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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the MockDrill Test of December 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda

स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF दिसम्बर 2021 माह में Testzone पर MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढ़ना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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National & States Affairs

1. On December 1, the Central government constituted a 3-member committee to review the criteria of 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) in educational institutions and government jobs. The committee is headed by Ajay Bhushan Pandey along with other two members - VK Malhotra & Sanjeev Sanyal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central government constituted a 3-member committee to review the criteria of 10% reservation for EWS
- The committee is headed by – Ajay Bhushan Pandey | Other members – VK Malhotra & Sanjeev Sanyal

2. The ST & SC Development Department of the Odisha government started a project called “Samhati” to address the language issues faced by tribal students in early grades or elementary classes. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI) along with the Academy of Tribal Language and Culture (ATLC), Bhubaneswar are implementing the project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha government – started a project called “Samhati” to address the language issues faced by tribal students
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

3. All India Radio 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. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- All India Radio – to begin a new programme called “AIRNxt” to offer youth a platform to air their voices
- HQs of AIR – New Delhi | DG – N. Venudhar Reddy

4. On December 2, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren launched “Hamar Apan Budget” web portal and a mobile application prepared by the state finance Department for budget suggestion. Through this portal, the general public of the state will be able to share their valuable suggestions for the 2022-23 budget. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand – launched “Hamar Apan Budget” web portal & a mobile app for budget suggestion
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Ramesh Bais

5. On December 3, Kotak Mutual Fund launched India’s first ever Nifty Alpha 50 ETF called “Kotak Nifty Alpha 50 ETF”. It is an open-ended scheme that will track Nifty Alpha 50 index and gives investors an opportunity to invest in a well-diversified portfolio of stocks with high Alphas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak MF – launched India’s first ever ‘Nifty Alpha 50 ETF’
- HQs of Kotak Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & President – Nilesh Shah

6. At COP 21, as part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), India had committed to achieving 40% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil energy sources by 2030. The country has achieved this target in November 2021 itself, announced by the Ministry of new & renewable energy. This brings the total non-fossil based installed energy capacity to 156.83 GW which is 40.1% of the total installed electricity capacity of 390.8 GW. PM Modi at COP26 Climate Conference in Glasgow, pledged India will achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2070. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India achieved 40% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil energy in Nov 2021 (against the target of 2030)
- Total non-fossil based installed energy capacity at present – 156.83 GW

7. On December 2, Minister of State for Communications, Devusinh Chauhan released a commemorative postage stamp on the Mahindra group to mark 75 years of the company. He also urged the group to collaborate with the postal department to improve the delivery of social services in rural areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoS for Communications – released a commemorative postage stamp to mark 75 years of Mahindra Group
- [Ministry of Communications: Ashwini Vaishnaw](#) | [Constituency – Odisha](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Communications: Devusinh Chauhan](#)

8. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) extended the deadline for completing the projects under the “Smart Cities Mission (SCM)” for all 100 participating cities to June 2023 due to the delays caused by COVID-19. The SCM was launched in 2015 and central government has released Rs 27,235 Cr to the select states & UTs for this mission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA extended the deadline to complete the projects under the “Smart Cities Mission (SCM)” – to June 2023
- The SCM was launched in – 2015 | Amount allocated to state/UT for the SCM – Rs 27,235 Cr

9. On December 2, At the “Aadi Mahotsav” - mega National Tribal Festival held in Dilli Hat, New Delhi, Arunachal Pradesh launched India’s first certified organic kiwi from the farms of Ziro Valley. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arunachal Pradesh – launched India’s first certified organic kiwi from the farms of Ziro Valley
- [Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar](#) | [CM – Pema Khandu](#) | [Governor – B. D. Mishra](#)

10. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the implementation of a Police Commissionerate System in the two cities - Bhopal and Indore. Under the police commissionerate system, the powers of both policing and magistracy are concentrated with the commissioner, who is directly accountable to the state government and the state police chief. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – announced the implementation of a “Police Commissionerate System” in the two cities
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal](#) | [CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan](#) | [Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel](#)

11. On December 4, Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh launched the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) and Banadhikar app in Agartala, Tripura. It is a GPS-based mobile application for demarcation of forest ‘patta’ (land rights) for the landless indigenous people under the ‘Forest Rights Act, 2006’. Tripura became the first state in India to introduce the Banadhikar App. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Giriraj Singh – launched “National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS)” & “Banadhikar App” in Tripura
- Tripura – became the first state in India to introduce the “Banadhikar App”
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

12. Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU) conducted “India-ITU Joint Cyberdrill 2021” from 30 November to 3 December 2021. This Cyberdrill is intended for Indian entities especially Critical Network Infrastructure operators. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DoT + ITU = conducted “India-ITU Joint Cyberdrill 2021” for India’s Critical Network Infrastructure operators
- HQs of ITU – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary General – Houlin Zhao

13. On December 4, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth around ₹18,000 Cr in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of 11 development projects including the “Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor” (from Eastern Peripheral Expressway Junction to Dehradun) which will be built at a cost of around ₹8300 Cr. It will also have Asia’s largest wildlife elevated corridor (12 km) for unrestricted wildlife movement. He also inaugurated the 120 MW Vyasi Hydroelectric Project, built over Yamuna river at the cost of over Rs 1,700 Cr, along with a Himalayan Culture Centre in Dehradun. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi – inaugurated & laid the foundation stone for projects worth around ₹18,000 Cr in Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- PM Modi – laid the foundation stone of “Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor” (Cost – ₹8,300 Cr)
- PM Modi – inaugurated the 120 MW Vyasi Hydroelectric Project (built over Yamuna river) (Cost – ₹1,700 Cr)
- PM Modi – inaugurated a Himalayan Culture Centre in Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

14. On December 4, President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated an event for centennial celebrations of Parliament’s Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on the completion of 100 years, in the presence of Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu and PM Narendra Modi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind – inaugurated an event for centennial celebrations of Parliament’s Public Accounts Committee
- Present Chairperson of PAC – Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury | Founded in – 1921

15. On December 5, Himachal Pradesh became the first State to fully vaccinate 100% of its adult population against COVID-19. With this, Himachal Pradesh became the first fully vaccinated State. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – became the first fully vaccinated State by vaccinating 100% of its adult population against COVID-19
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

16. On December 6, Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping & Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated a 50 Bed Integrated Ayush Hospital in Moreh, Manipur and announced major initiatives for the development and promotion of AYUSH industry in Manipur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated a 50 Bed Integrated Ayush Hospital – in Moreh, Manipur
- [Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – La. Ganesan](#)

17. On December 2, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) was working on India's first facial recognition technology-based biometric boarding system called "Digi Yatra" for passengers at Varanasi, Pune, Kolkata and Vijayawada airports. The Digi Yatra initiative seeks to promote paperless and hassle-free air travel. The proposed Digi Yatra central eco-system was planned to go live in March 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Digi Yatra" – India's first facial recognition-based biometric boarding system in Airports | To go live in – March 2022
- AAI was working on the system for passengers at Varanasi, Pune, Kolkata & Vijayawada airports
- [HQs of AAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sanjeev Kumar](#)

18. On December 7, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. He also inaugurated a Fertilizer Plant and a new building of the Regional Medical Research Center of the ICMR in Gorakhpur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) – in Gorakhpur, UP
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

19. On December 6, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched "Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employees Employer Mapping (ASEEM)" portal, which acts as a directory of skilled workforce. ASEEM portal is managed by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the aegis of MSDE. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MSDE – launched "Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employees Employer Mapping (ASEEM)" portal
- ASEEM portal is managed by – NSDC
- [Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Rajeev Chandrasekhar](#)

20. On December 7, NITI Aayog, in partnership with Convergence Energy Service Ltd (CESL) and World Resources Institute, India (WRI India), launched "e-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition" with support from 'Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative' (TUMI). The coalition was launched with the aim to share knowledge and learnings on e-bus adoption in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog + CESL + WRI India = launched "e-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition"
- [HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Rajiv Kumar](#)
- [HQs of CESL – Kolkata, West Bengal | Head – Mahua Acharya \(CESL - a subsidiary of EESL\)](#)
- [HQs of WRI – Washington, D.C., US | President & CEO – Ani Dasgupta](#)



21. On December 5, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) organized a unique event - “Digital Payment Utsav” as part of ‘Azadi Ka Digital Mahotsav’. The event held at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi witnessed the unveiling of the “DIGIDHAN” logo, launch of an awareness campaign called “Digital Payments Sandesh Yatra” with digital payments anthem titled “Chutki Baja ke”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MeitY – organized “Digital Payment Utsav” as part of ‘Azadi Ka Digital Mahotsav’ at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
- Ashwini Vaishnaw – launched “DIGIDHAN” logo & “Digital Payments Sandesh Yatra” campaign
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

22. On December 7, To improve leadership skills of grassroots women political leaders, the National Commission for Women (NCW) launched a pan-India capacity building programme “She is a Changemaker” for women representatives at all levels in Politics. The programme was launched by Ms Rekha Sharma, Chairperson of NCW. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCW – launched a pan-India capacity building programme “She is a Changemaker” for women in Politics
- HQs of NCW – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rekha Sharma | Founded in – 1992

23. On December 7, Microsoft launched a first of its kind ‘Cybersecurity Skilling Program’ to empower India’s workforce for a career in security. This initiative aims to skill 1 lakh learners by 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Microsoft – launched a first of its kind ‘Cybersecurity Skilling Program’ to skill 1 lakh learners in India by 2022
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975
- President of Microsoft India – Anant Maheshwari

24. On December 9, Bharti Airtel launched “Airtel India Startup Innovation Challenge” in partnership with Invest India that will let early-stage technology companies demonstrate differentiated solutions. The challenge invites early-stage Indian startups to demonstrate solutions for 5G, IoT, Cloud Communications, Digital Advertising and Digital Entertainment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti Airtel + Invest India = launched “Airtel India Startup Innovation Challenge”
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | CEO & MD – Gopal Vittal | Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal
- HQs of Invest India – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Deepak Bagla | Established in – 2009 (under ministry of C&I)

25. On December 8, the Union Cabinet approved the extension of the housing scheme for rural areas - “Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G)”, for 3 more years till March 2024. Out of the target of constructing 2.95 Cr houses, 1.65 Cr houses were constructed till November 2021. The extension of the scheme for completing the remaining houses will cost Rs 2.17 lakh Cr, of which the Centre will spend over Rs 1.43 lakh Cr. Besides, the Cabinet also approved the funding and implementation of ‘Ken-Betwa Inter-Linking of Rivers’ project with a total cost of Rs 44,605 Cr. The project has a deadline of 8 years. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) called Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA) will be set up to implement the project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the extension of “Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G)” till March 2024
- Cabinet approved funding & implementation of ‘Ken-Betwa Inter-Linking of Rivers’ project | Outlay – Rs 44,605 Cr

26. On December 8, Delhi's Indian National Airways Market became the first market to be certified as the 'Clean and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Market' by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian National Airways Market ([Delhi](#)) – became the first market to be certified as the 'Clean & Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Market' by FSSAI
- [HQs of FSSAI – New Delhi](#) | [Chairperson – Rita Teatolia](#) | [CEO – Shri Arun Singhal](#)

27. On December 9, Meta, earlier known as Facebook, opened an office at CyberHub in Gurugram, its first stand-alone office in Asia. The office will be open to anyone who is bringing change in the society, be it creators, small business owners, entrepreneurs, artists or community leaders. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Meta – opened an office at CyberHub in Gurugram, Haryana (Meta's first stand-alone office in Asia)
- [HQs of Meta – California, US](#) | [CEO – Mark Zuckerberg](#) | [Founded in – 2004](#)

28. On December 12, Karnataka Department of Youth Empowerment & Sports signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as part of the state-level initiative "Code-Unnati" with the aim of improving access to entrepreneurship and employment opportunities among the youth, including women. As part of this, 50 colleges were identified to work with the faculties and students community. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka + UNDP = an LoU as part of "Code-Unnati" initiative to improve employment opportunities for Youth
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore](#) | [CM – Basavaraj Bommai](#) | [Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot](#)
- [HQs of UNDP – New York, USA](#) | [Administrator – Achim Steiner](#) | [Founded in – 1965](#)

29. On December 10, NITI Aayog will soon set up 1,000 Atal Tinkering Labs, 187 by the end of the current financial year (FY 2021-22), in Jammu & Kashmir. The labs will be built as a part of an initiative to provide children with opportunities to experiment and widen their understanding of scientific phenomena. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog – to set up 1,000 Atal Tinkering Labs in Jammu & Kashmir
- [J & K: Capital – Srinagar](#) | [Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha](#)
- [HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi](#) | [CEO – Amitabh Kant](#) | [Chairperson – Narendra Modi](#) | [VC – Rajiv Kumar](#)

30. On December 9, Educational Testing Services announced the formation of the Business School Advisory Council (BSAC) in India. This newly established council will be the first established in India by ETS to help bolster the support of learners and graduate business education programs in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Educational Testing Services – announced the formation of the Business School Advisory Council (BSAC) in India
- [HQs of ETS – New Jersey, US](#)

31. On December 11, the Tripura government gave its approval for setting up a Buddhist University in Manu Bankul in Sabroom. The university will be set up by Bahujana Hitaya Education Trust. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tripura – gave the approval for setting up a Buddhist University in Manu Bankul in Sabroom
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

32. On December 10, the NITI Aayog launched “Convoke 2021-22”, a national level symposium in partnership with Bharti Foundation. Convoke is a National research Symposium which aims at addressing challenges in imparting education and strengthening its quality with special focus on all teachers, educationists, heads of schools across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog + Bharti Foundation = launched a national level symposium “Convoke 2021-22”
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of Bharti Foundation – New Delhi | CEO – Mamta Saikia

33. On December 10, Apollo TeleHealth (led by Apollo Hospitals group) became the first ever organisation in the world to attain the certification of ISO 13131:2021, presented by the British Standards Institution (BSI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Apollo TeleHealth – became the first ever organisation in the world to attain the certification of ISO from BSI
- HQs of Apollo Hospitals Group – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Founder & Chairman – Prathap C Reddy

34. On December 10, To ensure women safety in cyberspace, the National Commission for Women (NCW) launched an Online Resource Center to offer help for women in distress on issues pertaining to online safety under the “We Think Digital” programme, collaboratively run by the Commission, Facebook and Cyber Peace Foundation. The project was launched as ‘Digital Shakti’ in 2018 with an aim to help women across the nation to raise the awareness level on the digital front. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCW – launched an Online Resource Center to offer help for women in distress on issues pertaining to online safety
- “We Think Digital” programme is collaboratively run by = NCW + Facebook + Cyber Peace Foundation
- HQs of NCW – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rekha Sharma | Founded in – 1992

35. A 300 Cr Memorial Museum (Shahid Smarak) is being built by the Haryana government at Ambala to honour the martyrs of the ‘1857 uprising’. Chandigarh-based architect-designer Renu Khanna was commissioned to build the memorial. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – constructing 300 Cr Memorial Museum (Shahid Smarak) to honour the martyrs of ‘1857 uprising’ at Ambala
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

36. On December 11, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the “Saryu Nahar National Project” in Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh. The Saryu Canal National Project will provide assured water for irrigation to over 14 lakh hectares of land and benefit about 29 lakh farmers. The project has been completed at a cost of over ₹9,800 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi inaugurated the “Saryu Nahar National Project” in Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh | Cost – ₹9,800 Cr
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

37. On December 14, Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana launched an e-learning platform, “Unnati” at the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Auditorium under the Delhi Police’s flagship scheme “YUVA”. The initiative will help educate youths and impart skill training to school dropouts from the weaker sections of society. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi Police – launched e-learning platform “Unnati” to skill school dropouts under its “YUVA” flagship
- [New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal](#) | [Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal](#) | [Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev](#)

38. On December 13, Lokpal Chairperson Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose inaugurated a digital platform for the management of complaints called “LokpalOnline” that can be accessed by all citizens of India and complaints can be filed from anywhere and at any time. LokpalOnline is an end-to-end digital solution for the management of complaints against public servants filed under the Lokpal and ‘Lokayuktas Act, 2013’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pinaki Chandra Ghose – inaugurated a digital platform called “LokpalOnline” for the management of complaints
- [HQs of Lokpal – New Delhi](#) | [Chairperson – Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose](#) (1st Chairman of Lokpal)

39. On December 13, India designated Haiderpur Wetland, which is about 10 km from Bijnor, as the country’s 47th Ramsar site and 2,463rd Ramsar site internationally. Ramsar is a wetland site designated under the Ramsar Convention, an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in 1971 by UNESCO, which came into force in 1975. This wetland is a part of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary located in Uttar Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Haiderpur Wetland” – designated as India’s 47th Ramsar site & 2,463rd Ramsar site internationally
- “Haiderpur Wetland” is located within – Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary ([Uttar Pradesh](#))
- Total Ramsar Sites in India – 47 (as on December 10, 2021)
- [Ramsar Convention or the Convention on Wetlands signed – at Ramsar, Iran \(in 1971\)](#)
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow](#) | [CM – Yogi Adityanath](#) | [Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

40. On December 13, Speaking at the “Drone Mela” (Drone Fair) in Gwalior, Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announced that a “Drone Excellence Centre” will be set up at the Madhav Institute of Technology and Science (MITS), Gwalior. Besides, he stated that 5 schools dedicated to drone technology would be set up in Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior, Jabalpur and Satna. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Drone Excellence Centre” will be set up in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
- 5 Drone Schools will be set up in Madhya Pradesh’s - Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior, Jabalpur & Satna
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal](#) | [CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan](#) | [Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel](#)

41. On December 11, Himachal Pradesh became the second BJP-ruled state after Madhya Pradesh to announce the formation of a commission for the General Category. A massive protest outside the Himachal Pradesh Assembly complex in Dharamshala forced the state government to announce the formation of “Samanya Varg Ayog” in the hill state for redressal of grievances of the upper caste people. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – announced the formation of a commission called “Samanya Varg Ayog” for the General Category
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

42. On December 13, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and the Royal Embassy of Denmark to India announced the 2nd edition of “Water Innovation Challenges” to address the global water woes through innovations as part of the ‘Indo-Danish Bilateral Green Strategic Partnership’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM (NITI Aayog) + Royal Embassy of Denmark to India = announced the 2nd edition of “Water Innovation Challenges”
- Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen

43. On December 12, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) launched a “National Helpline Against Atrocities (NHAA)” to prevent atrocities against people belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). The helpline will be launched to ensure proper implementation of the “Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989”. The helpline will be available round the clock on toll-free number 14566 across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoSJE – launched a “National Helpline Against Atrocities (NHAA)” to prevent atrocities on SCs/STs
- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Virendra Kumar | Constituency – Sagar, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Ramdas Athawale

44. On December 12, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, in partnership with Startup India, launched the 2nd edition of “Animal Husbandry Startup Grand Challenge 2.0” at an event celebrating ‘National Milk Day’ in Anand, Gujarat to commemorate the birth centenary of Dr. Varghese Kurien. The first edition of the startup grand challenge was launched by PM Narendra Modi in September, 2019. For each of the 6 problem areas, a winner will be awarded with Rs 10 Lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dept. of Animal Husbandry & Dairying + Startup India = launched 2nd “Animal Husbandry Startup Grand Challenge”
- First edition was launched by PM Narendra Modi – in September, 2019

45. On December 12, the 3rd edition of the Manohar Parrikar Vigyan Mahostav was held at eight venues in Goa. The science festival, named after the late BJP leader and former chief minister of Goa, Manohar Parrikar. Former ISRO chairperson Professor K. Kasturirangan delivered a lecture on ‘Space - A Promising Endeavour’ at the National Institute of Oceanography in Dona Paula, Goa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3rd edition of the Manohar Parrikar Vigyan Mahostav – held at 8 venues in Goa
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

46. On December 12, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated “Swarnim Vijay Parv” in New Delhi. It 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’. It commemorates 50 years of India’s victory in the 1971 war. Besides, Vijay Diwas is also observed across India and Bangladesh on December 16 to commemorate the same phenomenon. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – inaugurated “Swarnim Vijay Parv” in New Delhi (50 years of India’s victory in ‘Indo-Pak 1971 war’)
- December 16 – Vijay Diwas – observed between India & Bangladesh

47. On December 15, Meta announced to partner with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to provide a curriculum on digital safety, online well-being and augmented reality (AR) for over 1 Cr students and 10 lakh teachers in India over the next 3 years. The first phase of “FB for Education” initiative was launched in June 2020 with an aim to create a safe online environment and learning experience. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Meta + CBSE = to provide a curriculum on digital safety, online well-being & AR for students & teachers in India
- HQs of Meta – California, US | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in – 2004
- HQs of CBSE – New Delhi | Chairman – Manoj Ahuja | Formed in – 1962

48. On December 16, NTPC Ltd awarded project of ‘Standalone Fuel-Cell based Micro-Grid with Hydrogen production using Electrolyser’ at NTPC Simhadri in Andhra Pradesh. This will be India’s first Green Hydrogen based Energy Storage Project and one of world’s largest. NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL) also signed a pact with Ladakh for a Green Hydrogen Mobility project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NTPC Ltd – awarded India’s first Green Hydrogen based Energy Storage Project at NTPC Simhadri in Andhra Pradesh
- NTPC REL + Ladakh = signed a pact for a Green Hydrogen Mobility project
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975

49. On December 13, Better Life Farming Alliance (BLFA) tied up with “JEEViKA”, the Bihar government’s livelihood programme for poverty alleviation. The partnership aims to empower the state’s small and marginal farmers by scaling up its agri-entrepreneurship model. Under this partnership, about 500 Agri Entrepreneur Service Centers will be set up to support 2,500 villages and over 2.5 Lakh farmers across the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BLFA + “JEEViKA” program (Bihar) = tie up for poverty alleviation from small & marginal farmers
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

50. On December 16, India and Vietnam signed a Letter of Intent to collaborate in the field of Digital Media, paving the way for further strengthening the partnership between the two countries. Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Manh Hung signed the document. This year completes 5 years of ‘Comprehensive Strategic Partnership’ between India and Vietnam, and the year 2022 will mark 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Vietnam = signed a Letter of Intent to collaborate in the field of Digital Media
- 2021 marked 5 years of ‘Comprehensive Strategic Partnership’ | 2022 will mark 50 years of ‘Diplomatic Relations’
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Pham Minh Chinh | President – Nguyen Xuan Phuc

51. On December 15, A treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters between India and Poland was approved by the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Treaty aims to enhance effectiveness of both the countries in investigation and prosecution of crime, through cooperation and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved a treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters – between India & Poland
- [Poland – Warsaw – Polish Zloty](#) | [President – Andrzej Sebastian Duda](#)

52. On December 15, the UNESCO added “Congolese Rumba”, the central African music & dance to its Intangible Heritage list of Global Cultural Treasures. The Democratic Republic of Congo and Congo Republic had submitted a joint bid for their rumba to receive heritage status. Besides, ‘Durga Puja’ festival was also inscribed on the UNESCO’s list of ‘Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity’. With the inscription of Durga Puja in Kolkata, India now has 14 intangible cultural heritage elements on the prestigious UNESCO Representative List of ICH of Humanity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNESCO added “Congolese Rumba” - the central African music & dance to its list of Global Cultural Treasures
- India’s ‘Durga Puja’ festival – inscribed on the UNESCO’s list of ‘Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity’ (Total - 14)
- [HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France](#) | [Director-General – Audrey Azoulay](#) | [Founded in – 1945](#)

53. On December 17, India’s first International Arbitration & Mediation Centre (IAMC) was jointly inaugurated by Chief Justice of India, N. V. Ramana, and Telangana Chief Minister, K. Chandrasekhar Rao in Hyderabad. Those who empanel the centre include internationally acclaimed arbitrators and mediators from countries such as Singapore and the UK. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NV Ramana & K. Chandrasekhar Rao – inaugurated India’s 1st Int. Arbitration & Mediation Centre in Hyderabad
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad](#) | [CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao](#) | [Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

54. On December 16, To bridge the gap between skilling and employment, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Generation India Foundation (GIF) launched “Project AMBER” (Accelerated Mission for Better Employment and Retention) in New Delhi. The project is equally funded by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) under the Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) programme, and private philanthropy. The project aims to train 30,000 youth, 50% of whom will be women and the training will be conducted in Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs) across 70 districts in COVID-resilient job roles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSDC + GIF = launched “Project AMBER” in New Delhi to bridge the gap between skilling & employment
- The project is funded by = MSDE (under ‘SANKALP’ programme) + Private Philanthropy
- [HQs of NSDC – New Delhi](#) | [MD & CEO – Manish Kumar](#)
- [HQs of GIF – Gurgaon, Haryana](#) | [CEO – Arunesh Singh](#)

55. On December 18, PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of “Ganga Expressway” in Uttar Pradesh’s Shahjahanpur. Rs 36,200 Cr will be spent on this 594 km long expressway which is the longest highway in Uttar Pradesh & India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone of “Ganga Expressway” in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh
- Length – 594 km | Cost – Rs 36,200 Cr
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

56. On December 16, Nagaland Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio launched the online Inner Line Permit (ILP) module portal. ILP is a tool to protect the indigenous people of Nagaland and is enforced under the “Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nagaland – launched the online Inner Line Permit (ILP) module portal
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)

57. On December 16, the Ministry of AYUSH announced a series of initiatives to strengthen the AYUSH infrastructure in Uttarakhand under the ‘National AYUSH Mission (NAM)’ scheme. In Addition, to ensure access to premier Ayurvedic Education, a “Marma Chikitsa” training center will be built in the Uttarakhand Ayurveda University as the nodal centre for India, which will help students from across the country and world to specialize themselves in Ayurveda. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of AYUSH – announced a series of initiatives to strengthen the AYUSH infrastructure in Uttarakhand
- “Marma Chikitsa” training center will be built in – Uttarakhand Ayurveda University
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

58. On December 18, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a “Centre for Excellence in Land Survey” at the National Institute of Defence Estates Management (NIDEM), as a part of the Capacity Building initiative of the Government of India. It aims to train government officers in drone-based surveys and satellite imagery-based surveys. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – inaugurated a “Centre for Excellence in Land Survey” at NIDEM, New Delhi
- The centre is established by – NIDEM

59. On December 17, the “Malabar Tree Nymph” (*Idea malabarica*), known for its attractive black and white wing pattern and unique flight movement, was declared as Goa’s state butterfly, at the 5th Goa Bird Festival at Chorao. This has made Goa 8th in India to have butterfly as a state emblem species. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Malabar Tree Nymph” (*Idea malabarica*) – declared as the state butterfly of Goa (8th state to declare so)
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

60. On December 21, Nagaland government created 3 new districts in the state, taking the total number of districts to 15. The three new districts are Tseminyu, Niuland and Chumukedima. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nagaland created 3 new districts – Tseminyu, Niuland & Chumukedima (Total number of districts – 15)
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)

61. On December 21, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated “T-Setu”, the State’s longest bridge over Mahanadi in Cuttack district. The 3.4 km long bridge has been built in the shape of English alphabet ‘T’ at a cost of Rs 111 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – inaugurated “T-Setu”, the State’s longest bridge over Mahanadi in Cuttack district
- Cost – Rs 111 Cr | Length – 3.4 km
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

62. On December 21, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) launched their first “AgriTech Challenge cohort” for its ambitious innovative Agri-tech program that aims to help smallholder farmers across Asia and Africa. It was launched in partnership with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and Rabo Foundation under the South-South innovation platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM (NITI Aayog) + UNCDF + BMGF + Rabo Foundation = launched the 1st “Agritech Challenge cohort”
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav)
- HQs of UNCDF – New York, US | Executive Secretary – Preeti Sinha
- Location of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – Washington, US | Location of Rabo Foundation – Netherlands

63. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the GIS-based “Automatic Water Supply System” for citizens of Cantonment Boards under “eChhawani” project on the occasion of ‘Defence Estates Day 2021’. The module for this system was developed by Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo informatics (BISAG). “Defence Estates Day” was celebrated on December 16, 2021 by Director General of Defence Estates, Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – launched GIS-based “Automatic Water Supply System” for citizens of Cantonment Boards
- The module for this system was developed by – BISAG | GIS – Geographic Information System
- December 16 – “Defence Estates Day” – observed by Director General of Defence Estates (Delhi)

