with a bang by scoring 94 in the first Test at The Gabba.

Why Hayley Matthews?

West Indies all-rounder **Hayley Matthews** secured the Women's Player of the Month award. David Warner scored 289 runs in seven matches in the tournament at a strike rate of 146.70, out of which 209 runs came from four games in November. He scored 89 against West Indies in a Super 12 game against the West Indies which was his highest score of the tournament.

Google trends: See what was trending in 2021

Google has published its annual overview of key search trends, which provides a somewhat dizzying reminder of all the things that have happened in 2021 – which really feels like it's only lasted for a few months. **Google's 2021 Search Trends** mini-site includes data on all the key topics of interest, including overall searches and news events. Google's long-time tradition of releasing "Year in Search" annually has become a norm for those who are curious over the most searched topics on the platform.

See what was trending in 2021- Global (Overall):

Ranking	Overall
1	Australia vs India
2	India vs England
3	Indian Premier League
4	NBA
5	Euro 2021
6	Copa América
7	India vs New Zealand
8	T20 World Cup
9	Squid Game
10	DMX

What was trending in 2021 in India?

Google India has announced the results for its year in search 2021 mentioning the top search trends of 2021 in India. The listing of top google trends in India has revealed what Indians searched in the year 2021 across Overall, sports, news, personalities, among other categories. As per **Google India's 'Year in Search 2021'**, the Indian Premier League (IPL) has filled the top spot for the trending query overall in 2021.

See what was trending in 2021- India (Overall)

Ranking	Overall
1	Indian Premier League
2	CoWIN
3	ICC T20 World Cup
4	Euro Cup
5	Tokyo Olympics
6	COVID Vaccine
7	Free Fire redeem code
8	Copa America
9	Neeraj Chopra
10	Aryan Khan

YouGov: PM Modi world's 8th most admired man in 2021

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has ranked **8th** on the list of the world's top 20 most admired men, in a survey carried out by data analytics company **YouGov**. PM Modi is ahead of **Shah Rukh Khan**, **Amitabh Bachchan** and **Virat Kohli**. The list has been compiled taking feedback from 42,000 people in 38 countries.

Apart from PM Modi, the other Indian men who, according to the survey, were the most admired in 2021 include **Sachin Tendulkar**, **Shah Rukh Khan**, **Amitabh Bachchan** and **Virat Kohli**. The list also includes the most admired Indian women of 2021 has **Priyanka Chopra**, **Aishwarya Rai Bachchan** and **Sudha Murty**.

List of the world's 20 most admired men:

Rank	Personality
1	Barack Obama
2	Bill Gates
3	Xi Jinping
4	Cristiano Ronaldo
5	Jackie Chan
6	Elon Musk
7	Lionel Messi

Rank	Personality
8	Narendra Modi
9	Vladimir Putin
10	Jack Ma
11	Warren Buffett
12	Sachin Tendulkar
13	Donald Trump
14	Shah Rukh Khan
15	Amitabh Bachchan
16	Pope Francis
17	Imran Khan
18	Virat Kohli
19	Andy Lau
20	Joe Biden

List of the world's 20 most admired women:

Rank	Personality
1	Michelle Obama
2	Angelina Jolie
3	Queen Elizabeth II
4	Oprah Winfrey
5	Scarlett Johansson
6	Emma Watson
7	Taylor Swift
8	Angela Merkel
9	Malala Yousafzai
10	Priyanka Chopra
11	Kamala Harris
12	Hillary Clinton
13	Aishwarya Rai Bachchan
14	Sudha Murty
15	Greta Thunberg
16	Melania Trump
17	Lisa
18	Liu Yifei
19	Yang Mi
20	Jacinda Ardern

Emma Raducanu wins BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2021

Tennis star **Emma Raducanu** is the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year for 2021. She beat **Tom Daley(diver)** and **Adam Peaty (swimmer)** into second and third place, while England's men's footballers were named team of the year and Gareth Southgate the coach, as a triumphant period for British sport across the board was commemorated at a ceremony in Salford. Tom Daley won gold for the first time at his fourth Olympics in Tokyo.

Other award winners at Sports Personality 2021:

Categories	Winners
Helen Rollason Award	Jen Beattie
Coach of the Year	Gareth Southgate
Team of the Year	England men's football team
World Sport Star	Rachael Blackmore
Lifetime Achievement	Simone Biles
Unsung Hero	Sam Barlow
Young Sports Personality of the Year	Sky Brown

O.P. Jindal Global University won "Digital Innovation of the Year" award

O. P. Jindal Global University (JGU) has won the 'Digital Innovation of the Year Award' in the prestigious **Times Higher Education (THE) Asia Awards 2021** for creating a free, cloud-based application to help schools and universities manage data. JGU was the only Indian University to be shortlisted for the "Digital Innovation of the Year".

The university was awarded under the 'Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year category for its transformative work in the last 2 years. This award is also a reflection of JGU's commitment to ensure continued education for its students during the ongoing pandemic. In March 2020, we were faced with one of the most unprecedented crises of our time.

Times Higher Education Awards Asia 2021 winners:

Category	Winner
Leadership and Management Team of the Year	Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (India)
Workplace of the Year	Saint Joseph University of Beirut (Lebanon)
International Strategy of the Year	Hangzhou Dianzi University of Hong Kong
Teaching and Learning Strategy of the Year	National University of Singapore
THE Datapoints Social Impact Award	Institute Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (Indonesia)
THE Datapoints Improved Performance Award	University Utara (Malaysia)
Excellence and Innovation in the Arts	Hong Kong Baptist University
Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year	O.P. Jindal Global University (India)
Outstanding Support for Students	University Teknologi Petronas (Malaysia)
Student Recruitment Campaign of the Year	Hanoi University of Science and Technology (Vietnam)

BWF World Championships 2021

The **2021 Badminton World Federation (BWF) World championship** (officially known as the TotalEnergies BWF World Championships 2021), an annual tournament was held between 12th December 2021 and 19th December 2021 in Huelva, Spain. **Loh Kean Yew** of Singapore won the Men's Singles title and **Akane Yamaguchi** of Japan won the Women's Singles title of BWF World Championship 2021.



Winners of BWF World Championship 2021:

Category	Winner	Runner
Men's Singles	Loh Kean Yew (Singapore)	Srikanth Kidambi (India)
Women's Singles	Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)	Tai - Tzu Ying (Chinese Taipei)
Men's Doubles	Takuro Hoki & Yugo Kobayashi (Japan)	He Jiting & Tan Qiang (China)
Women's Doubles	Chen Qingchen & Jia Yifan (China)	Lee So-hee & Shin Seung-Chan (South Korea)
Mixed Doubles	Dechapol Puavaranukroh & Sapsiree Taerattanachai (Thailand)	Yuta Watanabe & Arisa Higashino (Japan)

List of GST Collection

- November 2021: Rs 1.31 lakh crores
- October 2021: Rs 1.30 lakh crores
- September 2021: Rs. 1,17,010 crores
- August 2021: Rs. 1.12 lakh crores
- July 2021: Rs. 1,16,393 crores
- June 2021: Rs. 92,849 crores
- May 2021: Rs. 1,02,709 crores
- **April 2021: Rs. 1.41 lakh crores (All time Highest)**
- March 2021: Rs. 1.24 lakh crores
- February 2021: Rs 1,13,143 crores
- January 2021: Rs. 1,19,847 crores

Good Governance Index 2021: Gujarat topped the ranking

Good Governance Index 2021 was launched by Union Minister **Amit Shah** on the occasion of the Good Governance Day on 25 December 2021. GGI 2021 was prepared by the Department of Administration Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG). The GGI 2021 framework covered 10 sectors and 58 indicators. The aim of the Good Governance Index is to create a tool that can be used uniformly across the states for assessing the impact of various interventions that are taken up by Central and State Governments.

10 Governance Sectors are:

- Agriculture and Allied Sectors
- Commerce & Industries
- Human Resource and Development
- Public Health

- Public Infrastructure and Utilities
- Economic Governance
- Social Welfare & Development
- Judicial & Public Security
- Environment
- Citizen-Centric Governance

Top ranking states in sectors as well as composite ranks:

Sectors	Group A	Group B	NE & Hill States	UTs
Agriculture and Allied Sectors	Andhra Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	Mizoram	D & N Haveli
Commerce & Industries	Telangana	Uttar Pradesh	J&K	Daman & Diu
Human Resource and Development	Punjab	Odisha	Himachal Pradesh	Chandigarh
Public Health	Kerala	West Bengal	Mizoram	A & N Island
Public Infrastructure and Utilities	Goa	Bihar	Himachal Pradesh	A & N Island
Economic Governance	Gujarat	Odisha	Tripura	Delhi
Social Welfare & Development	Telangana	Chhattisgarh	Sikkim	D & N Haveli
Judicial & Public Security	Tamil Nadu	Rajasthan	Nagaland	Chandigarh
Environment	Kerala	Rajasthan	Manipur	Daman & Diu
Citizen-Centric Governance	Haryana	Rajasthan	Uttarakhand	Delhi
Composite	Gujarat	Madhya Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	Delhi

What is the Good Governance Index?

Good Governance Index is an implementable and comprehensive framework that assesses the state of Governance across the Indian States and Union Territories enabling ranking of States and districts.

In Global Scenario:

The annual league table also predicted that China will overtake the US to be the largest economy in 2030 (two years later than the forecast in 2021). The world economy is set to surpass \$100 trillion for the first time in 2022.

CEBR: India to become 3rd largest economy in 2031

The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) from the United Kingdom has predicted that the Indian economy will become the world's third-largest by the year 2031. In the year 2022, India is set to regain its sixth position in World Economic League Table (WELT) from France, as per CEBR.

In the year 2020, India's GDP had witnessed a contraction of 7.3% due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown leading to constraints on economic activity. India has witnessed a large scale spread of infections and has the third-highest death toll worldwide, behind US and Brazil. However, with the help of emergency aid and prompt measures taken by the Indian government, the country has recovered from the second wave of COVID-19.

The World Economic League Table 2022 shows the economic forecasts for 191 countries to 2036:

Ranking out of 191 countries	2021	2022	2026	2031	2036
India	7	6	5	3	3
United States	1	1	1	2	2
China	2	2	2	1	1
Japan	3	3	3	4	5
Germany	4	4	4	5	4
UK	5	5	6	6	6
France	6	7	7	7	7

NITI Aayog released 4th State Health Index

NITI Aayog has released the **fourth edition** of the **State Health Index for 2019-20** that provides incremental performance in health outcomes and status. The index is developed by: NITI Aayog, World Bank, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). The report, titled **"Healthy States, Progressive India"**, ranks states and Union Territories on their year-on-year incremental performance in health outcomes as well as their overall status. The index is being compiled and published since 2017. The reports aim to nudge states/UTs towards building robust health systems and improving service delivery.

To ensure comparison among similar entities, the ranking is categorised as 'Larger States', 'Smaller States' and 'Union Territories':

- Among the 'Larger States', in terms of annual incremental performance, **Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Telangana** are the top three ranking states.
- Among 'Smaller States', **Mizoram and Meghalaya** registered the maximum annual incremental progress.
- Among UTs, **Delhi, followed by Jammu and Kashmir**, showed the best incremental performance.
- On overall ranking based on the composite index score in 2019-20, the top-ranking states were **Kerala and Tamil Nadu** among the 'Larger States', **Mizoram and Tripura** among the 'Smaller States', and **Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu and Chandigarh** among the UTs.

PETA: Alia Bhatt India's 2021 Person of the Year

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India has named Bollywood star **Alia Bhatt** its **2021 Person of the Year**. She is an animal lover and often shares pictures with her pets. This year, Alia Bhatt invested in Phool, the company behind Fleather, which is a vegan leather made from discarded temple flowers. Her vegan kids' wear line, Ed-a-Mamma, also won a 2021 PETA India fashion award for helping to nurture kids' love for animals and nature. Alia also starred in a pro-adoption PETA India campaign to help cats and dogs. She has used her position to call for stronger animal protection laws.

Past recipients of PETA India's Person of the Year Award:

- **Dr Shashi Tharoor**, for supporting Compassionate Citizen, PETA India's humane education programme for children, as well as other education on animal protection;
- Former Supreme Court Justice **KS Panicker Radhakrishnan**, for the landmark judgement against the use of bulls in performances;
- Cricketer **Virat Kohli**, for calling for the release of an abused elephant and stronger penalties for animal abusers;
- Comedian **Kapil Sharma**, for encouraging people to adopt dogs;
- Actors **John Abraham, Anushka Sharma, Sunny Leone, R Madhavan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Hema Malini, and Sonam Kapoor Ahuja**, for helping animals in various ways.

Banking and Financial Current Affairs

- **India1 Payments** has crossed a milestone on deploying **10000 white-label ATMs**, which was called as **"India1ATMs"**. India1 Payments is IPO-bound and is promoted by the Banktech Group of Australia. It was formerly known as **BTI Payments**. India1 ATM has become the second-largest white label ATM brand on semi-urban and rural areas. With the deployment of 10000 ATMs, India1 Payments has become the largest player in this segment.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** listed its **USD 650-million green bonds** simultaneously on the **India International Exchange (India INX)** and the **Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSE)**. This dual listing is in line with 2021's topic of the **World Investor Week (WIW)**, 'sustainable finance', as indicated by the regulatory body International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA). India INX has now emerged as the leading bond listing venue with over \$33 billion.
- Private sector lender, **Federal Bank** has launched a feature-rich savings bank product for women. The savings scheme is called **Mahila Mitra Plus** and provides a curated set of features, designed to make financial planning and investments easy for women.

- **IDFC FIRST Bank** announced the launch of **FIRST Private Infinite**, the country's first-ever standalone metal debit card, in partnership with Visa. FIRST Private Infinite is a lifetime free card designed specifically for customers who are part of the Bank's FIRST Private program, premium savings and wealth offering.
- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** launched the **PNB Pride-CRMD module tool**, an android-based application for differently-abled employees to monitor and effectively follow up with the special mention account (SMA) borrowers. The Pride-CRMD module has built-in TalkBack software that allows the visually impaired to access the system freely and to interact with customers by tapping on their phones.
- **City Union Bank (CUB)**, in collaboration with **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and its manufacturing partner **Seshaasai**, has announced the launch of RuPay On-the-Go contactless wearable keychain for its debit card customers. This contactless wearable keychain will be part of their daily lifestyle and enable customers to tap and make cashless payments securely.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has imposed several restrictions on **Nagar Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra**, including restrictions on withdrawals up to **Rs. 10,000** for customers. RBI has issued the directions in the exercise of powers vested in it under subsection (1) of Section 35 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 for six months.
- **Paytm Payments Bank** has been given the **scheduled bank** status by the **Reserve Bank of India**. The bank has been included in the Second Schedule to the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934** and the approval will help it to bring more financial services and products. The bank supports **33.3 crore Paytm Wallets** and enables consumers to make payments at over **87,000** online merchants and 2.11 crore in-store merchants.
- **Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SSFB)** signed a partnership agreement with fintech firm, **Indiagold** to launch India's first Loan against **Digital Gold**. This agreement will enable customers to use their digital gold balance to avail of instant and digital loans up to **Rs. 60,000** and also seamlessly access gold loans starting at a monthly interest of just 1%. To provide access to secure and affordable credit to the customers looking for quick liquidity against their gold assets.
- **Federal Bank** has entered into a **Bancassurance** partnership with **Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd** as a corporate agent to provide health insurance products for the Bank's 8.90 million customers across India.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** made **Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)** mandatory for cross-border transactions for capital or current account transactions of **Rs 50 crore** and above, from October 1 next year. The LEI is a **20-digit number** used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions worldwide to improve the quality and accuracy of financial data systems.
- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has launched a solution for digital banking payments, named **bob World Wave**. Wearable technology is witnessing the rise of tremendous interest across the world and lenders are using this opportunity to adopt the more convenient and cashless digital payments systems. This is an innovative solution, intended to perfectly deliver preventive health actions as well as easier payment transactions.
- **Axis Bank** is working with new digital services from provider **Swift** to provide a comprehensive digital solution to clients. The bank is integrating with different digitization initiatives by government bodies and service providers to extend an end-to-end service to business clients.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced a **prompt corrective action (PCA) framework** for large **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** with effect from October 2022, putting restrictions on para-banks whenever vital financial metrics dip below the prescribed threshold.
- The **Life Insurance Corporation of India** has launched a new non-linked, non-participating, individual savings life insurance plan called **Dhan Rekha**, it offers special premium rates for female lives. The plan is also allowed for the third gender adding that all benefits under the plan are fully guaranteed. There are special premium rates for female lives. The plan is allowed to Third Gender. All Benefits under the plan are fully guaranteed.
- A penalty of **Rs 1.8 crores** has been imposed on **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), while **ICICI Bank** has been fined **Rs 30 lakh** for deficiencies in regulatory compliances.

- **Reserve Bank of India**, in consultation with the Department of Financial Services, the Ministry of Finance, has decided to make the **Scheduled payments banks and scheduled small finance banks (SFBs)** eligible to conduct Government agency business. In May this year, RBI has revised the existing guidelines on '**Appointment of Scheduled Private Sector Banks as Agency Banks of RBI**' for authorising Scheduled Private Sector Banks as agency banks of RBI for conducting govt business (Central and/or State).
- **Equitas Small Finance Bank** has empanelled as the **banking partner** of the **state government of Maharashtra** with an aim to offer its services to employees of the State Government. The **Bandhan Bank, Karur Vysya Bank, and the South Indian Bank** have been assigned the role of distributing salaries and allowances to the government employees.
- **State Bank of India(SBI)** acquired a minority stake (less than 50 per cent) in **JSW Cement Limited** for an investment of **INR 100 crore** through **Compulsory Convertible Preference Shares (CCPS)**. The SBI is working as a strategic investor at JSW Cement and has invested in the company through CCPS. The conversion of such CCPS into common equity of the company will be linked to the JSW Cement's business performance and valuation at the time of the proposed initial public offering.
- **Bank of Baroda** has announced it has won the **#1 position** in overall digital transactions amongst large banks for FY20-21. The bank showed the exceptional growth of digital payment transactions achievement and was felicitated by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India at the **Digital Payments Utsav**.
- **Axis Bank** has announced the approval to reclassify **Oriental Insurance Company Ltd (OICL)** from promoter category to public category shareholder in the bank. In October, applications were made to BSE and NSE for reclassification of The New Oriental Insurance Co to the public category from the promoter category.
- **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** became the first Indian insurance company to sign **United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI)**, to demonstrate commitment towards the environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues. In order to promote sustainability, IPRULIFE is integrating ESG factors into its investment management framework. The UNPRI is an investor initiative in partnership with the two bodies of the United Nations – the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative and the UN Global Compact.
- **Government of India and the Germany Development Bank- KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau)** signed a 26 million euros loan for a 40.35 km **Surat Metro Rail project** in Gujarat.
- **Central Bank of India and U GRO Capital** has signed a co-lending agreement and plans to disburse up to **Rs 1,000 crore** to medium, small and micro enterprises (MSMEs) over the next 12 months. The disbursement will be to U GRO Capital's varied MSME segments under its programs - **Pratham, Sanjeevani, Saathi, GRO MSME and machinery financing**.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced the empanelment of **CSB Bank**, a private sector lender as an '**Agency Bank**'. Through this appointment, the CSB Bank will undertake the general banking business of the central and state governments under the guidelines set by the RBI.
- **Paytm Payments Bank** has partnered with **MoneyGram**, a peer-to-peer remittance company to enable international fund transfer directly to **Paytm Wallet**. Under the Partnership, MoneyGram users abroad can now transfer money to any full Know Your Customer (KYC)-compliant Paytm wallet. MoneyGram transactions in India received digitally stands at nearly 50 per cent of all transactions received in the country. This is MoneyGram's first mobile wallet partnership in India.
- **BOB Financial Solutions Ltd. (BFSL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** and the **Indian Navy** have introduced a co-branded credit card for the personnel of the **Indian Navy**. The card will be equipped with contactless features and offered on the **RuPay platform**.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has extended the **card-on-file (CoF) tokenization deadline** by 6 months i.e., to **June 30, 2022**. Earlier the deadline was fixed till **December 31, 2021**. In March 2020, RBI had issued guidelines for the regulation of payment aggregators and payment gateways, prohibiting payment aggregators and merchants to store customer card credentials within their database or server from 30 June 2021.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed monetary penalties on two payment system operators, **One Mobikwik Systems Private Limited** and **Spice Money Limited**, for violation of norms. Both the payment companies have been slapped with a fine of **Rs 1 crore**, as per the order issued by the central bank.

- **HDFC Bank** has signed an MoU with **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** to offer banking services to over 4.7 crore customers of IPPB in **semi-urban and rural areas**. Under the MoU, out of 4.7 crores, customers around 90 per cent reside in rural areas. The HDFC bank aims to boost its financial inclusion drive by leveraging IPPB's network of 650 branches and over 136,000 banking access points.
- **HDFC Life** signed a **bancassurance (Bank-Insurance)** agreement with **South Indian Bank** to enable customers of the South Indian Bank to avail HDFC Life's life insurance products and services to the customers of South Indian Bank. This bancassurance arrangement will enable customers of the South Indian Bank to avail HDFC Life's wide range of life insurance products which include solutions for protection, savings and investment, retirement and critical illness. This bancassurance partnership will further strengthen HDFC Life's business across India.
- **IndusInd Bank** has partnered with the **National Payments Corporation** to offer real-time cross-border remittances to India using UPI IDs, for its **Money Transfer Operator (MTO)** partners. It is the first Indian bank to go live on UPI for cross-border payments/NRI remittances.
- **IndusInd Bank** has announced the launch of '**green fixed deposits**', whereby the deposit proceeds will be used to finance projects and firms supporting the **UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. A green deposit is a fixed-term deposit for investors looking to invest their surplus cash reserves in environmentally friendly projects. These deposits will be offered to both retail & corporate customers.
- **Axis Bank** has become the **second-largest merchant-acquiring bank** in the country, leapfrogging two spaces during 2021 by installing over two lakh card-swipe machines during the year. This is part of the bank's '**Axis One**' strategy where it approaches the customers by offering its entire gamut of products instead of a standalone service.



Economy Current Affairs

- Paris-based **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** decreased India's growth forecast to **9.4%** for FY22 from **9.7%** estimated in **September 2021**. It has projected the Indian economy to grow at **8.1%** in FY23, and moderate to **5%** in FY24. OECD lowered the global growth forecast for 2021 to **5.6%** from **5.7%** earlier.
- The rating agency, **India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)** expects **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** in the Second Quarter of Financial Year-2022 (Q2 FY22) at **3 per cent** and in FY22 at **9.4 per cent**.
- The Singapore-based **DBS Bank's economic research team** has revised India's **FY23** growth forecast upwards to **7 per cent** year-on-year (y-o-y) (CY2022 **6.5 per cent**) from **6 per cent** earlier.
- **S&P Global Ratings** has retained the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast of India unchanged at **9.5 per cent** for the financial year 2021-22 (FY22) and **7.8 per cent** for the year ending **FY23**. GDP growth projection of India was revised for FY 24 to **6 per cent** from **5.7 per cent** estimated earlier.
- Wall Street brokerage, **Goldman Sachs** has estimated India's GDP growth at **9.1 per cent** in **2022**. After India's economy contracted by a sharp **7 per cent** in 2020, Goldman Sachs pegged the economy to grow at **8 per cent** in 2021 and **9.1 per cent** in 2022. It **earlier** estimated India's economic growth to **11.1 per cent** in the fiscal year to March 31, 2022.
- **Fitch Ratings** has slashed India's economic growth forecast in the **financial year 2021-22 (FY22)** to **8.4 per cent** and raised the growth projection to **10.3 per cent** for **FY23**, compared to October 2021 rating projections of **8.7 per cent (FY22)** and **10 per cent (FY23)**.
- The gross **GST revenue** collected in the month of **November 2021** is **Rs 1,31,526 crores**. The **CGST** was **Rs 23,978 crore**, **SGST** is **Rs 31,127 crore**. The **IGST** was **Rs 66,815 crores** (of this **Rs 32,165 crores** was collected from the goods imported).
- **Asian Development Bank** has trimmed its 2021 growth forecast for India to **9.7 per cent** from **10 per cent** but left the 2022 growth forecast unchanged at **7.5 per cent**. The inflation forecast of developing Asia was revised to **2.1 per cent** for 2021 and unchanged at **7 per cent** for 2022.

- Producers' inflation based on the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** has reached an all-time high in the current series at **14.23 per cent** in November. This is the eighth successive month of double digits WPI (mainly due to the hardening of prices of mineral oils, basic metals, crude petroleum and natural gas). Wholesale Price-based Index (WPI) inflation base year is **2011-12**. Also, the spike is highest since April 2005.
- India** has registered the highest ever annual **Foreign Direct Investment** inflow of **\$ 81.97 bn** in **2020-21**. FDI inflows in the last seven financial years is over **\$ 440 bn**, which is nearly **58 %** of the total FDI inflow in the last 21 financial years. The top five countries from where FDI Equity Inflows were received during 2014-2021 are **Singapore, Mauritius, USA, Netherland & Japan**.
- According to the finance ministry, **advance tax collection** increased by **53.50 per cent** to Rs **4.60 lakh crore** so far this fiscal year, indicating a recovery in the economy. Direct tax collections for 2021-22, as of December 16, show that net collections are at Rs 9.45 lakh crore compared to Rs 5.88 lakh crore over the year-ago period, representing an increase of 60.8 per cent.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** superseded the **Board of Directors of Reliance Capital Ltd (RCL)**, a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), by exercising its power conferred under **Section 45-IE (1) of the RBI Act, 1934**. RCL is promoted by Anil Dhirubhai Ambani's Reliance Group. In this regard, the apex bank has appointed **Nageswar Rao Y** (Ex-Executive Director, Bank of Maharashtra) as the Administrator of the company under Section 45-IE (2) of the RBI Act.
- Paytm**, a leading digital ecosystem for consumers and merchants has partnered with **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** to offer **Paytm Startup Toolkit** with exclusive payment services to early-stage Indian startups. Paytm will help entrepreneurs to grow businesses with payment, distribution, and growth solutions who are operating in India in the AWS Activate.
- Phi Commerce's API (Application programming interface) first digital payments platform, **PayPhi** has become the **first certified tokenization service** for NTS supporting **tokenization of RuPay cards**. Tokenization of cards as an alternate to storing card details with merchants. NPCI's NTS platform enables PayPhi Tokenization service to provide partner merchants and aggregators with TROF. **Token Reference On File (TROF)** turns sensitive cardholder data into randomly generated 16 digit numbers called "token" with no meaningful value if breached.
- Bharti Airtel and Invest India**, National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency jointly launched '**Airtel India Startup Innovation Challenge**' for Startups to develop solutions in 5G, IoT. Under the Startup Innovation Challenge, early-stage technology companies are being invited to demonstrate differentiated solutions in areas such as 5G, Cloud computing, the Internet of Things (IoT), and digital entertainment.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India** to increase its stake to **9.99 per cent** in **IndusInd Bank** of the total issued and paid-up capital of the private sector lender. The approval will be valid for 1 year i.e., up to December 8, 2022.

Business Current Affairs

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **\$500 million loan** to the Government of India to help improve the quality of the country's school education and mitigate the impact of the Covid-19) pandemic on students' learning. The loan supports the Integrated Scheme for **School Education (Samagra Shiksha)** and the new Exemplar School Initiative of the **Ministry of Education (MOE)** to improve education quality by focussing on inclusive and equitable learning outcomes.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has given its approval to **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** to raise its stake in private lender **Kotak Mahindra Bank** to **9.99 per cent**. Currently, LIC holds **4.96%** stake in the private lender. Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited has received an intimation from LIC stating that the RBI had granted its approval to LIC, for increasing its holding in the Bank up to 9.99 per cent of the paid-up equity share capital of the Bank.

- A leading private general insurer in India, **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** has started its '#Care4Hockey' Campaign to elevate field Hockey's recognition in India. The company has partnered with Padma Shri (2020) **Rani Rampal**, Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain, who will be the face of the campaign. '#Care4Hockey' is a one of its kind campaign which aims to support the development of Hockey in India from the grass-root level.
- **Paytm**, which got listed in bourses last month, has announced the launch of **Paytm Wealth Academy**, a tech-powered educational platform. The launch of the wealth academy is initially on the **Paytm Money app**, the wealth management app owned by Paytm's wholly-owned subsidiary Paytm Money. Paytm Wealth Academy will initially be available to select users, followed by a complete rollout.
- Edtech platform firm **Adda247** has acquired UPSC-focused ed-tech platform **StudyIQ Education** for **\$20 million (150 crores)** in a cash and stock deal. Speaking on the acquisition, Adda247 founder and CEO **Anil Nagar** said it's a strategic acquisition for Adda247. StudyIQ Education has over 11 million subscribers on Youtube and the platform receives close to 100 million views a month, the company claims. The current acquisition will give Adda247 an edge in the UPSC segment.
- **WhatsApp** has announced the **Digital Payments Utsav for 500 villages in India**. WhatsApp's Digital Payments Utsav is a pilot program that promotes digital payments to empower individuals and businesses and is meant as a project to further the cause of financial inclusion. The aim is to empower villagers with access to digital payments via the 'payments on WhatsApp'.
- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **Rs 2653.05 crore (USD 350 million)** policy-based loan to improve urban services in India. This loan supports the policies formulated by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** to benefit the urban poor, economically weaker sections, and low-income groups. ADB will also provide knowledge and advisory support to MoHUA in program implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the acquisition of a shareholding in **Air India** by **Talace Private Limited**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Tata Sons**. The regulator also approved stake acquisition by Talace in Air India Express and Air India SATS Airport Services along with the acquisition of shares in Air India. Currently, Air India is wholly owned by the government.
- **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** has announced that it has acquired a **4.93 per cent** equity share in **Indian Gas Exchange Limited** - the country's first automated national level gas exchange. The Board of Indian Oil at its meeting held on 20 December 2021 has accorded approval for the acquisition of **36,93,750 equity shares** of the face value of **Rs. 10/-** each equivalent to 4.93 per cent of the share capital in **Indian Gas Exchange Limited (IGX)**.
- **Mastercard and Google** announced a **tokenization method** that enables Google Pay users to safely transact using their Mastercard credit cards and debit cards. With this collaboration, Google Pay Android users can scan and pay across all Bharat QR-enabled merchants, tap-and-pay, and make in-app transactions through their Mastercard debit and credit card.
- **Wipro** has signed an agreement to acquire **Edgile**, a transformational cyber security consulting provider, for **\$230 million**. Founded in 2001, Edgile is recognised by security and risk leaders for its business-aligned cyber security capability, deep understanding of the changing regulatory environment and enabling cloud transformations that help secure the modern enterprise. It has an onsite workforce of 182 employees.
- **State Bank of India** will acquire up to **9.95 per cent** stake in **India International Clearing Corporation (IFSC) Ltd** subject to a maximum investment of **Rs 34.03 crore**. The Clearing Corporation is a GIFT City (Gandhinagar, Gujarat) based Market Infrastructure Institution (MII).

International Current Affairs

- **Barbados** has become the **World's newest republic**, around 400 years after it became a British colony. Barbados is said to have been made a '**slave society**' by the **British**. It first became an English colony in **1625**. It gained its independence in **1966**. Barbados, the Caribbean Island nation, removed Queen Elizabeth II as the head of the state.
- The former Finance Minister of Sweden, **Eva Magdalena Andersson** from the Social Democratic Party (SDP) won her **2nd election** and became the **1st female Prime Minister (PM) of Sweden**. On 24 November 2021, she was first elected as the PM but later resigned after her coalition partner (Green Party) quit the government and the budget failed to pass. Sweden's Parliament is known as **Riksdag**. Sweden is the last Nordic country to get a female Prime Minister.
- **US military personnel** and **Bangladesh Navy (BN)** began the **27th annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) maritime exercise** virtually from 1 December in the Bay of Bengal. The nine-day exercise focuses on a wide range of naval capabilities and includes **cooperative** actions that demonstrate the US and Bangladesh's capacity to work together to ensure a **free and open Indo-Pacific**.
- **International Monetary Fund** Chief **Economist, Gita Gopinath** is set to take over from **Geoffrey Okamoto** as the institution's No. 2 official. The IMF has done some changes in the roles and responsibilities of the fund's senior management team. In which they introduced **deputy managing director** for the first time and it is gone to the first female named Indian born economist **Gita Gopinath**.
- The President of **Gambia, Adama Barrow**, won the second term as President during **Gambia's** presidential election by achieving over **53% votes** from 50 of 53 constituencies. He defeated his main challenger **Ousainou Darboe** who won **27.7% of vote**. The results of the election were declared by Electoral commission Chairman **Alieu Momarr Njai**.
- The **Biden administration** has announced that US officials will not attend the **2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing** after China pledged unspecified "**countermeasures**" against any such diplomatic boycott. The US cited that "**China's human rights ATROCITIES**" is the main reason for its boycott. The US has named the boycott as "**Diplomatic Boycott**".
- **German** lawmakers officially elected **Social Democrat, Olaf Scholz** as the new **chancellor**, putting an end to 16 years of conservative rule under **Angela Merkel**. He will lead a government composed of his Social Democrat Party, the business-friendly Free Democrats and the Greens, a coalition of parties never tried before at the federal level in Germany.
- **Canada** will join the **United States, the United Kingdom and Australia** diplomatic **boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics** over human rights concerns. The announcement came after the White House, the Australian government and the UK government confirmed diplomatic boycotts of the Winter Games in February to protest Chinese human rights abuses. China has vowed to react with "**firm countermeasures**."
- **Myanmar's** ousted civilian leader, **Aung San Suu Kyi** was sentenced to **four years** imprisonment after being found guilty on two charges, the first verdicts in a raft of criminal cases that the country's military has brought against her since seizing power 10 months ago. Ms Suu Kyi was convicted of charges of incitement and violating pandemic rules. The 76-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate is facing a total of **11 charges** which can bring in a maximum imprisonment of 102 years.
- The **United Arab Emirates** has announced to change its existing five-day workweek to a four-and-a-half day starting **January 1**, becoming the world's first country to make the employee-friendly transition as part of its efforts to improve productivity and work-life balance.
- US President **Joe Biden** has elevated Indian-American political advisor **Gautam Raghavan** as the head of the **White House Office of Presidential Personnel**. White House Presidential Personnel Office (PPO), also written as Office of Presidential Personnel, is the White House office tasked with vetting new appointees. The PPO is one of the offices most responsible for assessing candidates to work at or for the White House.
- **Dubai** became the world's first government to turn **100% paperless**, the announcement was made by the United Arab Emirate (UAE) Crown Prince, **Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**.
- **China** successfully launched a new group of satellites **Shijian-6 05** into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China for space exploration and new technology tests. The satellites were launched by a **Long March-4B rocket** which marked the **400th** mission of Long March series carrier rockets.

- **Malta** became the first **European country** to allow limited cultivation and possession of cannabis for personal use, following a vote in parliament. The Maltese parliament voted in favour of the reform last week, with 36 votes in favour and 27 against.
- **Karl Nehammer** was sworn in as new **Austria's chancellor** by **Alexander Van der Bellen**, President of Austria in a ceremony in Hofburg Palace, Vienna, Austria. He is succeeding the career diplomat **Alexander Schallenberg** who took charge as chancellor in October 2021.
- 35-year-old, **Gabriel Boric**, has won Chile presidential elections, to become the youngest-ever President-elect of **Chile**. He defeated his opposition **Jose Antonio Kast** in the elections. Gabriel Boric will assume office in March 2022, will become the youngest president in Chile's history. Official results gave Mr Boric **56%** of the votes against Mr Kast's **44%**.
- **China** has launched a new satellite with a camera capable of taking photos of the ground with a resolution of five meters, according to the **National Space Administration of China (CNSA)**. The satellite, called "**Ziyuan-1 02E**" or "**Five Meter 02 Optical Satellite**".
- **Somalian Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble** has been suspended. President **Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo** has suspended the Prime Minister, who is facing allegations of involvement in the theft of land. Mohamed Roble accused the President of trying to stage a coup and said, he would continue in office.
- **Japan** has introduced a minibus lookalike world's first **dual-mode vehicle (DMV)** in its town of Kaiyo. The vehicle can run on normal rubber tyres on the road but its steel wheels, which are in its underbelly, descend when it hits the rail tracks. The DMV can carry up to 21 passengers and runs at a speed of **60km/h on rail tracks** and can go as fast as around **100km/h on public roads**.
- **Egypt** added as the fourth new member of **BRICS New Development Bank**. **Bangladesh, UAE, and Uruguay** joined BRICS New Development Bank in September 2021. Membership expansion enables New Development Bank to position itself as a premier development institution for emerging economies.