64. On December 19, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) plans to set up new Hydro & Solar projects of more than 27,000 MW capacity in 9 states and Nepal. The company is also setting up 2,000 MW Subansiri lower hydroelectric project on the border of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHPC – plans to set up new Hydro & Solar projects of more than 27,000 MW capacity in 9 states & Nepal
- HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Abhay Kumar Singh

65. On December 20, Delhi Cabinet approved setting up of Delhi Teachers’ University. The University will offer a 4-year “Integrated Teacher Education Programme” after Class 12, in which B.A. and B.Ed., B.Sc. and B.Ed. and B.Com. and B.Ed. courses will be incorporated. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi Cabinet approved setting up of “Delhi Teachers’ University”
- The University will offer a 4-year Integrated Teacher Education Programme after Class 12
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

66. On December 18, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated “Rishihood University” at Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi. The university is aimed at preparing leaders in the coming generations for social impact and nation-building. “Decoding the Business Mind” authored by Rishihood co-founder Ajay Gupta, was also released by the Vice President. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. Venkaiah Naidu – inaugurated “Rishihood University” at Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi
- “Decoding the Business Mind” book – authored by Ajay Gupta

67. On December 22, Maharashtra Tourism & Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray launched “Chalo” mobile application and “Chalo Smart Cards” which will facilitate digital, and advance purchase of BEST bus tickets. Chalo app will allow commuters to purchase bus tickets and passes through e-wallet. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – launched “Chalo” mobile app & “Chalo Smart Cards” for convenient Bus travel
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

68. On December 21, Docprime Technologies, a wholly owned subsidiary of PB Fintech, launched “Docprime Health Locker”, India’s first Health Locker integrated with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). The ABDM, an initiative of the Union Health Ministry, was launched in August 2020 to develop an integrated digital health infrastructure. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Docprime Technologies – launched “Docprime Health Locker” - India’s first Health Locker integrated with ‘ABDM’
- HQs of Docprime Technologies – Gurugram, Haryana

69. On December 22, In a move to empower innovators and entrepreneurs across India by removing the language barrier, the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under the NITI Aayog developed a Vernacular Innovation Program (VIP), which will enable innovators and entrepreneurs in India to have access to the innovation ecosystem in 22 scheduled languages. Further, the AIM will launch 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. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM (NITI Aayog) – launched “Vernacular Innovation Program (VIP)” in 22 languages for Innovators & Entrepreneurs
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav)

70. On December 20, Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) awarded a contract to Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd for setting up a 100MW solar project with Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh. It is one of the largest Grid-connected BESS projects in India. The project is supported by the World Bank and SECI’s internal resources and domestic loans. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SECI – awarded a contract to Tata Power Solar to set up 100MW Solar project with BESS at Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh
- The project is supported by = World Bank + SECI
- HQs of SECI – New Delhi | Chairman – Jatindra Nath Swain | MD – Suman Sharma | Founded on – Sep 9, 2011
- HQs of Tata Power Solar Systems – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Ashish Khanna

71. On December 22, Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-backed Akasa Air unveiled airline's brand logo which is "Rising A" as well as airline's tagline which is "It's Your Sky". The 'Rising A' symbol represents the spirit of flying, the aim of height and the pursuit of dreams. The brand's colours are 'Sunrise Orange' and 'Passionate Purple', which reflects Akasa's warm, youthful and respectful nature. The symbol & tagline of Akasa Air were crafted by 26FIVE India Lab. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Akasa Air – unveiled its brand logo "Rising A" & its tagline "It's Your Sky" (crafted by - 26FIVE India Lab)
- HQs of Akasa Air – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Founder – Rakesh Jhunjhunwala

72. On December 23, PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for 27 projects worth ₹2095 Cr in his Varanasi parliamentary constituency. The PM also laid foundation stone for "Banar Dairy Sankul" which is expected to be built at a cost of Rs 475 Cr at Karkhiyaon region in Varanasi. He also distributed rural residential rights record "Gharauni" under the Svamitva scheme of Ministry of Panchayati Raj, to over 20 Lakh residents of Uttar Pradesh. While gifting multiple projects to Varanasi, Narendra Modi also launched a portal and logo dedicated to the Conformity Assessment Scheme (CAS) of milk products developed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) with the help of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone for 27 projects worth ₹2095 Cr in Varanasi, UP
- Narendra Modi – laid foundation stone for "Banar Dairy Sankul" in Varanasi, UP
- Narendra Modi – distributed rural residential rights record "Gharauni" to residents of UP under 'Svamitva scheme'
- Narendra Modi – launched portal & logo dedicated to 'Conformity Assessment Scheme' of milk products
- 'Svamitva scheme' – belongs to Ministry of Panchayati Raj | Launched by PM Modi – in April, 2020
- SVAMITVA – Survey of Villages & Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas

73. On December 22, Karnataka government decided to give 1% reservation to transgenders across all the ranks in the police department. The move will help bring transgenders into the mainstream and remove prejudices against them in society. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – decided to give 1% reservation to transgenders across all the ranks in the police department
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot

74. An internet-based platform called "VIHANGAM" integrated with a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) was inaugurated at Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL). The system enables real-time transmission of aerial video of mining activities from mines to internet platform which can be accessed through 'VIHANGAM' portal by authorized personnel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "VIHANGAM" platform, integrated with Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) – inaugurated at Mahanadi Coalfields
- "VIHANGAM" platform is related to Mining activities
- HQs of MCL – Sambalpur, Odisha | CMD – O. P. Singh (addl. charge)

75. In December 2021, Goa Chief minister Pramod Sawant launched "Pink Force" to prevent crimes against women and children. Goa became the first state to introduce such a force. The pink force will also work for tourists coming to the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goa – became the first state to introduce “Pink Force” to prevent crimes against women & children
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

76. In December 2021, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal laid the foundation stone for a Rs 70 Cr Mega Common Facility Centre for Gem and Jewellery sector, at the Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone (SEEPZ) Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Mumbai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – laid the foundation stone for a Mega Common Facility Centre for Gem & Jewellery sector – in Mumbai
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

77. On December 21, North India’s maiden Centre of Entrepreneurship - “MedTech” was opened in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The centre will provide state-of-the-art facilities to startups in MedTech, support the local economy and generate employment opportunities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- North India’s first Centre of Entrepreneurship - “MedTech” – opened in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

78. On December 24, the SEBI restructured its 3 Advisory Committees pertaining to the secondary market, mutual funds, and corporate bonds & securitisation. SEBI listed Zerodha’s CEO Nithin Kamath among the new inductees in the 17-member Secondary Market Advisory Committee (SMAC). The SMAC will now be chaired by Madhabi Puri Buch. With regard to the Mutual Funds Advisory Committee (MFAC), SEBI inducted Saurabh Jain, Aditya Agarwal and Aarati Krishnan. The 24-member advisory committee on mutual funds will be chaired by Usha Thorat. The SEBI also re-constituted its 23-member Corporate Bonds Securitization Advisory Committee (CoBoSAC) which would be headed by G. Mahalingam. In addition, the SEBI stated that its 5-member Information Systems Security Committee (ISSC) will be headed by Prof H. Krishnamurthy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI restructured its 3 Advisory Committees:
 - Secondary Market Advisory Committee (SMAC) – to be headed by Madhabi Puri Buch
 - Mutual Funds Advisory Committee (MFAC) – to be headed by Usha Thorat
 - Corporate Bonds Securitization Advisory Committee (CoBoSAC) – to be headed by G. Mahalingam
- Nithin Kamath – inducted into SMAC | Saurabh Jain, Aditya Agarwal & Aarati Krishnan – inducted into MFAC
- Information Systems Security Committee (ISSC) – to be headed by H. Krishnamurthy
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

79. On December 22, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin launched a state-of-the-art “CM Dashboard - 360” to spread awareness about the services of the government to the people. It will ensure real-time governance and it is an attempt towards prompt delivery of services and quick decision-making to cope with the emerging situations and cutting-down of delays. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – launched “CM Dashboard - 360” to spread awareness about state government services to the people
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

80. On December 21, PM Narendra Modi transferred ₹1,000 Cr to bank accounts of self-help groups (SHGs) to benefit around 16 lakh women in Uttar Pradesh. The amount was transferred under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM). The mission aims to provide women with necessary skills, incentives and resources. PM Modi also released over ₹20 Cr to more than 1 lakh beneficiaries under the “Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Scheme”. The total remittance is ₹15,000 per beneficiary under this scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi transferred ₹1,000 Cr to bank accounts of SHGs to benefit around 16 lakh women in Uttar Pradesh
- “Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Scheme” – belongs to Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

81. On December 22, EV maker HOP Electric signed an MoU with the Rajasthan government to set up an Electric Vehicle manufacturing plant in Jaipur with a capacity to produce 1.8 lakh vehicles per annum. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HOP Electric + Rajasthan = an MoU to set up an Electric Vehicle manufacturing plant in Jaipur
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra
- HQs of HOP Electric – Jaipur, Rajasthan | CEO – Ketan Mehta

82. On December 24, Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) Nitin Gadkari launched the first “Intelligent Transport System” on Eastern Peripheral Expressway at Dasna, Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh. The ITS can detect any accident and receive alerts to ensure that ambulance reaches the spot within 10-15 minutes. Additionally, the Union minister laid the foundation stone of National Highway projects of 240 Km worth ₹9,119 Cr in Meerut and Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoRTH – launched 1st “Intelligent Transport System” on Eastern Peripheral Expressway at Dasna, Ghaziabad in UP
- Nitin Gadkari – laid the foundation stone of NH projects of 240 Km worth ₹9,119 Cr in Meerut & Muzaffarnagar
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

83. On December 24, the Central government appointed two sub-committees to lower crop insurance premium under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). The first committee is a 10-member committee which is headed by ISRO’s scientist K. R. Manjunath and will explore the feasibility of adoption of various technology-based approaches. The other sub-committee is headed by Saurabh Mishra and will conduct cost benefit analysis of all accepted models. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Govt constituted 2 sub-committees to lower crop insurance premium under ‘PMFBY’
- The first committee is headed by – K. R. Manjunath
- The second committee is headed by – Saurabh Mishra

84. On December 24, Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) targets to install additional 1.6 Cr ‘Smart LED’ streetlights across India by 2024 under its “Streetlight National Programme (SLNP)”. Since the first project in 2014 in Andhra Pradesh’s Vizag, EESL has so far installed 1.2 Cr LED streetlights across the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- EESL – targets to install additional 1.6 Cr ‘Smart LED’ streetlights across India by 2024 under its ‘SLNP’
- EESL’s first project was launched in 2014 – in Vizag, Andhra Pradesh
- HQs of EESL – New Delhi | CEO – Arun Kumar Mishra | Chairman – K. Sreekant

85. On December 24, Punjab Cabinet approved to set up a State General Category Commission for unreserved classes. This Commission will safeguard the interests of the unreserved classes besides effective implementation of various welfare schemes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab Cabinet – approved to set up a State General Category Commission for unreserved classes
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Charanjit Singh Channi | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

86. On December 23, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) announced to deploy 32 women commandos in VIP security details of some leaders & Z-Plus personalities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CRPF – to deploy 32 women commandos in VIP security details of some leaders & Z-Plus personalities
- HQs of CRPF – New Delhi | DG – Kuldiep Singh | Formed – 1939 | Motto – “Service & Loyalty”

87. On December 23, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik distributed a special Covid assistance of Rs 6,000 for every registered newspaper hawker in the state. The assistance has been provided by the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. Along with the COVID-19 assistance, newspaper hawkers have been included in the Unorganized Social Security Board and will be provided the financial cover for accidents and disability due to that. An assistance of Rs 2 lakh will be provided in case of accidental deaths and Rs 1 lakh in case of natural deaths. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – distributed a special Covid assistance of Rs 6,000 for every registered newspaper hawker
- Additionally, financial cover for accidents: Rs 2 lakh in case of accidental deaths & Rs 1 lakh in case of natural deaths
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

88. Following demand from several quarters after the December 4 killing of civilians in Nagaland, a 5-member committee was formed to suggest withdrawal of the “Armed Forces (Special Power) Act, 1958 (AFSPA)” from Nagaland. The panel would submit its report to the government within 45 days. Vivek Joshi, the registrar general and census commissioner of India, will head the 5-member committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 5-member committee is constituted to withdraw “Armed Forces (Special Power) Act, 1958 (AFSPA)” from Nagaland
- The committee will be headed by – Vivek Joshi

89. On December 25, On the eve of “Good Governance Day”, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) announced the launch of an important governance tool for waste management called “Azadi@75 Star Rating Protocol of Garbage Free Cities - Toolkit 2022”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA – launched “Azadi@75 Star Rating Protocol of Garbage Free Cities - Toolkit 2022”
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Kaushal Kishore

90. On December 24, G. Asok Kumar, the Director General of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and Vibha Dhawan, the Director General of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) launched the NMCG-TERI’s “Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Water Reuse” at the TERI Headquarters in New Delhi. The Centre will be headed by Dr. Nupur Bahadur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- G. Asok Kumar + Vibha Dhawan – launched “Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Water Reuse” in New Delhi
- The centre will be headed by – Nupur Bahadur
- NMCG functions under – Ministry of Jal Shakti | DG – G. Asok Kumar
- HQs of TERI – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Vibha Dhawan | Established in – 1974

91. On December 24, Union Agriculture Minister Narendrasingh Tomar inaugurated a 4-day agriculture exhibition named ‘Agrovision’ in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The minister also exhorted farmers (anna-datas) to become urja-datas and grow crops to make ethanol for transport vehicles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendrasingh Tomar – inaugurated a 4-day agriculture exhibition named ‘Agrovision’ in Nagpur, Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

92. On December 28, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel launched a “Health Service Management Centre” (HSMC) for monitoring various national and state-level health schemes. He also unveiled “GERMIS” (Gujarat Epidemic Response Management Information System) portal in Gandhinagar. HSMC aims to monitor the benefits received under various government schemes. While GERMIS, a portal under HSMC, will monitor the daily availability of hospital beds, ventilators, and oxygen beds in the state’s public and private Covid hospitals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel launched:
 - “Health Service Management Centre (HSMC)” – to monitor various national & state-level health schemes
 - “GERMIS” portal – to monitor the daily availability of hospital beds, ventilators & oxygen beds
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

93. On December 26, Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the “Kaushal Rozgar Nigam” portal and announced the setting up of Atal Park and Smriti Kendra in Gurugram. He also launched a magazine “Vyavastha Parivartan Se Susashan” on the occasion of ‘Good Governance Day’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – launched “Kaushal Rozgar Nigam” portal & “Vyavastha Parivartan Se Susashan” magazine
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

94. On December 27, PM Narendra Modi visited Mandi, Himachal Pradesh to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of Hydropower Projects worth over Rs 11,000 Cr. He also inaugurated 111 MW Sawra-Kuddu Hydro Power Project which is built at a cost of around Rs 2080 Cr. The PM laid the foundation stone of the “Luhri Stage 1 Hydro Power Project” in Himachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi inaugurated 111 MW “Sawra-Kuddu Hydro Power Project” in Himachal Pradesh | Cost – Rs 2080 Cr
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of “Luhri Stage 1 Hydro Power Project” in Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

95. On December 28, Oil India Ltd is setting up a 100 kW Green Hydrogen manufacturing plant at its Jorhat oilfield in Assam. The pilot plant will generate green hydrogen using AEM technology. This is a first of its kind project in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Oil India Ltd is setting up a 100 kW Green Hydrogen manufacturing plant – at Jorhat, Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- HQs of OIL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CMD – Sushil Chandra Mishra

96. On December 28, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the completed 9km long section of Kanpur Metro Rail Project in Uttar Pradesh. The section stretches from IIT-Kanpur to Moti Jheel. The entire length of the Metro project is 32km and it is being built at ₹11,000 Cr. While, PM Modi also inaugurated Multiproduct pipeline from Bina Refinery (Madhya Pradesh) to POL Terminal at Panki, Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh). 356 Km long project is built at a cost of Rs1524 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi – inaugurated the completed 9km long section of Kanpur Metro Rail in UP
- ‘Kanpur Metro’ stretches from IIT-Kanpur to Moti Jheel | Total length – 32km | Cost – ₹11,000 Cr
- PM Modi – inaugurated “Bina-Panki Multiproduct Pipeline Project” which connects MP & UP
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

97. On December 28, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin ordered a big hike in Dearness Allowance (DA) from 17% to 31% for government employees, pensioners, teachers and family pensioners with effect from January 1, 2022. It would entail the state incurring an additional expenditure of about ₹8,724 Cr annually. Tamil Nadu government also announced to give a ‘Pongal’ festival gift to government employees & pensioners. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – announced a big hike in D.A. from 17% to 31% for government employees, pensioners & teachers
- Tamil Nadu – announced to give a ‘Pongal’ festival gift to government employees & pensioners
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

98. On December 28, Minister of State for Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Rajeev Chandrasekhar launched a pilot project for upskilling the cane and bamboo artisans of Nagaland under “Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)”, component of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). The project targets to upskill over 4,000 craftsmen and artisans. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajeev Chandrasekhar – launched a pilot project for upskilling the cane & bamboo artisans of Nagaland under 'RPL'
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)

99. On December 30, Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launched an online service for the verification of identity and submission of life certificates for pensioners of the state government. Odisha is the first state in India to implement such a digital service for pensioners. Under the Digital Life Certificate system, identification and life certificates can now be submitted by the pensioners using AI-based video-verification processes. He also launched E-Diary, under which all information contained in the government diary can be readily and conveniently accessed by citizens. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – the first state in India to launch AI-based 'Digital Life Certificate System' for pensioners
- Odisha – launched "E-Diary"
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

100. On December 30, Days after forming a committee to review the Armed Forces Special Power Act (AFSPA) in Nagaland, the Ministry of Home Affairs extended it in the entire state till June 30, 2022, declaring the entire state as 'Disturbed Area'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Home Affairs – declared the entire Nagaland as a 'disturbed area' for further 6 months till June 30, 2022
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)

101. On December 29, Sikkim Governor Ganga Prasad inaugurated "Narendra Modi Marg". It is constructed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO). It is the second road linking Tsomgo lake and Nathula border pass with Gangtok and it spans around 19.51 km. The older route is called Jawaharlal Nehru Road. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sikkim Governor Ganga Prasad inaugurated "Narendra Modi Marg" | Constructed by BRO | Length – 19.51 km
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad

102. On December 28, the US-based chipset company Intel is planning to set up its semiconductor manufacturing unit in India. The Union Cabinet approved a ₹76,000 Cr policy boost for semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem in India. A Design Linked Incentive (DLI) scheme will offer incentive of up to 50% of eligible expenditure and product deployment linked incentive of 6-4% on net sales for 5 years. 'India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)', launched by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), is a specialized and independent Business Division within the Digital India Corporation that aims to build a vibrant semiconductor and display ecosystem to enable India's emergence as a global hub for electronics manufacturing and design [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Intel is planning to set up its Semiconductor Manufacturing Unit in India
- Union Cabinet approved a ₹76,000 Cr policy boost for Semiconductor & Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India
- India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) – launched by Ashwini Vaishnaw (MeitY)
- HQs of Intel – California, USA | CEO – Patrick P. Gelsinger | Founded on – July 18, 1968

103. On December 30, Tamil Nadu released its “Tamil Nadu State New Policy for Women 2021”. The policy would be implemented over 5 years. As per the draft, all forms of transport must be made women-friendly. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu released its “New Policy for Women 2021”
- **Tamil Nadu:** Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

104. First Phase of commercial 5G services will be rolled out in 13 cities in India, including the metropolises, in 2022. These cities are Delhi, Gurugram, Mumbai, Pune, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Jamnagar. 5G trials are being carried out by Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, and Vodafone Idea in the 700 MHz, 3.5 GHz and 26 GHz bands. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- First Phase of commercial 5G services will be rolled out in 13 cities in India in 2022
- 5G trials are being carried out by Bharti Airtel, Jio & Vi in 700 MHz, 3.5 GHz & 26 GHz bands

105. On December 28, originally based in Germany, Translumina, a global developer and manufacturer of innovative cardiovascular medical devices, laid the foundation stone of Asia’s Largest Heart Valve manufacturing facility at Visakhapatnam (Vizag) in Andhra Pradesh. Translumina has a global presence with their headquarters based at India and Germany. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Translumina (Germany) – to set up Asia’s Largest Heart Valve manufacturing facility at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- **Andhra Pradesh:** Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- **CM –** YS Jaganmohan Reddy | **Governor –** Biswabhusan Harichandan

106. On December 28, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated “Surai Ecotourism Zone” and “Kakra Crocodile Trail” at Khatima. Kakra Crocodile Trail is the first crocodile trail in India where tourists will be able to witness the crocodile from close & safely. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Surai Ecotourism Zone” and “Kakra Crocodile Trail” inaugurated at Khatima, Uttarakhand
- **Uttarakhand:** Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

107. As on December 31, the government is planning to draw up an Energy Transition Roadmap for the oil & gas sector that could prove to be a key step on India’s path to Net-Zero Emissions by 2070. Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) set up the Energy Transition Advisory Committee headed by former petroleum secretary Tarun Kapoor. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoPNG – set up the Energy Transition Advisory Committee – headed by Tarun Kapoor
- **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas:** Hardeep Singh Puri | **Constituency –** Uttar Pradesh
- **MoS in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas:** Rameswar Teli

108. On December 31, the SEBI restructured its Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC) that recommends policy measures pertaining to areas like securities market data access and privacy. The panel will now be headed by M. S. Sahoo. This 20-member committee was earlier headed by Madhabi Puri Buch. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI restructured its 20-member Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC) – headed by M. S. Sahoo
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

109. 'As on December 31, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) formed 6 academia-driven Task Forces under the Technology Innovation Group (TIG) on sixth-generation or 6G technology. Group for financing research and development is headed by Ashok Kumar Tiwari, while a task force on International Standards is headed by N. G. Subramaniam. Other task forces and their chairpersons are as given below. Moreover, in November 2021, the government also formed a 22-member innovation group headed by K Rajaraman to create a vision for the 6G roadmap development in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Department of Telecommunications – formed 6 Task Forces under Technology Innovation Group for 6G development
- Task Force for financing Research & Development – headed by Ashok Kumar Tiwari
- Task Force on International Standards – headed by N. G. Subramaniam
- Task Force on Spectrum Policy – headed by Abhay Karandikar
- Task Force on Multi-platform for Next Generation Networks – headed by Bhaskar Ramamurthy
- Task Force on Devices – headed by Kiran Kumar Kuchi
- Task Force on Multi-disciplinary Innovative Solutions – headed by Bharadwaj Amrutur'

110. On December 31, Kerala's Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Supreme Court judge Justice D. Y. Chandrachud (who is also Chairperson of e-committee of the court), and Kerala High Court Chief Justice S. Manikumar inaugurated the paperless court, e-filing modules for High Court and the State judiciary, and e-office in courts, respectively. With this, Kerala HC became India's 1st Paperless High Court. The cases e-filed will be processed, verified and cured through e-mode. Every part of the process can be viewed, processed through the dashboard or virtual box of individual stakeholders. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pinarayi Vijayan + D. Y. Chandrachud + S. Manikumar = inaugurated e-filing, paperless court & e-office projects
- Kerala High Court Chief Justice – S. Manikumar
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

111. On December 31, the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) handed over the first of the 23 battery-powered Electric Boats being constructed for the water metro project under the Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL). The battery-powered water metro boat can carry 100 passengers. For the first time in the world, a centrally controlled integrated water transport system with a large fleet is powered by battery. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cochin Shipyard Ltd – handed over the first Electric Boat to Kochi Metro Rail Ltd for the Water Metro Project
- HQs of Cochin Shipyard – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman & MD – Madhu S. Nair

International Affairs

1. Barbados has now become the world's newest Republic. It officially removed Queen Elizabeth II as the head of state, 396 years after it became a British colony. Dame Sandra Prunella Mason was sworn in as the first President of Barbados. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Barbados – became the world's newest Republic, 396 years after it became a British colony
- Dame Sandra Prunella Mason – sworn in as the first President of Barbados
- Barbados – Bridgetown – Barbados Dollar | PM – Mia Mottley | President – Dame Sandra Prunella Mason

2. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) have agreed to work together to help countries strengthen technical capacities in decommissioning, radioactive waste management and nuclear security. The agreement will be valid until 2025. The JAEA is the fifth IAEA Collaborating Centre in the field of decommissioning. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAEA + JAEA = to work together until 2025 in Decommissioning, Radioactive Waste Management & Nuclear Security
- HQs of IAEA – Vienna, Austria | Director General – Rafael Mariano Grossi | Founded in – 1957
- HQs of JAEA – Ibaraki, Japan | President – Toshio Kodama

3. On December 1, India joined the “G20 Troika” which consists of Indonesia, Italy, and India - the current, previous and next G20 Presidencies, respectively. Indonesia assumed the G20 Presidency from the outgoing Italy. While India will assume the G20 Presidency on 1 December 2022 from Indonesia, and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time in India in 2023. The G20 Leaders' Summit under Indonesia's presidency will be held on October 30-31, 2022 under the overall theme of “Recover Together Recover Stronger”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indonesia – assumed the G20 Presidency from the outgoing Italy
- India – joined the “G20 Troika” which consists of Indonesia, Italy & India
- Theme of “G20 Leaders' Summit 2022” – “Recover Together Recover Stronger” – to held on October 30-31, 2022
- G20 Troika: 2021 – Italy | 2022 – Indonesia | 2023 – India

4. On December 2, the world's first floating city, which will be built off the coast of South Korea, is likely to be completed by 2025. It will be a ‘flood-proof infrastructure’ comprising several human-made islands that all rise with the sea to eliminate flood risks. It is being built at an estimated cost of \$200 million. The project is a joint effort by OCEANIX & the UN Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World's first floating city will be built off the coast of – South Korea (by 2025)
- The project is a joint effort by = OCEANIX + UN-Habitat
- HQs of UN-Habitat – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Maimunah Mohd Sharif
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Moon Jae-in

5. On December 2, South Sudan's Government pledged to end child marriage by 2030 in line with the African Union's campaign to end child marriages in the continent. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- South Sudan – pledged to end child marriage by 2030
- [South Sudan – Juba – South Sudanese Pound](#) | [President – Salva Kiir Mayardit](#)

6. On December 6, British Airways became the first airline to use sustainable aviation fuel produced on a commercial scale in the UK after signing a multi-year agreement with Phillips 66 Limited. Thousands of tonnes of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) will be produced for the first time in the UK. SAF is a lower carbon-intensity fuel that can be produced from renewable feedstocks such as waste vegetable oils, fats and greases. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- British Airways – became the first airline to use Sustainable Aviation Fuel produced on a commercial scale
- Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) will be produced for the first time – in UK
- [UK – London – Pound Sterling](#) | [PM – Boris Johnson](#)

7. On December 7, Switzerland legalised a 'suicide machine' named "Sarco" that allows users to kill themselves relatively painlessly by inducing hypoxia and hypocapnia (the state of inadequate oxygen supply at the tissue level and reduced carbon dioxide in the blood leading to death). This machine is specifically engineered to allow an individual to die quickly with minimal pain in countries where voluntary euthanasia or assisted suicide is legal. The Sarco 'suicide machine' was invented by Dr. Philip Nitschke, dubbed 'Dr Death', and is short for "sarcophagus". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Switzerland – legalised a suicide machine named "Sarco" or "Sarco Suicide Pod"
- [Switzerland – Bern – Swiss Franc](#) | [President – Guy Parmelin](#)

8. On December 6, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the "SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant Assays & Animal Models Study Tracker". SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant was first identified in South Africa's Gauteng province. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WHO – launched the "SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant Assays & Animal Models Study Tracker"
- 'SARS-CoV-2 Omicron' variant was first identified in Gauteng, South Africa
- [HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland](#) | [DG – Tedros Adhanom](#) | [Member Countries – 194](#) | [Founded in – 1948](#)