National Current Affairs

- The **First Edition** of the **Indian Young Water Professionals Programme** was launched virtually. The program was taken up under National Hydrology Project. The India Young Water Professional Programme is unique and different from typical capacity building and training programs. It focuses on the engaged Training and Learning Model.
- **All India Radio** has decided to begin a new programme called **AIRNxt** to offer youth a platform to air their voices as part of the ongoing **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** celebrations. AIR stations will allow youngsters from local colleges, universities to take part in programming, allowing them to discuss and curate youth-centric shows.
- **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** and the **Department of Telecommunications** operating under the Ministry of Communications conducted a **Joint Cyber Drill 2021**. The cyber drill was conducted for the **Critical Network Infrastructure operators of India**. The Critical Network Infrastructure are the systems, assets and networks that are essential to ensure the security of a country.
- **India and Bangladesh** have decided to celebrate **December 6**, the day on which India formally recognized Bangladesh, as "**Maitri Diwas**" (**Friendship Day**). During the visit of PM Narendra Modi to Bangladesh in March 2021 to attend the national day of Bangladesh, it was decided to commemorate 6 December as Maitri Diwas (Friendship Day). Ten days before the liberation of Bangladesh, India had recognised Bangladesh on **6 December 1971**. India was one of the first countries to establish bilateral diplomatic ties with Bangladesh.
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formed a three-member committee to review the criteria for reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category in terms of the provisions of the explanation to Article 15 of the Constitution. The committee has been asked to complete its work within three weeks. Former Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey will head the committee.
- The nation will have nine nuclear reactors by **2024** and a new nuclear project, the first in northern India, will come up **150 kms** away from **Delhi in Gorakhpur of Haryana**, the government informed the Rajya Sabha. By 2024, India will have nine nuclear reactors plus 12 new additional ones which were approved during the Covid times with a capacity of **9000 MW**.

- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting **Anurag Singh Thakur** and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** inaugurated **Earth Station of Doordarshan Kendra** at **Gorakhpur**. Three FM stations of All India Radio were also inaugurated virtually on the occasion. This will be the second earth station of Doordarshan in Uttar Pradesh and it is being built at a cost of Rs.7 crore.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple projects worth **Rs 18,000 crore** at **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**. The 7 projects inaugurated consist of initiatives focusing on making travel safer including the 120 MW Vyasi Hydroelectric Project, along with Himalayan Culture Centre in Dehradun.
- Former chief election commissioner (CEC) **Sunil Arora** has been invited to join the board of advisers at the **International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance**, also known as International IDEA. IDEA has a 15-member board of advisers, all of whom are eminent personalities from a wide variety of backgrounds.
- The **National Institution of Transforming India (NITI) Aayog** launched the '**e-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition**' in partnership with Convergence Energy Service Ltd (CESL) and World Resources Institute, India (WRI India) and with the support from Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI). The objective of the initiative is to share knowledge of various stakeholders - Central & State Govt. agencies, transit service providers, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), on accelerating the process towards seamless adoption of e-bus services in India.
- Union Minister of State for Education, **Dr Subhas Sarkar** has informed that the government is all set to launch **Bhasha Sangam** mobile app. The mobile app is developed to give users familiarity with common expressions of daily conversation in scheduled Indian languages. The app has **100+ sentences**, designed on different themes that allow people to learn basic conversation in **22 Indian languages**, test themselves and generate online certificates.
- **Ministry of Power** is celebrating the **Energy Conservation Week** from **8th to 14th December 2021** under "**Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**". Celebration by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency will include three major activities i.e. **National Painting Competition for school children**, **National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) for Industries and establishments** and **National Energy Efficiency Innovation Awards (NEEIA)** to recognize innovative energy efficiency technologies.
- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** has granted Observer Status to **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** by adopting resolution 76/123. This decision has been taken based on the UNGA's Sixth Committee report. In November 2015, ISA was jointly launched by India and France during the 21st session of the United Nations Climate Change COP-21 in Paris, France to promote solar energy among its Member Countries.
- **India** assumed the Chairmanship of Council of **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (RATS SCO)** for 1 year from October 28, 2021.
- The **NITI Aayog** has planned to establish **1000 Atal Tinkering Laboratories** in **Jammu and Kashmir**. Out of 1000 Atal Tinkering Laboratories, 187 will be established by the end of the financial year 2021-22.
- **India** has been re-elected to **International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council** for the **2022-2023** biennium under category B states. The Assembly of the International Maritime Organization has elected the Members of its Council for the 2022-2023 biennium.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the first phase of the **Rs 339 crore Kashi Vishwanath Corridor project** that connects the temple town's two iconic landmarks - **Kashi Vishwanath temple and Ganga ghats**.
- Union Minister Social Justice and Empowerment, **Dr Virendra Kumar** has launched **National Helpline against atrocities on SCs, STs**. The objective of the helpline, reportedly, is to build awareness about the provisions of the Act that are aimed at ending discrimination and providing protection to all. The Helpline will be available 24-7 on toll-free number - **14566**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the **Saryu Nahar National Project** in **Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh**. The project will provide assured water for irrigation to over 14 lakh hectares of land and benefit about 29 lakh farmers, mainly in eastern Uttar Pradesh.
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** has laid the foundation stone of **Umiya Mata Dham temple** and temple premises under **Maa Umiya Dham Development Project** at Umiya Campus in Sola in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**. They will be developed at a cost of **Rs 1,500 crore** on **74,000 square yards** of land.

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, **Dr Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the seventh edition of the **India International Science Festival at Panaji, Goa**. The theme of the 4-day science festival is '**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**' - "**Celebrating Creativity, Science, Technology and Innovation for a prosperous India**". First India International Science Festival was held in 2015 at IIT Delhi.
- The proposal to raise the **minimum age of marriage for women from 18 to 21** was cleared by the **Union Cabinet**. Presently, the minimum age of marriage for men is 21 but for women, it is 18. The government will now look to introduce amendments to the Prohibition of **Child Marriage Act, Special Marriage Act, and the Hindu Marriage Act** to bring the plan into action. This will give a chance to the girls to study more. They will be able to enjoy their independence. They will also get better employment opportunities."
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has laid the foundation stone of **Ganga Expressway in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh**. PM Modi also addressed a rally at Railway Ground, Rouza on the occasion. After completion of work, it will become the longest expressway of Uttar Pradesh. It will connect the western and eastern regions of the state. It starts near the Bijauli village in Meerut. It will extend till near the Judapur Dandu village in Prayagraj.
- On the occasion of **Goa Liberation Day**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of several development projects worth over 650 crores rupees in **Goa**. He felicitated freedom fighters and veterans of '**Operation Vijay**' at the function. He appreciated Chief Minister Pramod Sawant for keeping the pace of development up in the state.
- The total number of beneficiaries under the Centre's financial inclusion scheme, **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**, has crossed the **44 crore mark**. The total number of accounts opened under PMJDY stood at 44.05 crores, with a total balance of ₹1,47,812 crore as on **December 8**. **Uttar Pradesh** tops the list with the highest number of accounts followed by **Bihar**. Since its launch in 2014, the scheme has been steadily expanding its base.
- **Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission** has unveiled **Vernacular Innovation Programme**, which will enable innovators and entrepreneurs in India to have access to the innovation ecosystem in 22 scheduled languages by the Centre. This will help in overcoming the barriers of language & empower innovators. To get the program rolling, AIM NITI Aayog is launching a train-the-trainer program where it will collaborate with the Design Department of IIT Delhi to coach the VTF in design thinking and entrepreneurship and the adaptation of these subjects in the 22 languages and cultures.
- **Docprime tech** has launched India's first health locker integrated with **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**. ABDM was launched in August 2020 for developing an integrated digital health infrastructure in the country. ABDM integrated Health Locker will provide users a digital and self-consented health data management system without any charges. It will store and manage health records electronically.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated and laid the foundation of the hydropower projects worth **Rs 11000 crore in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh**. He inaugurated the **Sawra-Kuddu Hydro Power Project**, a 111 MW Project which has been built at a cost of around Rs 2,080 crore.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the 356 Km long **Bina Refinery (Madhya Pradesh)-POL Terminal at Panki (Kanpur, UP) Multiproduct pipeline project** (capacity of 45 million metric tonnes per annum) with an outlay of Rs 1524 crore (Rs. 1227 crores in UP and Rs. 297 crores in MP).



States Current Affairs

- Nagaland DGP T. John Longkumer officially launched the 'Call your Cop' mobile App at Police Headquarters in Kohima. The App was developed by Excellogics Tech Solutions Pvt Ltd. The App will enable all citizens of the state especially those in distress to get in touch directly with the police as easily available with just one click away.
- Varanasi, a city in Uttar Pradesh is all set to become the first Indian city to start ropeway service as a mode of public transport in order to ease the traffic congestion. The proposed ropeway will be constructed between Cantt Railway Station (Varanasi Junction) to Church Square (Godauliya) covering an aerial distance of 3.45 km.
- Kerala Tourism launched the 'STREET' project to promote and take tourism deep into the interiors and rural hinterland of Kerala. The project would help visitors experience the diversity of offerings in these locales. The STREET is an acronym for Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experiential, Ethnic, Tourism hubs.
- Nagaland is celebrating its 59th Statehood Day on 1 December 2021. Nagaland was granted statehood on December 1, 1963, with Kohima being declared as its capital. Prior to this, Naga leaders and the central government reached an agreement to create a separate region of the Naga Hills in 1957. The State of Nagaland Act, 1962, was thus enacted by the Parliament to give Nagaland statehood.
- The Arunachal Pradesh (AP) Government has signed Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt as the brand ambassador and award-winning filmmaker and branding expert Rahul Mittra as brand advisor of the occasion of their golden jubilee celebrations, marking the 50th year of the naming of the state. Sanjay Dutt launched a media campaign for the month-long celebrations, from 20th January to 20th February 2022 at the Mechuka valley of AP's Shi-Yomi district.
- The biggest cultural extravaganza of Nagaland, the Hornbill Festival has kicked off with colorful renditions of traditional music, dances, and contemporary in one roof at Naga Heritage village Kisama. It is the 22nd edition of the Hornbill festival and will be celebrated in 6 districts of Nagaland. This year's edition of Nagaland's iconic Hornbill Festival, widely hailed as the "festival of festivals".
- Himachal Pradesh Police has conducted the 'President's Colour Award' ceremony at Shimla's historic Ridge Ground. The Governor bestowed the 'President's Color Award' to the State Police on this occasion. Director-General of Police Sanjay Kundu received the award on the behalf of state police.
- Jharkhand Chief Minister, Hemant Soren has launched a web portal named 'Hamar Apan Budget' and a mobile application prepared by the state finance Department from the Chief Minister's residential office in Ranchi. Through this portal, the general public of the state can share their suggestions for the 2022-23 budget.
- Gujarat has left behind Maharashtra to become the country's leading manufacturing hub, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Gujarat saw its Gross Value Addition (GVA) in manufacturing grow by 15.9 per cent annually between FY12 to FY20 to stand at Rs 5.11 lakh crore, data shows. GVA is an economic metric that measures the supply of goods and services in an economy.
- The Kazhuveli wetland situated in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu has been declared as the 16th Bird Sanctuary by Surpiya Sahu, Environment and Forest Secretary, at the Minister of Environment Forest and Climate Change. The declaration was made under subsection (1) of section 18 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The Kazhuveli wetlands is referred to as the 2nd largest Brackish Water Lake in South India, only after Pulicat lake.
- Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved the Atma Nirbhar Krishak development scheme for boosting the agriculture sector. Atma Nirbhar Krishak development scheme will be implemented from the current financial year. Under this scheme, 1,475 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) will be formed in the next three years in each development block.
- Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhami has launched the 'Milk Price Incentive Scheme' in Dehradun. The scheme is aimed to provide incentives benefiting around 53,000 people of Uttarakhand. The state government is targeting to spend INR 444.62 crore to open 500 milk sales centres in Uttarakhand. It is a Direct Bank Transfer (DBT) scheme, the amount under the scheme would go directly into the accounts of the beneficiaries through their linked bank accounts.

- The **Haiderpur Wetland** abutting the **Madhya Ganga barrage**, about 10 km from **Bijnor** in western **Uttar Pradesh**, has been recognised under the **1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**. Uttar Pradesh is now home to **9 Ramsar wetlands**. The wetland has also been identified under **Namami Gange**, a central flagship, as a model wetland along the Ganga. With this, there are now a total of 47 such designated areas in the country.
- **Himachal Pradesh govt** announced setting up a Commission for upper castes, on the lines of Madhya Pradesh. The Commission, to be named as '**Samanya Varg Aayog**', will be formalised through a legislative enactment in three months' time when the state assembly meets next in February-March 2021 for the budget session of the House.
- In **Madhya Pradesh**, the first drone fair in the country was organised at **Gwalior**. **Gwalior Drone Mela** was organised jointly by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Government of India, the Government of Madhya Pradesh, and the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)**.
- **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**, an area of **454.65 square kilometres** around the boundary of **Askot Wildlife Sanctuary** in the **Pithoragarh** district of Uttarakhand has been declared as the **Askot Wildlife Sanctuary Eco-sensitive Zone (ESZ)**. The notified area extends from **0 to 22 km** around the Askot Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **\$112 million loan** to strengthen skills education and training through the establishment of the **Assam Skill University (ASU)**. The Loan will create a path for skill development to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of Assam's economy and industries.
- The Chief Minister of Jharkhand, **Hemant Soren** has launched a **Sports Action toward Harnessing Aspiration of Youth (SAHAY)** scheme aimed at nurturing young sporting talents in Maoist-hit districts of the state. This scheme has been launched to curb the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) which affected 19 of the state's 24 districts. Boys and girls in the 14-19 age group from villages to ward level will be registered under the scheme and will be given opportunities to display their skills in basketball, volleyball, hockey and athletics.
- **Goa Liberation Day** is observed on **19 December** every year in India and it marks the day Indian armed forces freed Goa in **1961** following **450 years of Portuguese rule**. The year 2021 marks the **60 years of Goa's independence**. Goa Liberation Day is marked by an abundance of events and festivities in Goa though this time because of the pandemic the celebrations are expected to be muted.
- Haryana's Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs, **Sandeep Singh** launched '**Khel Nursery Scheme 2022-23**' to promote sports in the state. The players of Haryana have given a new identity to the state at the international level with their sports talent. The state government is always striving to develop new sports talents in the state.
- **Tamil Nadu government** has announced '**Tamil Thaa Vaazhthu**' as the state anthem. It should be sung before the start of any functions in all educational institutions, universities, government offices, and public sector undertakings. The decision comes in the wake of the Madras High Court recently ruling that '**Tamil Thai Vaazhthu**' is a prayer song and not an anthem.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhama** has announced that Indian wicket-keeper batsman **Rishabh Pant** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the state. The 24-year Pant, who was rested for the New Zealand Tests, is currently in South Africa as the Indian Team is all set to face Proteas in the three-match Test series, starting December 26.
- **Nagaland** government has announced the creation of three new districts, namely **Tseminyu, Niuland and Chumoukedima**. This comes less than a year after the 12th district of the state—Noklak—was inaugurated.
- **Haryana** chief minister, **Manohar Lal Khattar** has opened the new **Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC)** under the **Karnal Smart City project**. The new Command and Control Center will enable the functioning of advanced systems such as adaptive traffic control, automatic number plate recognition, detection of red-light violation and speed violation.
- The Chief Minister of Punjab, **Charanjit Singh Channi** has declared **Lord Krishna Balram Jagannath Rath Yatra** as an annual state festival. The announcement for the same was made during flagging off the **25th Shri Lord Krishna Balram Jagannath Rath Yatra**.

- The **Yogi Adityanath government** in **Uttar Pradesh** is set to launch the ambitious '**Free Smartphone Yojana**' on December 25, which is the birth anniversary of senior BJP leader and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Under the scheme, the state government will distribute smartphones and tablets to final year students of graduation and above.
- Chief Minister of Odisha, **Naveen Patnaik** has inaugurated the state's longest bridge, '**T-Setu**', built over the **Mahanadi River** in Cuttack District, Odisha. The bridge in the shape of the English alphabet 'T' was constructed at a cost of **Rs 111 crore**. The 4-km-long bridge connecting Gopinathpur in Badamba, Baideswar in Banki to Singhanath Pitha in Cuttack, will cut the distance between Badamba and Banki Baideswar by almost 45 km.
- **Jharkhand Assembly** has passed the **Prevention of Mob Violence and Mob Lynching Bill, 2021**, which aims at providing "effective protection" of constitutional rights and the prevention of mob violence in the state. After including one amendment, the Bill was passed and sent to the Governor for his assent. Once notified, Jharkhand will become the fourth state to bring in such a law after **West Bengal, Rajasthan and Manipur**.
- Maharashtra Tourism and Environment Minister, **Aaditya Thackeray** has launched the **Chalo mobile application (app)** and **Chalo smart cards** to facilitate digital and advance purchase of **Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST)** bus tickets.
- In **Madhya Pradesh**, the **97th** edition of the **World Sangeet Tansen festival** started in Gwalior. A five-day World Sangeet Tansen festival starts from **December 25 to December 30** in the city. The stage of the program has been constructed on the theme of the Siddhanath temple situated in Omkareshwar. Many artists not only from India but also from abroad will participate in the music festival.
- **Tamil Nadu** Chief Minister **M.K. Stalin** has launched the '**Meendum Manjappai**' scheme to promote the use of cloth bags by the public and discourage the use of plastic bags. This awareness campaign on using '**yellow**' cloth bag or '**manjapai**' as it is called in Tamil, is aimed at encouraging the people to return to the use of this eco-friendly bag and discard the plastic bags.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has laid the foundation stone of the **BrahMos Aerospace cruise missile manufacturing unit** in **Lucknow**. He also laid the foundation of **DRDO Defence Technology and Test Centre in Lucknow**. BrahMos Project will help in creating 5,500 fresh job opportunities.
- **Karnataka government** has partnered with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) & State Bank of India (SBI)** to enable and implement the '**e-RUPI**' payment solution to students under its scholarship programme. For redeeming e-RUPI, the identified institutes will scan the QR code or SMS string displayed by the students using an application.
- The Chief Minister of Haryana, **Manohar Lal Khattar** has launched the '**Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam portal**' and announced to set up the Atal Park & Smriti Kendra in Gurugram, Haryana. The CM also honoured 78 officers and employees for delivering the best services in various fields. He also launched a magazine '**Vyavastha Parivartan Se Susashan**' and the 2022 official calendar.

Schemes/Committees

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has set up an **Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS)** to enhance technological capabilities and explore suitable technology solutions for the early detection of market anomalies. ALeRTS is a 7-member committee headed by **Madhabi Puri Buch**, a former whole-time member of SEBI and has experts from various technology domains as members.
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has formed a **committee** for the differently-abled cricketers of the country. Disability cricketers have welcomed the decision of the BCCI to form a Differently Abled Committee for the differently-abled cricketers. On the basis of the recommendation of the **Justice Lodha committee**, a board of three former disabled cricketers was being awaited for the last several years. The Proposal was approved by BCCI headed by president **Sourav Ganguly & secretary Jay Shah**.
- **Tamil Nadu government** has launched the Chief Minister (CM) Dashboard monitoring system, "**CM Dashboard Tamil Nadu 360**" in Chennai. It will enable CM to track all welfare schemes, including the status of their implementation, fund allocation, and the number of beneficiaries along with updates on the storage of water in dams and rainfall patterns.

- The **Government of India** has decided to constitute a 'five-member' committee to look into the demand for withdrawal of **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act "AFSPA"** in **Nagaland**. The committee headed by **Vivek Joshi**, the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, would submit its recommendations within 45 days. Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry **Piyush Goyal** will be its Member-Secretary. The Chief Secretary and DGP of Nagaland and the DGP of Assam Rifles will be the other members of the committee.

Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has signed an agreement with **Usha International Limited (UIL)** for **empowering women entrepreneurs** by providing financial assistance. The financial assistance will be provided under the Joint Liability Group model. This is the first of its kind collaboration between UIL and SBI in coming forward together for the upliftment of the social and economic status of women entrepreneurs in rural areas of the country by making them self-reliant and providing equal opportunity for achieving financial growth and inclusion.
- **Walmart** and its subsidiary **Flipkart** have signed an **MoU** with the **Department of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises**, Government of **Madhya Pradesh** to create an ecosystem of capacity building for **MSMEs in Madhya Pradesh**. Under this MoU, Walmart, Flipkart, and MSME Department will assist MSMEs to digitize their business and enable them to sell their products through online retail.
- State-owned **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** has signed a pact with **Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd (BVFCL)** to provide its techno-financial expertise in developing renewable energy projects and fundraising. Under the MoU, IREDA will undertake techno-financial due diligence of renewable energy, green hydrogen, green ammonia, etc. for BVFCL.
- **India and European Union (EU)** have agreed to step up their **Clean Energy and Climate Partnership**. They jointly agreed on a detailed work program until **2023** to implement the **2016 India-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership**. The Panel agreed on increased technical cooperation in energy efficiency, renewable energy, green hydrogen, grid integration, storage, power market design, interconnection, cold chain, and sustainable financing.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has signed an MoU with **Kendriya Sainik Board** to support and educate the children of war veterans, ex-servicemen, and war widows. India's largest bank said it will provide a grant of **₹ 1,000 per month to 8,333 war veterans**. The bank has contributed ₹ 10 crores to the **Armed Forces Flag Day Fund**. The **Armed Forces Flag Day** is celebrated on **December 7**. According to the statement, the bank has contributed ₹10 crores to the **Armed Forces Flag Day Fund**. The **Armed Forces Flag Day** is celebrated on **December 7**.
- **NITI Aayog** in partnership with **Bharti Foundation**, the philanthropic arm of **Bharti Enterprises**, launched **Convoke 2021-22**. Convoke is a National research Symposium that aims at addressing challenges in imparting education and strengthening its quality with a special focus on all teachers, educationists, heads of schools across India.
- **Department of Youth Empowerment & Sports, Government of Karnataka** has signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** as a part of the State-level initiative '**Code-Unnati**' to improve the access to entrepreneurship and employment opportunities among the youths, including women.
- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has tied up with **National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI)** bill payments system **Bharat BillPay** to facilitate cash-based bill payments service at customer's doorstep. Payments for various utility bills can be done on the **Bharat BillPay** platform and the facility will be made available to non- IPPB customers as well.
- **Odisha** inked an agreement with **United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)** to launch "**Mission Shakti Living Lab**" for the financial empowerment of women. A Global Centre for Financial Health, to launch **Mission Shakti Living Lab** empowering women economically and drive gender equality. With the use of digital technologies and e-commerce, it will increase the income and financial well-being of women, **self-help groups (SHGs)** and households by helping them in the factors of planning, saving, borrow or spending better.

- **IIT-Delhi** signed an MoU with **Indian Air Force (IAF)** to support requirements towards indigenous solutions in various weapon systems. Under the MoU, The IAF has identified key focus areas involving the development of technology and finding indigenous solutions towards the sustenance of various weapon systems. The partnership between IIT Delhi and IAF will also boost the efforts by Base Repair Depots (BRDs) of Maintenance Command IAF.
- The **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** of the United Nations has signed an agreement with the **Andhra Pradesh Government** to train the farmers in good farm management practices and sustainable agricultural methods. The FAO apart, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is collaborating on the project.
- India's **TVS Motor Company** will develop electric vehicles (EV) with **BMW's motorcycle** brand in India, joining a host of Indian automakers that have sought to expand their clean mobility offering. The tie-up comes at a time when new-age start-ups like Ola Electric & Ather are ramping up investment in electric scooters.
- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** has tied up with **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** to scale-up Alkaline Electrolyze technology for Green Hydrogen production. This is a first of its kind initiative to support India's commitment to achieve renewable energy targets and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Electrolyser plants are presently imported and the collaboration is to "scale-up Alkaline Electrolyser technology for Green Hydrogen production".
- **Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL)** has signed a purchase agreement with **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)** to supply **4,667 MW** of green power. It is the world's largest-ever green power purchase agreement (PPA). The agreement is part of a manufacturing-linked solar tender of 8,000 MW awarded to AGEL by SECI in June 2020.
- **Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Limited (GACL)** and **GAIL (India) Limited** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for setting up a **bioethanol plant** with a production capacity of **500-kilo litre per day (KLD) in Gujarat**.
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has signed a partnership agreement with **Udemy Business**, to encourage innovative learning and skill development for employees of NPCI. The 3-year partnership with Udemy Business will offer courses on in-demand skills such as tech, domain, behavioural, and leadership skills to all NPCI employees. Through the mission 'Talent Development for All' of NPCI, it provides capacity-building programmes in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Blockchain, Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT), Robotic Process Automation (RPA), etc.
- **NITI Aayog** has signed a Statement of Intent with the **United Nations World Food Program (WFP)**. The partnership focuses on mainstreaming millets and supporting India in taking lead globally in knowledge exchange using the opportunity of 2023 as an International Year of Millets. The government of India observed 2018 as a year of millets.
- **Indipaisa** has signed a partnership agreement with **NSDL Payments Bank** to launch Financial Technology (Fintech) solutions targeting India's 63 million **Small & Mid-sized Enterprise (SME)** sector. To empower SME owners & operators to provide facilities and services that help them grow businesses, comply with government tax laws and build a sustainable future.



Appointments/Resignations (National & International)

- Noted mountaineer from Uttarakhand, **Harshwanti Bisht** has earned the distinction of being elected the first woman president of the **Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF)**.
- Two-wheeler major, **Hero MotoCorp** announced the appointment of former chairman of State Bank of India (SBI) **Rajnish Kumar** as an independent non-executive director on the board of the company.
- Senior bureaucrat, **Vivek Johri** has been appointed as the new **Chairman** of the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**. He will succeed **M Ajit Kumar** who is completing his tenure.
- Indian-origin technology executive, **Parag Agrawal** has been appointed as the new **CEO** of **Twitter** after the social media giant's co-founder **Jack Dorsey** stepped down. He is now the **youngest CEO** in the S&P 500 elbowing Meta Platform Inc. CEO **Mark Zuckerberg**. However, Agrawal is 37 and the same age as Mark Zuckerberg.
- Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Mago** has taken over as the Commandant of **National Defence College (NDC)**, New Delhi.
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) incubated startup, **GUVI** has signed Indian Women's cricketer **Smriti Mandhana** as its brand ambassador.
- Sambit Patra** has been appointed as the chairman of **India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)** by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. IAS officer, **G. Kamala Vardhana Rao** will hold the post of managing director of ITDC.
- Pradip Shah**, the founder of IndAsia Fund Advisors, has been appointed chairman of the **National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)**. Shah, an MBA from Harvard and chartered accountant, is credited for establishing India's first and largest housing finance company, HDFC, and rating firm Crisil.
- Centre effects major **bureaucratic reshuffle**. The Centre has appointed **Alka Upadhyaya** as chairperson of the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**. A 1990-batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, Upadhyaya is currently Additional Secretary, Department of Rural Development.
- IPO-bound hospitality unicorn **Oyo Hotels and Homes (Oyo)** has appointed **Rajnish Kumar**, former Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI) as Strategic Group Advisor. In his role, Kumar will advise Oyo's management on short-term and long-term strategy, regulatory and stakeholder engagement, and enhancing the brand of the company globally. He is currently a part of the boards of HSBC Asia Pacific, L&T infotech, Hero Motocorp and BharatPe.
- Bangalore based innovative, fast-growing fintech, **Kinara Capital** signed the Indian cricketer **Ravindra Jadeja**, as its official brand ambassador on the occasion of the company's 10th anniversary. Kinara Capital provide loan service to **India's MSMEs**.
- Unix**, an Indian Mobile Accessories manufacturing brand, has signed Indian Cricket Fast Bowler, **Jasprit Bumrah** as its Brand Ambassador to increase the visibility of their products. The products include wearable mobile electronics such as Chargers, Earphones, Data Cables, Power Banks, Wireless Speakers, Smartphone Batteries, Bluetooth neckbands and TWS are mostly manufactured and marketed across India through distributors.
- The Board of Directors of **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** appointed **Itira Davis** as the **MD and CEO** of the bank. Davis has been appointed as the MD and CEO for a period of 3 years from the date of approval of the RBI or such other period as may be approved by RBI. Davis was the MD and CEO of Ujjivan Financial Services Limited from July 2018 from where he resigned in 2021.
- The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** announced that **Sanjiv Mehta**, the Chairman and Managing Director of **Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)**, will be appointed as its **President**. Mehta, presently the Senior Vice President of FICCI, will be succeeding media industry veteran **Uday Shankar**. Mehta is also the President of Unilever South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka & Nepal), and is a member of the 'Unilever Leadership Executive' which is Unilever's Global Executive Board.
- BYJU'S** announced a 2-year partnership with Olympic medalists **Neeraj Chopra** and **PV Sindhu** as the brand ambassadors for Disney BYJU'S Early Learn app.
- The Government has appointed Madhya Pradesh cadre IAS officer **Neelam Shammi Rao** as the **Central Provident Fund Commissioner in the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)**. The ACC approved Ms. Rao's transfer from her current post, Director General (Training) in the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, to the top post of the retirement fund body.

- UN Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres** has appointed **Catherine Russell** as the head of UN children's agency UNICEF, also known as the **United Nations Children's Fund**. Catherine Russell is an assistant to US President Joe Biden. She also heads the White House Office of Presidential Personnel. Russell will succeed **Henrietta Fore**, who resigned in July 2021 because of a family health issue.
- CEO of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), **Ravinder Bhakar** has assumed charge of National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), Films Division, and Children Films Society of India (CFSI).
- French fashion house **Chanel** named **Leena Nair**, an executive from Unilever, as its new global CEO. Nair's career at Unilever spanned 30 years, most recently as the chief of human resources and a member of the executive committee.
- **Arvind Kumar** has joined as **Director General of Software Technology Parks of India**. **Software Technology Parks of India** is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology Government of India. STPI is fuelling the culture of tech entrepreneurship and innovation in the country by launching 25 + Centres of Entrepreneurship in emerging technology domains.
- **Hyundai Motor Company** has appointed **Unsoo Kim** as the **Managing Director (MD) of Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL)**, starting from 1st January 2022. He will replace **Seon Seob Kim (SS Kim)**, who will lead the Global Operations Division in Hyundai headquarters in Seoul, South Korea.
- **Mohit Jain** of The Economic Times has been elected President of **The Indian Newspaper Society for the year 2021-22**. He succeeds **L. Adimoolam** of Health & The Antiseptic. The 82nd Annual General Meeting of the Indian Newspaper Society - an apex body of Publishers of Newspapers, Magazines & Periodicals in the country, was held through Video Conference.
- **Atul Dinkar Rane** has been appointed as the new **Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director** of the **BrahMos Aerospace Limited** that manufactures the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile. His pioneering contributions and techno-managerial leadership has been transformative for the successful development and induction of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile into Armed Forces.
- Senior Indian diplomat **Pradeep Kumar Rawat**, who is well-versed in negotiating with Chinese diplomats, has been appointed as **India's next Ambassador to China**. Rawat's appointment comes amid the lingering border stand-off in eastern Ladakh. Rawat is currently the country's envoy to the Netherlands.
- The **Indian Olympic Association of India (IOA)** has appointed the Ice Hockey Association of India's general secretary, **Harjinder Singh**, as the **Chef de Mission of the country's** contingent for the upcoming **2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing**. Singh was the Chef de Mission of the Indian contingent for the 23rd Winter Olympic Games too, which was held in Pyeongchang, South Korea in 2018.
- **IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance** has announced the appointment of **HO Suri** as its new **managing director and chief executive officer**. He was the financial advisor, head, internal audit & legal, at the company and the new position took effect from October 1.
- **Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC)** has announced fresh appointments to its board of directors. **Kamlesh Gandhi**, CMD of MAS Financial Services has been appointed as Co-Chairman, FIDC in addition to **Umesh Revankar**, CEO and MD of Shriram Transport Finance Group. **Sanjay Chamria** has resigned as the Co-Chairman and Director, FIDC.
- **Mohammed Ben Sulayem** of the **United Arab Emirates** has been elected successor to **Jean Todt** as the first non-European president of motorsport's world governing body, the **International Automobile Federation (FIA)**.
- The RBL Bank board has appointed **Rajeev Ahuja**, who's currently working as the Executive Director at the bank, as interim **Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer** of the bank with immediate effect, subject to the regulatory and other approvals.
- **India Yamaha Motor (IYM) Pvt Ltd.** has announced that **Eishin Chihana** has taken charge of the Group's India operations as its new **Chairman**. He has replaced **Motofumi Shitara**. Chihana has been associated with Yamaha Motor Company and its group companies across the globe since 1991.
- Indian origin, **Narandran 'Jody' Kollapen** has been appointed to **South Africa's** highest judicial bench, the **Constitutional Court**. The appointment of 64-year-old **Kollapen & Rammaka Steven Mathopo** as the latest additions to the Constitutional Court after a lengthy process of public interviews. Both will take office from January 1, 2022.

- **Aarati Krishnan**, Editorial Consultant with BusinessLine, has been inducted as a member of the **Securities & Exchange Board of India's Advisory Committee** on Mutual Funds. The committee, chaired by **Usha Thorat**, former Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India, advises SEBI on matters related to mutual fund regulation to ensure investor protection, development of the industry and disclosure requirements.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Atul Kumar Goel**, MD & CEO of UCO Bank, as **MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank (PNB)** with effect from February 1 next year. Meanwhile, the ACC has appointed **Soma Sankara Prasad**, currently Deputy Managing Director at State Bank of India, as **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer in UCO Bank**.
- Govt of India has approved the appointment of **Praveen Kumar**, IAS, Former Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship to the post of **Director General & Chief Executive Officer, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)**. The proposal for setting up IICA was approved by Planning Commission in the year 2007. It was established in 2008 at Manesar, Haryana.
- Diplomat **Vikram Misri** has been appointed as **deputy national security adviser** in the national security council secretariat. The appointment of Misri, a 1989-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, came after he served as the Indian ambassador to China for nearly three years.
- Indian Forest Service officer, **Chandra Prakash Goyal** has been appointed as the **Director-General of Forests & Special Secretary (DGF&SS)**, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change. Goyal, a 1986 batch IFS officer was previously the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest under Uttar Pradesh Department of Forest.
- Bollywood actors **Vijay Raaz & Varun Sharma** have been named as brand ambassadors for **EaseMyTrip.com** (Easy Trip Planners Ltd), an online travel company based in India. EaseMyTrip founded by **Nishant Pitti and Rikant Pitti** in 2008 was started as the Business-to-Business (B2B) portal and entered into the business-to-consumer (B2C) segment in 2011.
- **Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan** has been reappointed as the **Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited (ESFBL)** for three years (from July 23, 2022, to July 22, 2025), by the Board of Directors (BoD). He is currently serving as the MD and CEO of the bank.
- ITBP director general **Sanjay Arora** will hold the additional charge of another border guarding force **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)** as the latter's chief **Kumar Rajesh Chandra** is set to retire on December 31.
- Senior diplomat **Anupam Ray** has been appointed as India's next permanent representative to the **UN Conference on Disarmament** in Geneva.

Ranks and Reports

- **Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU)** has announced the **Worldwide Cost of Living Index 2021**. According to the Index, **Tel Aviv, Israel** has become the **most expensive city** in the world to live in in 2021, pushing **Paris, France and Singapore** jointly to occupy the second spot with **Zurich and Hong Kong** at the fourth and fifth spots respectively.
- The **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)** has been ranked 'number one Cooperative' among the top **300 cooperatives** in the world. The ranking is based on the ratio of turnover over the **gross domestic product (GDP)** per capita.
- Finance Minister(FM) of India, **Nirmala Sitharaman** has ranked **37th** on the **Forbes' list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women 2021** or 18th Edition of **Forbes' list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women**. She has been featured on the list for the 3rd year in a row. She was ranked 41st on the list in 2020 and 34th in 2019. The 3rd richest woman in the world, MacKenzie Scott, philanthropist, author and ex-wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos was topped **Forbes' 2021 World's 100 Most Powerful Women** replacing the outgoing German chancellor Angela Merkel who topped the 15 out of 17 iterations of the list. Kamala Harris, the first woman and the first person of colour(Black) to become the Vice President of the United States of America was ranked 2nd on the list. Janet Yellen, the first woman to be named the U.S. Treasury Secretary has ranked 39th on the list.
- According to **Lowy Institute Asia Power Index 2021**, **India** has ranked **4th** most powerful country in the **Asia-Pacific region** for comprehensive power out of 26 countries, with an overall score of **37.7 out of 100**. India's overall score declined by 2 points compared to 2020. India again falls short of the major power threshold in 2021. India is one of 18 countries in Asia to trend downward in its overall score in 2021.