9. On December 8, India surpassed Brazil in food exports to the 'Arab League', formally the 'League of Arab States' for the first time in 15 years as the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted trade flows in 2020, according to data provided by the Arab-Brazil Chamber of Commerce. Brazil accounted for 8.15% of the total agribusiness products imported by the 22 League members last year, whereas India captured 8.25% of that trade. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – surpassed Brazil in food exports to the 'League of Arab States' for the first time in 15 years
- [HQs of Arab League – Cairo, Egypt](#) | [Secretary-General – Ahmed Aboul Gheit](#)

10. In December 2021, the United Arab Emirates announced to change its existing five-day workweek to a four-and-a-half day starting January 1, 2022. With this, the UAE became the world's first country to make the employee-friendly transition as part of its efforts to improve productivity and work-life balance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UAE – announced to change its existing 5-day workweek to a 4-and-a-half day from January 1, 2022
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

11. On December 7-8, the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) in association with Data Security Council of India (DSCI), as a Knowledge Partner, organized a two-day Practical Seminar on “Securing Cyberspace in the Contemporary Threat Environment” for delegates from Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States. India assumed the Chairmanship of Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of SCO (RATS SCO) from October 28, 2021 for a period of one year. This is the second time, India is hosting such a Seminar. First one was held in Hyderabad, India in August 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A Seminar on “Securing Cyberspace in the Contemporary Threat Environment” for SCO members = by NSCS + DSCI
- India – assumed the Chairmanship of “Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of SCO (RATS SCO)” for 1 year
- HQs of SCO – Beijing, China | SG – Vladimir Norov | Present Member Countries – 8 | 2021 Presidency – Tajikistan

12. On December 10, India’s Permanent Ambassador to United Nations, T. S. Tirumurti announced that the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) granted ‘Observer Status’ to International Solar Alliance (ISA). The ISA was jointly launched by India & France in November 2015, at the 21st session of the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris, France. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNGA granted ‘Observer Status’ to International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- ISA was launched in 2015 at COP21 – by India & France
- HQs of ISA – Gurugram, Haryana | DG – Alok Sahay | Member countries – 101

13. On December 9, Italy’s antitrust watchdog fined Amazon 1.13 billion euros (\$1.28 billion) for alleged abuse of market dominance. Italy’s watchdog claimed that Amazon had leveraged its dominant position in the Italian market for intermediation services on marketplaces to favour the adoption of its own logistics service - Fulfilment by Amazon (FBA) - by sellers active on Amazon. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Italy – fined Amazon 1.13 billion euros (\$1.28 billion) for alleged abuse of market dominance
- Italy – Rome – Euro | PM – Giuseppe Conte
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle, Washington, US | CEO – Andy Jassy | Incorporated in – 1994

14. On December 13, Emirate's Crown Prince, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum announced that Dubai has become the world’s first government to turn 100% paperless. He pointed out that it will save of 1.3 billion Dirham (USD 350 million) and 14-million-man hours. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dubai – became the world’s first government to turn 100% paperless
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

15. On December 9, Chile’s President Sebastian Pinera approved a law allowing same-sex marriage in a ceremony attended by activists for LGBT and broader human rights. Similar laws have also been adopted in several Latin American nations in recent years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chile – approved a law allowing same-sex marriage
- Chile – Santiago – Peso | President – Sebastian Pinera

16. On December 14, Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur (AIBA) renamed itself to “International Boxing Association (IBA)” during the “AIBA Extraordinary Congress 2021”. According to AIBA, included among the amendments were the creation of a new ‘Boxing Independent Integrity Unit’, which is expected to become operational in the course of 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIBA renamed itself to “International Boxing Association (IBA)” during the “AIBA Extraordinary Congress 2021”
- HQs of IBA – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Umar Kremlyov

17. On December 14, India and Uzbekistan decided to promote Interregional Cooperation between the Andijan region of Uzbekistan and the Gujarat state of India. Measures to intensify interregional cooperation were studied when Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov met Indian envoy Manish Prabhat. EXIM Bank allocated \$448 million to finance the implementation of priority projects in Uzbekistan in the areas of infrastructure development and education. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India & Uzbekistan decided to promote Interregional Cooperation between Andijan & Gujarat
- Ambassador of India to Uzbekistan – Manish Prabhat
- EXIM Bank – allocated \$448 million to finance the implementation of priority projects in Uzbekistan
- Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So’m | President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev

18. On December 12, Accenture, Dubai Cares, Microsoft and UNICEF launched a digital education platform called “Passport to Earning” to help address global learning crisis. The platform will provide young people aged 15-24 across the world with free, certified education and skills training. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Accenture + Dubai Cares + Microsoft + UNICEF = launched a digital education platform called “Passport to Earning”
- HQs of Accenture – Dublin, Ireland | CEO – Julie Sweet | MD (in India) – Rekha Menon
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, US | Executive Director – Catherine Russell | Established in – 1946

19. On December 13, the US, China and North Korea agreed in principle on declaring a formal end to the “1950-53 Korean War”. During the war, the US fought alongside South Korea to fend off an invasion by North Korea, which was backed by China. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US + China + North Korea = agreed in principle on declaring a formal end to the “1950-53 Korean War”
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping
- North Korea – Pyongyang – North Korean won | President – Kim Jong-un

20. On December 16, India and Vietnam signed a Letter of Intent to collaborate in the field of Digital Media, paving the way for further strengthening the partnership between the two countries. Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Manh Hung signed the document. This year completes 5 years of 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' between India and Vietnam, and the year 2022 will mark 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Vietnam = signed a Letter of Intent to collaborate in the field of Digital Media
- 2021 marked 5 years of 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' | 2022 will mark 50 years of 'Diplomatic Relations'
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Pham Minh Chinh | President – Nguyen Xuan Phuc

21. On December 15, A treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters between India and Poland was approved by the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Treaty aims to enhance effectiveness of both the countries in investigation and prosecution of crime, through cooperation and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved a treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters – between India & Poland
- Poland – Warsaw – Polish Zloty | President – Andrzej Sebastian Duda

22. On December 15, the UNESCO added "Congolese Rumba", the central African music & dance to its Intangible Heritage list of Global Cultural Treasures. The Democratic Republic of Congo and Congo Republic had submitted a joint bid for their rumba to receive heritage status. Besides, 'Durga Puja' festival was also inscribed on the UNESCO's list of 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity'. With the inscription of Durga Puja in Kolkata, India now has 14 intangible cultural heritage elements on the prestigious UNESCO Representative List of ICH of Humanity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNESCO added "Congolese Rumba" - the central African music & dance to its list of Global Cultural Treasures
- India's 'Durga Puja' festival – inscribed on the UNESCO's list of 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity' (Total - 14)
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945

23. On December 17, India and the US announced a new programme titled "Technology-based Energy Solutions: Innovations for Net Zero" supporting innovations to tackle climate & clean energy challenges. The programme constitutes a call for Ignition Grants by the United States-India Science & Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF), in partnership with Social Alpha. This program aligns with the launch of the "U.S.-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030" partnership agreement signed in April 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + US = announced a new programme titled "Technology-based Energy Solutions: Innovations for Net Zero"
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

24. In December 2021, President Ram Nath Kovind was on a 3-day visit to participate in the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Victory Day in Dhaka where he was the Guest of honour. President Ram Nath Kovind presented a replica of the 1971-era "MIG 21" aircraft to his counterpart from Bangladesh Abdul Hamid to commemorate the joint sacrifices made by the armed forces of India and Bangladesh during the 1971 liberation war. The original aircraft has been installed at the Bangladesh National Museum. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- President Ram Nath Kovind – participated in the celebrations of the 50th Victory Day in Dhaka as Guest of Honour
- Ram Nath Kovind – presented a replica of the 1971-era “MIG 21” aircraft to Abdul Hamid
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

25. On December 25, Russia fined Google with an unprecedented fine of nearly \$100 million, while Meta (formerly Facebook) received a fine of \$27 million for failing to remove banned content. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – fined Google with \$100 million & Meta with \$27 million for failing to remove banned content
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

26. On December 25, Japan introduced the world’s first dual-mode vehicle that can run on roads as well as railway tracks. The DMV can carry upto 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. The vehicle is powered by diesel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan – introduced the world’s first dual-mode vehicle that can run on road & railway track
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida

27. Beginning January 1, 2022, India will chair the Counter-terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council for 1 year. India’s Permanent Representative to the UN, T. S. Tirumurti will Chair the committee. The UNSC renewed the mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) until December 31, 2025. An interim review will be conducted in December 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to chair the Counter-terrorism Committee of the UNSC for 1 year | Committee to be chaired by – T. S. Tirumurti
- HQs of UNSC – New York, US | Presidency in December 2021 – Niger (Nov - Mexico | Jan 2022 - Norway)

28. On December 29, Egypt joined as the 4th new member of the New Development Bank (NDB) that was established by the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South-Africa) in 2015. Bangladesh, UAE & Uruguay joined in September 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Egypt – joined as the 4th new member of NDB (Bangladesh, UAE & Uruguay joined in Sep 2021)
- Total number of members in NDB at present – 9 (5 + 4)
- Egypt – Cairo – Egyptian Pound | President – Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
- BRICS Member Countries: 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | Chairship in 2021 – India

29. On December 30, China’s Shanghai maintained its position as the city with the largest Metro network in the world, with the opening of two driverless lines - Line 14 and Phase-1 of Line 18. With the inauguration of the new Metro lines, the Shanghai subway network will expand largely along 831km. Shanghai’s Metro network is followed by Beijing, which has the second-largest subway network of 780km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shanghai (China) – maintained its position as the city with the largest Metro network in the world (2nd - Beijing)
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

30. In December 2021, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari reached Port of Maputo, Mozambique to deliver 500 tonnes of food aid under Mission Security And Growth for All in the Region (Sagar). The aid was provided to support the efforts of Government of Mozambique to cope with the ongoing drought and concurrent challenges of the pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Kesari (India) – delivered 500 tonnes food aid to Mozambique under mission ‘SAGAR’
- [Mozambique – Maputo – Mozambican Metical](#) | [President – Filipe Nyusi](#)

31. In December 2021, Somalia’s President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed suspended the Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble for suspected corruption. The PM was accused of stealing land owned by the Somali National Army (SNA) and of interfering with a defence ministry investigation. [{Read more}](#)

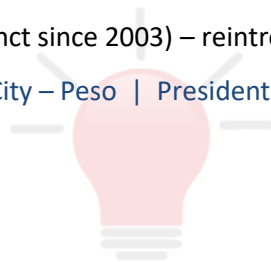
Key Points:

- Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed (Somalia’s President) – suspended Mohamed Hussein Roble (Somalia’s PM)
- [Somalia – Mogadishu – Dollar/Shilling](#) | [President – Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed](#)

32. After being declared extinct in 2003, ‘Tequila Fish’ was reintroduced to its native home - Mexico. Exotic fish and water pollution led to the extinction of the 70mm-long Zoogoneticus tequila in 2003, which is the smallest known species of fish in the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Tequila Fish’ (extinct since 2003) – reintroduced to its native home ‘Mexico’
- [Mexico – Mexico City – Peso](#) | [President – Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador](#)



Smartkeeda
The Question Bank



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

1. The Reserve Bank of India imposed a fine of Rs 1 Cr on Union Bank of India for non-compliance with the certain provisions relating to 'Sale of Stressed Assets by Banks' and 'Fraud - Classification and Reporting by commercial banks and select FIs'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI imposed a fine of Rs 1 Cr on "Union Bank of India" for non-compliance with the certain provisions
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – "Good People to Bank With"

2. India's GDP for the 2nd quarter (Q2) ended on September 30 grew by 8.4% in FY22 compared to 7.4% contraction in Q2FY21, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). Data showed that in Q2 of FY22, agriculture sector grew by 4.5% & manufacturing sector grew by 5.5%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSO (MoSPI): India's GDP grew by 8.4% in Q2FY22 (compared to 7.4% contraction in Q2FY21)
- Agriculture sector grew by 4.5% & manufacturing sector grew by 5.5%
- NSO comes under – Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoS I/C – Rao Inderjit Singh)
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy

3. DBS Bank India introduced an industry-first paperless proposition for the financing of domestic invoices by buyers and sellers. The bank has also executed its first paperless domestic trade financing transaction with Lincon Polymers Pvt. Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DBS Bank India – introduced a paperless proposition for the financing of domestic invoices by buyers & sellers
- DBS Bank India executed its first paperless domestic trade financing transaction with – Lincon Polymers
- HQs of DBS Bank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Surojit Shome
- HQs of DBS Bank – Singapore | CEO – Piyush Gupta

4. On December 1, IDFC FIRST Bank in partnership with Visa launched "FIRST Private Infinite", India's first-ever standalone metal debit card. FIRST Private Infinite is a lifetime free card designed specifically for customers who are part of the Bank's FIRST Private program. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IDFC FIRST Bank + Visa = launched India's first-ever standalone metal debit card named "FIRST Private Infinite"
- HQs of IDFC First Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – V. Vaidyanathan | Established in – 2018
- IDFC Bank + Capital First = IDFC First Bank (merged in 2018)
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly | Founded in – 1958

5. India1 Payments Ltd (formerly BTI Payments Pvt Ltd) crossed the ATM deployment milestone of 10,000 White Label ATMs. ATMs deployed by White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs) reached over 25,000 in number with a strong CAGR of 21% between March 2015 and March 2021. CRISIL Research expects the number of ATMs deployed by WLAs to grow at a compounded annual growth rate of 17% between March 2021 and March 2026, and to reach 55,000 by March 2026. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India1 Payments – crossed the ATM deployment milestone of 10,000 White Label ATMs
- HQs of India1 Payments Ltd – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – K. Srinivas | Founded in – 2006

6. On December 2, Federal Bank launched a feature-rich savings bank product called “Mahila Mitra Plus” for women. The savings scheme provides a curated set of features, designed to make financial planning and investments easy for women. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Federal Bank – launched a feature-rich savings bank product called “Mahila Mitra Plus” for women
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – “Your Perfect Banking Partner”

7. On December 2, State Bank of India (SBI) signed a master agreement with Adani Capital for co-lending to farmers for purchase of tractor and farm implements, to increase efficiency in farm operations and productivity of crops. Adani Capital is an NBFC arm of Adani Group. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI + Adani Capital = a master agreement for co-lending to farmers for purchase of tractor & farm implements
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman
- HQs of Adani Capital – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Gaurav Gupta

8. On December 2, Paytm signed an MoU with the Directorate of General Training (DGT) under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to train 6,000 individuals over a period of 3 years in the rapidly growing fintech industry. The selected individuals will undertake a 6-month programme, designed by Paytm, in consultation with the DGT. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paytm + DGT = an MoU to train 6,000 individuals over a period of 3 years
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010
- DGT – functions under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

9. On December 2, Kotak Mahindra Bank tied up with Worldline to enable EMI payments through its debit cards in India. The minimum purchase value to avail EMIs on the Kotak debit cards facility is ₹5,000, and customers have the flexibility to repay the loan over tenures between 3 months & 12 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank + Worldline = tie up to enable EMI payments through its Debit Cards in India
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let’s make money simple”
- HQs of Worldline – Bezons, France | CEO – Gilles Grapinet

10. State Bank of India (SBI) listed its \$650 million Green Bonds simultaneously on the India International Exchange (India INX) and the Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSE). The lender has raised \$800 million in the Green Bond market so far. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI – listed its \$650 million Green Bonds simultaneously on ‘India INX’ & ‘LuxSE’
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

11. On December 1, World Bank’s lending arm, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) approved a \$135 million loan to West Bengal to improve the operational efficiency and reliability of electricity supply in select pockets in the state. This variable spread loan or floating interest loan will have a maturity of 17 years, including a grace period of 7 years. The project will support the implementation of the Government of India’s “24X7 Power for All” programme in the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IBRD – approved a \$135 million loan to West Bengal to upgrade Rural Power Distribution Network
- Loan maturity period – 17 years | Grace period – 7 years
- IBRD – a lending arm of World Bank
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

12. On December 1, the combined debt-to-GDP ratio of states is expected to remain at 31% by March, 2022 which is worryingly higher than the target of 20% to be achieved by 2022-23, according to the RBI’s annual publication titled “State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2021-22” released under the theme “Coping with the Pandemic: A Third-Tier Dimension”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2021-22” report – released by the RBI
- Combined debt-to-GDP ratio of states is expected to remain at 31% by March, 2022 (higher than the target of 20%)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

13. On December 3, KreditBee partnered with Mswipe to offer fully digital ‘Cardless EMI’ at leading retail stores. Under ‘Cardless EMI’, KreditBee will provide ‘Pay later’ options for purchases of up to ₹1,00,000, which can be converted into EMI ranging from 3 to 12 months. Additionally, KreditBee aims to partner with over 5 lakh retail stores across India by the end of financial year 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KreditBee + Mswipe = to offer fully digital ‘Cardless EMI’ at leading retail stores
- Under Cardless EMI: KreditBee will provide ‘Pay later’ options for purchases of up to ₹1,00,000
- HQs of KreditBee – Bangalore, Karnataka | Co-Founder & CEO – Madhusudan Ekambaram
- HQs of Mswipe Technologies – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Manish Patel

14. On December 1, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched a new savings product “ICICI Pru Guaranteed Income for Tomorrow (Long-term)”. This new non-participating product will provide customers with the option to either receive regular guaranteed tax-free income or income with a 110% return of premium. Both these plan options provide income for up to 30 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance – launched a new savings product “Guaranteed Income for Tomorrow (Long-term)”
- [HQs of ICICI Prudential Life Ins.](#) – Mumbai, MH | [MD & CEO](#) – N. S. Kannan

15. On December 3, Paytm announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary Paytm Money launched Portfolio Management Services (PMS) Marketplace for its HNI (High Networth Individuals) investors. The marketplace was launched in partnership with PMS advisory startup PMS Bazaar. PMS is an investment service offered to HNIs with SEBI mandating a minimum investment of ₹50 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paytm Money + PMS Bazaar = launched **Portfolio Management Services (PMS)** Marketplace for its HNI investors
- PMS – an investment service offered to HNIs with SEBI mandating a minimum investment of – ₹50 lakh
- [HQs of Paytm Money](#) – Bengaluru, Karnataka | [CEO](#) – Varun Sridhar | [Founded in](#) – 2009
- [HQs of PMS Bazaar](#) – Chennai, Tamil Nadu

16. On December 3, Kerala-based ESAF Small Finance Bank Ltd received an honorable mention in the “Global SME Finance Awards 2021” constituted by the US-based SME Finance Forum. ESAF Small Finance Bank received the mention in the ‘Best Bank for Women Entrepreneurs’ category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ESAF SFB – received “Global SME Finance Award 2021” in ‘Best Bank for Women Entrepreneurs’ category
- [HQs of ESAF SFB](#) – Thrissur, kerala | [MD & CEO](#) – K. Paul Thomas | [Chairman](#) – P. R. Ravi Mohan

17. On December 4, To make daily transactions of its customers more secure and easier, R. K. Chhibber, CMD of Jammu & Kashmir Bank launched its revised and refurbished Mobile Banking App - “mPay Delight” for the Public. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J&K Bank – launched its revised & refurbished Mobile Banking App - “mPay Delight” for the Public
- [HQs of J&K Bank](#) – Sri Nagar, J & K | [MD & Chairman](#) – R. K. Chhibber

18. On December 6, Aditya Birla Health Insurance launched “Activ Health Essential”, an affordable health solution plan for the special health needs of senior citizens. The plan offers comprehensive health solutions such as ‘Day 1 Chronic Management Program coverage’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aditya Birla Health Insurance – launched an affordable health solution plan “Activ Health Essential”
- [HQs of ABHICL](#) – Mumbai, MH | [CEO](#) – Mayank Bathwal

19. On December 6, Paytm partnered with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to offer its Paytm Startup Toolkit to startups onboarded on ‘AWS Activate’ program. Paytm will help entrepreneurs operating in India in the AWS Activate program grow their businesses with payment, distribution, and growth solutions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paytm + AWS = partnership to offer its Startup Toolkit to startups onboarded on 'AWS Activate' program
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010
- HQs of AWS – Seattle, Washington, US | CEO – Adam N. Selipsky

20. On December 5, Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched “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. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PNB – launched “PNB Pride-CRMD” module tool - an android-based application for differently-abled employees
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao | Tagline – “The Name You Can Bank Upon”

21. On December 6, Yes Bank, in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), launched a new ‘Yes Prosperity Rewards Plus Credit Card’ variant on RuPay platform for its customers on the indigenously developed payment platform. NPCI has developed the RuPay card payment network. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yes Bank + NPCI = launched a new ‘Yes Prosperity Rewards Plus’ credit card on RuPay platform
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- HQs of RuPay – New Delhi | Launched by NPCI – in 2012 | Tagline – “One Life. One RuPay.”

22. On December 6, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance launched a guaranteed income-cum-life insurance plan named “Bajaj Allianz Life Assured Wealth Goal”. The plan comes with two variants for customers. Key features of Bajaj Allianz Life Assured Wealth Goal Regular plan include guaranteed long-term income, increasing guaranteed income, option to defer and get higher income payout and higher benefit at higher ticket sizes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bajaj Allianz Life – launched a guaranteed income-cum-life insurance plan - “Bajaj Allianz Life Assured Wealth Goal”
- HQs of Bajaj Allianz Life – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Tarun Chugh

23. On December 7, State Bank of India (SBI) chose “Intellect Wealth Qube” - a Digital Wealth Management suite of Intellect Design Arena Limited, for its digital wealth management transformation agenda. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI – chose “Intellect Wealth Qube” - a Digital Wealth Management suite for its digital wealth management
- HQs of Intellect Design Arena – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman – Arun Jain
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

24. On December 7, ICICI Bank partnered with Flipkart to offer an instant and digital overdraft (OD) facility of up to ₹25 lakh to individual sellers and businesses registered on the e-commerce platform. The partnership is enabled by API integration. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank + Flipkart = partnership to offer an instant & digital OD facility of up to ₹25 lakh to individual sellers
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Taglines – “Hum Hain Na!” & “Khayal Apka”
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy

25. On December 7, Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SSFB) partnered with fintech firm Indigold to launch India's first Loan product against digital Gold. This collaboration will enable customers to use their digital gold balance to avail instant and digital loans up to Rs 60,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shivalik SFB + Indigold = partnership to launch India's first Loan product against digital Gold (up to Rs 60,000)
- HQs of SSFB – Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Suveer Kumar Gupta

26. On December 6, the Finance Ministry announced in Parliament that around 2,13,145 ATMs (automated teller machines) were installed across India by the end of September 2021 and over 47.4% of these are in Rural & Semi-Urban areas. In addition to this, 27,837 White Label ATMs (WLA) were also installed by WLA operators up to September 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Finance Ministry: 2,13,145 ATMs were installed across India by the end of September 2021
- 47.4% of 2,13,145 ATMs are in Rural & Semi-Urban areas | 27,837 White Label ATMs (WLA) were also installed
- Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chaudhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad

27. On December 6, the RBI imposed several restrictions on Nagar Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, including a cap of Rs 10,000 on withdrawals for customers in the wake of deterioration of its financial position. The restrictions, imposed through directions under the Banking Regulation Act 1949, shall remain in force for a period of 6 months. Meanwhile, the RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 2 lakh on Pune People's Co-operative Bank Limited, Pune for non-compliance with 'know your customer' norms. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI imposed several restrictions on Nagar Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd (Ahmednagar, Maharashtra)
- Restrictions include cap of Rs 10,000 on withdrawals for customers
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

28. On December 6, PayPhi, Phi Commerce's API-first digital payments platform became the first certified tokenization service for NPCI Tokenization System (NTS) that supports the tokenization of RuPay cards. NPCI's NTS platform enables PayPhi Tokenization service to provide partner merchants and aggregators with Token Reference On File (TROF). TROF is a unique digital identifier aka 'token' which replaces the 16-digit RuPay card number. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PayPhi – became the first certified tokenization service for NPCI Tokenization System (NTS) supporting the tokenization of RuPay cards
- TROF – Token Reference On File | RuPay card consists of 16 digits on it
- HQs of PayPhi – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO & Co Founder – Jose Thattil

29. On December 7, Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) signed an MoU with Liberty General Insurance for selling general insurance products through its 629 branches. They will offer cheap vehicle and health insurance products. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KVGB + Liberty General Insurance = an MoU to offer cheap vehicle & health insurance products
- HQs of KVGB – Dharwad, Karnataka | Chairman – P. Gopi Krishna | Sponsored by – Canara Bank
- HQs of Liberty General Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Roopam Asthana

30. On December 8, City Union Bank (CUB), in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched “RuPay On-the-Go” contactless wearable keychain for its Debit Card customers. This On-the-Go solution allows the customers to carry payment cards on their keychains, making for fast and convenient payments up to ₹5,000 at all Rupay-enabled point of sale devices (PoS) without entering a PIN. For payments above ₹5,000, customers need to tap, followed by entering their PIN. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- City Union Bank + NPCI = launched “RuPay On-the-Go” contactless wearable keychain for its Debit Card customers
- HQs of CUB – Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Dr. N. Kamakodi
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

31. On December 9, Gurugram-based Aviva Life Insurance launched “Aviva Nivesh Bima”, a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings life insurance plan that provides guaranteed moneyback at every fifth policy year, in addition to a lump sum payout at maturity. The minimum annualized premium for the policy is as low as Rs 25,000 and goes up to a maximum of Rs 1 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aviva Life Insurance – launched “Aviva Nivesh Bima” - a non-linked individual savings life insurance plan
- Annualized premium for the policy: minimum – Rs 25,000 | maximum – Rs 1 Cr
- HQs of Aviva Life Insurance – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & CEO – Amit Malik

32. On December 10, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted its approval to the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) to raise stake in IndusInd Bank up to 9.99%. LIC currently holds 4.95% of the total issued and paid up capital of IndusInd. The approval is valid for a period of 1 year i.e. up to December 8, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI granted its approval to the LIC to raise stake in IndusInd Bank to 9.99%
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – “We Make You Feel Richer”

33. On December 10, Federal Bank signed a bancassurance agreement with Star Health & Allied Insurance and joined as a corporate agent to provide a wide range of innovative health insurance products for the Bank’s customers across India. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Federal Bank + Star Health & Allied Insurance = a bancassurance agreement
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – “Your Perfect Banking Partner”
- HQs of Star Health Insurance – Chennai, TN | Chairman & CEO – V. Jagannathan
- Star Health & Allied Insurance – India’s 1st Health Insurance provider

34. On December 9, Bank of Baroda (BoB) signed an MoU with Centrum Housing Finance Ltd (CHFL) for sourcing and financing housing loan borrowers under co-lending model. Bank of Baroda would be able to garner housing loan business to the extent of ₹1,000 Cr in 1 financial year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BoB + Centrum Housing Finance = an MoU for sourcing & financing housing loan borrowers under co-lending model
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha | Tagline – “India’s International Bank”
- HQs of CHFL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Sanjay Shukla

35. On December 9, Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) received Scheduled Bank status from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and was included in the “Second Schedule to the RBI Act, 1934”. With this, PPBL became the 3rd Scheduled Payments Banks in India, after India Post Payments Bank Ltd (IPPBL) and Fino Payments Bank Ltd (FPBL). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paytm Payments Bank – received status of ‘Scheduled Bank’ from the RBI (after IPPBL & FPBL)
- Number of Payments bank in India at present – 6
- HQs of PPBL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Satish Kumar Gupta

36. On December 8, the RBI, in its 5th Bi-monthly monetary policy of FY21-22, enhanced the UPI limit for investing in IPOs and RBI Retail Direct Scheme for G-Secs to Rs 5 lakh from the current limit of Rs 2 lakh. The transaction limit in the UPI system was enhanced from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 lakh in March 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI enhanced the UPI limit for investing in IPOs & RBI Retail Direct Scheme for G-Secs to Rs 5 lakh (from Rs 2 lakh)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