- The **9th edition of India Skills Report (ISR) 2022**, released by Wheebox, **Maharashtra** has retained the top position in the list of states with the highest poll of employable talent followed by Uttar Pradesh and Kerala. The theme of ISR 2022 - '**Rebuilding and Reengineering the Future of Work**'.
- **International Institute for Management Development (IMD)** World Competitive Centre published its "**World Talent Ranking Report**". In the report, Europe has dominated the ranking in 2021. Global top 10 countries are from this region. **Switzerland** has retained its top spot. India has been ranked at **56th position**. In the Middle East & North Africa, **UAE maintained its second position**, following Israel (first in this region). Israel has been ranked 22nd.
- Winter Session of the Parliament, **Nitin Gadkari**, Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, informed the Rajya Sabha on the state of **Electric Vehicles (EV) in India**. As per the data, India has a total of 870,141 registered EVs, with Uttar Pradesh (UP) holding the top spot with 255,700 registered EVs. UP is followed by **Delhi** (125,347), **Karnataka** (72,544), **Bihar** (58,014) and **Maharashtra** (52,506) in successive positions.
- As per the **Global Health Security (GHS) Index 2021**, the world's average overall GHS Index score was reduced to 38.9 (out of 100) in 2021, from a score of 40.2 in the GHS Index, 2019. **India** ranked **66 out of 195 countries** with an overall Index score of 42.8 and along with a change of -0.8 from 2019. The **United States of America (USA)** ranked **1st** on the index with a score of 75.9 followed by **Australia and Finland**.
- **Maharashtra** has topped the list of states with the maximum number of beneficiaries under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY)**, followed by **Tamil Nadu** and **Gujarat**. As many as 6,49,560 beneficiaries were recorded in Maharashtra, followed by Tamil Nadu (5,35,615), Gujarat (4,44,741) and Karnataka (3,07,164). In Maharashtra, the beneficiaries have been provided with a total of Rs 409.72 crore under the scheme to new employees of 17,524 establishments.
- Spam call rates in **India** have spiked again, with the country moving up in global rankings from 9th position to **4th position** owing to a significant in sales and telemarketing calls in 2021, according to the latest insights by callerID, spam detection and blocking company, **Truecaller**. The top three countries in the world with maximum spam based calls were **Brazil, Peru and Ukraine**. Interestingly, the USA dropped from 2nd place in 2020 to 20th in 2021, owing to stringent government regulations.
- **Reliance Industries Ltd**, India's largest corporate by revenues, profits and market value, topped the **2021 Wizikey News Score ranking** as India's most-visible corporate in the media. On the global rankings chart for top Multinational Corporations(MNC), Facebook tops the index, followed by Google's Alphabet Inc. Notably, Reliance is ranked eighth on global rankings for top MNCs.
- **India** is among the world's **top three dope violators** country in the world. Indian athletes were involved **152 times** in dope-related activities in the year 2019. The report has revealed the latest report published by the **World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada)**, which has put India into the top-three of the world's biggest violators behind **Russia (167) and Italy (157)**. **Brazil (78)** is at fourth and **Iran (70)** fifth positions.
- Adding 33 "unicorns" in a single year has helped **India** displace the **United Kingdom** to be third in the list of countries that are home to such enterprises valued at over **\$1 billion each**. The **US and China**, who occupy the first two ranks, are way ahead, according to the data compiled by Hurun Research Institute.
- **Telangana** has secured 1st place among the 34 states and Union Territories that implement the **Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)**. **Tamil Nadu and Gujarat** have secured 2nd and 3rd place on the list respectively. In the Ranking of the Cluster, among the 295 clusters, the **Ryakal cluster of Sangareddy and the Jukkal cluster of Kamareddy** in Telangana has secured the 1st and 2nd position respectively. The **Aibawk cluster of Aizawl** in Mizoram has secured the 3rd position.



Sports Current Affairs

- New Zealand's **Ajaz Patel** became the third cricketer to scalp all **10 wickets** in an innings. The left-arm spun a web around India's batting order and bowled **47.5 overs, conceding 119 runs**. New Zealand bundled out India for 325 on the second day of the second Test at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai.
- Mercedes driver **Lewis Hamilton (Britain)** won the inaugural edition of the **Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (GP)**, by surpassing **Max Verstappen (Netherlands)** in the event held at the 30-kilometre (18.6-mile) coastal resort area in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. **Reema Juffali**, has been appointed as an ambassador for the first edition of the Saudi Grand Prix, under the Formula 1 (F1) World Championship.
- The **Davis Cup 2021** was won by the **Russian Tennis Federation** by a 2-0 lead over Croatia in the **Davis Cup final in Madrid**. Medvedev defeated Marin Cilic in the second singles match to give Russia an insurmountable 2-0 lead over Croatia and its first Davis Cup title since 2006. Croatia also was seeking its third title after triumphs in 2005 and 2018. **Andrey Rublev** was named the Most Valuable Player.
- Sanket Mahadev Sargar** won the gold medal in **Men's 55 kg snatch category** at the ongoing **Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021**. He created the national record by lifting 113kg in the men's 55kg snatch category. Sargar has also qualified for the upcoming 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.
- Manipur** successfully defended their **Senior Women's National Football Championship** crown after a dramatic penalty shootout win over **Railways in the final** at the EMS Stadium in **Kozhikode, Kerala**. After a dearth of goal-scoring chances in regulation and extra time, the match went to penalties with the scores at 0-0. Manipur goalkeeper Okram Roshini Devi produced three saves to give her side their 21st title at this level.
- India** claimed 41 medals (12 Gold, 15 Silver, 14 Bronze) at the **4th Asian Youth Para Games (AYPG)**, Asia's biggest event held at **Riffa city, Bahrain**. The event is organized by the **National Paralympic Committee (NPC)** of Bahrain with the support of the local government. Over 700 athletes from around 30 countries participated in the event from 2nd to 6th December 2021. The 5th edition of the Asian Youth Para Games 2025 will be hosted by Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- Denmark's Viktor Axelsen** and China's Taipei's **Tai Tzu Ying** were named Male and Female **player of the year 2021** respectively by the **Badminton World Federation (BWF)**.
- India** claimed 41 medals (12 Gold, 15 Silver, 14 Bronze) at the **4th Asian Youth Para Games (AYPG)**, Asia's biggest event held at **Riffa city, Bahrain**. The event is organized by the **National Paralympic Committee (NPC)** of Bahrain with the support of the local government. Over 700 athletes from around 30 countries participated in the event from 2nd to 6th December 2021. The 5th edition of the Asian Youth Para Games 2025 will be hosted by Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- Reigning world chess champion **Magnus Carlsen** of Norway defended his title and won the **FIDE World Championship in Dubai**.
- Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** won his maiden **F1 Drivers' championship** title by beating Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes in the season-ending **Abu Dhabi GP 2021**.
- India** won a total of six medals, including two gold and 4 silver medals in the **Asian Rowing Championship in Thailand**. Senior rower **Arvind Singh** bagged a gold in the lightweight Men's single sculls event while his compatriots won three silver medals.
- The **International Boxing Association** has changed its acronym from **AIBA to IBA**, promising to adopt a set of governance reforms so as to keep the sport's inclusion at the **2028 Olympics**.
- A total of **148 athletes, including 20 new inductees**, in seven Olympic disciplines and six Paralympic disciplines, have been identified for support under the **Target Olympic Podium Scheme** at a meeting of the **Mission Olympic Cell** of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The TOP scheme which is an attempt to provide assistance to India's top athletes. This scheme was started in **2014**.
- Sports Minister **Anurag Singh Thakur** formally inaugurated the first-ever national-level **Khelo India Women's Hockey League** at **Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi**. The winner of the **Khelo India Women's Hockey League** will get a cash prize of **30 lakhs**. In the first phase, total 14 teams will participate in the league and 42 matches will be played from 15 December to 21 December.
- India** concluded the **Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021** with 16 medals - 4 Gold, 7 Silver, and 5 Bronze, held at **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**. Bindyarani Devi was India's only medallist at the World Weightlifting Championships 2021, that was also held parallelly at Tashkent.

- Former world champion **PV Sindhu** has been appointed as a member of the Badminton **World Federation's (BWF) Athletes' Commission**, along with five other people. The Chair and Deputy Chair will be decided among the six members. The Chair of the BWF Athletes' Commission, following a vetting process as required for all Council members, will become a member of the Council until the next elections in **2025**. Iris Wang (USA), Robin Tabeling (NED), Greysia Polii (INA), Kim Soyeong (KOR), Pusarla V Sindhu (IND) and Zheng Si Wei (CHN) are the ones appointed as members of the BWF Athletes' Commission.
- Indian teenager **Anahat Singh** has scripted history by winning the U-15 girls category of the prestigious **Junior US Open Squash tournament in Philadelphia**.
- **India** defeated **Pakistan 4-3** to secure the **bronze medal**, while **Korea** defeated **Japan 4-2** to emerge **Asian Champions Trophy men's hockey tournament** held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The five-nation tournament came to an end with two matches being played on the last day of the game. **Kanta Tanaka** of Japan was declared the best player of the tournament while **Suraj Karkera** of India was adjudged the best goalkeeper. **Jang Jonghyun** of Korea was the top scorer with 10 goals in the tournament.
- **Bangladesh** women team has won the **SAFF U 19 Women's Championship** by defeating India in the finals. **Shaheda Akter Ripa** of Bangladesh scored the maximum number of goals in the tournament. She received the '**most valuable player**' award. The 2021 SAFF U-19 Women's Championship was the 2nd edition of the SAFF U-19 Women's Championship.
- Indian skier **Aanchal Thakur** has bagged a bronze medal at the **International Ski Federation (FIS) Alpine Skiing Competition in Montenegro**. She finished 3rd with an overall timing of 1:54:30. **Croatia's Dora Ljutic** (1:50.61) won the gold medal while Cyprus skier **Georgia Epiphaniou** (1:52.71) clinched silver.
- Senior Indian off-spinner, **Harbhajan Singh** has announced retirement from all forms of **cricket**. He was the 1st Indian Cricketer to take Hat-trick wickets in Test Cricket. He took 417 wickets in 103 Tests and is the 4th highest wicket-taker for India in Test cricket.
- **Pankaj Advani** has defended his **National Billiards Title** by winning his 11th tournament, after defeating his PSPB teammate **Dhruv Sitwala** in a 5-2 game final that was held in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Himachal Pradesh** beat **Tamil Nadu** by 11 runs (VJD Method) in the final to win their maiden **Vijay Hazare Trophy title**, at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur.
- **Uttar Pradesh** has crowned the winners of the **11th Junior National Men's Hockey Championship** following a 3-1 victory over **Chandigarh** in the final at Kovilpatti, Tamil Nadu. Tournament top scorer **Sharda Nand Tiwari** opened the scoring for Uttar Pradesh.
- **Nitesh Kumar** won doubled gold at the **4th Para-Badminton National Championship**, which concluded in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**. Haryana's Nitesh along with his partner **Tarun Dhillon** defeated World No. 1 Paralympic Games gold medallist **Pramod Bhagat and Manoj Sarkar** in straight sets 21-19, 21-11 in the Men's doubles finals to win the gold.
- **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** has restored the accreditation of the **National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL)** in accordance with the **International Standard for Laboratories (ISL)**, which had been suspended since **August 2019**. With this, NDTL's Anti-Doping testing and activities will be resumed with immediate effect.
- **Mohammed Shami** became just the **11th Indian bowler** to claim **200 wickets** in Test cricket in just 55 test matches. During this process, he became the only 5th Indian pacer to bag 200 wickets in the purest format of the game. Also, Shami is the third fastest Indian pacer to reach this milestone as Kapil Dev and Javagal Srinath bagged 200 Test wickets in 50 and 54 Tests respectively.
- **Jasprit Bumrah** has achieved the milestone of picking **100 wickets** away from home in **22 Test matches**. Van der Dussen became Bumrah's 100th Test victim in overseas conditions. The 28-year-old now has 105 wickets, out of which 101 have come away from home. Bumrah, who made his Test debut in South Africa in 2018, has played 25 Tests, 23 of which have come on the road.

Summits And Conferences

- **India** has joined '**G20 Troika**' and will work closely with Indonesia and Italy to ensure consistency and continuity of **G20's agenda**. Apart from India, Troika consists of Indonesia and Italy. India will assume G20 Presidency in December 2022 from **Indonesia** and will convene the **G20 Leaders' Summit** for the first time in **2023**. Troika refers to the top grouping within G20 that consists of the current, previous, and incoming presidencies (Indonesia, Italy and India).
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** virtually inaugurated a thought leadership forum on FinTech, '**InFinity Forum**'. The event was hosted by International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), under the aegis of the Government of India in collaboration with GIFT City and Bloomberg. **Indonesia, South Africa and the United Kingdom** were the partner countries in the 1st edition of the Forum. The Forum focused on the theme of '**Beyond**' with various sub-themes.
- Union Minister of External Affairs (EAM) **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar** has visited **Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE)** to attend the **5th Indian Ocean Conference** on December 4-5, 2021. The theme of the conference was '**Indian Ocean: Ecology, Economy, Epidemic**'. The Conference is chaired by Sri Lankan President, **Gotabaya Rajapaksa** & Vice Chairs are **S. Jaishankar, Vivian Balakrishnan, Sayyid Badr Bin Hamad Bin Hamoud Al Busaidi**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Russian President **Vladimir Putin** held the 21st India-Russia Annual Summit to discuss the entire gamut of relations, including regional and global issues. During his visit, India and Russia signed **28 agreements**. The leaders discussed on International North-South Transport Corridor and also about the Chennai - Vladivostok Eastern Maritime Corridor (which is under the proposal).
- US President **Joe Biden** is hosting the first of two **Summits for Democracy**, which takes place virtually between **December 9-10**. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the summit saying that '**democratic spirit**' and '**pluralistic ethos**' are ingrained in Indians. A total of 100 nations participated in this 'Summit for Democracy'. PM Modi highlighted India's civilisational ethos as one of the original sources of democracy. He outlined sensitivity, accountability, participation, and reform orientation as four pillars of Indian democratic governance, stressing that principles of democracy should also guide global governance.

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has launched the **Unified Logistics Interface Platform's (ULIP) hackathon - 'LogiXtics'** to crowdsource more ideas that will benefit the logistics industry. The Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) Hackathon - LogiXtics is being organised by **NITI Aayog and Atal Innovation Mission**.
- The third Annual **Defence Dialogue** between **India and France** took place between Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and his French counterpart Florence Parly in New Delhi. A wide range of bilateral, regional, defence and defence industrial cooperation issues were discussed in the annual meeting.
- **India** will chair the **Counter-Terrorism Committee of UNSC** in **January 2022** after 10 years. The Counter-Terrorism Committee was established by **Security Council resolution 1373** adopted unanimously on 28 September 2001 in the wake of the 9/11 terror attacks in the US.

Awards & Recognition

- **Lionel Messi** has won the **Ballon d'Or** for a seventh time after being named as the **best player** in **2021** by **France Football**. Messi scored 41 goals and registered 17 assists in 56 appearances in all competitions for club and country and led **Argentina** to a long-awaited Copa America win in the summer.
- Vice-Chancellor (VC) of Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, **V Praveen Rao** wins the **7th Dr M S Swaminathan Award** for the period **2017-19**. It is a biennial national (every 2 years) award that was presented by the retired ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) Employees Association (RICAREA) and Nuziveedu Seeds Limited. It carries a cash prize of **INR 2 lakh** and a citation.
- A biography titled '**Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism**', authored by **Dinyar Patel** and published by Harvard University Press selected as the winner of the **4th Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF (New India Foundation) Book Prize 2021**. The book marked the life events and legacy of **Dada Bhai Naoroji**. It also contains the historical background of India's National Movement during the 19th century.

- Union Commerce and Industry Minister, **Piyush Goyal** has inaugurated the **40th edition** of the **India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2021** at **Pragati Maidan in Delhi**. It was organized by the India Trade Promotion Organisation with 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' as the theme and to further promote the idea of '**Vocal for Local**'. Bihar is the partner state for the 40th IITF and the focus states are **Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand**. The Bihar pavilion won the 6th gold medal by showcasing the state's art and cultural richness through handicrafts like **Madhubani, Manjusha arts, terracotta, handlooms**, and other indigenous products of the state at IITF 2021.
- On the occasion of **Assam Divas**, the state government of Assam has decided to accolade renowned industrialist **Ratan Tata** with the '**Asom Bhaibav**' award, the highest civilian state award for his contribution to cancer care in the state. The awards that precede it are Asom Saurav, followed by Asom Gaurav. With healthcare as one of its top priorities, the Assam government is showing its appreciation towards Tata's push to cancer care in the region.
- **Nizamuddin Revival Project**, India's project on the holistic urban revitalisation of the historic **Nizamuddin Basti community, in New Delhi** has won the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2021. The project involves the meticulous restoration of over 20 historic monuments clustered around the 14th-century mausoleum of the revered Sufi saint, Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya.
- Indian-American mathematician, **Nikhil Srivastava**, who teaches at the University of California, Berkeley along with **Adam Marcus** and **Daniel Spielman** were awarded the First **Ciprian Foias Prize** in Operator Theory by the **American Mathematical Society (AMS)**. Adam Marcus holds the Chair of Combinatorial Analysis at the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland. Daniel Spielman is a Sterling Professor of Computer Science, a professor of statistics and data science, and a professor of mathematics.
- Assamese poet **Nilmani Phookan Jr** won the **56th Jnanpith Award** and Konkani novelist **Damodar Mauzo** won the **57th Jnanpith Award**. The country's highest literary award, the Jnanpith is bestowed on writers for "their outstanding contribution to literature". Jnanpith Award is a literary award presented by the Bharatiya Jnanpith organization to Indian writers every year. This was instituted in 1961 and is given only to Indian writers who write in Indian languages and English.
- **Ropesh Goyal** from IIT-Kanpur won the '**Young Geospatial Scientist**' award in recognition of his unique contribution to developing the **Indian Geoid Model** and computation software. Member of Space Commission, Government of India, and former ISRO Chairman **AS Kiran Kumar** presented the award to Goyal during the inaugural event of the DigiSmart India 2021 conference hosted by the Geospatial World.
- The **Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)** has announced that Indian architect **Balkrishna Doshi** will be the recipient of the **2022 Royal Gold Medal**. The distinction, approved by Her Majesty The Queen and awarded each year since 1848, is given to architects or practices in recognition of a lifetime's work and the impact on the evolution of the field and the built environment.
- Indian Mathematician **Neena Gupta** has received the **2021 DST-ICTP-IMU Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries** for her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra.
- **Karnataka Bank** has been conferred with **two DigiDhan awards** instituted by the **Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**. The awards were given during Digital payment Utsav in New Delhi. The award recognized banks for achieving the target with the highest percentage in **BHIM-UPI transactions** under the private sector bank category consecutively for two years **2019-20 and 2020-21**.
- **Azim Premji**, founder chairman of **Wipro Limited** and founder of Azim Premji Foundation is this year's recipient of the **10th annual Dr Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Oration**, jointly established by Christian Medical College Vellore (CMC) and the U.S.-based Vellore CMC Foundation. The award is presented to Mr Premji in recognition of his contributions to society.
- **DBS Bank India's** persistent efforts to drive digital transformation for its customers have been awarded at the **ET BFSI Excellence Awards 2021**. An initiative of The Economic Times, ET BFSI Excellence Awards honours the best innovations & practices implemented by the BFSI industry in a dynamic and competitive environment.
- The prestigious **TIME magazine** has named **Elon Musk**, the CEO of Tesla, as the "**2021 Person of the Year**". In 2021, US-based electric-vehicle startup Tesla became **\$1 trillion** company as Musk became the world's richest person with an estimated net worth of around US \$255 billion.