37. On December 10, India’s recovery is projected to be higher than other BRICS nations, as per the 2nd edition of the “BRICS Economic Bulletin 2021” released by the RBI. The BRICS Economic Bulletin 2021 is prepared by the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) Research Group with members from BRICS central banks. This edition addresses the theme of “Navigating the Ongoing Pandemic: The BRICS Experience of Resilience and Recovery”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2nd edition of “BRICS Economic Bulletin 2021” – released by the RBI | Prepared by – BRICS CRA Research Group
- Theme – “Navigating the Ongoing Pandemic: The BRICS Experience of Resilience & Recovery”

38. On December 11, Kotak General Insurance and Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank announced a strategic alliance to provide the bank’s customers access to a range of insurance solutions. Kotak General Insurance is a 100% subsidiary of Kotak Mahindra Bank. Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank Ltd is a scheduled co-operative bank established in the year 1984 and has presence in the suburbs of Mumbai region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak General Insurance + Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank = a strategic alliance to provide insurance products
- Kotak Mahindra Bank holds 100% shareholding in 'Kotak General Insurance'
- HQs of Kotak General Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Suresh Agarwal
- HQs of Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Dilip Sant

39. On December 10, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) partnered with NPCI Bharat BillPay to facilitate cash-based assisted bill payments at customers' doorstep across India through the Bharat BillPay platform for IPPB and non-IPPB customers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IPPB + NPCI Bharat BillPay = to facilitate cash-based assisted bill payments at customers' doorstep across India
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Venkatram Jayanthi | Established on – 1st Sep, 2018

40. On December 13, DBS Bank India was awarded at the "ET BFSI Excellence Awards 2021" for its persistent efforts to drive digital transformation for its customers. The bank won two awards - in 'Innovative API/Open Banking model' category for 'DBS Rapid (Real-time API)' solution and in 'Best Digital Customer Experience initiative' category for 'Intelligent Banking'. 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. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DBS Bank India won two awards at the "ET BFSI Excellence Awards 2021":
 - 'Innovative API/Open Banking model' category for 'DBS Rapid (Real-time API)' solution
 - 'Best Digital Customer Experience initiative' category for 'Intelligent Banking'
- HQs of DBS Bank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Surojit Shome
- HQs of DBS Bank – Singapore | CEO – Piyush Gupta

41. On December 13, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance launched its "#Care4Hockey" campaign to elevate field Hockey's recognition in India. The Company has associated with Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain Rani Rampal who is the face of this campaign. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance – launched "#Care4Hockey" campaign to elevate field Hockey's recognition in India
- HQs of Bajaj Allianz Gen Ins – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Tapan Singhel

42. On December 13, In its report titled "State Focus Paper for 2022-23", the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) projected a 12% increase in Assam's credit potential to Rs 36,292 Cr for the 2022-23 fiscal. Around 52% of the total projected credit potential is estimated for the agriculture and allied activities, and a 36% share for the MSME sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NABARD projected a 12% increase in Assam's credit potential to Rs 36,292 Cr for the 2022-23 fiscal
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Govinda Rajulu Chintala | Founded in – 1982
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

43. On December 13, PM Narendra Modi addressed depositors during a programme titled “Depositors First: Guaranteed Time-bound Deposit Insurance Payment up to ₹5 Lakh” in Delhi. With deposit insurance coverage of ₹5 lakh per depositor per bank, the number of fully protected accounts at the end of the previous financial year constituted 98.1% of the total number of accounts, as against the international benchmark of 80%. In July 2021, the central government had increased the amount that could be accessed by account holders from Rs 1 lakh to 5 lakhs and the time limit of 90 days under the “Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) Act, 1961”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi addressed a programme titled “Depositors First: Guaranteed Time-bound Deposit Insurance Payment up to ₹5 Lakh” in Delhi
- Number of fully protected accounts at the end of the previous FY 2020-21 – 98.1% of the total accounts
- International benchmark for the number of fully protected accounts – 80%
- HQs of DICGC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairperson – Michael Patra | Founded on – July 15, 1978

44. On December 13, 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 Cr and above, from October 1, 2022. 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. The LEI numbers are maintained on the website of the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI made Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) mandatory for cross-border transactions of Rs 50 Cr & above – from Oct 1, 2022
- LEI is a 20-digit number
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

45. On December 11, State Bank of India (SBI) signed an MoU with Kendriya Sainik Board to support and educate the children of war veterans, ex-servicemen, and war widows. The bank will provide a grant of ₹1,000 per month to 8,333 war veterans’ children. The bank contributed ₹10 Cr to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI + Kendriya Sainik Board = an MoU to support & educate war veterans’ children (grant of ₹1,000/month)
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

46. On December 13, Equitas Small Finance Bank partnered with Cholamandalam MS General Insurance to launch a “Chola Sarva Shakti Policy”, a women-specific health insurance policy. According to a recent survey among 1,009 women, only 39% of them had a health cover. The Chola Sarva Shakti Policy initiative aims to provide women with an independent and comprehensive policy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Equitas SFB + Cholamandalam MS Gen. Ins. = to launch “Chola Sarva Shakti Policy” for women
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan
- HQs of Cholamandalam MS Gen. Ins. – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman – M. M. Murugappan

47. On December 13, Axis Bank is integrating different digitisation initiatives by government bodies and service providers to extend an end-to-end service to business clients. With this purpose, Axis Bank tied up with Swift (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) to provide comprehensive digital banking solutions to clients. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Axis Bank + Swift = tied up to provide comprehensive digital banking solutions to clients
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”
- HQs of Swift – La Hulpe, Belgium | CEO – Javier Perez-Tasso

48. On December 15, SBI Card launched a first-of-its-kind fitness & wellness-focused credit card - “SBI Card PULSE”. The card has been thoughtfully designed with unique features and benefits to complement cardholders' proactive approach towards health and wellness. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI Card – launched a first-of-its-kind fitness & wellness-focused credit card - “SBI Card PULSE”
- HQs of SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Rama Mohan Rao Amara

49. On December 15, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched a new a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings life insurance plan called “Dhan Rekha”. The minimum sum assured under this plan is Rs 2 lakh, with no limit for maximum sum assured. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LIC – launched a new a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings life insurance plan called “Dhan Rekha”
- Minimum sum assured – Rs 2 lakh | Maximum sum assured – No limit
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”

50. On December 13, Bank of Baroda (BOB) partnered with National Payments Corporations of India (NPCI) to launch “bob World Wave”, a wearable line of products for payments, integrated with a complete health ecosystem. The device will provide contactless payments of up to ₹5,000 in all NFC enabled PoS devices. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BOB + NPCI = partnership to launch “bob World Wave” - a wearable line of products for payments
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha | Tagline – “India’s International Bank”
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

51. On December 15, Financial Software and Systems (FSS), a leading provider of integrated payment products, partnered with CSB Bank to deliver Hyperlocal Banking Services to financially underserved segments. Under this partnership, CSB Bank and FSS plan to open 1,000 Smart Cash franchisees in semi-urban and rural areas across India. Powered by FSS eFinclusiv (AePS) at the backend, Smart Cash franchisees will extend interoperable banking services to customers of any bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FSS + CSB Bank = partnership to deliver Hyperlocal Banking Services to financially underserved segments
- CSB Bank + FSS = plan to open 1,000 Smart Cash franchisees in semi-urban and rural areas
- HQs of FSS – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & Chairman – Nagaraj Mylandla
- HQs of CSB bank – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – C. V. Rajendran

52. On December 14, the SEBI constituted the Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS) to enhance technological capabilities and explore appropriate technological solutions for early detection of market anomalies. ALeRTS will be headed by SEBI's ex-whole time member Madhabi Puri Buch. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – constituted the Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory & Technology Solutions (ALeRTS)
- ALeRTS will be headed by – Madhabi Puri Buch
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

53. On December 14, Paytm launched its first AI-powered educational platform called “Paytm Wealth Academy” for traders and investors on its trading app Paytm Money. Paytm Wealth Academy is an educational platform designed to make financial learning intuitive and self-driven. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paytm – launched its first AI-powered educational platform called “Paytm Wealth Academy” for traders & investors
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010

54. On December 15, the RBI introduced a prompt corrective action (PCA) framework for large non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). This brings them almost on a par with banks in terms of supervision and regulatory reach. The PCA framework will be applicable for all deposit-taking NBFCs from October 2022 on the basis of their financial position on or after March 31. However, non-deposit taking NBFCs with an asset size of less than Rs 1,000 Cr, primary dealers, government-owned NBFCs, and housing finance companies are exempt from this framework. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI introduced prompt corrective action (PCA) framework for large NBFCs effective from October 2022
- The NBFCs which are excepted:
 - Non-deposit taking NBFCs with an asset size of less than Rs 1,000 Cr
 - Primary Dealers
 - Government-owned NBFCs
 - Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

55. On December 16, Global debt rose to a record \$226 trillion in 2020 as the world was hit by Covid-19 pandemic and a deep recession, as announced by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Global debt rose by 28% points to 256% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020, the largest one-year debt surge since World War II. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to IMF: Global debt rose to a record \$226 trillion in 2020 (rose by 28% points to 256% of GDP in 2020)
- HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., US | President – Kristalina Georgieva | Member countries – 190

56. On December 15, State Bank of India (SBI) renewed its MoU with Indian Army to offer benefits to all serving as well as retired army personnel and their families through its Defence Salary Package (DSP) Scheme. It also supports education of children and marriage of girl child of deceased army personnel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI – renewed its MoU with Indian Army to offer benefits to army personnel through its Defence Salary Package Scheme
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

57. On December 16, Pine Labs, a merchant commerce platform, partnered with AU Small Finance Bank to avail EMI offers to the bank's credit cardholders. Currently, Pine Labs powers more than 30 different credit issuers and NBFC partners on its Android PoS terminals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pine Labs + AU SFB = partnership to avail EMI offers to the bank's credit cardholders
- HQs of Pine Labs – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | Chairman – Lokvir Kapoor | CEO – B. Amrith Rau
- HQs of AU SFB – Jaipur, Rajasthan | MD & CEO – Sanjay Agarwal | President – Sharad Goklani

58. On December 16, PhonePe became the first payments platform to tokenize cards on Visa, Mastercard and Rupay card networks by launching tokenization solution - "PhonePe Safecard". It will help businesses save time and effort by removing the need to integrate with multiple card networks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PhonePe – launched a tokenization solution named "PhonePe Safecard"
- PhonePe – became the first payments platform to tokenize cards on Visa, Mastercard and Rupay card networks
- HQs of PhonePe – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam | Founded in – 2015

59. On December 16, NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) signed an MoU with Western Union to enable real-time bank account payout in India. This collaboration will enable customers in India to receive international money transfers in real time into their bank accounts in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIPL + Western Union = an MoU to enable Real-time Cross-border Money Transfers seamlessly & instantly
- HQs of NIPL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ritesh Shukla
- HQs of Western Union – Colorado, US | President & CEO – Devin McGranahan

60. During the closure of the "Infinity Forum, 2021", IFSCA launched the FinTech Hackathon "Sprint04: Market-Tech" on 4th December 2021. This hackathon is focused on the Capital Market Segment. "Sprint04: Market-Tech" was hosted by IFSCA and GIFT city in collaboration with NSE. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IFSCA – launched the FinTech Hackathon "Sprint04: Market-Tech"
- "Sprint04: Market-Tech" hosted by = IFSCA + GIFT city + NSE
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas

61. On December 15, Meta-owned WhatsApp launched an initiative called "Digital Payments Utsav" to familiarize rural smartphone users with digital payments. The pilot program will cover 500 villages across Karnataka and Maharashtra and aims to provide access to digital payments through WhatsApp Pay to the users. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WhatsApp Pay – launched an initiative called “Digital Payments Utsav”
- The pilot program was launched across 500 villages in Karnataka & Maharashtra
- HQs of Whatsapp – California, USA | CEO – Jan Koum | Founded in – 2009

62. On December 17, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance launched “Health Prime” rider, an additional coverage that can be availed with its health insurance and personal accident policies. Tele-consultation, doctor consultation, investigations and annual preventive health check-up are the different components of this additional cover. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance – launched an additional insurance cover “Health Prime” rider
- HQs of Bajaj Allianz Gen Ins – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Tapan Singhel

63. On December 15, Scheduled Payments Banks and Scheduled Small Finance Banks will be eligible to conduct Government Agency business, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The RBI decided in this regard in consultation with the Department of Financial Services (DFS). It will be subject to the condition that the concerned bank is not under the PCA framework or moratorium. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI allowed Payments Banks & SFBs to conduct Government Agency business
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

64. On December 16, Agritech firm Samunnati entered into a co-lending agreement with IndusInd Bank to expand credit accessibility and market linkages for farmer producer organizations (FPOs) across India. IndusInd Bank is among the first scheduled commercial banks to participate in such a co-lending programme aimed at mainstreaming FPOs as an asset class. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Samunnati + IndusInd Bank = co-lending agreement to expand credit accessibility & market linkages for FPOs
- HQs of Samunnati – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Founder & CEO – Anil Kumar SG
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – “We Make You Feel Richer”

65. On December 17, Union Bank of India (UBI) and Home First Finance Company India Ltd (HomeFirst) entered into a strategic co-lending partnership to offer home loans to customers at competitive interest rates. HomeFirst will retain a minimum of 20% of the loan on its book while 80% will be on UBI’s book. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UBI + HomeFirst = a strategic co-lending partnership to offer Home Loans to customers at competitive interest rates
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”
- HQs of HomeFirst – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Manoj Viswanathan

66. On December 17, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance (IPRULIFE) became the first Indian insurance company to sign the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI), demonstrating its commitment towards the environment, social and governance (ESG) issues. The UNPRI is an investor initiative in partnership with the two bodies of United Nations - UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative and UN Global Compact. Currently, it has over 4,000 signatories from 60 countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Prudential – became 1st Indian insurance company to sign the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment
- HQs of ICICI Prudential Life Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – N. S. Kannan

67. On December 17, Catholic Syrian Bank (CSB) tied up with online tax filing platform Clear (formerly ClearTax) to launch an income tax return (ITR) e-filing facility for its NRI customers. The e-filing options will be completely free of cost and that the partnership allows its customers to file their taxes online with reduced effort and lesser time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CSB Bank + Clear = tie up to launch an ITR e-filing facility for its NRI customers
- HQs of CSB bank – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – C. V. Rajendran
- HQs of Clear – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Archit Gupta

68. On December 17, the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) set up a committee for creating a framework for transfer of stressed loans from domestic lenders to financial institutions in IFSC. The committee would be chaired by former Executive Director of RBI G. Padmanabhan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IFSCA set up a committee for creating a framework for transfer of stressed loans from domestic lenders to FIs in IFSC
- The committee would be chaired by – G. Padmanabhan
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas

69. On December 16, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) partnered with brands and aggregators such as bigbasket, Goibibo, MakeMyTrip, JioPay, Paytm and PhonePe to introduce Tokenization Facility for Rupay card users to enhance online transaction security. The facility will be supported by the recently launched NPCI Tokenization System (NTS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI partnered with brands & aggregators to introduce Tokenization Facility for Rupay card users
- The facility will be supported by – NPCI Tokenization System (NTS)
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

70. On December 16, the government slashed the Goods & Services Tax (GST) rate on Ethanol meant for blending under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme to 5% from 18%. Under the government's Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) sell petrol blended with ethanol up to 10%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Govt slashed GST rate on Ethanol meant for blending – to 5% (from 18%)

71. On December 16, India registered the highest ever annual foreign direct investment (FDI) Inflow of \$81.97 billion (provisional figure) in FY 2020-21, according to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The Computer Software & Hardware sector attracted the largest share of FDI inflows at 19%, followed by the service sector at 15% & trading sector at 8%. The top five countries from where FDI equity inflows were received during April 2014 and August 2021 are Singapore (28%), Mauritius (22%), USA (10%), Netherlands (8%), and Japan (6%). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India registered the highest ever annual FDI Inflow of \$81.97 billion in FY 2020-21
- The Sector that attracted the largest share of FDI inflows: Computer Software & Hardware (19%)
- Top countries from where FDI inflows were received during April 2014 & August 2021: Singapore, Mauritius & USA

72. On December 15, World Bank announced a \$93 billion replenishment package of the International Development Association (IDA) to help low-income countries respond to the COVID-19 crisis and build a greener, more resilient, and inclusive future. The financing brings together \$23.5 billion of contributions from 48 high- and middle-income countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank – announced \$93 bn replenishment package of IDA to help low-income countries for pandemic recovery
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

73. On December 20, Equitas Small Finance Bank was empanelled as a banking partner of the Government of Maharashtra to offer its services to the state government employees. Bandhan Bank, Karur Vysya Bank, South Indian Bank are the other three banks that are assigned the role of distributing salaries, allowances to government employees. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Equitas SFB – empanelled as a banking partner of Maharashtra to offer its services to state government employees
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

74. On December 21, Liberty General Insurance partnered with CSC e-Governance Services India, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). Through this agreement Liberty will strengthen its presence in rural areas across India by selling its insurance products through the CSC network. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Liberty General Insurance + CSC e-Governance = partnership under the MeitY to expand its rural reach
- HQs of Liberty General Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Roopam Asthana
- HQs of CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd – New Delhi | CEO – Sanjay Kumar Rakesh | MD – Dinesh Tyagi
- CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd – set up by MeitY under the “Companies Act, 1956”

75. On December 20, Edelweiss General Insurance partnered with PhonePe to offer simple & end to end digital solutions in the motor insurance segment. The partnership will help EGI reach out to PhonePe’s vast and growing network of customers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Edelweiss General Insurance + PhonePe = partnership to offer digital motor insurance
- HQs of EGI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO & Executive Director – Shanai Ghosh
- HQs of PhonePe – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam | Founded in – 2015

76. On December 21, the State Bank of India (SBI) acquired a minority stake in JSW Cement Limited, with an investment of Rs 100 Cr in the company via compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS). JSW Cement is working towards achieving the 25MTPA milestone from 14MTPA over the next 24 months. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- SBI – acquired a minority stake in JSW Cement for Rs 100 Cr
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

77. On December 20, Bank of Baroda achieved the top position in the overall digital transactions amongst large banks for the financial year 2020-21. The bank was felicitated by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) at the 'Digital Payments Utsav'. As a part of the celebration, the Bank of Baroda was conferred with 5 DigiDhan awards for the financial years 2019-20 & 2020-21 in various categories. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bank of Baroda – achieved the top position in the overall digital transactions during FY 2020-21 (felicitated by MeitY)
- BOB – conferred with 5 DigiDhan awards for FY 2019-20 & FY 2020-21 at the 'Digital Payments Utsav'
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha | Tagline – "India's International Bank"

78. On December 20, ICICI Lombard General Insurance collaborated with Clove Dental, India's largest network of oral clinics, to offer dental insurance. This partnership will provide oral health support to Clove Dental's consumers that will encompass all necessary dental treatment expenses under the OPD benefit of ICICI Lombard. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Lombard + Clove Dental = partnership to offer dental insurance
- HQs of ICICI Lombard – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Bhargav Das Gupta

79. On December 21, Mastercard and Google Pay partnered to launch Tokenization Card Services that will enable Google Pay users to safely transact using their Mastercard credit and debit cards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mastercard + Google Pay = partnership to launch Tokenization Card Services
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, US | CEO – Michael Miebach | Founded in – 1966
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

80. On December 21, Karnataka Gramin Bank (KGB) signed an MoU with Care Health Insurance Ltd to market health insurance products for customers of the bank across 22 districts of Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka Gramin Bank + Care Health Insurance = partnership to market Health Insurance products
- HQs of Karnataka Gramin Bank – Ballari, Karnataka | CEO – Nandini K R
- HQs of Care Health Insurance – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Anuj Gulati

81. On December 21, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) partnered with Udeemy Business, a destination for learning and teaching online, to encourage continuous learning and skill development for its employees. Under its vision of "Talent Development for All", NPCI is working hard on the capability building of its employees and has increased its budget for Learning & Development (L&D) by seven times. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- NPCI + Udem Business = partnership to encourage continuous Learning & Skill Development for its employees
- “Talent Development for All” – a vision/mission of NPCI
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- HQs of Udem Business – San Francisco, US | CEO – Gregg Coccari

82. On December 21, Axis Bank approved to reclassify the Oriental Insurance Company Ltd (OICL) from ‘Promoter’ category to ‘Public’ category shareholder. The Oriental Insurance held 0.17% stake in Axis Bank as on September 30, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Axis Bank – approved to reclassify the Oriental Insurance from ‘Promoter’ category to ‘Public’ category shareholder
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”
- HQs of OICL – New Delhi | CMD – Anjan Dey

83. On December 22, U GRO Capital signed a co-lending agreement with Central Bank of India. Under this partnership, the two entities aim to disburse up to Rs 1000 Cr to UGRO Capital’s varied MSME segments under its programs like Pratham, Sanjeevani, Saathi, GRO MSME and Machinery financing, in next 12 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- U GRO Capital + CBoI = co-lending agreement to disburse up to Rs 1000 Cr to underserved MSMEs in next 12 months
- HQs of U GRO Capital – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Abhijit Ghosh
- HQs of CBoI – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Matam Venkata Rao | Tagline – “Central to You Since 1911”

84. On December 22, National Stock Exchange (NSE) launched a new corporate governance initiative - “NSE Prime” that NSE-listed companies can adopt voluntarily. NSE Prime is a framework that prescribes higher standards of corporate governance for listed Companies than those required by regulations. An NSE Prime company needs at least 40% public shareholding as against 25% under the SEBI rules. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSE – launched a new corporate governance initiative - “NSE Prime” for companies willing to raise governance bar
- An NSE Prime company needs at least 40% public shareholding as against 25% under the SEBI Rules
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi | MD & CEO – Vikram Limaye

85. On December 22, Vayana Network, one of India’s largest trade finance platform, and Federal Bank were 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. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vayana Network + Federal Bank = awarded the “Most Effective Bank-Fintech Partnership: Agile & Adaptable”
- HQs of Vayana Network – Pune, Maharashtra | Founder & CEO – Ramaswamy Iyer
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – “Your Perfect Banking Partner”

86. On December 23, Paytm Payments Bank and Nasdaq-listed MoneyGram International Inc. entered into a partnership to enable MoneyGram customers globally to send money in real-time to a Paytm Wallet user in India. This is MoneyGram's first mobile wallet partnership in India. Moreover, in 2017, Paytm Payments bank was launched as India's first bank with zero charges on all online transactions and no minimum balance requirement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paytm Payments Bank + MoneyGram = partnership to offer international remittance directly to Paytm Wallet
- Paytm Payments bank – India's first bank with zero charges on online transactions & no minimum balance
- HQs of PPBL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Satish Kumar Gupta
- HQs of MoneyGram – Texas, US | CEO – W. Alexander Holmes

87. On December 24, L&T Finance Holdings Ltd and HSBC Asset Management (India) Private Ltd (HSBC AMC) signed a definitive agreement under which HSBC AMC will acquire 100% equity shares of L&T Investment Management Ltd (L&T Mutual Fund) for \$425 million or about ₹3,191 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HSBC AMC – to acquire 100% equity shares of L&T Investment Management Ltd for \$425 million (₹3,191 Cr)
- HQs of HSBC AMC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ravi Menon
- HQs of L&T Investment Management Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Kailash Kulkarni
- HQs of L&T Finance Holdings – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Dinanath Dubhashi

88. On December 24, BOB Financial Solutions and Indian Navy launched a co-branded Credit Card for Navy personnel. The credit card will be equipped with contactless features and will be offered on the RuPay platform. A navy personnel up to the age of 64 years will be eligible to choose from three variants of the co-branded credit card. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BOB Financial Solutions + Indian Navy = launched a co-branded Credit Card for Navy personnel
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha | Tagline – “India's International Bank”
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950

89. On December 24, the RBI extended the card-on-file (CoF) tokenization deadline to comply with new card storage rules by another 6 months to June 2022, following requests from industry bodies and other stakeholders. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI extended the card-on-file (CoF) tokenization deadline by another 6 months to June 2022
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

90. On December 25, At the “CII Digital Transformation Award 2021”, HDFC Bank was adjudged as the “Most Innovative Best Practice” for financial inclusion with the Government of India's Common Service Centres (CSC). HDFC Bank focuses on financial inclusion by offering entire bouquet of its world-class products through CSC's network of VLE (Village Level Executive) centres. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank – adjudged as the “Most Innovative Best Practice” at the “CII Digital Transformation Award 2021”
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”

91. On December 25, Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed 4th co-lending arrangement with Lendingkart Finance Limited as part of its efforts to improve the flow of credit to the unserved and underserved sector of the economy. As per RBI Co-Lending Model (CLM), bank and NBFC will co-lend the customer in the ratio of 80 and 20%, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PNB + Lendingkart = 4th co-lending arrangement to improve credit flow to unserved & underserved sector of Economy
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao | Tagline – “The Name You Can Bank Upon”
- HQs of Lendingkart – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO & Co-founder – Harshvardhan Lunia

92. On December 25, SIDBI signed an MoU with the government of West Bengal to develop the MSME ecosystem in the state. As per the MoU a project management unit (PMU) of SIDBI will work with the state government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SIDBI + West Bengal = an MoU to develop the MSME ecosystem in the state
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Sivasubramanian Ramann | Established in – 1990
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

93. On December 27, HDFC Bank partnered with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to offer its banking services in Semi-urban & Rural areas. Under the pact, HDFC will cater to over 4.7 Cr customers of IPPB, most of which reside in rural areas. IPPB has been established under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with 100% equity owned by Government of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank + IPPB = partnership to offer its banking services in Semi-urban & Rural areas
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Venkatram Jayanthi | Established on – 1st Sep, 2018

94. On December 27, HDFC Life Insurance announced a bancassurance tie-up with South Indian Bank that will enable customers of the bank to avail a range of life insurance products of the insurer that include solutions for protection, savings and investment, retirement and critical illness. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Life + South Indian Bank = a bancassurance tie-up
- HQs of HDFC Life Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vibha Padalkar
- HQs of South Indian Bank – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – Murali Ramakrishnan

95. On December 29, IndusInd Bank signed an agreement with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for offering real-time cross-border remittances through UPI. IndusInd Bank has started off with Thailand for Foreign Inward Remittance (FIR) through UPI. With this, IndusInd Bank became the first Indian bank to go live on UPI for cross-border payments/NRI remittances. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IndusInd Bank + NPCI = an agreement to offer cross-border payments through UPI
- IndusInd Bank – became the first bank in India to go live on UPI for cross-border payments/NRI remittances
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – “We Make You Feel Richer”

96. On December 29, Indipaisa, in partnership with NSDL Payments Bank, plans to launch a set of innovative Financial Technology (Fintech) solutions targeting India's flourishing 63 million Small & Mid-sized Enterprise (SME) sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indipaisa + NSDL Payments Bank = partnership to launch a set of innovative Financial Technology (Fintech) solutions
- HQs of Indipaisa – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Aizaz Tahsildar
- HQs of NSDL Payments Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Abhijit Kamalapurkar

97. On December 24, the RBI imposed penalty of Rs 1 Cr each on two payment system operators (PSOs), Mobikwik and Spice Money, for non-compliance of norms. The penalties have been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of 'Section 30' of the PSS Act. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI imposed penalty of Rs 1 Cr each on Mobikwik & Spice Money
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935
- HQs of MobiKwik – Gurugram, Haryana | Founder, CEO & Director – Bipin Preet Singh
- HQs of Spice Money – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | Co-Founder & CEO – Sanjeev Kumar

98. On December 28, Karnataka government's e-Governance department partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and State Bank of India (SBI) for enabling and implementing "e-RUPI", a cashless and contactless payment solution to students under its scholarship programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka + NPCI + SBI = partnership to implement "e-RUPI" for cashless education scholarship fee payment
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

99. India's annual Wholesale Price Index (WPI) peaked to a new high of 14.23% in November from 12.54% in October, led by a surge in Primary Food Inflation, according to the data provided by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The WPI climbed 2.73% on a month-on-month basis. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's annual Wholesale Price Index (WPI) peaked to a new high of 14.23% in November, 2021 (from 12.54% in Oct)

100. On December 29, Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) entered into a strategic co-lending partnership with MAS Financial Services to offer loans to MSME borrowers under Priority Sector Lending (PSL). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bank of Maharashtra + MAS Financial Services = partnership to offer loans to MSME borrowers
- HQs of BoM – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – A S Rajeev | Tagline – "One Family One Bank"
- HQs of MAS – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Darshana S. Pandya | MD & Chairman – Kamlesh Gandhi

101. On December 28, IndusInd Bank launched “Green Fixed Deposits” for retail and corporate customers. The deposit proceeds will be used to finance projects and firms supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The interest rate on IndusInd’s Green deposit will remain the same as regular FD plans offered by the bank which is 6% at present. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IndusInd Bank – launched “Green Fixed Deposits” for retail & corporate customers
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – “We Make You Feel Richer”

102. On December 27, RBL Bank signed an agreement with Bajaj Finance Limited for the extension of the partnership of co-branded Credit Cards for a period of 5 years to December 2026. Both entities had entered into a partnership in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBL Bank + Bajaj Finance = extended the partnership of co-branded Credit Cards up to December 2026
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajeev Ahuja (interim) | Chairman – Prakash Chandra
- HQs of Bajaj Finserv – Pune, Maharashtra | Chairman & MD – Sanjiv Bajaj

103. On December 29, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launched “ICICI Pru iProtect Return of Premium” offering life-stage based cover. This cover offers a return of 105% of all premiums paid on survival, besides providing cover against 64 critical illnesses. It offers two variants - ‘Life Stage Cover’ and ‘Level Cover’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Prudential – launched “ICICI Pru iProtect Return of Premium” offering life-stage based cover
- This cover offers a return of 105% of all premiums paid on survival
- HQs of ICICI Prudential Life Ins. – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – N. S. Kannan

104. On December 28, the RBI extended the restrictions on Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank for another 3 months till March, 2022. The RBI extended the restrictions as further action on the draft scheme for the takeover of the crisis-hit PMC bank by Unity Small Finance Bank (USFB) is in process. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI extended the restrictions on Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank for another 3 months till March, 2022
- HQs of PMC Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Administrator – A. K. Dixit

105. On December 29, Central Bank of India (CBoI) partnered with the National Payments Council of India (NPCI) to launch “RuPay Business Platinum Debit Card” for business & MSME partners. The benefits include ATM withdrawal limit of Rs 1 lakh with a purchase of up to Rs 3 lakh at point of sale (POS) or e-commerce portal and withdrawal of Rs 75,000 at ATMs abroad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBoI + NPCI = partnership to launch “RuPay Business Platinum Debit Card” for business & MSME partners
- HQs of CBoI – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Matam Venkata Rao | Tagline – “Central to You Since 1911”
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

106. On December 28, the SEBI announced to introduce Special Situation Funds (SSFs) that will invest only in stressed assets. SSFs were introduced as a sub-category under 'Category I Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)'. Minimum investment by an investor has to be Rs 10 Cr and Rs 5 Cr in case of an accredited investor, and the minimum corpus has to be Rs 100 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – introduced Special Situation Funds (SSFs) as a sub-category under 'Category I AIFs'
- Minimum investment: Rs 10 Cr by Investor & Rs 5 Cr by Accredited Investor | Minimum Corpus – Rs 100 Cr
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

107. On December 27, the SEBI cleared a proposal to apply a combined limit of up to 35% from 25% for the Initial Public Offerings (IPO). It is to be applied where the intended acquisition/strategic investment is unidentified in the objects of the offer. The SEBI also suggested a reduction in the lock-in period for promoters to 18 months from the current 3 years and for other investors to 6 months against the current 1-year requirement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI cleared a proposal to apply a combined limit of up to 35% for the IPO (fresh issue)
- Lock-in period for promoters reduced to 18 months (from 3 years) | For investors – reduced to 6 months (from 1 year)
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

108. On December 30, the IRDAI announced that Insurance Intermediaries, including entities sponsored by them, can maintain multiple 'Current Accounts' in various banks so as to meet regulatory requirements and reinsurance business. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Insurance Intermediaries can maintain multiple 'Current Accounts' in various banks to meet regulatory requirements
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

109. On December 29, Federal Bank signed an MoU with Schwing Stetter (India) Ltd, a subsidiary of Schwing GMBH, Germany, to offer customized financial solutions to their customers. VG Sakthi Kumar, MD of Schwing Stetter India Pvt Ltd, stated that India has emerged as the third largest market for construction equipment globally. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Federal Bank + Schwing Stetter (India) Ltd = an MoU to offer customized financial solutions to their customers
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – "Your Perfect Banking Partner"

110. On December 29, the RBI extended the deadline for Know Your Customer (KYC) in bank accounts till March 31, 2022, from the previous deadline of December 31, 2021. The deadline has been extended again due to the surge in the Omicron variant of the coronavirus in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI extended the deadline for KYC update in bank accounts – till March 31, 2022 (from Dec 31, 2021)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

111. On December 29, the RBI released the 24th Financial Stability Report (FSR). Macro Stress Tests for Credit Risk indicate that the Gross Non-Performing Asset (GNPA) ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) may increase from 6.9% in September 2021 to 8.1% by September 2022 under the baseline scenario and to 9.5% under a severe stress scenario. The GNPA ratio of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) may increase from 8.8% in September 2021 to 10.5% by September 2022. While Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of SCBs rose to a new peak of 16.6% and their provisioning coverage ratio (PCR) stood at 68.1% in September 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI released the 24th Financial Stability Report (FSR) on December 29, 2021
- GNPA ratio of SSBs is expected to increase from 6.9% in Sep 2021 to 8.1% by Sep 2022 (under baseline scenario)
- GNPA ratio of PSBs is expected to increase from 8.8% in Sep 2021 to 10.5% by Sep 2022
- CRAR of SCBs increased to a new peak of 16.6% in Sep 2021 | PCR stood at 68.1% in Sep 2021
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

112. On December 30, State Bank of India (SBI) will acquire 9.95% stake in the India International Clearing Corporation (IICC). IICC is the first international clearing corporation set up at GIFT-IFSC that acts as a central counterparty providing clearing and settlement and risk management services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI – to acquire 9.95% stake in the India International Clearing Corporation (IICC)
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

113. Ahead of assembly elections in five states (UP, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Goa), the government approved issuance of the 19th tranche of Electoral Bonds which was open for sale from January 1 to 10, 2022. State Bank of India (SBI) was the only authorised bank to issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorized Branches. The sale of the first batch of Electoral Bonds took place from March 1-10, 2018 after the Electoral Bond Scheme was introduced with the Finance Bill in 2017. Electoral Bonds can be purchased by both Indian & Foreign entities or citizens. And the range of an Electoral Bond remains between Rs 1,000 to Rs 1 Cr. Besides, the bonds donated to political parties must be encashed within 15 days. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government approved issuance of the 19th tranche of Electoral Bonds | Sale was open from Jan 1-10, 2022
- SBI – the only authorised bank to issue & encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorized Branches
- Electoral Bond Scheme was introduced with the 'Finance Bill' in 2017

114. On December 29, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) inaugurated “LIC Digi Zone” at Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai, to enhance its sales and services for its customers. The Corporation will offer information regarding its products and services through kiosks installed in the Digi Zone premises. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LIC – inaugurated “LIC Digi Zone” at Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”

115. On December 30, the IRDAI announced that Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and New India Assurance (NIA) continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2021-22. D-SIIs refer to insurers of such size, market importance and domestic and global inter connectedness, whose distress or failure would cause significant dislocation in the domestic financial system. D-SIIs are perceived as insurers that are 'too big or too important to fail' (TBTF). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LIC + GIC + NIA = continue to be identified as **Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)** for 2021-22
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”
- HQs of GIC Re – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Devesh Srivastava
- HQs of NIA – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CMD – Atul Sahai

116. On December 30, SBI Cards & Payment Services collaborated with Paytm to enable cardholders to tokenise their cards on devices and make payments through Paytm. Tokenisation refers to masking the original 16-digit card number by replacing it with a set of unique characters, termed as token. The card tokenisation facility is available only on Android NFC (near field communication) devices. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI Cards & Payment Services + Paytm = collaboration to enable cardholders to tokenise their cards
- HQs of SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Rama Mohan Rao Amara
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010

117. On December 30, Paisabazaar, in partnership with Axis Bank launched a Pre-Qualified Program for unsecured loans on its platform. This program entails deep technology and analytics collaboration with Banks and NBFCs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paisabazaar + Axis Bank = partnership to launch a Pre-Qualified Program for unsecured loans on its platform
- HQs of Paisabazaar – Gurugram, Haryana | CEO & Co-founder – Naveen Kukreja
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

118. In December 2021, EXIM bank extended \$40 million Line of Credit (LOC) to Togo (officially Togolese Republic) for the purpose of financing the project for electrification of 350 villages through 'Solar Photo Voltaic Systems' in the Togolese Republic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- EXIM bank (India) – extended \$40 million Line of Credit to Togo
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD – Harsha Bangari | Founded in – 1982
- Togo – Lome – CFA franc | President – Faure Gnassingbe

119. India's federal fiscal deficit in April-November 2021, the first 8 months of current fiscal year, decreased to 46.2% of the full-year budgeted target. The fiscal deficit had surged to 135.1% of the full-year target during the same period in 2020 (April-November). The fiscal deficit for 8 months ending on November 2021 stood at Rs 6.96 Lakh Cr (\$93.7 billion) against Rs 15.07 Lakh Cr target for the whole fiscal year. This was the lowest deficit of the central government in terms of percentage since financial year 1998. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's fiscal deficit in April-Nov 2021 – decreased to 46.2% (against 135.1% in April-Nov 2020)
- In amount, the fiscal deficit at Rs 6.96 Lakh Cr (\$93.7 billion) against Rs 15.07 Lakh Cr target for the whole FY

120. The Ministry of Finance retained the interest rates of 'Small Savings Schemes' for the 4th quarter (Q4) ending on 31 March 2022 same as in Q3 FY22. This means small savings schemes such as the Fixed Deposits, Public Provident Fund (PPF), Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SSCS), National Savings Certificate (NCS), Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana etc will continue to fetch/earn the same interest rates for the quarter ending March 2022 as they did in the previous quarter, i.e., September-December 2021. The rates of interest of Small Savings Schemes are revised by the Ministry of Finance once in 3 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Finance kept interest rates on 'Small Savings Schemes (SSS)' unchanged for the Q4 of 2021-22
- Public Provident Fund (PPF) – 7.1% | National Savings Certificate (NSC) – 6.8%
- Senior Citizens Savings Scheme – 7.4% | Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana – 7.6%
- Post Office Monthly Income Scheme – 6.6%
- The Small Savings Schemes consist of – 12 Schemes



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The Question Bank



Defence Affairs

1. On December 2, Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Indian Army signed a contract worth ₹471.41 Cr for refurbishment of 'IGLA - 1M' missiles. After the refurbishment, a fresh lease of life will be given to the missile for 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BDL + Indian Army = signed a contract worth ₹471.41 Cr for refurbishment of 'IGLA - 1M' missiles
- Fresh lease of life for 10 years will be given to the missile after the refurbishment
- HQs of BDL – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Siddharth Mishra | Founded in – 1970
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

2. In December 2021, Bangladesh Navy (BN) and the US military personnel kicked off the annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) maritime exercise in the Bay of Bengal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bangladesh & US – conducted the "CARAT" Maritime Exercise in the Bay of Bengal
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

3. On December 4, the Central government approved a plan to produce 5 lakh "AK-203" series assault rifles at Korwa in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh. The project is a joint venture with the Russian government under the 'Make in India' initiative of Indian government. The 7.62 X 39mm calibre AK-203 rifles will replace in-service INSAS rifles. The AK-203 assault rifles have an effective range of 300 metres and are lightweight. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central gov approved a plan to produce 5 lakh "AK-203" series assault rifles – at Korwa, Amethi, Uttar Pradesh
- AK-203 rifles will replace in-service INSAS rifles | Effective range of AK-203 assault rifles – 300 metres
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

4. 'Sandhayak', the first of the four Survey Vessels project being built for the Indian Navy, was launched in Kolkata on December 5, 2021. These Vessels were designed and developed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE). The contract for building four survey ships was signed between Ministry of Defence and GRSE on 30 October 2018 at a total cost of Rs 2435 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Sandhayak', the first of the four Survey Vessels project being built for Indian Navy – launched in Kolkata, WB
- These Vessels were designed & developed by GRSE
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | Chairman & MD – Rear Admiral Vipin Kumar Saxena | Founded in – 1884

5. The 11th edition of the "EKUVERIN" exercise between India & Maldives was conducted at Kadhdhoo Island, Maldives from December 6 to 19, 2021. The exercise will enhance synergy & inter-operability between Armed Forces of both the Nations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India & Maldives – conducted the 11th edition of the “EKUVERIN” exercise – at Kadhdhoo Island, Maldives
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

6. On December 14, IIT Delhi signed an MoU with the Indian Air Force (IAF) to find indigenous solutions towards various defense-related projects. The joint partnership aims to accelerate IAF's indigenisation efforts for achieving self-reliance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Delhi + IAF = an MoU to find indigenous solutions towards various defense-related projects
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh
- Director of IIT Delhi – V. Ramgopal Rao

7. On December 14, the official website for the forthcoming Multinational Naval Exercise - “MILAN 2022” was launched by Rear Admiral Sanjay Sadhu, Chief Staff Officer (Technical), ENC. The ‘MILAN 2022’ is scheduled to be hosted by Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh from 25 February to 4 March 2022. The theme of ‘MILAN 2022’ is “Camaraderie, Cohesion, Collaboration”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rear Admiral Sanjay Sadhu – launched the official website for the “MILAN 2022” multinational naval exercise
- “MILAN 2022” – to be hosted by Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (from Feb 5 to March 4, 2022)
- Theme of ‘MILAN 2022’ – “Camaraderie, Cohesion, Collaboration”
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950

8. On December 14, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh handed over 5 Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed products to the Armed forces & other Security Agencies at an event held at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. The five products are - Anti-Drone system, Modular Bridge, Smart Anti Airfield Weapon, Chaff Variants and the Light Weight Fire Fighting Suit. Earlier DRDO organised a Seminar on “Preparing For The Future” where Vice Chiefs of the Armed Forces and DRDO Scientists shared their views. Six Licensing Agreements for Transfer of Technology (LAToT) were handed over to 7 public and private sector companies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – handed over 5 DRDO developed products to the Armed forces & other Security Agencies
- Products: Anti-Drone system, Modular Bridge, Smart Anti Airfield Weapon, Chaff Variants, Light Weight Fire Fighting Suit
- DRDO – organised a Seminar on “Preparing For The Future” for Vice Chiefs of the Armed Forces & DRDO Scientists
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

9. On December 16, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) awarded Rs 2,400 Cr contract to Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) for the manufacture and supply of 20 types of airborne electronic systems for the LCA ‘Tejas Mk1A’ fighter aircraft programme. The order spans 5 years from 2023 to 2028. This is the biggest ever order received by BEL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL awarded Rs 2,400 Cr contract to BEL for the supply of 20 types of avionics for LCA ‘Tejas Mk1A’ fighter aircraft
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt | Chairma & MD – R. Madhavan
- HQs of BEL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Venkateswara Gowtama Mannava

10. On December 18, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) secured an order for manufacturing, assembly, integration, testing and supply of High Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) System, known as “ABHYAS”, from Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), DRDO. After this completion, HAL would be identified as Development-cum-Production Partner (DcPP) for supply of this target system. ABHYAS is designed and developed by DRDO’s ADE, Bengaluru. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL – received an order to manufacture High Speed Expendable Aerial Target System - “ABHYAS” from ADE (DRDO)
- Abhyas – designed & developed by DRDO’s Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt | Chairma & MD – R. Madhavan

11. On December 19, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a flight demonstration of its Controlled Aerial Delivery System of 500-kilogram capacity (CADS-500). The demonstration was carried out by the DRDO’s Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE) in Agra as a part of celebrating ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO – conducted a flight demonstration of “CADS-500” (Controlled Aerial Delivery System of 500-kilogram capacity)
- The demonstration was carried out by the – ADRDE-DRDO (Agra, Uttar Pradesh)

12. On December 18, the DRDO’s lab, Defence Research Development Establishment (DRDE) decided to set up an Advanced Biological Defence Research Centre (ABDRC) in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh to study viruses dangerous to humans. The new ABDRC laboratory with the help of artificial intelligence (AI) and cyber techniques will develop ways to repel virus attacks instantly. ABDRC is going to be of “Bio Safety Level (BSL) - 4”, which very few countries have right now. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDE-DRDO (Gwalior) – to set up to set up an Advanced Biological Defence Research Centre (ABDRC) in Gwalior, MP
- ABDRC is going to be of “Bio Safety Level (BSL) - 4”
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

13. “PANEX-21”, a multi-national - multi-agency exercise was organised at Pune from December 20-22, 2021 to develop capabilities in Disaster Management aspects for the BIMSTEC nations. The exercise was attended by delegates and subject matter experts from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “PANEX-21” exercise – organised at Pune to develop capabilities in Disaster Management for the BIMSTEC nations
- HQs of BIMSTEC – Dhaka, Bangladesh | Secretary General – H. E. Mr. Tenzin Lekphell | Established in – 1997
- BIMSTEC member countries: 7 – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar & Thailand | Chair – Sri Lanka

14. On December 21, the first set of indigenously developed next generation “Armoured Engineer Reconnaissance Vehicle” was inducted into the Corps of Engineers of Indian Army. The system was designed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by Ordnance Factory Medak & Bharat Electronics Limited, Pune. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- First set of “Armoured Engineer Reconnaissance Vehicle” was inducted into the Indian Army Corps of Engineers
- The system was designed by DRDO | Manufactured by – Ordnance Factory Medak & BEL

15. On December 21, the Indian Army is set to receive a new range of indigenously designed and developed anti-personnel and anti-tank mines. The Indian Army is going to induct 7 lakh indigenously developed “Nipun” anti-personnel mines which are developed by the DRDO. The Corps of Engineers are also carrying out trials of ‘Vibhav’ and ‘Vishal’ anti-tank mines, which are also developed by the DRDO for the Indian Army. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army – to induct 7 lakh indigenously developed “Nipun” anti-personnel mines | Developed by – DRDO
- Corps of Engineers are carrying out trials of ‘Vibhav’ & ‘Vishal’ anti-tank mines | Developed by – DRDO
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

16. On December 21, the Indian Air Force (IAF) deployed the first squadron of Russia-made “S-400” missile system in the Punjab sector. This will give a boost to country’s air defence capabilities. The S-400 air defence system was contracted for by India in a deal worth around ₹35,000 Cr and five squadrons would be provided to India for tackling air threats from up to 400 km. The S-400 was developed by Russia’s Almaz Central Marine Design Bureau. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAF – deployed the first squadron of Russia’s “S-400” missile system in the Punjab sector
- Operational range – 400 km
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh

17. On December 21, Pune-based Bharat Forge Ltd developed a unique Multi-terrain Artillery Gun (MARg) also called “155 - BR”. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the Artillery Gun System in the presence of Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane. It is the world’s only 155mm 39 calibre gun system that is mounted on a 4x4 High Mobility Vehicle (HMV). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharat Forge Ltd – developed a unique Multi-terrain Artillery Gun (MARg) also called “155 - BR”
- HQs of Bharat Forge Ltd – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & Chairman – B. N. Kalyani

18. The security of the Offshore Development Area (ODA) in Krishna Godavari Basin on the Eastern Coast of India was reviewed during exercise “Prasthan” conducted from 21 to 22 December 2021. The biannual exercise was coordinated and controlled by NOIC (APD) from Joint Operations Centre, Vizag under the aegis of Indian Navy to assess overall security architecture to provide support during an emergent situation at ODA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The security of ODA in Krishna Godavari Basin (East Coast) was reviewed during exercise “Prasthan”
- Exercise “Prasthan” was conducted under the aegis of Indian Navy
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950

19. On December 27, the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) selected Paras Defence & Space Technologies for handing over the technology of Border Surveillance Systems (BSS) as developed by Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE) and DRDO. This technology was transferred by a licensing agreement for transfer of technology (ToT). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO selected Paras Defence & Space Technologies to hand over the technology of Border Surveillance Systems
- BSS are developed by – IRDE-DRDO (Dehradun, Uttarakhand)
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- HQs of Paras Defence & Space Technologies – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Sharad Virji Shah

20. On December 24, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for a first-of-its-kind “Defence Technology & Test Centre (DTTC)” and a “BrahMos Manufacturing Centre” to be established by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Lucknow. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – laid the foundation stone for “Defence Technology & Test Centre (DTTC)” & “BrahMos Manufacturing Centre” – in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

21. On December 23, INS Khukri (Pennant number 49), the first of the indigenously built missile corvettes, was decommissioned in Visakhapatnam after 32 years of service. The corvette was built by the Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders and commissioned on August 23, 1989. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Khukri – decommissioned in Visakhapatnam after 32 years of service (Commissioned on – August 23, 1989)
- “INS Khukri” - the first of the indigenously built missile corvettes – built by Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders

22. On December 29, Indian Army, with support from the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), established the “Quantum Lab” at Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow (officially Dr. Ambedkar Nagar) in Indore to spearhead research and training in this key developing field. Indian Army also established an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre at the same institution with over 140 deployments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army + NSCS = established the “Quantum Lab” at Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE)
- MCTE – located at Mhow, Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

23. On December 29, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over indigenously-developed technology to 5 Indian companies for producing extreme cold-weather clothing system (ECWCS) for the armed forces. Three-layered ECWCS is designed to suitably provide thermal insulation over a temperature ranging from 15 degrees Celsius to minus 50 degree celsius. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO – handed over a technology to 5 Indian companies for production of cold-weather clothing for Armed Forces
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

Schemes & Initiatives

1. Ministry of Commerce & Industry approved the continuation of the “Scheme for Investment Promotion (SIP)” for 5 years (2021-26) with a financial outlay of Rs 970 Cr. The SIP was launched on November 11, 2008. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is the implementing agency of the SIP. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of C&I approved the continuation of the “Scheme for Investment Promotion (SIP)” till 2025-26 (5 years)
- Total outlay of the SIP – Rs 970 Cr | SIP was launched in – 2008 | Implementing Agency of the SIP – DPIIT

2. On December 1, the Odisha government announced a “Social Security Scheme” for newspaper hawkers across the state. Newspaper hawkers registered with Odisha Unorganised Workers’ Social Security Board (OUWSSB) will be provided with identity cards & social security as well. Under the scheme, in the event of a hawker’s death due to an accident, an assistance of Rs 2 lakh will be provided to their next of kin and in the case of a natural death, an assistance of Rs 1 lakh will be provided. The state government will also provide a special assistance of Rs 3,000 each to all registered newspaper hawkers in two phases through the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – announced a “Social Security Scheme” for newspaper hawkers across the state
- Special assistance to newspaper hawker – Rs 3,000 | Accidental death – Rs 2 lakh | Natural death – Rs 1 lakh
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

3. The MSME Certification scheme “Zero Defect, Zero Effect” registered nearly 25,000 MSME registrations. The scheme was launched by PM Narendra Modi in October 2016 to encourage the manufacturing of goods by MSMEs without any defects and without any effects on the environment. The fund allocated for the scheme in FY21 stood at 51.75 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Zero Defect, Zero Effect”, an MSME certification scheme registered nearly 25,000 MSME registrations
- The scheme was launched by PM Narendra Modi – in October, 2016 | Fund allocated in FY21 – 51.75 Cr

4. On December 3, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) launched “Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SRESHTA)” for socio-economic upliftment and overall development of Scheduled Castes students. The scheme will enable meritorious SC students to have a better future and aid in controlling dropout rates of students from classes 9 to 12. In the next 5 years, the ministry has decided to extend support to 24,800 meritorious SC students, involving Rs 300 Cr approximately, for providing them quality residential education from classes 9 to 12 in reputed private residential schools in aspirational districts identified by NITI Aayog. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoSJE – launched “SRESHTA” scheme for socio economic development of SC students
- SRESHTA – Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas
- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Virendra Kumar | Constituency – Sagar, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Ramdas Athawale

5. On December 9, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the “Milk Price Incentive Scheme” which will benefit around 53,000 people in the state. The state government will spend Rs 444.62 Cr to open 500 milk sales centres in Uttarakhand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand – launched the “Milk Price Incentive Scheme”
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

6. In December 2021, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved “Atma Nirbhar Krishak Integrated Development Scheme” to boost the agriculture sector. Under this scheme, 1,475 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) will be formed in the next 3 years. The state government is expected to bear an expenditure of Rs 1,220.92 Cr for implementation of the scheme from financial year 2021-22 to 2031-32. Under the scheme, Rs 1 lakh Cr will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, Marketing Cooperative Societies, FPOs, Self Help Groups & farmers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – approved “Atma Nirbhar Krishak Integrated Development Scheme” to boost the agriculture sector
- Under this scheme, 1,475 FPOs will be formed in the next 3 years
- Under the scheme, Rs 1 lakh Cr will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

7. On December 10, North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi) introduced “Atmanirbhar Hastshilpkar Scheme” to the grass root Artisans of the region. During the launching ceremony, a total of 17 artisans have been provided with credit assistance of Rs 1 lakh per artisan. The credit facility is collateral free and carries a subsidized interest rate of 6% p.a., which is repayable in 24 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NEDFi – introduced “Atmanirbhar Hastshilpkar Scheme” to the grass root Artisans of the region
- HQs of NEDFi – Guwahati, Assam

8. On December 7, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE) is implementing an Umbrella scheme namely “Atal Vayo Abhyudaya Yojana (AVYAY)” for welfare of Senior Citizens across India. The scheme has some components namely - Scheme of Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC), State Action Plan for Senior Citizens (SAPSrC), Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY), Promoting silver economy, Channelizing CSR funds for Elderly care & Scheme for Awareness Generation and Capacity Building for welfare of Senior Citizens. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoSJE is implementing “Atal Vayo Abhyudaya Yojana (AVYAY)” for welfare of Senior Citizens across India
- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Virendra Kumar | Constituency – Sagar, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Ramdas Athawale

9. On December 15, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) introduced “e-Verification Scheme, 2021” for faceless collection of information from taxpayers, where mismatches are detected. The scheme is notified under a provision in ‘Income Tax Act 135A’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBDT – introduced “e-Verification Scheme, 2021” for faceless collection of information from taxpayers
- HQs of CBDT – New Delhi | Chairman – Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra | Formed in – 1944

10. On December 16, Jharkhand government launched “Sports Action toward Harnessing Aspiration of Youth (SAHAY)” scheme aimed at nurturing young sporting talents in Maoist-hit districts. According to the scheme, boys and girls in the 14-19 age group from villages to ward level will be registered under the scheme, and given opportunities to display their skills in basketball, volleyball, hockey and athletics. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand – launched “Sports Action toward Harnessing Aspiration of Youth (SAHAY)” scheme
- Boys & Girls in the 14-19 age group will be registered under the scheme
- **Jharkhand:** Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Ramesh Bais

11. On December 17, Haryana Minister of State for Sports & Youth Affairs, Sandeep Singh launched “Khel Nursery Scheme 2022-23” to promote sports in the state. The scheme has been started to establish sports nurseries in government, private educational institutions, and private sports institutions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – launched “Khel Nursery Scheme 2022-23” to promote sports in the state
- **Haryana:** Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

12. On December 15, the Union Cabinet approved a production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for semiconductor and display board production in India. The scheme envisages investment of Rs 76,000 Cr in semiconductor production over the next 5-6 years. The Incentives include 25% subsidy on capital expenditure for establishing a unit of compound semiconductor wafer fabrication etc. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved a PLI Scheme for semiconductor & display board production in India
- Investment of Rs 76,000 Cr in semiconductor production over the next 5-6 years
- Subsidy on capital expenditure for establishing a unit of semiconductor – 25%