- **Bhutan** has honoured PM Modi with its highest civilian award, **Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo**. Bhutan's Prime Minister **Lotay Tshering** has announced PM Modi's name for Bhutan's highest honour.
- **Simone Biles** was named **Time magazine's 2021 Athlete of the Year**. The world's most decorated gymnast, a four-time Olympic medalist, was hailed for putting her mental health first when she withdrew from four event finals at the Tokyo Olympics.
- **Lewis Hamilton** has picked up a new title only days after losing one on the track. The seven-time Formula One champion received a **knighthood at Windsor Castle, London**.
- Aditya Birla Group's chairman, **Kumar Mangalam Birla** has received the **Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award- Business Transformation** from **The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE)** based out of Silicon Valley. Birla is the first Indian Industrialist to receive the award for global entrepreneurship along with top global business leaders **Satya Nadella, Elon Musk, and Jeff Bezos**.
- Indian shooter **Avani Lekhara**, who has created history by winning India's first Gold medal in Shooting at the **2020 Tokyo Paralympics**, won the **"Best Female Debut"** honour at the **2021 Paralympic Sport Awards**.
- **Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL)**, under the Ministry of Steel, has been awarded with the prestigious **Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2021** for successive three years. The Award is given to organizations for significant achievements in Environment Management by Environment Foundation (WEF) since 1998.
- **IIT Roorkee** has been selected by the prestigious **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** for the **Industrial Innovation Awards**. IIT Roorkee bagged the first position under the Most Innovative Research Institutions category this year. Last year, IIT Roorkee was adjudged as 'The Most Innovative Institute of the Year' for its innovation quotient.
- **Divya Hegde**, an Indian Climate Action Entrepreneur from Udupi, Karnataka, has won **UN Women's Award for Leadership Commitment at the 2021 Regional Asia-Pacific Women's Empowerment Principles Awards Ceremony**.
- Environmentalist **Dr Anil Prakash Joshi**, who was conferred upon the Padma Bhushan this year, has been awarded the **Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice 2021**. **Vidyut Mohan**, the winner of the Earth shot Prize, and **Ridhima Pandey**, a young environmental activist from Uttarakhand, were also the recipients of the award.
- **Vayana Network**, one of India's largest trade finance platforms, and **Federal Bank**, a leading Private Sector Bank have been awarded the **'Most Effective Bank-Fintech Partnership: Agile and Adaptable'** at the **IBSi-Global Fintech Innovation Awards 2021**. The award was conferred in recognition of Vayana Network's partnership with Federal Bank, for automating and simplifying Supply Chain Finance.
- **Anukruti Upadhyay** has won the **Sushila Devi Award 2021** for the Best Book of Fiction for her novel, **Kintsugi**, which was published by the Fourth Estate imprint. The Ratanlal Foundation and the organizing Committee of the Bhopal Literature and Art Festival announced the winner, for this notable award for fiction written by a woman author and published in 2020. This prize has been instituted by the Shri Ratanlal Foundation.
- **HDFC Bank** has been named under **'Most Innovative Best Practice'** at the coveted Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) **Digital Transformation Award 2021** or **CII DX Award 2021**. It will be recognized for the HDFC's efforts in world-class financial inclusion in Village Level Executive (VLE) centres along with the Government of India's Common Service Centres (CSC).
- **Viral Sudhirbhai Desai**, an industrialist from Surat, who is popularly known as the Greenman or green man of Gujarat has been honoured with the **Global Environment and Climate Action Citizen Award 2021**.
- The **All India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRP)** on poultry breeding, Mannuthy, under the **Kerala Veterinary and Animal Science University (KVASU)**, bagged the national breed conservation award for 2021.



Important Days

- **World AIDS Day** is observed across the globe on **1st December** every year since **1988**. The day provides an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. This year the theme of World AIDS Day is **End inequalities. End AIDS and End Pandemics**.
- **National Pollution Control Day** is observed on **2nd December** every year. The day is observed as a national pollution control day to commemorate the lives of the people who died in the **Bhopal gas tragedy in 1984**.
- **World Computer Literacy Day** is observed on **2nd December** every year all over the world. The day is celebrated as the world computer literacy day to create awareness and drive digital literacy in underserved communities worldwide.
- **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery** is observed annually on **2nd December** since **1986** by the United Nations General Assembly. The focus of this day is on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.
- **World Handicapped day** also known as the **International Day of Persons with disabilities** is observed every year on **3rd December** globally. The day is marked and observed to support critical issues which are related to the inclusion of persons with disabilities. The IDPWD day was proclaimed in **1992** by the United Nations General Assembly. The theme of the World Day of the Handicapped 2021 is the **Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities**.
- In India, **December 4** is observed as the **National Navy Day** every year, to celebrate the achievements and role of the naval force to the country. The theme of Indian Navy Day 2021 is '**Swarnim Vijay Varsh**' signifying 50 years of India's victory in the Indo-Pakistan war that took place in 1971.
- **World Soil Day** is celebrated every year on **December 5** to raise awareness of the importance of soil quality for human well-being, food security and ecosystems. World Soil Day 2021 (#WorldSoilDay) and its campaign "**Halt soil salinization, boost soil productivity**".
- **International Volunteer Day (IVD)**, also called **International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development** is observed on **5 December** every year. International Volunteer Day Theme 2021: "**Volunteer now for our common future**".
- **International Civil Aviation Day** is celebrated every year on **December 7** to recognize the importance of aviation to the social and economic development of the world. The Council has decided that from now until 2023, the theme will be: "**Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development**".
- **National armed forces day** is also known as the **National flag day of India**. The day is every year celebrated and observed on **7th December**.
- The **International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime** is observed annually on **December 9**.
- **International Anti-Corruption Day** is observed annually on **9 December** to raise public awareness for anti-corruption. The day is observed since the passage of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption on **31 October 2003**. The theme of International Anti-Corruption Day 2021: "**Your right, your role: say no to corruption**".
- The **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Charter Day** is observed annually on **8th December** to commemorate the adoption of the **SAARC Charter**. This year marks the **37th** anniversary of the regional group. The charter was signed by the Leaders of SAARC Countries Heads of State or Government of **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka** at the First SAARC Summit held in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**.
- **Human Rights Day** is celebrated on **10 December** annually across the world. This Day came into existence on December 10, 1948, when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations. The theme for Human Rights Day 2021 is "**EQUALITY - Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights**."
- **International Mountain Day** is observed globally on **December 11** every year. The theme of this year's International Mountain Day (IMD) on 11 December will be **sustainable mountain tourism**.
- **International Universal Health Coverage Day** is a United Nations' recognized international day celebrated every year on **December 12**. This year theme of International Universal Health Coverage Day is "**Leave No One's Health Behind: Invest in health systems for all**."

- **International Day of Neutrality** is a United Nations recognized day held on **December 12** each year to raise public awareness of the value of neutrality in international relations. It was officially declared by a UN General Assembly resolution adopted in February 2017 and first observed on December 12, 2017.
- Every year, **UNICEF Day** is observed on **December 11** to raise awareness about saving children's lives by defending and helping them to fulfil their wishes. The theme for this year is **to help children recover from interruptions and learning losses experienced through pandemics in the last two years**.
- Every year on the **14th of December**, **National Energy Conservation day** is celebrated in India. This occasion has been celebrated since **1991** when is led by the **Ministry of power**. This day is celebrated to raise awareness regarding the conservation of energy as it is the best way to have a greener and brighter future.
- In India, **Vijay Diwas (also called Victory Day)** is celebrated every year on **December 16**. The country is celebrating the **50th** Vijay Diwas in **2021**. The Indo-Pakistan war of **1971** which began on **December 3** lasted for 13 days and officially ended on December 16, after which Pakistan surrendered to India.
- **International Tea Day** is observed every year on **December 15** in countries like **Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Uganda, India, and Tanzania**.
- The **International Migrants Day** is observed globally on **18 December** every year. The day is marked by the United Nations, through the UN-related agency **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**. The theme of International Migrants Day 2021 is **Harnessing the potential of human mobility**.
- Every year, **December 18** is observed as the **Minorities Rights Day** to uphold the right to freedom and equal opportunities for the ethnic minorities in India and create awareness about the respect and dignity of the minorities.
- **World Arabic Language Day** is observed globally on **18th December** every year. The Arabic language is one of the pillars of the cultural diversity of mankind. The theme of this year's World Arabic Language Day is **"The Arabic Language and Civilizational Communication"**.
- **International Human Solidarity Day** is observed globally on **20 December** every year to celebrate unity in diversity and raise awareness about the importance of solidarity. According to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, solidarity is among the fundamental values that are essential to international relations.
- Union Minister **Dr. Jitendra Singh** has inaugurated the **Good Governance Week** campaign themed **"Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur"** aimed at showcasing and replicating the best governance practices to the grassroots level. Good Governance Week is being celebrated on **20-25 December** as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration.
- **Kisan Diwas or National Farmers' Day** is celebrated across the nation on **December 23** to commemorate the birth anniversary of the fifth Prime Minister of India, **Chaudhary Charan Singh**. He brought farmer-friendly policies and worked towards the welfare of the farmers. He was the fifth Prime Minister of India and served the country as Prime Minister from 28 July 1979 to 14 January 1980.
- **National Consumer Rights Day** is observed every year on **December 24**. On this day in 1986, the Consumer Protection Act 1986 received Presidential assent and thus came into force. The Act aims to provide consumers with effective safeguards against different types of exploitation, such as defective goods, deficiency in services and unfair trade practices.
- India observes the **National Mathematics Day** every year on **22 December** since 2012. The day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mathematician **Srinivasa Ramanujan**. This year nation celebrates his **134th** birth anniversary of Ramanujan. The main objective behind the celebration of National Mathematics Day is to make people aware of the development of mathematics and its importance in the growth of humanity.
- In India, **Good Governance Day (Sushasan Divas)** is observed annually on **25th December**. In this day nation celebrates the birth anniversary of **Bharat Ratna** and former-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Good Governance Day was established in **2014** to honour Prime Minister Vajpayee by fostering awareness among the Indian people of accountability in government.
- The United Nations and World Health Organization marked **December 27** as the **International day for Epidemic Preparedness**. Battered by the Covid-19 pandemic, humans have learned about epidemic preparedness the hard way. In a bid to prepare for future outbreaks and sensitise people about epidemics on all levels.

Defence Current Affairs

- The **Border Security Force (BSF)** is celebrating its **57th Raising Day** on **01 December 2021**. BSF was formed on **December 1, 1965** as a unified central agency after the Indo-Pak and India-China wars for ensuring the security of the borders of India and for matters connected therewith.
- **Indian shipbuilder Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)** has achieved a new milestone with the launch of the first large survey vessel for the Indian Navy. Called **Sandhayak**, the vessel is the first in the series of four ships being built under the Survey Vessel Large (SVL) project. It has been built at GRSE.
- The **11th edition** of Exercise **EKUPERIN-21** between **India and Maldives**, held at **Kadhoo Island, Maldives**. Ekuverin means "Friends" in the Dhivehi language. It is an Indo - Aryan language. It is spoken in India, Lakshadweep and Maldives. The exercise enhances synergy and inter-operability between the Armed Forces of both nations in terms of understanding transnational terrorism both on land and at sea, conducting Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Insurgency Operations and sharing best military practices and experiences.
- **PANEX-21** is a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise. It is to be held for the **BIMSTEC countries**. The exercise is to be held among the BIMSTEC countries: **Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand**. The main aim of the exercise is to build regional cooperation in responding to natural disasters. It is to be conducted in Pune from **December 20 to December 22**.
- President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind** has presented the '**President's Standard**' to the **22nd Missile Vessel Squadron** of the **Indian Navy**, which is also known as the **Killer Squadron** at the ceremonial parade held at the **Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, Maharashtra**. To mark this occasion, the postal department has released a special day cover and a commemorative stamp. The year 2021 also marks the 50 years of inception of the Missile Vessel Squadron, also known as Killers.
- **India** successfully test-fired the air version of the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** from the integrated test range of **Chandipur**, off the coast of **Odisha**. The air version of the missile was test-fired from supersonic fighter aircraft **Sukhoi 30 MK-I**. BrahMos is a joint venture between **DRDO (India)** and **NPO Mashinostroyeniya (Russia)** for the development, production, and marketing of the supersonic cruise missile which has been inducted into the Indian Armed Forces. The missile derives its name from the rivers of Brahmaputra in India and Moskva in Russia.
- **India** has signed a contract with **Indo-Russia Rifles Pvt. Ltd.**, a Joint Venture between India and Russia for the indigenous production of over **6 Lakh AK-203 Assault Rifles at Korwa, UP**.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully test-fired **Pinaka Extended Range (Pinaka-ER)**, **Area Denial Munitions (ADM)**, and indigenously developed fuzes. The test was conducted at Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the Odisha coast. A total of 25 enhanced Pinaka rockets were reportedly fired from multi-barrel rocket launchers (MRLs) at several ranges during the test.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated **Swarnim Vijay Parv** commemorating **50 years of India's victory in the 1971 war**. He inaugurates '**Wall of Fame -1971 Indo-Pak War**' at the inaugural ceremony. Swarnim Vijay Parv is an event commemorating the valour & professionalism of the Armed Forces and their contribution to the liberation of Bangladesh in the Indo-Pak 1971 war, at India Gate Lawns in New Delhi on December 12, 2021.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully flight-tested the indigenously designed and developed Helicopter launched (air-launched) **Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) Missile** from the Pokhran range in Rajasthan. For the first time that this was launched from a Russian origin **Mi-35 helicopter gunship**.
- **India** has successfully test-fired a long-range **Supersonic Missile Assisted Torpedo (SMART)** off the **Balasore coast in Odisha**. The weapon system is being developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** for the Indian Navy. The system has been designed to enhance anti-submarine warfare capability far beyond the conventional range of the torpedo.
- Army Chief General **M.M. Naravane** has assumed the charge as the **chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee** that comprises the three service chiefs. The post fell vacant following the death of Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat in the Indian Air Force helicopter crash on December 8. General Naravane has been given the charge, as he is the senior-most among the three service chiefs.
- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has signed a **Rs 2,400 crores** contract with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** for the development and supply of 20 types of systems for 83 LCA (Light Combat Aircraft) **Tejas Mk1A fighter aircraft programme**. The duration of the contract is 5 years i.e., from 2023 to 2028.

- The nuclear-capable ballistic missile 'Agni Prime' was successfully tested off the coast of Odisha by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Recently, DRDO has successful test-firing of the air version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile on December 7 was a "significant milestone" in BrahMos' development.
- On Goa Liberation Day, Indian Navy's indigenous stealth guided-missile destroyer 'Mormugao' went for her maiden sea trials. This second indigenous stealth destroyer of the **Project 15 B (P15B) class**, is planning to be commissioned in **mid-2022**. Mormugao is being built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd as part of Project 15B destroyers and incorporates several indigenous technologies.
- **India** successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the indigenously-developed, surface-to-surface missile 'Pralay' off the Odisha coast. The solid-fuel, battlefield missile developed by the **Defence Research Development Organisation** is based on Prithvi Defence Vehicle from the Indian ballistic missile programme. The missile, launched from the **APJ Abdul Kalam Island**.
- **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has deployed the first squadron of the **S-400 air defence missile system** in the western **Punjab sector** which will take care of aerial threats from **Pakistan and China**. The S-400 air defence system was contracted for by India from Russia in a deal worth around **Rs 35,000 crores** and five squadrons would be provided to India for tackling air threats from up to 400 km.
- **Indian Army** has launched a contemporary messaging application named '**ASIGMA (Army Secure IndiGeneous Messaging Application)**'. It is a new generation web-based application developed entirely in-house by a team of officers of the Corps of Signals of the Army. It works as an alternative to **Army Wide Area Network (AWAN)** messaging application which has been in service for the past 15 years.
- **INS Khukri** (Pennant number 49), the first indigenously built Missile Corvette, was decommissioned after **32 years of service** at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The warship was built by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MSD) and commissioned on 23rd August 1989 and had been part of both the Western and Eastern Fleets.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully conducted a flight test of Indigenously developed **High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) 'Abhyas'** from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur off Odisha coast.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** selected **Paras Defence and Space Technologies** for handing over the technology of **border surveillance systems** as developed by Instruments Research & Development Establishment and DRDO. This technology has been transferred by a licensing agreement for the transfer of technology (ToT) for border surveillance systems entered between the company, Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE) and Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- The **Indian Army** has established the **Quantum Lab at the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE)**, in Military Headquarters Of War (Mhow), **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**. Indian Army's research in the field of Quantum Technology will help in leapfrogging into next-generation communication and transforming the current system of cryptography in Indian Armed Forces to Post Quantum Cryptography (PQC).

Science and Technology

- **Genesys International** has launched its pan India program to make the **Digital Twin of the entire Urban India**. The launch programme was inaugurated by **Amitabh Kant**, CEO, NITI Aayog. The creation of this very accurate 3D data will mean a host of applications would open up in high-definition mapping, which was hitherto not possible, for smart cars, e-commerce, logistics, gaming, utilities planning for next-generation networks in telecom, renewable energy and in disaster management and emergency response.
- Nasa-turned-SpaceX flight surgeon, **Anil Menon** is among the 10 latest trainee astronauts who will join the 2021 class of the American space agency as it plans for the first human missions to the moon in more than 50 years.
- **Microsoft** has launched a **cybersecurity skilling program** with the goal of training over **1 lakh learners by 2022** to address the skills gap and prepare India's workforce for a career in cybersecurity. The program is meant to give students hands-on experience with security, compliance, and identity fundamentals.