13. On December 17, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the “Mukhyamantri Vayu Swasthya Seva” (Air Ambulance Service) at the Biju Patnaik International Airport to provide health services to people of remote and backward areas of the State. In the first phase, the free service will be available for people of four districts Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi and Nuapada. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – launched the “Mukhyamantri Vayu Swasthya Seva (Air Ambulance Service)” for remote & backward areas
- **Odisha:** Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

14. On December 20, Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot launched “I Am Shakti Udaan Yojana” to benefit 1.2 Cr women of Rajasthan in a phased manner. In the first phase of this scheme, Rs 200 Cr was given to the department and it will benefit 28-30 lakh women. The Chief Minister also approved the state government’s “Jagriti: Back to Work” scheme for women who had to quit their jobs due to family reasons. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – launched “I Am Shakti Udaan Yojana” & “Jagriti: Back to Work” scheme (both for women)
- **Rajasthan:** Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

15. On December 25, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced to distribute free smartphones and tablets to over 1 Cr final year students of graduation and above under “UP Free Laptop Scheme 2021”. The CM distributed 60,000 smartphones and 40,000 tablets to the students in the first phase. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UP – to distribute free smartphones/tablets to final year students of UG/PG under “UP Free Laptop Scheme 2021”
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

16. In December 2021, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin launched “Meendum Manjappai” scheme to promote the use of cloth bags by the public and discourage the use of single-use plastic bags. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – launched “Meendum Manjappai” scheme against single-use plastic bags & to promote cloth bags
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi



Sports & Games

1. Squash star Saurav Ghosal made history as he became the first Indian to win the “Malaysian Open Squash Championships” after beating Colombia’s Miguel Rodriguez in the men’s singles final. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Saurav Ghosal ([Squash](#)) – became the first Indian to win the “Malaysian Open Squash Championships”

2. In December 2021, Ace shooter Shriyanka Sadangi from Odisha won Gold medal at the 64th National Shooting Championship held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. She clinched the Gold in the Women’s 50 metre Rifle 3 position event. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shriyanka Sadangi ([Odisha](#)) – won Gold medal at the 64th National Shooting Championship – held in Bhopal, MP
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel](#)

3. On December 4, Mumbai-born New Zealand left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel became the third bowler in Test cricket to take 10 wickets in an innings. He achieved the feat against India during the 2nd day of the 2nd test match between India and New Zealand at Wankhede stadium in Mumbai. Earlier, Australia’s Jim Laker and India’s Anil Kumble achieved the same feat in 1956 & 1999 respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajaz Patel ([New Zealand](#)) – became the 3rd bowler in Test Cricket to take 10 wickets in an innings
- He achieved the feat against India at Wankhede stadium in Mumbai

4. Saudi Arabia’s first female racing driver Reema Juffali was appointed as an Ambassador for Saudi Arabia’s first Formula One (F1) Grand Prix in Jeddah. Saudi Arabia lifted a ban on women driving in 2018. Mercedes Driver Lewis Hamilton won the first edition of Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (GP) by surpassing Max Verstappen of Red Bull. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reema Juffali – appointed as an Ambassador for the first “Saudi Arabian Grand Prix 2021”
- Reema Juffali – the first Female Racing Driver from Saudi Arabia
- Lewis Hamilton ([UK - Mercedes](#)) – won the first “Saudi Arabian Grand Prix 2021” (beating - Max Verstappen)
- [Saudi Arab – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal | Saudi Crown Prince – Mohammed bin Salman](#)

5. On December 5, Argentina defeated six-time champion Germany and won their second title in the 12th edition of the “Men’s FIH Junior Hockey World Cup” at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. France’s Timothee Clement was named Best Player of the Tournament while Germany’s Anton Brinckman was named Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Argentina – won the Men’s FIH Junior Hockey World Cup – at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar (defeating - Germany)
- Best Player of the Tournament – Timothee Clement (France)
- Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament – Anton Brinckman (Germany)

6. On December 4, Odisha government and the Swimming Federation of India (SFI) entered into an agreement to expand and promote the swimming ecosystem in Odisha and India. As of now, the partnership is valid for one year. The state will establish around 20 swimming centers in its various districts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha + SFI = an agreement to expand & promote the swimming ecosystem in Odisha & India
- **Odisha:** Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- **HQs of SFI** – New Delhi | President – R. N. Jayprakash | CEO – Virendra Nanavati

7. On December 5, Indian badminton ace P. V. Sindhu won a Silver medal at the “BWF World Tour Finals 2021” held in Bali, Indonesia, after being defeated by Korean An Se-Young. Sindhu had won the title in 2018 to become the only Indian to achieve the feat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- P. V. Sindhu (**Badminton**) – won Silver medal at the “BWF World Tour Finals 2021” (Gold – An Se-Young of Korea)

8. On December 6, Russia beat Croatia to win Davis Cup title. The Russian team is officially being called “RTF” (Russian Tennis Federation) in the competition amid its ongoing doping suspension in international sport. It was Russia’s third Davis Cup title. Andrey Andreyevich Rublev was named as the Most Valuable Player of the Davis Cup tournament which is an international Men’s Team Tennis event. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia (RTF) – beat Croatia to win “Davis Cup Title 2021”
- Andrey Rublev (**Russia - Tennis**) – named “Most Valuable Player” of the Davis Cup tournament
- **Croatia** – Zagreb – Kuna | PM – Andrej Plenkovic | President – Zoran Milanovic

9. On December 8, Indian para-athletes won 41 medals at the 4th edition of the “Asian Youth Para Games”. The Indian contingent won 12 Gold, 15 Silver, and 14 Bronze medals at the Asian Youth Para Games held in Riffa city of Bahrain. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – won 41 medals at the 4th “Asian Youth Para Games” held in Riffa, Bahrain (12 Gold + 15 Silver + 14 Bronze)
- **Bahrain** – Manama – Dinar | PM – Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa | King – Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

10. On December 11, Norway’s Magnus Carlsen won his 5th FIDE World Chess Championship with a victory against Russia’s Ian Nepomniachtchi at Dubai’s Expo 2020 held in Dubai, UAE. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Magnus Carlsen (**Norway**) – won the “FIDE World Chess Championship 2021” (his 5th title)
- Magnus defeated Ian Nepomniachtchi (**Russia**)

11. On December 10, Manipur successfully defended their “Hero Senior Women’s National Football Championship 2021-22” held in Kozhikode, Kerala. Manipur defeated Railways team at the Championship. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manipur – won the “Hero Senior Women’s National Football Championship 2021-22” held in Kozhikode, Kerala
- **Manipur:** Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – La. Ganesan

12. Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the F1 "Abu Dhabi Grand 2021" by defeating Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton. Mercedes team secured the constructors' championship for an unprecedented 8th successive year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Max Verstappen – won the F1 "Abu Dhabi Grand 2021" (defeating - Lewis Hamilton)
- Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) – Red Bull team

13. On December 13, Chandeeep Singh from Jammu & Kashmir won Silver medal for India in the 9th "World Para-Taekwondo Championships 2021" held in Istanbul, Turkey. He won the medal in the Men's plus 80 kg event. It is India's first-ever medal in the history of Para-Taekwondo World Championship. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chandeeep Singh (J&K) – won Silver at the 9th "World Para-Taekwondo Championships 2021" – in Istanbul, Turkey
- It is the first-ever Medal for India in the history of Para-Taekwondo World Championship

14. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the first edition of "Khelo India U-21 Women's Hockey League" which was organised from December 15 to 21 at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi. The league was organised by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in collaboration with Hockey India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anurag Singh Thakur – inaugurated the first edition of "Khelo India U-21 Women's Hockey League"
- The league was organised at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium (Delhi) by = SAI + Hockey India
- HQs of SAI – New Delhi | Director General – Sandip Pradhan
- HQs of Hockey India – New Delhi | President – Gyanendro Ningombam

15. In December 2021, Bindyarani Devi won the Gold medal in the women's 55-kg Clean & Jerk at the World Weightlifting Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Moreover, India concluded the "Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021" with 16 medals, including 4 Gold, 7 Silver, & 5 Bronze. Indian weightlifter Purnima Pandey won the Gold medal in the +87kg women's category at the "Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021" in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. While S. Bindyarani Devi won Silver medal in 55 Kg category at commonwealth. The four Commonwealth gold medallists - Jeremy Lalrinnunga, Achinta Sheuli, Ajay Singh, Purnima Pandey - have qualified directly for the 2022 Games in Birmingham. Weightlifter S. Bindyarani Devi's gold medal in clean and jerk remained the only success for India at the "World Weightlifting Championship 2021". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – won the "Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021" (4 Gold, 7 Silver & 5 Bronze)
- 4 Gold medalists: Purnima Pandey, Jeremy Lalrinnunga, Achinta Sheuli & Ajay Singh
- Bindyarani Devi – won Gold medal in women's 55-kg Clean & Jerk at "World Weightlifting Championship 2021"
- Both Championships were held – in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

16. India will host South Asian Football Federation's (SAFF) U-18 and U-19 Women's Championships in 2022 from March 3-14 and from July 25 to August 3 respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to host SAFF U-18 Women's Championships from March 3-14, 2022
- India – to host SAFF U-19 Women's Championships from July 25 to Aug 3, 2022

17. On December 19, Shuttler Kidambi Srikanth became the first Indian man to win a silver medal at the “BWF World Championships 2021”. Singapore’s Loh Kean Yew defeated Kidambi to win Gold medal. This is the first time that a men’s player from Singapore has won gold at the BWF World Championships. While Japan’s Akane Yamaguchi won Gold Medal under Women’s Singles Category. Srikanth had created history by becoming the first Indian shuttler to enter the final in the men’s singles category of the BWF World Championships in Huelva, Spain. India’s Lakshya Sen & Denmark’s Anders Antonsen won the Bronze Medal in the Men’s Singles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kidambi Srikanth – won Silver medal in men’s singles at the “BWF World Championships 2021” (1st Indian man)
- Loh Kean Yew ([Singapore](#)) – won Gold medal in men’s singles at the “BWF World Championships 2021”
- Akane Yamaguchi ([Japan](#)) – won Gold medal in women’s singles at the “BWF World Championships 2021”
- Lakshya Sen & Anders Antonsen ([Denmark](#)) – won Bronze medal in the Men’s Singles

18. On December 23, Indian Men’s Hockey team won a bronze medal after defeating Pakistan at the “Asian Champions Trophy Men’s Hockey Tournament” held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. South Korea emerged as the champions after beating Japan. Harmanpreet Singh was named the ‘Player of the Match’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Asian Champions Trophy Men’s Hockey Tournament” – held in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Gold – South Korea | Silver – Japan | Bronze – India
- ‘Player of the Match’ – Harmanpreet Singh

19. On December 24, Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh announced his retirement from all forms of Cricket. He is the 4th highest wicket taker for India in Test cricket. He represented India in 103 Tests, 236 ODIs and 28 T20Is. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Harbhajan Singh – retired from all forms of Cricket (4th highest wicket taker for India in Test cricket)

20. On December 22, Indian teenager Anahat Singh won the prestigious “Junior US Open Squash Tournament” in the ‘U-15 Girls’ category held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US. The 13-year-old Delhi girl defeated Jayda Marei of Egypt. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anahat Singh ([Delhi - Squash](#)) – won the prestigious “Junior US Open Squash Tournament” in the ‘U-15 Girls’ category

21. Pankaj Advani won “National Billiards Title 2021” defeating his PSPB teammate Dhruv Sitwala. It was his 11th National Billiards title and 35th title overall. This 88th edition of “National Billiards & Snooker Championships” was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pankaj Advani – won “National Billiards Title 2021” (11th title)
- 88th “National Billiards & Snooker Championships” – held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

22. On December 25, Indian skier Aanchal Thakur won the bronze medal in the ‘Giant Slalom (GS)’ category at “Federation Internationale de Ski (FIS) Alpine Skiing Competition” held at Kolasin, Montenegro. Aanchal Thakur’s bronze was India’s second-ever international skiing medal. The first, incidentally, was also a bronze won by Aanchal Thakur at the 2018 Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup held in Turkey. With this, Aanchal Thakur became first Indian to win two international skiing medals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aanchal Thakur ([Indian Skier](#)) – won the bronze medal at the “FIS Alpine Skiing Competition” in Montenegro
- [Montenegro – Podgorica – Euro](#) | [President – Milo Dukanovic](#)

23. On December 24, World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) restored the accreditation of the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL), which was suspended in 2019 because of its failure to comply with global standards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WADA – restored the accreditation of the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL)
- [HQs of WADA – Montreal, Canada](#) | [President – Witold Banka](#)
- [HQs of NDTL – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman – Anurag Singh Thakur](#)

24. On December 23, Bangladesh Under-19 Women’s team defeated India by 1-0 to lift the “South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) U-19 Women’s Football Championship”. The match was played at Bir Shrestha Shaheed Shipahi Mustofa Kamal Stadium in Dhaka, Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bangladesh – won the “SAFF U-19 Women’s Football Championship”
- [HQs of SAFF – Dhaka, Bangladesh](#) | [President – Kazi Salahuddin](#) | [General Secretary – Anwarul Huq](#)

25. On December 23, All India Football Federation announced, as many as 18 Indian referees have been selected in the FIFA Refereeing International List for 2022. Out of 18, four are women (two referees and two assistant referees). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 18 Indian referees – selected in the “FIFA Refereeing International List for 2022”
- [HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland](#) | [President – Gianni Infantino](#)

26. On December 26, Himachal Pradesh beat Tamil Nadu in the final of the “Vijay Hazare Trophy 2021” and won their first-ever domestic title at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur, Rajasthan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – won “Vijay Hazare Trophy 2021” – at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur, Rajasthan (beating - TN)
- [Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala](#) | [CM – Jai Ram Thakur](#) | [Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar](#)

27. On December 30, Veteran New Zealand Cricketer Ross Taylor announced to retire from International Cricket. Taylor played 102 T20 internationals, becoming the world’s first cricketer to play more than 100 matches in all three formats of Cricket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ross Taylor ([New Zealand - Cricketer](#)) – announced to retire from International Cricket
- Ross Taylor – the world’s first cricketer to play 100 matches in all three formats of Cricket

28. On December 30, South Africa wicketkeeper-batsman, Quinton de Kock, announced his retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect. The announcement comes on the backdrop of South Africa's defeat in the first Test match against India in Centurion. With this, India became the first Asian team to win a Test match at Centurion, South Africa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Quinton de Kock ([South Africa](#)) – retired from Test cricket
- India – the first Asian team to win a Test match at Centurion, South Africa

29. On December 30, Jammu & Kashmir alpine skier Arif Mohammed Khan became the first athlete from India to qualify for two different events of the Winter Olympics, set to be held in Beijing from February 4-20, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arif Mohammed Khan ([J&K - Alpine Skier](#)) – 1st Indian athlete to qualify for 2 different events of “2022 Winter Olympics”



Important Days & Dates

1. On 1 December 2021, the Border Security Force celebrated its 57th Raising Day. The Border Security Force is India's border guarding organisation on its border with Pakistan and Bangladesh and it came into existence in 1965. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 1 – 57th Raising Day of the BSF
- HQs of BSF – New Delhi | DG – Pankaj Kumar Singh | Established on – Dec 1, 1965 | Motto – “Duty Unto Death”

2. On December 1, World AIDS Day was observed across the globe by the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) & World Health Organization (WHO). In 2021, the theme is “End inequalities. End AIDS”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 1 – World AIDS Day – by UNAIDS & WHO
- 2021's Theme – “End inequalities. End AIDS”

3. On December 1, “Indigenous Faith Day” was celebrated across Arunachal Pradesh to safeguard the indigenous faith and identity of tribal communities of the state. The day marks the birth anniversary of Golgi Bote Talom Rukbo, known as the Father of the Indigenous Faith. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 1 – “Indigenous Faith Day” celebrated by Arunachal Pradesh (birth anniversary of Golgi Bote Talom Rukbo)
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra

4. Every year, 2 December is observed as “World Computer Literacy Day” to create awareness about the growing use and importance of computers. National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT), first celebrated this day in 2001 on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the NIIT's establishment. In 2021, the theme is “Literacy for Human-centered Recovery: Narrowing the Digital Divide”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 2 – World Computer Literacy Day (since - 2001)
- 2021's Theme – “Literacy for Human-centered Recovery: Narrowing the Digital Divide”

5. “National Pollution Control Day” is observed annually on December 2 to remember the people who lost lives during Bhopal Gas Tragedy, 1984 and to raise awareness about the hazards of air pollution. 2021 marks the 37th anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 2 – “National Pollution Control Day” (37th anniversary of Bhopal Gas Tragedy, 1984)

6. On December 2, the “International Day for the Abolition of Slavery” is observed to eradicate 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. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 2 – “International Day for the Abolition of Slavery”

7. Nagaland celebrated its 59th Statehood Day on December 1, 2021. Nagaland is the first State in the northeast to be bifurcated from Assam as the 16th State of the Indian Union. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 1 – 59th Statehood Day of Nagaland
- [Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi \(addi. charge\)](#)

8. On December 3, International Day of Disabled Persons or International Day of Persons with Disabilities was observed. The day was proclaimed in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly. In 2021, the theme is “Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 3 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 2021’s Theme – “Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world”

9. In 2019, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 74/245, which designated December 4 as the International Day of Banks in recognition of the significant potential of multilateral development banks and other international development banks in financing sustainable development. 2021 marked the 2nd edition of the International Day of Banks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 4 – 2nd edition of “International Day of Banks”

10. Indian Navy Day is observed on December 4 every year to commemorate the launch of “Operation Trident” against Pakistan during the 1971 Indo-Pak War. In 2021, the theme was “Swarnim Vijay Varsh” since it marks the 50th anniversary of India’s victory in the 1971 war. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 4 – Indian Navy Day (commemorates the launch of ‘Operation Trident’ against Pakistan)
- 50th Anniversary of the victory in the 1971 war “Swarnim Vijay Varsh”
- 2021’s Theme – “Swarnim Vijay Varsh”

11. The United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV) coordinates “International Volunteer Day” on December 5 every year to recognize and promote the tireless work, not just of UN Volunteers, but of volunteers across the globe. In 2021, the theme was “Volunteer now for Our Common Future”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 5 – International Volunteer Day
- 2021’s Theme – “Volunteer now for Our Common Future”
- [HQs of UN Volunteers Programme – Bonn, Germany | Executive Coordinator – Toily Kurbanov](#)

12. India and Bangladesh observed December 6 as “Maitri Diwas” as New Delhi had recognised Dhaka on this day in 1971. “Maitri Diwas”, also known as ‘India-Bangladesh Friendship Day’, was commemorated in capitals of 18 countries of the world. India was the second country, after Bhutan, to recognize Bangladesh as a sovereign and independent state on December 6 in 1971. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- December 6 – 1st “Maitri Diwas” (Friendship Day) – observed by India & Bangladesh
- India – recognized Bangladesh as a sovereign and independent state on December 6, 1971
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

13. The 10th edition of the World Spine Day was observed on October 16 with the theme of “BACK 2 BACK!”. The day highlights the burden of spinal pain and disability around the world. An estimated 540 million people in the world are suffering with low back pain. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 16 – World Spine Day | 2021's Theme – “BACK 2 BACK!”

14. Every year December 6 is observed as Mahaparinirvan Diwas in India to mark the death anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. This year marks the 65th death anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar. He was awarded the ‘Bharat Ratna’ posthumously in 1956. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 6 – Mahaparinirvan Diwas (65th death anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar)

15. World Soil Day is observed every year on December 5 to raise awareness of the importance of soil to the sustenance of life on earth. In 2021, the theme was “Halt soil salinization, boost Soil Productivity”. The day was chosen as December 5 to mark the birthday of Thailand's king, HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who formally made this event happen. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 5 – World Soil Day
- 2021's Theme – “Halt soil salinization, boost Soil Productivity”

16. Armed Forces Flag Day is celebrated on December 7, every year in India. A committee, set up on August 28, 1949, under the Defense Minister of India, decided to observe Flag Day annually on December 7. This day is observed mainly to distribute flags to people and collect funds from them. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 7 – Armed Forces Flag Day

17. “International Civil Aviation Day” is observed on December 7th every year to reinforce awareness of the role and importance of International Civil Aviation Organisation in air travel across the globe. Until 2023, the theme will be “Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 7 – International Civil Aviation Day
- 2021's Theme – “Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development” (until 2023)

18. The Army Service Corps celebrates its Raising Day on December 8 annually. Known as the oldest and largest administrative unit in the armed forces, the Army Service Corps (ASC) celebrated its 261st Raising Day. The ASC was established by the East India Company (EIC) in 1760. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 8 – 261st Raising Day of Army Service Corps
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

19. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Charter Day is observed annually on December 8 to commemorate the adoption of the SAARC Charter. 2021 marked the 37th anniversary of the establishment of the SAARC. On 8 December 1985, the SAARC Charter was adopted, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 8 – 37th SAARC Charter Day
- HQs of SAARC – Kathmandu, Nepal | Secretary General – Esala Ruwan Weerakoon (Sri Lanka)

20. The “International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime” or “UN International Day of Victims of Genocide” is observed annually on December 9. It is observed to raise awareness about genocide and the role of the United Nations’ ‘Genocide Convention’ in preventing it. 2021 marked the 73rd anniversary of the adoption of ‘Genocide Convention’ which was adopted in 1948 by UN General Assembly. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 9 – UN International Day of Victims of Genocide
- 2021 marked 73rd anniversary of the adoption of ‘Genocide Convention’ | adopted in 1948 by UNGA

21. The UN’s “International Anti-Corruption Day” is observed on December 9 to put our thoughts and actions in preventing corruption in various organisations and institutions around the world. In 2021, the theme was “Your Right, Your Role: Say No to Corruption”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 9 – International Anti-Corruption Day
- 2021’s Theme – “Your Right, Your Role: Say No to Corruption”

22. Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December. This is the day on which the United Nations General Assembly adopted the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)” in 1948. The UDHR is a milestone document, which proclaims the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being. Available in more than 500 languages, it is the most translated document in the world. In 2021, the theme was “Equality - Reducing Inequalities, Advancing Human Rights”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 10 – UN’s Human Rights Day
- UNGA adopted the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)” on December 10, 1948
- 2021’s Theme – “Equality - Reducing Inequalities, Advancing Human Rights”

23. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, marked December 14 as “National Energy Conservation Day” in a bid to raise awareness about the importance of energy conservation. This year, the Ministry of Power, under ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’, is celebrating “Energy Conservation Week” from 8 to 14 December. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 14 – “National Energy Conservation Day” – by BEE
- December 8 to 14 – “Energy Conservation Week”
- HQs of BEE – New Delhi | Director General – Abhay Bakre

24. Every year, United Nations Children’s Funds (UNICEF) Day is observed on December 11 to raise awareness about saving children’s lives by defending and helping them to fulfill their wishes. 2021 marks the 75th anniversary of UNICEF Day. The UNICEF was established by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1946. The focus/theme for this year is to help children recover from interruptions and learning losses experienced through pandemics in the last two years.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 11 – 75th UNICEF Day
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, US | Executive Director – Catherine Russell | Established in – 1946

25. December 11 was celebrated as the UN’s “International Mountain Day”. The date was designated by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) & being celebrated since 2003. 2021’s theme was “Sustainable Mountain Tourism”.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 11 – International Mountain Day (since - 2003)
- 2021’s Theme – “Sustainable Mountain Tourism”

26. International Animal Rights Day is officially observed on December 10. On this day, animal rights advocates across the world take a stand for the respect and fair treatment that animals deserve every day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 10 – International Animal Rights Day

27. Every year, “International Day of Neutrality” is observed on December 12 to raise public awareness of the value of neutrality in international relations. The day was first observed in 2017. Turkmenistan is recognized by the UN as a Permanently Neutral state since 12 December 1995. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 12 – “International Day of Neutrality” (since 2017)
- Turkmenistan – the only country to get recognised by the UN as a permanently Neutral State

28. Every year, International Universal Health Coverage Day is observed on December 12 to raise awareness about having strong and resilient world-class health systems across the globe. In 2021, the theme was “Leave No One Behind When It Comes to Health: Invest in Health Systems for All”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 12 – International Universal Health Coverage Day
- 2021’s Theme – “Leave No One Behind When It Comes to Health: Invest in Health Systems for All”

29. The 82nd Nupi Lal Day was observed on December 12, 2021 to pay rich homage to the brave women of Manipur who fought for justice against the British colonial. 'Nupi Lan' which translates to 'Women's War' in English, is an important movement in the history of Manipur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 12 – 82nd Nupi Lal Day – observed in Manipur
- [Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – La. Ganesan](#)

30. "International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers" is annually observed on December 17 to remember the sex workers who lost their lives due to violence and stigma encountered across the globe. Inaugurated by Dr. Annie Sprinkle and started by the Sex Workers Outreach Project USA, the first annual day was observed in 2003. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 17 – "International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers" (since 2003)

31. "Minorities Rights Day" is observed every year on December 18 in India. The day aims at promoting the rights of the minority community across the country. Minorities Rights Day was first observed in India on December 18, 2013. In 2006, Ministry of Minority Affairs was set up in India. The ministry was formed out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 18 – "Minorities Rights Day" in India (since 2013)
- Ministry of Minority Affairs – was formed out of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (in 2006)

32. "World Arabic Language Day" is observed on December 18 to honour the Arabic language, which is spoken by over 400 million people globally. The day has been celebrated since 2012 to mark the adoption of Arabic as the sixth official language of the United Nations by the UN General Assembly on 18 December, 1973. In 2021, the theme was "Arabic Language, a bridge between civilisations". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 18 – UN's World Arabic Language Day (since 2012)
- 2021's Theme – "Arabic Language, a bridge between Civilisations"

33. International Migrants Day is annually observed across the world on December 18. In 2021, the theme was "Harnessing the Potential of Human Mobility". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 18 – International Migrants Day
- 2021's Theme – "Harnessing the Potential of Human Mobility"

34. Every year on December 19, Goa Liberation Day is celebrated in the state as Goa was liberated from Portuguese rule on that day in 1961. Goa was a Portuguese colony for 451 years. On 19 December, 1961, India conquered Goa from the Portuguese and Goa became a part of India. 2021 marked 60th edition of Goa Liberation Day. Moreover, on the occasion of Goa Liberation day, Indian Navy's second indigenous stealth guided-missile destroyer of the 'Project 15B' class namely "Mormugao" went for her maiden sea trials. It is planned for commissioning in mid-2022. Mormugao was built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDSL) as part of the P15B destroyers. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- December 19 – 60th Goa Liberation Day
- “INS Mormugao” - Navy’s 2nd indigenous stealth guided-missile destroyer of the ‘Project 15B’ class went for sea trials
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

35. “International Human Solidarity Day” is observed annually on December 20 every year. The day was introduced by the UN General Assembly. The day commemorates the establishment of the World Solidarity Fund on the same date in 2002. The basic purpose of International Human Solidarity Day is to promote the culture of cooperation, equality and social justice. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 20 – International Human Solidarity Day

36. The Central government celebrated “Good Governance Week” from December 20 to 26, according to the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievance (DARPG). During the week, the nationwide campaign titled “Prashasan Gaon ki Aur” was launched. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 20 to 26 – “Good Governance Week”
- Nationwide campaign launched during the week – “Prashasan Gaon ki Aur”

37. On 22 December 2021, India celebrated 10th edition of “National Mathematics Day” to mark the 134th birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan, one of the most remarkable mathematicians of the 20th century. Dr Manmohan Singh, then Prime Minister, declared the December 22 as National Mathematics Day in 2012. Moreover, 2012 was observed as the “National Year of Mathematics” in India. Besides, 1729 is globally known as the ‘Hardy-Ramanujan Number’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 22 – 10th “National Mathematics Day” (134th birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan)
- 2012 – “National Year of Mathematics” in India
- 1729 – Hardy-Ramanujan Number

38. “Kisan Diwas” or “National Farmers Day” is observed across India on December 23 to mark the birth anniversary of the fifth Prime Minister of India, Choudhary Charan Singh. The day was first observed in 2001. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 23 – “Kisan Diwas” or “National Farmers Day” (since 2001)
- The day marks the birth anniversary of – Choudhary Charan Singh (5th PM of India)

39. On 21 December 2021, Indian Army celebrated the 38th Corps Day of Judge Advocate General’s Department. Being the legal branch of the Indian Army, Judge Advocate General’s Department deals with military related disciplinary cases and litigation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 21 – 38th Corps Day of Judge Advocate General’s Department (JAG)
- JAG Department is the legal branch of – Indian Army
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

40. December 24 is celebrated annually in India as “National Consumer Rights Day”, also called “National Consumer Day” to make consumers aware of their rights and responsibilities. The day commemorates December 24, 1986, when the Consumer Protection Act received assent of the President of India. In 2021, the theme was “Consumer: Know your rights”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 24 – National Consumer Rights Day or National Consumer Day (Consumer Protection Act 1986)
- 2021's Theme – “Consumer: Know your rights”
- March 15 – World Consumer Rights Day

41. Ministry of AYUSH observes Siddha Day on eve of Agathiyar's birthday every year on December 23. In 2021, the 5th Siddha Day was observed with the theme of “Strength of Siddha Medicine for Communicable Diseases”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 23 – 5th Siddha Day – by Ministry of AYUSH (birth anniversary of ‘Agathiyar’)
- 2021's Theme – “Strength of Siddha Medicine for Communicable Diseases”

42. The 8th edition of “Good Governance Day” was celebrated on December 25, to commemorate the anniversary of the birth of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The day was first observed in 2014. Moreover, “Good Governance Week” was celebrated from December 20 to 25, 2021 with the theme of “Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 25 – 8th edition of Good Governance Day (since 2014) | Birth anniversary of – Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- December 20 to 25 – “Good Governance Week” | Theme – “Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur”

43. The 2nd edition of “International Day of Epidemic Preparedness” was marked on December 27, 2021. The day was first observed in 2020. This day is marked as preparedness for pandemic has always been an important aspect for health authorities across the globe. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 27 – 2nd edition of “International Day of Epidemic Preparedness”

44. Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (POWERGRID) celebrated the first anniversary of “One Nation-One Grid-One Frequency” on December 31, 2021. 70 Sub-stations across India along with Regional Headquarters have been lit up in tricolour to mark this momentous achievement. All possible measures are taken to ensure that the grid frequency always remains within the 49.90-50.05 Hz (hertz) band. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 31 – 1st anniversary of “One Nation-One Grid-One Frequency” by POWERGRID
- HQs of POWERGRID – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Kandikuppa Sreekant

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

1. The 9th India-EU Energy Panel met on December 1, 2021. The Energy Panel was co-chaired by Smt. Reenat Sandhu, Secretary (West) of Ministry of External Affairs and Ms. Mechthild Worsdorfer, Deputy Director-General for Energy, European Commission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reenat Sandhu – co-chaired the 9th India-EU Energy Panel
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | Member Countries – 27
- President of European Parliament – David-Maria Sassoli
- President of European Council – Charles Michel
- President of European Commission – Ursula von der Leyen

2. Air Works joined FICCI and the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MCA) at the 3rd “Helicopter Summit 2021”, organized at Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The summit was organized with an objective to boost the helicopter industry in India with the theme “India@75: Expediting the Growth of Indian Helicopter Industry and Enhancing Air Connectivity”. During the summit, Union Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M. Scindia announced a new “10-Point Helicopter Policy”.