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation** has signed an agreement with Chinese smart devices maker **Oppe's Indian arm** to strengthen the research and development of the NavIC messaging service. The messaging service is mainly used for broadcasting safety-of-life alerts in areas with poor or no communication, particularly in the oceans. Oppe India has its manufacturing unit in **Noida** and an R&D centre in **Hyderabad**.
- **NASA's Parker Solar Probe** has entered the **Sun's upper atmosphere** for, first time in history. In 2018, launched the Parker Solar Probe aims to unravel the mysteries of the Sun by travelling closer to it. After three years of launching, Parker has finally arrived in the solar atmosphere. Parker Solar Probe has flown through the Sun's upper atmosphere for the first time in history - the corona. The probe sampled particles and magnetic fields there.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has signed six agreements with four countries for launching **foreign satellites during 2021-2023**. About 132 million Euros would be earned through the launching of these foreign satellites on a commercial basis. The ISRO-Indian space agency, founded in 1969 to develop an independent Indian space program.
- **Scientists** have resumed tagging of **Olive Ridley** sea turtles at **Rushikulya rookery** along the Odisha coast, which would help them identify the migration path and places visited by the marine reptiles after congregation and nesting. The exercise was undertaken in Odisha in January 2021 after a span of about 25 years and 1,556 turtles had been tagged.
- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati** researchers have developed **hybrid pervskite solar or photovoltaic devices** in order to produce electricity from sunlight. These machines are highly efficient and easy to manufacture. According to officials, hybrid pervskite are easily recyclable too.
- **NASA's \$10 billion telescopes James Webb Space Telescope** designed to capture the first glimpse of the universe just shortly after the Big Bang is targeted for blastoff from the **European Space Agency's Kourou, French Guiana**. The revolutionary world's first-of-its-kind space-science observatory of the next decade will capture the earliest galaxies believed to have formed during the early universe's formation.
- **Japan** has launched **Inmarsat-6 F1**, a communication satellite, through a **Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) H-IIA204 rocket** from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center that will enter geostationary orbit, about 22,240 miles (35,790 kilometres) above the earth. It is developed by the London-based company Inmarsat as a part of its next-generation satellite broadband service. The satellite is 12,060-pound (5,470 kilograms) and is the first of two 'I-6' spacecraft.
- Under the **National Blockchain Project**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched blockchain-based digital degrees at the **54th Convocation Ceremony of IIT Kanpur**. Later Prime Minister also inaugurated the completed section of the Kanpur Metro Rail Project and the Bina-Panki Multiproduct Pipeline Project. These digital degrees can be verified globally and are unforgeable.
- The **Texas Children's Hospital (TCH)** and **Baylor College of Medicine (BCM)** announced that Corbevax, a protein subunit Covid vaccine, has received approval from the **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)** to launch it in India. The initial construct and production process of the vaccine antigen was developed at TCH's Centre for Vaccine Development.

Books & Authors

- Vice President of India, **Venkaiah Naidu** on the **72nd anniversary** of the adoption of the 'Constitution of India' released a book titled "**Democracy, Politics and Governance**" in English and '**Loktantr, Rajniti and Dharm**' in Hindi at an event in the Central Hall of Parliament, New Delhi. The book was authored by **Dr A. Surya Prakash**.
- Former Vice Chairman/Founder/Promoter, Ambuja Cements Ltd, **Narotam Sekhsaria** has authored his autobiography titled '**The Ambuja Story: How a Group of Ordinary Men Created an Extraordinary Company**' which is set to be released in December 2021. The book features the story of his rise from a small-time cotton trader to setting up one of the largest cement companies in the country, Ambuja cement, one of India's finest companies.
- A new book that unearths true stories of the 1971 Indo-Pak war, '**1971: Charge of the Gorkhas and Other Stories**, written by **Rachna Bisht Rawat**, was released. The book includes, from the story of the flight lieutenant who went missing after his plane crashed inside Pakistan to the 'last khukri attack' in modern military history.

- The Vice President of India, **M Venkaiah Naidu** launched '**Public Service Ethics- A Quest for Naitik Bharat**' authored by **Prabhat Kumar**, published by IC Centre for Governance, at Upa-Rashtrapati Nivas, New Delhi.
- Vice President (VP) **M. Venkaiah Naidu** launched a book titled '**The Midway Battle: Modi's Roller-coaster Second Term**' authored by **Gautam Chintamani** and published by Bloomsbury India at Upa-Rashtrapati Nivas, New Delhi. The book mentioned the political scenario of India. It marks the second tenure of the current Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
- An autobiography titled '**At Home In The Universe**' by **Bala Krishna Madhur** was released by **R.C. Sinha**, IAS (Rtd), advisor to the Ministry of Road Development in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The book is the autobiography of B K Madhur, a former Chief Executive Officer at DHFL Property Services Ltd, and one of the key personalities in establishing Dewan Housing.
- **Mriduala Ramesh**, the founder of Sundaram Climate Institute, which works on water and waste solutions and the angel investor in cleantech start-ups, has authored a new book titled "**Watershed: How We Destroyed India's Water And How We Can Save It**".
- Former union minister and Lok Sabha Member of Parliament **Dr. Shashi Tharoor's** 23rd book titled '**Pride, Prejudice and Punditry**' was launched in Hyderabad, Telangana. There are ten sections in this book, each devoted to a particular topic such as modern Indian history, Indian Politics, etc. He has won '**Sahitya Akademi Award**' for 2019, awarded to his book – '**An Era of Darkness**'.
- Vice President of India, **M Venkaiah Naidu** has released the book titled '**Raj Kapoor: The Master At Work**' authored by **Rahul Rawail**. The book launch event was held at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi, coinciding with Raj Kapoor's 97th birth anniversary. The vice president described the book as a "labour of love and dedication".
- The book titled '**Rewinding of First 25 years of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**' authored by **S S Oberoi**, the former adviser at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) was launched by **Ajay Prakash Sawhney**, Secretary of MeitY.
- Vice President of India **M Venkaiah Naidu** has released the Telugu book titled '**Gandhi Topi Governor**' by **Padma Awardee Dr Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad**, Chairman, Official Language Commission, Andhra Pradesh. The book chronicles the life of Barrister Idpuganti Raghavendra Rao. I R Rao was a prominent freedom fighter, Legislator and the Governor of the Central Provinces in the British Administration.
- The book titled "**The Monk Who Transformed Uttar Pradesh: How Yogi Adityanath Changed UP Waala Bhaiya**" abuse to a **Badge of Honour**", authored by **Shantanu Gupta**. A new book chronicles how Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath transformed the state in various aspects like law and order, connectivity, education, health infrastructure, and overall growth.
- A book titled "**India's Ancient Legacy of Wellness**" authored by **Dr Rekha Chaudhari** was launched in the presence of the Governor of Maharashtra, **Bhagat Singh Koshiyari**. It was launched on the occasion of the World Digital Day (WDD) celebration. The book highlights how important it is for human beings to be close to nature which helps to revive and recharge to do productive work.
- **Tusshar Kapoor** has written his first book titled '**Bachelor Dad**'. The actor became a single father to son **Lakshya Kapoor** via surrogacy in 2016. He has shared his journey of being a single father in the new book. The actor has shared his journey of the 'slightly unconventional road to fatherhood' in his debut book, **Bachelor Dad**. On the cover of the book, he can be seen carrying his son.
- Vice-President of India **M Venkaiah Naidu** has released the book titled "**The Turnover Wizard - Saviour Of Thousands**", an autobiography of **Arup Roy Choudhury**, the former Chairman and Managing Director of NTPC Limited and NBCC (India) Limited.
- A new book by former Indian Army Chief of Staff Gen. **Nirmal Chander Vij (ret)** claims to offer a "full picture" of the conflicts in Jammu and Kashmir and the way forward. The book published by HarperCollins India, the book of General Vij, The riddle of "**Kashmir: the quest for peace in a troubled land**".
- **Sanju Verma**, an economist and the BJP National Spokesperson, has authored a new book titled "**The Modi Gambit: Decoding Modi 2.0**". The book features the various achievement in the last 2 years of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** 2nd term as PM of India.

- Vice President of India **M Venkaiah Naidu** has launched the book titled '**Dr V L Dutt: Glimpses of a Pioneer's Life Journey**' authored by **Dr V L Indira Dutt**, Chairperson and Managing Director of KCP Group, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The book is based on the life of Late Velagapudi Lakshmana Dutt (V.L. Dutt), the former Chairman of KCP Group.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- The **Indian Railways** is constructing the **tallest pier railway bridge** of the world in **Manipur**. The ambitious project of the Railways in Manipur is part of the Jiribam-Imphal railway line, which ultimately is part of a new broad gauge line being constructed to connect the northeastern state with the rest of the country. Currently, the tallest pier bridge record is held by 139-metre high **Mala-Rijeka viaduct built at Montenegro in Europe**.
- The American publishing company **Merriam-Webster** has chosen the word "**vaccine**" as its **2021 Word of the Year**. Merriam-Webster is America's most trusted online dictionary for English word definitions, meanings, and pronunciation. It has been declaring the word of the year since 2008.
- **Kulgam** district administration and the Department of Tourism, **Jammu & Kashmir** organized the **1st ever Aharbal Festival at Kulgam, J & K** to promote tourism in Kashmir, particularly at the Aharbal waterfall. Aharbal falls, also known as "**Niagara Falls**" of Kashmir, is a hill station in the southwestern part of Kashmir Valley in the **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The low-pressure area in the **Bay of Bengal** is expected to intensify into **Cyclone Jawad** which is likely to reach the north **Andhra Pradesh, south Odisha coasts and Some parts of West Bengal**. The storm, once developed, will be called Jawad (pronounced Jowad), as named by **Saudi Arabia**. After **Yaas** in May and **Gulab** in September, this will be the third cyclone headed towards the east coast this year.
- **Perseverance**, a word that captures the undaunted will of people across the world to never give up, despite the many challenges of the last 12 months, is **Cambridge Dictionary's Word of the Year 2021**. Perseverance has been looked up more than 243,000 times on the website in 2021, the first time it has made a noticeable appearance. NASA's Perseverance Rover made its final descent to Mars on 18 February.

- **India** observes **December 6** as **Mahaparinirvan Divas** every year to mark the death anniversary of **Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar**, who fought for the economic and social empowerment of Dalits in the country. He was popularly known as Babasaheb Ambedkar passed away on **December 6, 1956**. The Union government has decided to celebrate Mahaparinirvan Divas as part of the major commemoration of '**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**'.
- **Ken-Betwa inter-linking of rivers project** has been approved by the Union Cabinet, which is chaired by Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**. At 2020-21 price levels, the overall cost of the Ken-Betwa link project has been estimated at **Rs. 44,605 crore**. The Union Cabinet has approved central support for the project in the amount of Rs. 39,317 crore, which includes a grant of Rs. 36,290 crore and a loan of Rs. 3,027 crore.
- **National Commission for Women (NCW)** has launched a pan-India capacity building programme, '**She is a Changemaker**' for women representatives at all levels, gram panchayats to parliament members and political workers including office bearers of National/State political parties. The programme was launched by Ms Rekha Sharma, Chairperson of the National Commission for Women. To improve leadership skills of grassroots women political leaders.
- The **Geographical Indications Registry (GIR)** under the **Central Ministry of Commerce** has accepted the petition to rename **Bihar Makhana** as **Mithila Makhana** and has also suggested further changes to the brand logo to better reflect its origins. It also suggested amendments in the brand logo to highlight its origins and protect the product's Geographical Indications (GI) rights.
- Police Commissioner of Delhi, **Rakesh Asthana** has launched an e-learning platform 'Unnati', under the Delhi Police's flagship scheme '**YUVA**' at the **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** Auditorium, New Delhi. Every year, over 1.5 lakh people are arrested by the Delhi Police for various crimes. More than 85 per cent of them are first-timers and only 10-15 per cent are repeat offenders.
- US-based world's leading fashion brand, **Patagonia**, is now using handcrafted **Khadi Denim fabric** for making **Denim apparels**. Patagonia, through textile major Arvind Mills, has purchased nearly 30,000 meters of Khadi Denim Fabric worth **Rs 1.08 crore** from Gujarat. The purchase of Khadi Denim by Patagonia has created additional 1.80 lakh man-hours, i.e. 27,720 man-days of work for Khadi artisans.

- UNESCO has added **Durga Puja** in Kolkata to its 2021 list of **Intangible Cultural Heritage**, giving international recognition to the biggest religious festival of the 331-year-old city and the state of **West Bengal**. The UNESCO's announcement was welcomed by **Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC)** as chief minister Mamata Banerjee is widely recognized as the biggest patron of the festival.
- Union Cabinet approved a **Rs 76,000-crore** production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for boosting **semiconductor** and display manufacturing in India. With this, the total amount of production linked incentive (PLI) announced for the electronics sector increase to Rs 2.30 lakh crore.
- Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice **NV Ramana**, and Chief Minister of Telangana **K Chandrasekhar Rao** has inaugurated India's First **International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (IAMC)** at Phoenix VK Tower at Nanakramguda, **Hyderabad, Telangana**. Those who empanel the centre include internationally acclaimed arbitrators and mediators from countries such as **Singapore and the UK**.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated the reconstructed **Ramna Kali temple in Ramna**, a part of the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka where the landmark **Suhrawardy Udyan** is located. The temple was destroyed by Pakistani forces during their Operation Searchlight in March 1971, the brutal crackdown that led to the genocide & the Bangladesh War of Liberation.
- Union Minister **Rajeev Chandrashekhar** has inaugurated the **MedTech Centre of Entrepreneurship** established at **Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI) in Lucknow**. The center will boost cross-disciplinary application development like medical plus technology in the state. Dr Saurabh Srivastava, former chairman of NASSCOM, the chief mentor of MedTech CoE..
- **Zee Entertainment's** board of directors approved the merger between **Sony Pictures Networks India and Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL)**, according to a regulatory filing by the media company to the stock. Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI) will hold a majority stake of 50.86 percent stake in the merged entity.
- **Russia** has launched its first in the series **Project 22220 versatile** nuclear-powered icebreaker known as '**Sibir**'. This icebreaker will support the growing fleet of icebreakers to keep the Northern Sea Route open for year-round shipping through the **Arctic** and enable a wider presence of **India in the arctic region**.

Obituaries

- Veteran composer and lyricist, **Stephen Joshua Sondheim** has passed away at the age of 91 in Connecticut, United States (US). He received 8 Tony Awards, a Special Tony Award 2008 for lifetime achievement in the theatre. He also received a **Pulitzer Prize ('Sunday in the Park')**, and an Academy Award for the song '**Sooner or Later**'. Also won several awards like eight Grammy Awards, Presidential Medal of Freedom 2015, etc.
- The renowned National Award-winning choreographer and actor, **Shiva Shankar Master** passed away in Hyderabad, Telangana. He was born on 7 December 1948 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He was an Indian dance choreographer, worked in South Indian movies. He received the **National Award** for 'Best Choreographer' for the movie '**Magadheera**'.
- The renowned Telugu film lyricist and Padma Shri awardee, '**Sirivennela**' **Chembolu Seetharama Sastry** passed away at the age of 66 years. He was born on **May 20th, 1955** in Anakapalle village in Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh. He launched his first song in the film, 'Janani Janmabhoomi' directed by K Viswanath.
- Renowned scholar and national professor of Bangladesh Professor, **Rafiqul Islam** passed away. Prof. Rafiqul Islam was one of the greatest scholars on the national poet of **Bangladesh Kazi Nazrul Islam**.
- **Former Governor** of Tamil Nadu and former Chief Minister of the unified State of Andhra Pradesh, **Konijeti Rosaiah** (89-years) passed away. He had served as MLA, MLC, Lok Sabha members. He held several key portfolios including finance, transport, energy in the cabinets headed by Kotla Vijayabhaskara Reddy, Channa Reddy, and YS Rajasekhara Reddy.



- Veteran journalist **Vinod Dua** passed away recently. He was one of the pioneers in Hindi broadcast journalism, worked with **Doordarshan** to present the youth programme Yuva Manch in the mid-'70s and later with several other television news channels. He was an integral part of NDTV's journey as well. His much-loved food show '**Zaika India Ka**' saw him crisscrossing the whole country just for the best taste.
- Padma Bhushan **Dr Mamballaikalathil Sarada Menon**, India's 1st woman Psychiatrist and the longest-serving head of the Institute of Mental Health has passed away. She was born in a Malayali family in Mangaluru, Karnataka. She was honoured with **Padma Bhushan in 1992 for social works**.
- World's oldest Test Cricketer, former English legend, **Eileen Ash** passed away at the age of **110**. The right-arm seamer made her debut to the national side in **1937 against Australia** and in a career spanning till 1949, she took 10 wickets in the seven matches she played.
- **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat** has passed away in a helicopter crash near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu. He was among the 14 people who were on board, including his wife and staff members. Thirteen people have succumbed to the crash, including CDS Rawat, **Madhulika Rawat** and 11 others. An **IAF Mi 17 V5 helicopter** with a crew of 4 members carrying the CDS and 9 other passengers met with a tragic accident. Wing Commander **Prithvi Singh Chauhan** was the pilot of the Mi-17V5.
- **Padma Shri awardee** who is a well-known teacher from Odisha, **Nanda Kishore Prusty (Nanda Sir)**, passed away. On 9th November 2021, he was conferred with the **Padma Shri award** for his contributions in the **field of education**.
- Serum Institute of India's Executive Director **Dr Suresh Jadhav** has passed away. He played an important role in the development of the **Covishield vaccine**.
- American gothic-fiction writer **Anne Rice**, best known for **The Vampire Chronicles** novel series, passed away. Anne Rice's debut novel, published in 1976, Interview with the Vampire revolves around a vampire named Louis de Pointe du Lac, who narrates the story of his life to a reporter. Her other works: **Pandora, Violin, Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt, The Witching Hour** etc.
- Group Captain **Varun Singh**, who was rescued after the helicopter crash that killed Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and 12 others, has passed away. He was being treated for severe burns at a Bengaluru military hospital after he was moved from Wellington in Tamil Nadu's Coonoor. His condition in the last few days continued to be "critical but stable".
- A veteran leader of the Indian National Congress (INC) and the former Union Minister of Textiles, **RL Jalappa** has passed away. RL Jalappa was founder and Chairman of **Devaraj Urs Medical College** in Kolar and RL Jalappa Institute of Technology, Doddaballapur. In 1979 he quit Congress to form the **Karnataka Kranti Ranga** with former Chief Minister D Devaraj Urs and he again joined congress in 1998.
- Former Supreme Court judge, Justice **Girish Thakorlal Nanavati** who headed two inquiry commissions formed to probe into the **2002 Godhra Riots & 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots**, passed away. Justice Girish Thakorlal Nanavati was 86. He was elevated as the Judge of the Supreme Court of India with effect in March 1995 and he retired as an SC Judge in February 2000.
- Pritzker Prize-Winning British-Italian Architect, **Richard Rogers** has passed away at his residence in London, United Kingdom. He received the **Pritzker Prize**, known as the Nobel Prize of Architecture, in **2007**.
- Legendary Malayalam filmmaker **KS Sethumadhavan** has passed away at the age of 90 years. He directed over 60 movies in five languages including Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi during his career.
- **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and veteran of South Africa's struggle against white minority rule, has died aged 90. He was awarded **Nobel Peace Prize in 1984** for his non-violent opposition to apartheid.
- Former England captain, **Ray Illingworth** has passed away. He played 61 Tests for England between 1958 and 1973 and captained the country 31 times, winning 12 matches and an Ashes series in Australia in 1970.
- **Mark Taylor**, artist and toy designer for the **He-Man** and the Masters of the Universe franchise as well as the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, passed away. Taylor began his career with Mattel in 1976 as a packaging designer.