Key Points:

- 3rd “Helicopter Summit 2021” – held at Dehradun, Uttarakhand (organised by = FICCI + MCA + Air Works)
- Theme – “India@75: Expediting the Growth of Indian Helicopter Industry and Enhancing Air Connectivity”
- Jyotiraditya M. Scindia – announced a new “10-Point Helicopter Policy” at the Summit

3. President of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin, visited New Delhi on December 6, 2021 for the 21st “India - Russia Annual Summit” with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. During his visit, PM Narendra Modi presented an artistic Agate Bowls gift to him. President Putin also extended an invitation to Prime Minister Modi to visit Russia for the 22nd India-Russia Annual Summit in 2022. The joint statement was titled “INDIA-RUSSIA: Partnership for Peace, Progress and Prosperity”. Both the sides signed 28 MoUs and stressed on the need for greater efforts to achieve the trade target of \$30 billion by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vladimir Putin + Narendra Modi = participated in the 21st “India - Russia Annual Summit”
- Vladimir Putin invited “Narendra Modi” to visit Russia for the 22nd “India-Russia Annual Summit in 2022”
- India + Russia = signed 28 MoUs & targeted to achieve the trade of \$30 billion by 2025
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

4. On December 4, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar addressed the 5th “Indian Ocean Conference 2021” in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The theme of the conference was “Indian Ocean: Ecology, Economy, Epidemic”. The Conference is chaired by Sri Lankan President, Gotabaya Rajapaksa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Jaishankar – addressed 5th “Indian Ocean Conference 2021” in Abu Dhabi, UAE | Chaired by – Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- Theme – “Indian Ocean: Ecology, Economy, Epidemic”

5. On December 3, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated “InFinity Forum”, a thought leadership forum on FinTech. 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 on December 3 and 4, 2021. Indonesia, South Africa and the UK were partner countries in the first edition of the Forum. The agenda of the Forum will focus on the theme of “Beyond”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – inaugurated “InFinity Forum”, a thought leadership forum on FinTech
- The forum was hosted by = IFSCA + GIFT City + Bloomberg | Partner Countries – Indonesia, South Africa & UK
- Theme of the forum – “Beyond”

6. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) along with the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (c-Ganga) organized the 6th edition of the “India Water Impact Summit (IWIS)” from December 9 to 14, 2021. 2021’s theme was “River Resources Allocation: Planning and Management at the Regional Level”. The Summit was inaugurated by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, the Minister of Jal Shakti. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NMCG + c-Ganga = organized the 6th edition of the “India Water Impact Summit (IWIS)”
- 2021’s Theme – “River Resources Allocation: Planning and Management at the Regional Level”

7. On December 10, PM Narendra Modi attended the closed-door session of the first ever Summit for Democracy. PM Modi was invited to participate in the main Leaders’ Plenary Session hosted by US President Joe Biden. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – attended the first ever “Summit for Democracy” hosted by US President Joe Biden
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

8. India co-chaired the Steering Leadership Meeting of the Global Methane Initiative (GMI). Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, V. K. Tiwari was as the Vice Chairman of this global initiative. Global Methane Initiative (GMI) has members from 45 countries. The forum was created in 2004 and India has taken up Vice-Chairmanship for the first time in the Steering Leadership along with USA. The Chairperson of the Steering Leadership is from Canada. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India co-chaired the Steering Leadership Meeting of the Global Methane Initiative (GMI)
- Vice-Chairmanship = India (V. K. Tiwari) + USA | Chairship – Canada
- GMI was created in 2004 | Members from – 45 countries

9. On December 15, India hosted the 8th edition of the “Indian Ocean Dialogue” with the assistance of the Indian Council for World Affairs and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Secretariat. The dialogue was held under the theme “Post Pandemic Indian Ocean: Leveraging Digital Technologies for Health, Education, Development and Trade in IORA Member States”. The last (7th) Indian Ocean Dialogue was hosted by the UAE. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – hosted the 8th edition of the “Indian Ocean Dialogue”
- Theme – “Post Pandemic Indian Ocean: Leveraging Digital Technologies for Health, Education, Development and Trade in IORA Member States”

10. On December 9, the 8th Foreign Office Consultations between India and Slovenia took place virtually on December 10, 2021. The consultations were led on the Indian side by Reenat Sandhu, Secretary (West). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 8th Foreign Office Consultations – held between India & Slovenia (Indian delegation led by - Reenat Sandhu)
- [Slovenia – Ljubljana – Euro](#) | [PM – Janez Jansa](#)

11. On December 17, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the “All India Mayors’ Conference” in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. As many as 120 mayors from various states participated in the conference whose theme was “New Urban India”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – inaugurated the “All India Mayors’ Conference” in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- Theme of the conference – “New Urban India”

12. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar hosted the 3rd meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue in New Delhi from 18-20 December 2021. Foreign Ministers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, apart from EAM participated in the meeting. India considers Central Asia as part of its ‘extended neighbourhood’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Jaishankar – hosted the 3rd meeting of the “India-Central Asia Dialogue” in New Delhi
- Participant Nations: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan

13. On December 18, Union Minister for Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal chaired an interaction with the heads of Indian industry and Export Promotion Councils in Mumbai, Maharashtra to enhance market access for India in the UAE. During the meeting, the UAE committed \$100 Billion for investment and infrastructure creation in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – chaired an interaction with the heads of Indian industry & Export Promotion Councils in Mumbai
- UAE – committed \$100 Billion for investment & infrastructure creation in India
- [UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham](#) | [President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan](#)

14. On December 27, Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri addressed the first ever “Real Estate Summit 2021 - Unlocking Opportunities” at Convention Centre, Jammu. The summit was organized by Government of Jammu & Kashmir in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). During the summit, the J&K government signed 39 MoUs worth of Rs 18,300 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hardeep Singh Puri – addressed the first ever “Real Estate Summit 2021 - Unlocking Opportunities”
- The summit was organized by = J&K Govt + MoHUA

15. On December 27, Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar inaugurated the “Annual Chief Engineers and Equipment Management Conference of Border Roads Organisation (BRO)” in New Delhi. Dr Ajay Kumar also flagged-in “India@75 BRO Motorcycle Expedition” which was flagged-off by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh from India Gate, New Delhi on October 14, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajay Kumar – inaugurated the “Annual Chief Engineers & Equipment Management Conference of BRO” in New Delhi
- Ajay Kumar – also flagged-in “India@75 BRO Motorcycle Expedition”

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

1. Grameen Foundation India (GFI) launched a special initiative “Catalyst Award” under its ‘MANDI’ (Market Enabled Access through Digital Innovation) project to support and develop the farmer producer organizations (FPOs) in Uttar Pradesh. The ‘MANDI’ project aims to strengthen the FPO’s capacity to connect smallholder farmers and it is implemented by GFI in partnership with Walmart Foundation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GFI launched a special initiative “Catalyst Award” under its ‘MANDI’ project to supports FPOs in Uttar Pradesh
- ‘MANDI’ project is implemented by = GFI + Walmart Foundation
- [HQs of GFI – Gurugram, Haryana](#)

2. New India Foundation announced the winner of the 4th edition of the “Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2021”. It went to Dinyar Patel for “Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism”. In his book, Dinyar Patel illuminates the life and legacy of Dadabhai Naoroji as a key figure in the history of India’s movement towards Independence. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4th “Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize” for 2021 – to Dinyar Patel for “Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism”
- The book marked the life events & legacy of – Dada Bhai Naoroji

3. Prof. Velchala Praveen Rao, Vice-Chancellor of Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU), has been selected for the 7th “Dr. M S Swaminathan Award” for the period 2017-19. The biennial national award was constituted by Retired ICAR Employees Association (RICAREA) and Nuziveedu Seeds Limited. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- V. Praveen Rao – selected for “Dr. M S Swaminathan Award” for the period 2017-19 – by RICAREA & Nuziveedu Seeds

4. On December 2, Indian athlete Anju Bobby George won the “Woman of the Year Award” by World Athletic. She is the 2003 World Championships bronze medalist in long jump. Olympic champions Elaine Thompson-Herah of Jamaica and Karsten Warholm of Norway were named the “World Athletes of the Year” at the ‘World Athletics Awards 2021’. Ryan Pierse named the “World Athletics Photograph of the Year” for his photograph of the women’s high jump at the Tokyo Olympic Games. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Athletics Awards 2021 – given by World Athletic
- “Woman of the Year Award” – Anju Bobby George ([India - Long Jump](#))
- “World Athletes of the Year” – Elaine Thompson-Herah ([Jamaica - Sprinter](#)) & Karsten Warholm ([Norway - Sprinter](#))
- “World Athletics Photograph of the Year” – Ryan Pierse ([Australia - Photographer](#))

5. Group Captain Abhinandan Varthaman was awarded “Vir Chakra” by President Ram Nath Kovind at an investiture ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. He shot down a Pakistani ‘F-16’ jet during a dogfight over the Line of Control (LoC) on February 27, 2019. Vir Chakra is India’s third highest Wartime Gallantry Award after Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Abhinandan Varthaman – awarded “Vir Chakra” by President Ram Nath Kovind
- Vir Chakra – India’s 3rd highest Wartime Gallantry Award | 1st - Param Vir Chakra | 2nd - Maha Vir Chakra

6. On December 2, the occasion of Asom Divas or Assam Day, the Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma conferred the most prestigious “Asom Baibhav” award to the industrialist Ratan Tata. Asom Baibhav award is the highest civilian award of Assam. Asom Divas or Assam Day is celebrated in Assam to commemorate the rule of Chalong Sukapha, the first Ahom king in medieval Assam. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 2 – Asom Divas or Assam Day (to commemorate the rule of Chalong Sukapha)
- Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma conferred “Asom Baibhav” award to – Ratan Tata
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur](#) | [CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma](#) | [Governor – Jagdish Mukhi](#)

7. On December 3, Delhi’s Nizamuddin Basti has received two awards at the “UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2021”. The conservation initiative at Nizamuddin bagged the Award of Excellence and Special Recognition for Sustainable Development Award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nizamuddin Basti ([Delhi](#)) – received 2 awards at “UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2021”
- Two awards: ‘Award of Excellence’ & ‘Special Recognition for Sustainable Development Award’

8. On December 2, the Kurukshetra University has named 4 Young Scientists in India for the “Rajib Goyal Prize”. Rajneesh Mishra, KM Sureshan, Rajeev Varshney & Suman Chakraborty were selected for the honour for outstanding work in their respective fields. Goyal Prize was instituted in 1992 by Ram S Goyal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kurukshetra University ([Haryana](#)) – announced names of 4 Young Scientists in India to award “Rajib Goyal Prize”
- “Rajib Goyal Prize” – instituted in 1992 by Ram S. Goyal

9. Eminent Indian-American mathematician Nikhil Srivastava, has been jointly selected for the first \$5,000 “Ciprian Foias Prize” for the ‘highly original work’ in Operator Theory by the American Mathematical Society (AMS). Along with Prof. Srivastava, who teaches at the University of California, Berkeley, the two other awardees are Adam Marcus and Daniel Spielman. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nikhil Srivastava – selected for the first \$5,000 “Ciprian Foias Prize” by the American Mathematical Society
- Two other awardees – Adam Marcus & Daniel Spielman

10. On December 3, Denmark’s Viktor Axelsen and Chinese Taipei’s Tai Tzu Ying were named Male and Female Player of the Year respectively by the Badminton World Federation (BWF). While ‘Pair of the Year’ went to Greysia Polii and Apriyani Rahayu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Viktor Axelsen ([Denmark](#)) – named ‘Male Player of the Year’ by BWF
- Tai Tzu Ying ([Taiwan](#)) – named ‘Female Player of the Year’ by BWF
- Greysia Polii & Apriyani Rahayu – named ‘Pair of the Year’ by BWF

11. On December 3, Kochi-based ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) was awarded a project named “Indee+” on ‘Future Refrigeration India’ for spearheading the fuel transition in seafood sector. This project is coordinated by Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). The CIFT will collaborate with Norway for fuel transition in seafood sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICAR-CIFT ([Kochi, Kerala](#)) – was awarded a project named “Indee+” on ‘Future Refrigeration India’
- ICAR-CIFT + Norway = to collaborate for fuel transition in seafood sector
- [HQs of ICAR – New Delhi](#) | [DG – Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra](#) | [Established in – 1929](#)

12. On December 3, Tamil Nadu was awarded as the Best State for promoting empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) in the Centre’s annual “National Awards for the Disability Sector”. Along with the State, several individuals, NGOs and government departments were handed over the 2020 awards by President Ram Nath Kovind on International Day of PwD. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind – conferred annual “National Awards for the Disability Sector” to states/individuals/NGOs/depts
- Tamil Nadu – awarded as the Best State for promoting empowerment of PwD
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai](#) | [CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin](#) | [Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)

13. In December 2021, Kerala native Sruthy Sithara was crowned as “Miss Trans Global 2021”. She became the first Indian to win this title. The physical event, scheduled to be held in London, was cancelled this year due to the pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sruthy Sithara ([Kerala](#)) – crowned as “Miss Trans Global 2021”
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram](#) | [CM – Pinarayi Vijayan](#) | [Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

14. On December 8, President Ram Nath Kovind awarded the “President’s Standard” to the Indian Navy’s 22nd Missile Vessel Squadron (MVS), also known as the ‘Killer Squadron’ at a ceremonial parade held at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. The President’s Standard is the highest honour bestowed by the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces to a military unit in recognition of the service rendered to the nation. ‘Operation Trident’ was carried out by the 22nd Missile Vessel Squadron during the ‘1971 Indo-Pak War’. The 22nd Missile Vessels Squadron was formally established at Mumbai in October 1991. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind – awarded “President’s Standard” to 22nd Missile Vessel Squadron at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai
- Indian Navy’s 22nd Missile Vessel Squadron – also known as ‘Killer Squadron’
- [HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi](#) | [Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar](#) | [VC – S. N. Ghormade](#) | [Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950](#)



15. On December 8, Ashleigh Barty won the “2021 WTA Player of the Year” award. Ash Barty’s Wimbledon title and hold on the No. 1 ranking helped her win award for the second time. Barbora Krejčíková was selected as “Most Improved Player” and shared the “Doubles Team of the Year” award with Katerina Siniakova. Emma Raducanu was picked as “Newcomer of the Year” while Carla Suarez Navarro is the “Comeback Player of the Year”. The WTA Awards are given by the Women’s Tennis Association to players for achievements during the season or their career. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Winners of 2021 WTA Awards:

Award’s Category	Winner
2021 WTA Player of the Year	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)
2021 WTA Most Improved Player	Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic)
2021 WTA Doubles Team of the Year	Barbora Krejčíková & Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic)
2021 WTA Newcomer of the Year	Emma Raducanu (UK)
2021 WTA Comeback Player of the Year	Carla Suarez Navarro (Spain)

16. On December 8, Assamese poet Nilmani Phookan Jr won the 56th Jnanpith Award, and Konkani novelist Damodar Mauzo won the 57th Jnanpith Award. India’s highest literary award, the annual Jnanpith is bestowed on writers for their outstanding contribution towards literature. Guwahati-based Nilmani Phookan Jr was also awarded the ‘Padma Shri’ in 1990 and received the ‘Sahitya Akademi Fellowship’ in 2002. While Goa-based Damodar Mauzo had also won the ‘Sahitya Akademi Award’ in 1983 for his novel “Karmelin”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nilmani Phookan Jr. ([Assamese Poet](#)) – won the 56th Jnanpith Award (Padma Shri & Sahitya Akademi Fellowship)
- Damodar Mauzo ([Konkani Novelist](#)) – won the 57th Jnanpith Award (Sahitya Akademi Award)

17. In December 2021, Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu released a book titled “Public Service Ethics - A Quest for Naitik Bharat” authored by Prabhat Kumar and published by IC Centre for Governance. Prabhat Kumar is a former Governor of Jharkhand and former Cabinet Secretary to the Government of India. The book deals with ethics in governance and public service and proposes a collective quest for ‘Naitik Bharat’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. Venkaiah Naidu – released a book titled “Public Service Ethics - A Quest for Naitik Bharat”
- Author – Prabhat Kumar | Publisher – IC Centre for Governance

18. On December 10, Karnataka Bank was conferred with two “DigiDhan Awards” instituted by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The bank received these awards 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. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka Bank – conferred with two “DigiDhan Awards” instituted by MeitY
- HQs of Karnataka Bank – Mangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Mahabaleshwara M. S. | Chairman – Pradeep Kumar Panja

19. On December 10, Ahmedabad-based Pritzker Award-winner, Balkrishna Doshi was selected for the “Royal Gold Medal 2022” by the London-based Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). It is the world’s highest honour for architecture. He became the first Indian architect to receive the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Balkrishna Doshi ([Gujarat](#)) – selected for the world’s highest honour for architecture “Royal Gold Medal 2022” by RIBA

20. On December 9, International Maritime Organization (IMO) council awarded the Certificate of Commendation to Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and Master along with crew members of tugboat Ocean Bliss for exceptional and courageous efforts towards rescue operation of M/T New Diamond. IMO Award is given for individual’s and team’s exceptional bravery at sea. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IMO awarded the Certificate of Commendation to Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard & Master along with crew members of tugboat Ocean Bliss for exceptional bravery at sea
- [HQs of IMO – London, UK](#) | [Secretary-General – Kitack Lim](#)

21. On December 11, Mathematician Neena Gupta from Kolkata’s Indian Statistical Institute was awarded the “2021 DST-ICTP-IMU Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians” from developing countries, for her contribution in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra. Gupta became the third woman to receive the award ever since it was introduced in 2005. The Ramanujan Prize is given to an eminent Mathematician less than the age of 45 on 31 December, every year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neena Gupta ([Kolkata](#)) – awarded the “2021 DST-ICTP-IMU Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians” (3rd woman)

22. On December 11, Business journalist Tamal Bandopadhyay, Bollywood actress Divya Dutta and Sudha Murty, wife of Infosys founder Narayan Murty and former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi were among others who received awards for their books at the “Kalinga Literary Festival 2021”. Padmashree Srinivas Udgata was awarded with Kalinga Literary Award and Arun Kamal was awarded with Kalinga Literary International award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Awards given at “Kalinga Literary Festival 2021”:

Category	Winner
Women Writer	Divya Dutta
Economy	Tamal Bandopadhyay
Children’s literature	Sudha Murty
Non-fiction	Sandeep Bamzai
Autobiography	Rashid Kidwai
Kalinga Literary Award	Srinivas Udgata
Kalinga Literary International Award	Arun Kamal

23. On December 11, Amit Goenka, President of Digital Businesses & Platforms at ZEE Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL) was conferred with the “21st Century Icon Award 2021” at the House of Lords, London, UK. He received the award in the ‘Outstanding Media and Entertainment Award’ category. While another Indian, Amish Tripathi received the award in the ‘Exquisite Art Award’ category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “21st Century Icon Award 2021” – given at the House of Lords, London, UK
- Amit Goenka – received the award in the ‘Outstanding Media and Entertainment Award’ category
- Amish Tripathi – received the award in the ‘Exquisite Art Award’ category

24. On December 14, 21-year-old Harnaaz Sandhu won the “Miss Universe 2021” title at the 70th edition of the ‘Miss Universe Competition’ held in Eilat, Israel. She is the third Indian woman to win this title after Sushmita Sen (1994) & Lara Dutta (2000). Harnaaz, who belongs to Chandigarh, Punjab, previously bagged numerous pageant titles including ‘LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2021’ and ‘Femina Miss India Punjab 2019’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Harnaaz Sandhu ([Chandigarh, Punjab](#)) – became the 3rd Indian woman to win the “Miss Universe 2021” title
- 1st – Sushmita Sen (1994) | 2nd – Lara Dutta (2000)

25. Ropesh Goyal from IIT Kanpur won the “Young Geospatial Scientist” award in recognition of his unique contribution towards the development of the Indian Geoid Model and computation software. ISRO Chairman A. S. Kiran Kumar presented the award to Goyal during the inaugural event of the “DigiSmart India 2021” conference hosted by the Geospatial World. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ropesh Goyal ([IIT Kanpur](#)) – won the “Young Geospatial Scientist” award

26. Time Magazine named Tesla CEO Elon Musk as its “Person of the Year 2021”. American singer Olivia Rodrigo was named “Entertainer of the Year 2021” by Time Magazine. American gymnast Simone Biles was named “Athlete of the Year 2021”. While Covid-19 Vaccine scientists - Kizzmekia Corbett, Barney Graham, Katalin Kariko and Drew Weissman named “Heroes of the Year 2021” by Time Magazine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Time Magazine’s Awards:

Award	Winner
Person of the Year 2021	Elon Musk (Tesla CEO)
Entertainer of the Year 2021	Olivia Rodrigo (American Singer)
Athlete of the Year 2021	Simone Biles (American Gymnast)
Heroes of the Year 2021	- Kizzmekia Corbett - Barney Graham - Katalin Kariko - Drew Weissman

27. On December 15, the Sports Journalists’ Federation of India (SJFI) at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Guwahati conferred the prestigious “SJFI Medal” to legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar. Neeraj Chopra was adjudged the recipient of the “SJFI Sportsman of the Year” award while weightlifter Mirabai Chanu was voted as the “SJFI Sportswoman of the Year”. Sumit Antil and Pramod Bhagat shared the “SJFI Parathlete of the Year” in men’s category while shooter Avani Lekhara received the SJFI Parathlete of the Year in women’s category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sunil Gavaskar – received the prestigious “SJFI Medal” - the highest honour of SJFI
- Neeraj Chopra – received the “SJFI Sportsman of the Year” award
- Mirabai Chanu – received the “SJFI Sportswoman of the Year” award
- Sumit Antil & Pramod Bhagat – received the “SJFI Parathlete of the Year” (men’s)
- Avani Lekhara – received the “SJFI Parathlete of the Year” (women’s)
- [HQs of SJFI – Kolkata, West Bengal](#) | [President – A. Vinod](#)

28. On December 15, Lewis Hamilton was made Britain’s Knight Bachelor. He received his knighthood from Prince Charles at Windsor Castle, in Windsor, England. Lewis was awarded the knighthood in the 2021 New Year Honours list for his services to motorsport. Lewis is the fourth Formula 1 driver to be knighted. Hamilton had also received an MBE by the Queen in 2008. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lewis Hamilton – received the title of Britain’s Knight Bachelor from Prince Charles in England (4th F1 driver)
- Lewis Hamilton (UK) – ‘Mercedes’ Team

29. On December 15, Aditya Birla Group’s chairman, Kumar Mangalam Birla received the “Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award-Business Transformation” from The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE). Birla is the first Indian Industrialist to receive the award for global entrepreneurship along with top global business leaders Satya Nadella (Entrepreneurial CEO), Elon Musk (Immigrant Entrepreneur), and Jeff Bezos (First Generation). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Entrepreneur of the Year Awards” by The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE):

Winner	Category
Kumar Mangalam Birla	“Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award-Business Transformation”
Satya Nadella	“Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award-Entrepreneurial CEO”
Elon Musk	“Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award-Immigrant Entrepreneur”
Jeff Bezos	“Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award-First Generation”

30. On December 15, PM Narendra Modi was conferred with the highest civilian award of Bhutan, “Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo” (or Order of the Druk Gyalpo), on the occasion of Bhutan’s 114th National Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – conferred with the highest civilian award of Bhutan - “Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo”
- [Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum](#) | [PM – Lotay Tshering](#)

31. In December 2021, Azim Premji (Founder Chairman of Wipro) received the 10th annual “Dr. Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Oration” award, jointly established by Christian Medical College Vellore (CMC) and the US-based Vellore CMC Foundation. The award was presented to Mr. Premji in recognition of his contributions to the society through the foundation. Dr. Scudder who was born in Ranipet in 1870 dedicated her life to bringing modern healthcare and medical education to people of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Azim Premji – received the 10th annual “Dr. Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Oration” award in 2021
- The award is jointly established by = Christian Medical College Vellore + Vellore CMC Foundation
- HQs of Wipro – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Thierry Delaporte | Founder Chairman – Azim Premji

32. In December 2021, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) was awarded with the prestigious “Golden Peacock Environment Management Award” for the year 2021 in the Steel Sector by the Institute of Directors. SAIL has been the winner of this award for successive 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SAIL – awarded with the prestigious “Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2021”
- HQs of SAIL – New Delhi | CEO – Soma Mondal | Founded in – 1954

33. In December 2021, Divya Hegde from Udupi, Karnataka, won the “UN Women’s Award for Leadership Commitment” at the “2021 Regional Asia-Pacific Women’s Empowerment Principles Awards” ceremony. She was recognised for her sustained efforts in advancing gender equality through climate action efforts. Her organisation, Baeru Environmental Services, works in the areas of waste management, creation of livelihoods for rural women, and developing a circular economy in the region. This award is a joint initiative of UN Women and the UN Global Compact. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Divya Hegde ([Karnataka](#)) – won the “UN Women’s Award for Leadership Commitment”
- [The Founder of Baeru Environmental Services – Divya Hegde](#)