- Veteran Greek politician **Karolos Papoulias**, who served as president at the height of the economic crisis of the 2010s, died. Papoulias, a longtime socialist lawmaker and minister, was close to Andreas Papandreou, the founder of the **Socialist PASOK party**. He served two terms between 2005 and 2015.
- **E.O. Wilson**, the former **Harvard University biologist and Pulitzer Prize winner** whose study of ants and human behaviour made him one of the world's most influential scientists and prompted his calls for action to protect millions of species on the planet, has passed away. He was 92. To protect Earth earned him the nickname "**Darwin's natural heir**".
- Seven-time Rajya Sabha MP from the **Janata Dal (United) & industrialist, Mahendra Prasad** passed away. He was a seven-term Rajya Sabha MP from Bihar and was also elected to the Lok Sabha once. He was first elected to the Lok Sabha on a Congress ticket in 1980.

Static Takeaways

- All India Radio Founded: 1936;
- All India Radio Headquarters: Sansad Marg, New Delhi;
- International Telecommunication Union Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- International Telecommunication Union Founded: 17 May 1865;
- WHO Established: 7 April 1948;
- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Czech Capital: Prague; Currency: Czech koruna.
- South Korea Capital: Seoul;
- South Korea Currency: South Korean won;
- South Korea President: Moon Jae-in.
- INTERPOL Formed: 1923;
- INTERPOL Headquarters: Lyon, France;
- INTERPOL Member states: 195;
- INTERPOL Motto: connecting police for a safer world.
- Barbados Capital: Bridgetown;
- Barbados Currency: Barbados Dollar.
- Sweden Capital: Stockholm;
- Sweden Currency: Swedish krona.
- International Monetary Fund Formed: 27 December 1945;
- International Monetary Fund Headquarters: Washington D.C., USA;
- International Monetary Fund Member countries: 190;
- State Bank of India Founded: 1 July 1955;
- State Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Founded: 2001;
- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra;
- HSBC India Founded: 1853;
- HSBC India Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- India1 Payments Limited Founded: 2006;
- India1 Payments Limited Headquarters location: Bengaluru.
- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Headquarters: New Delhi, India;
- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Formed: 26 January 1944.
- Twitter formed: 21 March 2006.
- Headquarters of Twitter: San Francisco, California, United States.
- India Tourism Development Corporation Founded: 1 October 1966;
- India Tourism Development Corporation Headquarters: New Delhi.
- NITI Aayog Formed: 1 January 2015;
- NITI Aayog Headquarters: New Delhi;
- NITI Aayog CEO: Amitabh Kant.
- Economist Intelligence Unit Established: 1946;
- Economist Intelligence Unit Headquarters: London, United Kingdom;
- BSF Headquarters: New Delhi.
- United Nations Headquarters: New York, United States;
- United Nations Founded: 24 October 1945.
- Skyroot Aerospace Founded: 12 June 2018;
- Skyroot Aerospace Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana;
- Skyroot Aerospace Co-founder, COO: Naga Bharath Daka.
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950.
- IFFCO Founded: 1967;
- IFFCO Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi;
- OECD Headquarters: Paris, France;
- OECD Founded: 30 September 1961.
- India INX Founded: 2017;
- India INX Headquarters: Gandhinagar, Gujarat;
- Federal Bank Founded: 23 April 1931;
- Federal Bank Headquarters: Aluva, Kerala;
- Federal Bank Tagline: Your Perfect Banking Partner.
- Reliance Capital Ltd Headquarters: Santacruz, Mumbai;
- Reliance Capital Ltd Founded: 5 March 1986.
- International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance Founded: 27 February 1995;

- International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance Stockholm, Sweden;
- World Resources Institute, India Establishment: 2011;
- World Resources Institute, India Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Gambia Capital: Banjul;
- Gambia Currency: Gambian dalasi.
- Germany Capital: Berlin;
- Germany Currency: Euro;
- Myanmar Capital: Naypyitaw;
- Myanmar Currency: Kyat.
- European Union Founded: 1 November 1993;
- European Union Headquarters: Brussels;
- European Union Member states: 27;
- European Union Official languages: 24;
- IDFC FIRST Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- IDFC FIRST Bank Founded: October 2015.
- Punjab National Bank Founded: 1894;
- Punjab National Bank Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Punjab National Bank Tagline: The Name You Can Bank Upon.
- City Union Bank Headquarters: Kumbakonam;
- City Union Bank CEO: Dr. N. Kamakodi;
- City Union Bank Founded: 1904.
- Nagar Urban Co-operative Bank Headquarters: Ahmednagar, Maharashtra;
- Nagar Urban Co-operative Bank Slogan: 'One Family..... One Bank'.
- Paytm Payments Bank Ltd Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- S&P Global Ratings Headquarters: New York, New York, United States;
- S&P Global Ratings Founded: 1860;
- S&P Global Ratings President: John L. Berisford.
- Fitch Ratings Headquarters: New York, United States.
- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikanta Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- NPCI Founded: 2008;
- NPCI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- Shivalik Small Finance Bank Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh;
- OYO Rooms Founded: 2013;
- OYO Rooms CEO: Ritesh Agarwal.
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Founded: 28 December 2004.
- FICCI Founded: 1927;
- FICCI Headquarters: New Delhi;
- FICCI Secretary General: Arun Chawla.
- GRSE Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- DRDO Established: 1958.
- Lowy Institute Headquarters: Sydney, Australia.
- Food and Agriculture Organisation Headquarters: Rome, Italy.
- Food and Agriculture Organisation Founded: 16 October 1945;
- International Union of Soil Sciences Founded: 1924;
- International Union of Soil Sciences Headquarters: Vienna, Austria.
- International Civil Aviation Organization Headquarters: Montreal, Canada.
- International Civil Aviation Organization Founded: 7 December 1944.
- SAARC Chairmanship: Nepal;
- SAARC Secretariat: Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Airtel Founded: 1995;
- Airtel Headquarters: New Delhi, India;
- Federal Bank Establishment: April 23, 1931;
- Federal Bank Headquarters: Aluva, Kerala;
- Federal Bank Tagline: Your Perfect Banking Partner.
- Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States.
- NASA Founded: 1 October 1958.
- SpaceX Founded: 2002.
- SpaceX Headquarters: California, United States of America.
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.
- National Commission for Women Formed: 1992;
- National Commission for Women Headquarters: New Delhi.
- International Solar Alliance Headquarters: Gurugram;



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Solar Alliance Founded: 30 November 2015; • SCO Headquarters: Beijing, China; • SCO Founded: 15 June 2001; • International Maritime Organisation Headquarters: London, United Kingdom; • International Maritime Organisation Founder: United Nations; • International Maritime Organisation Founded: 17 March 1948. • UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi; • UAE Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham; • UAE President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. • China Capital: Beijing; • China Currency: Renminbi; • China President: Xi Jinping. • United Nations Development Programme Founder: 1965; • United Nations Development Programme Headquarters: New York, United States; • IPPB Founded: 2018; • IPPB Headquarters: New Delhi; • IPPB Tag line: Aapka Bank, Aapke Dwaar. • BPCL Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra; • UN Capital Development Fund Founded: 1966; • UN Capital Development Fund Headquarters: New York, United States; • Indian Air Force Establishment: 8 October 1932; • Indian Air Force Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi; • Indian Air Force Motto: Touch the Sky with Glory. • Food and Agriculture Organisation Headquarters: Rome, Italy. • Food and Agriculture Organisation Founded: 16 October 1945. • TVS Motor Company Headquarters: Chennai; • TVS Motor Company Founded: 1978. • Bank Of Baroda Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat, India; • Axis Bank Founded: 3 December 1993; • Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai; • Axis Bank Chairperson: Shri Rakesh Makhija. • LIC Headquarters: Mumbai; • LIC Founded: 1 September 1956. • Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Founded: 2001; • Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra; • Paytm Founded: August 2010; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paytm Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India; • Securities and Exchange Board of India Founded: 12 April 1992. • Securities and Exchange Board of India Headquarters: Mumbai. • Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited Established: 2011; • Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi; • WhatsApp Founded: 2009; • WhatsApp Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, United States; • WhatsApp Acquisition date: 19 February 2014; • WhatsApp Parent organization: Facebook. • UNICEF Headquarters: New York, United States of America; • UNICEF Founded: 11 December 1946. • Software Technology Parks of India Founded: 1991; • Parent organisation Software Technology Parks of India: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. • Karnataka Bank Headquarters: Mangalore; • Karnataka Bank Founded: 18 February 1924. • DBS Bank India Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra; • Bhutan Capital: Thimphu; • Bhutan Prime minister: Lotay Tshering; • Bhutan Currency: Bhutanese ngultrum. • Uttar Pradesh Capital: Lucknow; • Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath; • Uttar Pradesh Governor: Anandiben Patel. • International Boxing Association Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland; • International Boxing Association Founded: 1946. • ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka; • ISRO established: 15 August 1969. • Malta Capital: Valletta; • Malta Currency: Euro. • Austria Capital: Vienna; • Austria Currency: Euro; • Austria President: Alexander Van der Bellen. • Chile Capital: Santiago; • Chile Currency: Peso. • GAIL (India) Limited Founded: August 1984; • GAIL (India) Limited Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi; |
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- United Nations World Food Programme Founded: 1961;
- United Nations World Food Programme Headquarters: Rome, Italy;
- Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd Founded: 2016;
- Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu;
- Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd Tagline: It's Fun Banking.
- Bank of Baroda Tagline: India's International Bank;
- Bank of Baroda Amalgamated Banks: Dena Bank & Vijaya Bank in 2019.
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Established: 2000;
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- Indian Oil Corporation Limited Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Indian Oil Corporation Limited Founded: 30 June 1959.
- Mastercard Founded: 16 December 1966;
- Mastercard Headquarters: New York, United States;
- Wipro Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- Hyundai Motor Company Headquarters: Seoul, South Korea.
- The Indian Newspaper Society Founded: 27 February 1939;
- The Indian Newspaper Society Headquarters location: New Delhi.
- BrahMos Aerospace Limited Founded: 12 February 1998;
- BrahMos Aerospace Limited Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Founded: 1940;
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka;
- SAIL Founded: 19 January 1954;
- SAIL Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Truecaller Established: 1 July 2009;
- Truecaller Headquarters: Stockholm, Sweden.
- World Anti-Doping Agency Headquarters: Montreal, Canada;
- World Anti-Doping Agency Founded: 10 November 1999.
- Central Bank of India Founded: 21 December 1911;
- Central Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- CSB Bank Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala;
- CSB Bank Founded: 26 November 1920, Thrissur.
- Chief of the Army Staff: Manoj Mukund Naravane.
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950.
- Finance Industry Development Council was formed in 2004;
- Finance Industry Development Council is Headquartered in Mumbai.
- International Automobile Federation Headquarters location: Paris, France;
- International Automobile Federation Founded: 20 June 1904.
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency Founded: 1 October 2003;
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency Headquarters: Chōfu, Tokyo, Japan.
- Center for Economic and Business Report Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- NSDL Payments Bank Founded: 1996;
- NSDL Payments Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- South Indian Bank Founded: 29 January 1929;
- South Indian Bank Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala;
- Somalia Capital: Mogadishu;
- Somalia Currency: Somali shilling.
- New Development Bank Headquarter: Shanghai, China;
- New Development Bank Founder: BRICS;
- New Development Bank Founded: 15 July 2014.



States and their Chief Ministers & Governors:

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

Union Territories and their Chief Ministers & Lt. Governors:

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

Heads of various organizations in News in month of December 2021

Sr. No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
1	All India Radio Owner	Prasar Bharati
2	International Telecommunication Union Head Secretary-General	Houlin Zhao
3	WHO Director General	Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
4	INTERPOL President	Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi
5	INTERPOL Secretary-General	Jürgen Stock
6	International Monetary Fund Managing Director	Kristalina Georgieva
7	State Bank of India Chairman	Dinesh Kumar Khara
8	Bajaj Allianz General Insurance CEO & MD	Tapan Singhel
9	HSBC India CEO	Hitendra Dave
10	NITI Aayog Chairperson	Narendra Modi
11	NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson	Rajiv Kumar
12	Economist Intelligence Unit Global Chief Economist, Managing Director	Simon Baptist
13	BSF Director General	Pankaj Kumar Singh
14	United Nations Secretary-general	António Guterres
15	Skyroot Aerospace Co-founder, CEO & CTO	Pawan Kumar Chandana
16	IFFCO MD & CEO	DR. U. S. Awasthi
17	OECD Secretary-General	Mathias Cormann
18	India INX MD & CEO	V. Balasubramaniam
19	Federal Bank MD & CEO	Shyam Srinivasan
20	Reliance Capital Ltd CEO	Jai Anmol Ambani
21	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance Secretary-General	Kevin Casas-Zamora
22	World Resources Institute, India CEO	O P Agarwal
23	Germany President	Frank-Walter Steinmeier
25	European Union President of the European Council	Charles Michel
26	IDFC FIRST Bank CEO	V. Vaidyanathan
27	Punjab National Bank MD & CEO	Atul Kumar Goel
28	Nagar Urban Co-operative Bank Acting CEO	V. Rokde
29	Chairman of Paytm Payments Bank Ltd	Vijay Shekhar Sharma
30	MD and CEO of Paytm Payments Bank Ltd	Satish Kumar Gupta
31	S&P Global Ratings Founder	Henry Varnum Poor
32	Fitch Ratings President	Ian Linnell
33	NPCI MD & CEO	Dilip Asbe
34	Shivalik Small Finance Bank MD & CEO	Suveer Kumar Gupta

Sr. No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
35	Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Founder	Samit Ghosh
36	FICCI President	Harshavardhan Neotia
37	GRSE Chairman & Managing Director	Rear Admiral V K Saxena
38	Chairman DRDO	Dr G Satheesh Reddy
39	Lowy Institute Chairman of the Board	Frank Lowy AC
40	Food and Agriculture Organisation Head	Qu Dongyu
41	International Union of Soil Sciences President	Laura Bertha Reyes Sánchez (Mexico)
42	International Civil Aviation Organization Council President	Salvatore Sciacchitano
43	SAARC Secretary-General	Esala Ruwan Weerakoon
44	Airtel Chairman	Sunil Bharti
45	Airtel MD & CEO	Mittal Gopal Vittal
46	Federal Bank Managing Director & CEO	Shyam Srinivasan
47	NASA administrator	Bill Nelson
48	SpaceX founder & CEO	Elon Musk
49	Microsoft CEO and Chairman	Satya Nadella
50	International Solar Alliance Director-General	Ajay Mathur
51	SCO Secretary-General	Vladimir Norov
52	United Nations Development Programme Administrator	Achim Steiner
53	IPPB MD & CEO	J Venkatramu
54	BPCL Chairman & Managing Director	Arun Kumar Singh
55	UN Capital Development Fund Executive Secretary	Preeti Sinha
56	Indian Air Force Chief of the Air Staff	Vivek Ram Chaudhari
57	Food and Agriculture Organisation Head	Qu Dongyu
58	TVS Motor Company CEO	K. N. Radhakrishnan
59	TVS Motor Company Founder	T. V. Sundram Iyengar
60	Bank Of Baroda Chairman	Hasmukh Adhia
61	Bank Of Baroda MD & CEO	Sanjiv Chadha
62	Axis Bank MD & CEO	Amitabh Chaudhary
63	LIC Chairperson	M R Kumar
64	Bajaj Allianz General Insurance CEO & MD	Tapan Singhel
65	Paytm CEO	Vijay Shekhar Sharma
66	Securities and Exchange Board of India Agency executive	Ajay Tyagi
67	Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited Chairman	Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi
68	Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited Managing Director	Suman Sharma

Sr. No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
69	WhatsApp CEO	Will Cathcart
70	WhatsApp Founders	Jan Koum, Brian Acton
71	Karnataka Bank Ltd Chairman	Pradeep Kumar Panja
72	DBS Bank India MD & CEO	Surojit Shome
73	International Boxing Association President	Umar Kremlyov
74	ISRO Chairman	K.Sivan
75	GAIL (India) Limited CMD	Manoj Jain
76	United Nations World Food Programme Executive Director	David Beasley
77	Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd MD & CEO	Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan
78	ICICI Prudential Life Insurance CEO & MD	Narayanan Srinivasa Kannan
79	Indian Oil Corporation Limited Chairperson	Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
80	Mastercard CEO	Michael Miebach
81	Mastercard Executive Chairman	Ajay Banga
82	Chairman of Wipro Limited	Rishad Premji
83	Wipro MD and CEO	Thierry Delaporte
84	BrahMos Aerospace Limited Founder	A. Sivathanu Pillai
85	Hindustan Aeronautics Limited CMD	R Madhavan
86	SAIL CEO	Soma Mondal
87	Truecaller Chairmen	Bing Gordon
88	World Anti-Doping Agency President	Craig Reedie
89	Central Bank of India MD & CEO	Matam Venkata Rao
90	CSB Bank CEO	C.VR. Rajendran
91	Center for Economic and Business Report (CEBR) Chairman	Martin Piers
92	NSDL Payments Bank MD & CEO	Abhijit Kamalapurkar
93	South Indian Bank MD & CEO	Murali Ramakrishnan
94	New Development Bank President	Marcos Prado Troyjo
95	Drugs Controller General of India	V. G. Somani