34. On December 15, Indian shooter Avani Lekhara won the ‘Best Female Debut’ honour at the “2021 Paralympic Awards” announced by the International Paralympic Committee for her record-breaking Gold medal at the Tokyo Games. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Avani Lekhara ([Para Shooter](#)) – won the ‘Best Female Debut’ honour at the “2021 Paralympic Awards”

35. On December 21, Sonipat-based O. P. Jindal Global University (JGU) was the Only Indian University to be Shortlisted for the “Digital Innovation of the Year” award at the distinguished “Times Higher Education (THE) Asia Awards 2021”. JGU was awarded for creating a free, cloud-based application to help schools and universities manage data. Besides, Bhubaneswar-based Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology won the prize for Asia’s “Leadership & Management Team of the Year” category at “THE Asia Awards 2021”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- O. P. Jindal Global University ([Haryana](#)) – won the “Digital Innovation of the Year” award at the “THE Asia Awards 2021”
- Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology ([Odisha](#)) – won the “Leadership & Management Team of the Year” award

36. On December 21, HDFC Life was adjudged the ‘Best Governed Company Listed Segment: Large Category’ at the 21st edition of the “ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance”. The award was presented by Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah. The eminent Jury was headed by Justice P. Sathasivam, Former Chief Justice of India. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- HDFC Life – won ‘Best Governed Company Listed Segment: Large Category’ award at the 21st “ICSI National Awards”
- The award was presented by – Amit Shah | The eminent Jury was headed by – Justice P. Sathasivam
- HQs of HDFC Life Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vibha Padalkar

37. On December 20, Tennis player Emma Raducanu was named “BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2021”. While Olympic medal-winning skateboarder Sky Brown was named “BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year 2021”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Emma Raducanu ([British Tennis Player](#)) – named “BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2021”
- Sky Brown ([British-Japanese Skateboarder](#)) – named “BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2021”

38. On December 22, GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL) was awarded Certificate of Merit for energy conservation by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under “National Energy Conservation Awards 2021”. GHIAL was the only one in the airport sector to receive the recognition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GHIAL – awarded Certificate of Merit for energy conservation under “National Energy Conservation Awards 2021”
- The award was given by – Bureau of Energy Efficiency
- HQs of BEE – New Delhi | Director General – Abhay Bakre

39. In December 2021, Environmentalist Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi was awarded the “Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice 2021”. Vidyut Mohan, Tulsi Gowda and Ridhima Pandey were also the recipients of the award. The awardees were felicitated by Dr Abraham Mathai, the founder chairman of Harmony Foundation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice 2021” – given by Harmony Foundation ([Mumbai](#))
- Winners: Anil Prakash Joshi + Vidyut Mohan + Ridhima Pandey + Tulsi Gowda

40. In December 2021, For the second year in a row, IIT Roorkee has been selected by the prestigious Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the “Industrial Innovation Awards 2021”. IIT Roorkee bagged the first position under the ‘Most Innovative Research Institutions’ category in 2021. The second and third positions went to IIT Madras and the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad (INCOIS), respectively. The awards were announced at the 27th DST-CII Technology Summit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Industrial Innovation Awards 2021” – given by the CII
- IIT Roorkee – first position under the ‘Most Innovative Research Institution’ category (2nd year in a row)
- 2nd – IIT Madras | 3rd – INCOIS ([Hyderabad](#))
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – T. V. Narendran | DG – Chandrajit Banerjee | Founded in – 1895

41. On December 24, Anukruti Upadhyay won the “Sushila Devi Award 2021” for the ‘Best Book of Fiction’ for her critically acclaimed novel, “Kintsugi”. This prize is instituted by the Shri Ratanlal Foundation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anukruti Upadhyay (“Kintsugi” novel) – won the “Sushila Devi Award 2021” for the ‘Best Book of Fiction’
- This award is given by – Shri Ratanlal Foundation

42. In December 2021, Gujarat’s Surat-based noted industrialist Viral Desai, popularly known as ‘Greenman’ for his love for the environment, was awarded the prestigious “Global Environment and Climate Action Citizen Award” in Dubai. Viral Desai and the other winners were felicitated with the 8th edition of “Bharat Gaurav Samman” by Sanskruti Yuva Sansthan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 8th edition of “Bharat Gaurav Samman” – given by Sanskruti Yuva Sansthan in Dubai, UAE
- Viral Desai ([Gujarat](#)) – awarded the prestigious “Global Environment & Climate Action Citizen Award 2021”

43. On December 28, Alia Bhatt is recognised for her work towards animal welfare. She was recently named “2021 Person of the Year” by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India. While actors Akshay Kumar and Bhumi Pednekar were named “2021 Most Beautiful Vegetarians” by PETA India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Alia Bhatt – named “2021 Person of the Year” by PETA India
- Akshay Kumar & Bhumi Pednekar – named “2021 Most Beautiful Vegetarians” by PETA India
- [HQs of PETA – Virginia, USA](#) | [President – Ingrid Newkirk](#)

44. On December 30, 20 names were announced for the “Sahitya Akademi Award 2021”. The awards for Gujarati, Maithili, Manipuri and Urdu languages will be announced at a later date. Some of the important awards & winners are as given below. Meanwhile, author Megha Majumdar won the “Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021” for her debut book “A Burning”, published in 2020. “Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021” was awarded for 22 Indian languages. Author Anita Vachharajani won the “Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021” in the English language for her children’s book “Amrita Sher-gil: Rebel With A Paintbrush”. “Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021” was also given in 22 Indian languages. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Sahitya Akademi Award 2021” – awarded for 20 Indian languages (Winner in English – Namita Gokhale)
- “Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021” – awarded for 22 Indian languages (Winner in English – Megha Majumdar)
- “Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021” – awarded for 22 Indian languages (Winner in English – Anita Vachharajani)
- Other winners of Sahitya Akademi Award 2021:

Language	Winner
Hindi	Daya Prakash Sinha
Assamese	Anuradha Sarma Pujari
Bengali	Bratya Basu
Malayalam	George Onakkoor
Nepali	Chhabilal Upadhyaya
Punjabi	Khalid Hussain
Tamil	Ambai
Telugu	Gorati Venkannat

45. On December 31, India women's team cricketer Smriti Mandhana was nominated for the prestigious "Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year-2021" award. Besides Mandhana, the other three cricketers - England's Tammy Beaumont, Australia's Lizelle Lee and Ireland's Gaby Lewis also figure in the list. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Smriti Mandhana – nominated for the "Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year-2021"
- Other 3 cricketers in the list: Tammy Beaumont ([England](#)) + Lizelle Lee ([Australia](#)) + Gaby Lewis ([Ireland](#))

46. Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna was presented with the "Rajyotsava Award" by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. Rajyotsava award is conferred in 24 categories, and each winner secures a Gold medal and a purse of Rs 1 lakh. He was awarded the Ekalavya award in 2005. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rohan Bopanna – presented with the "Rajyotsava Award" by Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore](#) | [CM – Basavaraj Bommai](#) | [Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot](#)



Appointments & Resignations

1. Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Mago took over as the 34th Commandant of National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi from Air Marshal D Choudhury who superannuated on November 30, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manoj Kumar Mago – took over as the 34th Commandant of National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi

2. Arunachal Pradesh government has roped in Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt as the brand ambassador for '50 Years of Arunachal Pradesh' celebration from 20th January to 20th February, 2022. While Rahul Mittra was roped in as Brand Advisor. Arunachal Pradesh came into existence as a Union Territory on 20th January, 1972. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Dutt – appointed as the Brand Ambassador for '50 Years of Arunachal Pradesh' celebration
- Rahul Mittra – appointed as the Brand Advisor of the occasion
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra

3. Haryana's 1986-batch IAS officer, Sanjeev Kaushal, was recently appointed as 35th Chief Secretary of Haryana after the superannuation of his predecessor Vijai Vardhan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjeev Kaushal – appointed as 35th Chief Secretary of Haryana (succeeding - Vijai Vardhan)
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

4. GUVI, an IIT Madras incubated startup roped in Indian women's cricketer Smriti Mandhana as its brand ambassador. GUVI is India's first vernacular Ed-tech Startup to impart tech & programming skills to aspiring individuals in their preferred native languages. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Smriti Mandhana – appointed as Brand Ambassador of GUVI, an IIT Madras incubated startup
- Location of GUVI – Chennai, Tamil Nadu

5. On December 2, BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra was appointed as the Part-Time Non-Executive Director & Chairman of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) for a period of 3 years, as Tourism Ministry's proposal approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). Ganji Kamala V. Rao will continue to hold the post of Managing Director of the ITDC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sambit Patra – appointed as the Chairman of India Tourism Development Corporation – for 3 years
- HQs of ITDC – New Delhi | Chairman – Sambit Patra | MD – Ganji Kamala V. Rao

6. UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay appointed Japanese film director Naomi Kawase as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Cultural and Creative Industries. Ms. Azoulay named Naomi Kawase in recognition of her commitment to culture and creativity at the service of the development of more just societies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Naomi Kawase ([Japan](#)) – appointed as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Cultural & Creative Industries
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945

7. On December 1, Ajay Banga, former CEO of Mastercard Inc., joined General Atlantic as Vice Chairman. He will advise General Atlantic's top management on the firm's strategy and work with its sector and geographic leaders on investment strategy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajay Banga – joined General Atlantic as Vice Chairman
- [HQs of General Atlantic – New York, US](#) | [CEO – William E. Ford](#)

8. Vice Admiral M. A. Hampiholi, currently Commandant of the Indian Naval Academy at Ezhimala, Kannur, took over as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Southern Naval Command, Kochi. The outgoing FOC-in-C, Vice Admiral Chawla handed over the charge to Vice Admiral Hampiholi. While Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta took over as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. A. Hampiholi – took over as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Southern Naval Command
- Biswajit Dasgupta – took over as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command
- [HQs of Southern Naval Command – Kochi, Kerala](#) | [FOC-in-Charge – Vice Admiral M. A. Hampiholi](#)
- [HQs of ENC – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh](#) | [FOC-in-C – Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta](#)

9. On December 31, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Vinay Kumar Tripathi, General Manager, North Eastern Railway to the post of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Railway Board, New Delhi. Tripathi succeeded Suneet Sharma. The appointment was initially made for 6 months from January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022. While the ACC approved the extension of 6 months up to December 2022 to Tripathi's tenure. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vinay Kumar Tripathi – appointed as the Chairman & CEO of Railway Board, New Delhi (till Dec 2022)
- [HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman & CEO – Vinay Kumar Tripathi](#)

10. On December 3, Pradip Shah, founder of IndAsia Fund Advisors, was appointed as Chairman of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL). While Aditya Birla's MD, Sanjay Jain was appointed as the CEO of India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL). Also, Diwakar Gupta, former MD of State Bank of India, was appointed as the Chairman of IDRCL. In September, the Cabinet cleared a proposal to provide a government guarantee of ₹30,600 Cr to security receipts issued by NARCL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pradip Shah – appointed as the Chairman of NARCL
- Sanjay Jain – appointed as the CEO of IDRCL
- Diwakar Gupta – appointed as the Chairman of IDRCL
- [MD of NARCL – Padmakumar M. Nair](#) | [Chairman – Pradip Shah](#) | [Lead Sponsor – Canara Bank \(12% equity\)](#)
- [CEO of IDRCL – Sanjay Jain](#) | [Chairman – Diwakar Gupta](#)

11. On December 3, Indian-American Gita Gopinath, the first female Chief Economist of International Monetary Fund, was promoted as IMF's First Deputy Managing Director serving under the IMF Chief Kristalina Georgieva. She replaced Geoffrey Okamoto. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gita Gopinath – promoted as IMF's 'First Deputy Managing Director' (succeeding - Geoffrey Okamoto)
- HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., US | President – Kristalina Georgieva | Member countries – 190

12. Kinara Capital, an innovative fast-growing fintech serving India's MSMEs, signed the Indian cricketer Ravindra Jadeja, as its official brand ambassador on the occasion of the company's 10th anniversary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravindra Jadeja – appointed as brand ambassador of Kinara Capital
- HQs of Kinara Capital – Bangalore, Karnataka | Founder & CEO – Hardika Shah

13. On December 3, Pawan Kumar joined the board of Indraprastha Gas Ltd as Director (commercial). Kumar took over from Amit Garg, who was repatriated back to his parent organization Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd as head of its Renewable energy vertical. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pawan Kumar – appointed as the Director of Indraprastha Gas Ltd
- HQs of Indraprastha Gas Ltd – New Delhi | MD – A. K. Jana

14. PepsiCo India roped in actor Mahesh Babu as the brand ambassador for Mountain Dew. This is part of the company's broader strategy to strengthen the brand's presence in the country especially in the Southern region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mahesh Babu – roped in as the brand ambassador for 'Mountain Dew' by PepsiCo India

15. On December 5, the Central government appointed Alka Upadhyaya as the Chairperson of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Sanjay Bandopadhyay was appointed as the Chairman of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). Upma Srivastava was appointed as the Secretary of National Commission for Scheduled Castes. G. Asok Kumar was appointed as the Director General of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG). Neelam Shammi Rao was appointed as Central Provident Fund Commissioner of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Central government made some appointments recently:
 - Alka Upadhyaya – Chairperson – National Highways Authority of India
 - Sanjay Bandopadhyay – Chairman – Inland Waterways Authority of India
 - Upma Srivastava – Secretary – National Commission for Scheduled Castes
 - G. Asok Kumar – DG – National Mission for Clean Ganga
 - Neelam Shammi Rao – Central Provident Fund Commissioner – EPFO
- HQs of NHAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Alka Upadhyaya | Founded in – 1988
- HQs of IWAI – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | Chairman – Sanjay Bandopadhyay
- NMCG functions under – Ministry of Jal Shakti | DG – G. Asok Kumar

16. On December 6, Walt Disney Company appointed Susan Arnold as its Chairman of the board, the first woman to be named to the role in the company's 98-year-long history. She succeeded Bob Iger. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Susan Arnold – appointed as the first woman Chairperson of Walt Disney Company
- HQs of Walt Disney Company – California, US | Chairperson – Susan Arnold (1st woman)

17. A popular Indian brand UNIX signed Indian International cricketer Jasprit Bumrah as their Brand Ambassador. UNIX offers latest and widest range of mobile accessories for your smartphones. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jasprit Bumrah – appointed as Brand Ambassador of a mobile accessories brand 'UNIX'

18. On December 6, the government has expanded the SCALE committee (Steering Committee for Advancing Local Value-Add and Exports) by adding three new members, hailing from diverse industry backgrounds. The new appointees are Manish Sharma, Vikram S. Kirloskar and Jalaj Dani. Currently, the 14-member SCALE committee is headed by former Mahindra CEO Pawan Goenka. The SCALE Committee is formed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been working closely with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the guidance of the ministry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Govt expanded 'SCALE committee' by adding 3 new members – Manish Sharma, Vikram S Kirloskar & Jalaj Dani
- The 14-member SCALE committee is headed by – Pawan Goenka | Formed by – Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash

19. On December 6, President of Gambia, Adama Barrow won a second term in Gambia's Presidential election by receiving over 53% votes. He is associated with National People's Party (NPP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adama Barrow – re-appointed as the President of Gambia (2nd term)
- Gambia – Banjul – Gambian dalasi | President – Adama Barrow

20. On December 8, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) appointed Ittira Davis as its managing director and chief executive officer for three years. He succeeded Nitin Chugh. He was an additional director of Ujjivan SFB from March 13, 2021, till July 23, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ittira Davis – appointed as the MD & CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (succeeding - Nitin Chugh)
- HQs of Ujjivan SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Ittira Davis | Founded in – 2004

21. In December 2021, Xiomara Castro, presidential candidate of the Liberty and Refoundation Party, was elected as the first female President of Honduras. The former first lady had 53% of the votes. She succeeded Juan Orlando Hernandez. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Xiomara Castro – elected as the first female President of Honduras (succeeding - Juan Orlando Hernandez)
- Honduras – Tegucigalpa – Honduran Lempira | President – Xiomara Castro

22. On December 6, Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) chairman and managing director Sanjiv Mehta became the President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). He is also the President of Unilever South Asia. He succeeded Uday Shankar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjiv Mehta – became the President of the FICCI (succeeding - Uday Shankar)
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | DG – Arun Chawla | President – Sanjiv Mehta | Founded in – 1927

23. On December 7, the former Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora joined the board of advisers for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), a Stockholm-based inter-governmental organisation consisting of 34 member countries. Mr. Arora was India's 23rd Chief Election Commissioner from December 2, 2018 to April 12, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sunil Arora – joined the board of advisers for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
- HQs of International IDEA – Stockholm, Sweden | Secretary-General – Kevin Casas-Zamora

24. On December 7, the General Assembly of World LPG Association (WLPGA) appointed Shrikant Madhav Vaidya (Chairman of IOCL) as the President during the ongoing World LPG Forum 2021 at Dubai, UAE. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shrikant Madhav Vaidya – appointed as the President of World LPG Association (WLPGA)
- HQs of WLPGA – Neuilly, France | President – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya | Established in – 1987

25. On December 3, Germany's parliament elected Olaf Scholz as the country's 9th Post-World War II Chancellor, after Angela Merkel's 16-year tenure. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Olaf Scholz – appointed as the new Chancellor of Germany (succeeding - Angela Merkel)
- He is Germany's 9th Post-World War II Chancellor
- Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier

26. In December 2021, BYJU'S announced a two-year partnership with Olympic medalists Neeraj Chopra and PV Sindhu as the brand ambassadors for "Disney BYJU'S Early Learn app". Disney BYJU'S Early Learn app is a special offering from BYJU'S launched in 2019 in collaboration with Disney India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neeraj Chopra & PV Sindhu – appointed as brand ambassadors by BYJU'S for "Disney BYJU'S Early Learn app"
- HQs of BYJU'S – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Byju Raveendran | Founded in – 2011
- HQs of The Walt Disney Company India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – K. Madhavan

27. On December 8, Piramal Realty, the real estate arm of the Piramal Group, has roped in actor Farhan Akhtar as a brand ambassador for its portfolio of residential projects in Mumbai and Thane. In September, the company had appointed cricketer Rahul Dravid as a brand ambassador for its portfolio of residential projects. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Farhan Akhtar – appointed as a brand ambassador of Piramal Realty
- HQs of Piramal Realty – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Naaman Atallah

28. On December 11, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed Catherine Russell, an adviser to US President Joe Biden, as the Executive Director of UNICEF. She replaced Henrietta H. Fore. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Catherine Russell – appointed as Executive Director of UNICEF (succeeding - Henrietta H. Fore)
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, US | Executive Director – Catherine Russell | Established in – 1946

29. On December 11, India has been re-elected to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council for the 2022-23 biennium. India's election falls under the Category (b) of 10 states with the largest interest in international seaborne trade. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – re-elected to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council for the 2022-23 biennium
- HQs of IMO – London, UK | Secretary-General – Kitack Lim

30. On December 10, Indian-origin professor Neeli Bendapudi created history as the first woman and person of colour to be named as the President of America's prestigious Pennsylvania State University. Bendapudi will succeed President Eric J Barron. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neeli Bendapudi – appointed as the 1st woman President of Pennsylvania State University (USA)

31. On December 12, US President Joe Biden elevated Indian-American political advisor Gautam Raghavan as the head of the White House Presidential Personnel Office (WH PPO). Gautam will replace Cathy Russell who was recently appointed as the next Executive Director of UNICEF. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gautam Raghavan – appointed as the head of White House Presidential Personnel Office (replacing - Cathy Russell)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

32. On December 15, the government appointed General M. M. Naravane (Chief of Army Staff) as the Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee (CoSC). The post fell vacant after the sudden demise of the first CDS General Bipin Rawat. Chiefs of Staff Committee includes the Chiefs of Navy and Air Force Staff too. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. M. Naravane – appointed as the Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee (succeeding - General Bipin Rawat)

33. On December 13, Ravinder Bhakar assumed charge as the MD & CEO of National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), Director General of Films Division of India and CEO of Children Films Society of India (CFSI). He was assigned these charges in addition to his present duties as CEO of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravinder Bhakar (CEO of CBFC) assumed charge as:
 - MD & CEO of National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)
 - Director General of Films Division of India
 - CEO of Children Films Society of India (CFSI)
- HQs of NFDC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Ravinder Bhakar
- HQs of Films Division of India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | DG – Ravinder Bhakar
- HQs of CFSI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ravinder Bhakar

34. On December 15, Popular Bollywood actress Kiara Advani was appointed as the brand ambassador for Audi India. She is the only female actress to become the ambassador of German luxury carmaker Audi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kiara Advani – appointed as the brand ambassador for Audi India
- HQs of Audi India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Country Head – Balbir Singh Dhillon
- HQs of Audi – Ingolstadt, Germany | CEO – Markus Duesmann

35. On December 16, South Korea-based Hyundai Motor Company appointed Unsoo Kim as the MD & CEO of Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) from January 1, 2022. He will succeed Seon Seob Kim. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Unsoo Kim – appointed as the MD & CEO of Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL)
- HQs of Hyundai Motor India – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & CEO – Unsoo Kim

36. On December 10, PepsiCo India's energy drink 'Sting' appointed Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar as its first-ever brand ambassador in India. This combination will extend the brand's 'Energy Bole Toh Sting' mantra. Vineet Sharma is the category director, Mountain Dew and Sting, PepsiCo India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Akshay Kumar – appointed as first-ever brand ambassador of PepsiCo India's energy drink 'Sting' in India

37. In December 2021, Karl Nehammer was sworn in as Chancellor of Austria in by President Alexander Van der Bellen. He succeeded Alexander Schallenberg. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karl Nehammer – sworn in as the Chancellor of Austria
- Austria – Vienna – Euro | President – Alexander Van der Bellen | Chancellor – Karl Nehammer

38. On December 16, Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan assumed charge as the Chief of Staff of the Eastern Naval Command. On promotion to the Flag Rank in Feb 2018, he was appointed as the Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (Policy and Plans) at IHQ MoD (Navy). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Vatsayan – assumed charge as the Chief of Staff of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC)
- HQs of ENC – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh | FOC-in-C – Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta

39. On December 16, Rear Admiral Sandeep Mehta assumed office as the Flag Officer Commanding Maharashtra Naval Area (FOMA) at Mumbai. The formal handing and taking over ceremony was held at INS Kunjali. Rear Admiral Mehta was commissioned on 01 January 1989, in the Executive branch of the Indian Navy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sandeep Mehta – assumed office as the Flag Officer Commanding Maharashtra Naval Area (FOMA), Mumbai

40. On December 20, Indian wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant was appointed as the state brand ambassador of Uttarakhand to encourage the youth to focus on sports. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rishabh Pant – appointed as the state brand ambassador of Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

41. On December 20, With 56% of the votes, Gabriel Boric was elected as Chile's next President by defeating his opposition Jose Antonio Kast. At 35, Boric became Chile's youngest modern President. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gabriel Boric – elected as the next President of Chile (to take office in March, 2022)
- Chile – Santiago – Peso | President – Gabriel Boric (from March, 2022)

42. On December 21, the most outstanding scientist of the DRDO, Atul Dinkar Rane was appointed as the Director-General (DG) of the BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd. This JV entity is known to produce the world-class BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Atul Dinkar Rane – appointed as the Director General of BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd
- HQs of BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd – New Delhi | DG – Atul Dinkar Rane

43. On December 20, Indian shuttler PV Sindhu was appointed as a member of the Badminton World Federation's (BWF) Athletes' Commission for 2nd term till 2025. The BWF's Athletes' Commission is chaired by Germany's Marc Zwiebler. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PV Sindhu – re-appointed as a member of the BWF's Athletes' Commission for 2nd term till 2025
- BWF's Athletes' Commission is chaired by – Marc Zwiebler (Germany)
- HQs of BWF – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President – Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen

44. On December 18, Mohit Jain (The Economic Times) was elected as President of The Indian Newspaper Society for the year 2021-22. Mohit Jain succeeded L. Adimoolam (Health & The Antiseptic publication). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mohit Jain – elected as President of The Indian Newspaper Society for 2021-22

45. On December 21, Vivek Gogia (presently IG-NCRB, Ministry of Home Affairs) was appointed as the Director of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). He replaced Ram Phal Pawar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vivek Gogia – appointed as the Director of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)
- HQs of NCRB – New Delhi | Director – Vivek Gogia | Established in – 1986

46. On December 22, Cough-and-cold OTC brand Vicks, backed by Procter & Gamble Hygiene and Health Care, announced Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh as its new brand ambassador in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ranveer Singh – appointed as Brand Ambassador of 'Vicks' in India (backed by P&G Hygiene & Health Care)

47. On December 21, Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla took over the Command of the Eastern Fleet as the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet (FOCEF). Eastern Fleet is known as the 'Sword Arm' of the Eastern Naval Command. He succeeded Rear Admiral Tarun Sobti. Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla was commissioned into the Indian Navy on January 1, 1989, and is a specialist in communication and electronic warfare. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Bhalla – took over the Command of the Eastern Fleet, the 'Sword Arm' of the ENC (succeeding - Tarun Sobti)
- HQs of Eastern Fleet – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh | FOCEF – Sanjay Bhalla

48. On December 20, Rear Admiral Atul Anand assumed charge as the Flag Officer Commanding Karnataka Naval Area (FOK). He will be responsible to the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command. He is the recipient of Vishisht Seva Medal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Atul Anand – assumed charge as the Flag Officer Commanding Karnataka Naval Area (FOK)

49. On December 20, Pradeep Kumar Rawat (Ambassador of India to the Netherlands) was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to China. He replaced Vikram Misri. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pradeep Kumar Rawat – appointed as the next Ambassador of India to China
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

50. On December 22, Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra was appointed as the acting Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court following the retirement of Chief Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjaya Kumar Mishra – appointed as the acting Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court
- Retirement age: Chief Justices & Judges of HC – 62 years | Chief Justice of India & judges of the SC – 65 years

51. On December 22, IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance announced the appointment of H. O. Suri as its new managing director and chief executive officer. IFFCO-Tokio General Insurance Company Limited is a 51:49 joint venture between India's IFFCO & Japan's Tokio Marine Group. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- H. O. Suri – appointed as the MD & CEO of IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance
- HQs of IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & CEO – H. O. Suri

52. On December 21, the Indian Olympic Association of India (IOA) appointed Ice Hockey Association of India's (IHAI) general secretary, Harjinder Singh, as the Chef de Mission (in charge of a national team) of Indian contingent for the upcoming "2022 Winter Olympics" in Beijing. The 24th edition of Beijing Games will be held from February 4 to 20, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Harjinder Singh – appointed as the Chef de Mission of Indian contingent for the “2022 Winter Olympics” in Beijing
- 24th edition of “Beijing Winter Olympics” – to be held from February 4 to 20, 2022
- HQs of IHAI – New Delhi | President – Surinder Mohan Bali | General Secretary – Harjinder Singh Jindi

53. On December 24, Anindya Banerjee, the Assistant High Commissioner of India to Chittagong, was appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Cameroon. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anindya Banerjee – appointed as the High Commissioner of India to Cameroon
- Cameroon – Yaounde – Central African CFA franc | President – Paul Biya

54. The RBI approved the appointment of Rajeev Ahuja as interim Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of RBL Bank for upto 3 months effective from December 25, 2021. Rajeev Ahuja was appointed after its regular MD & CEO Vishwvir Ahuja went on medical leave. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajeev Ahuja – appointed as interim MD & CEO RBL Bank for up to 3 months
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajeev Ahuja (interim) | Chairman – Prakash Chandra

55. On December 23, Indian golfer Aditi Ashok signed a 2-year MoU with Hyundai Motor India Ltd as brand ambassador. Aditi will be representing Hyundai in national and international sports tournaments and championships. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aditi Ashok (Indian Golfer) – appointed as brand ambassador of Hyundai Motor India
- HQs of Hyundai Motor India – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & CEO – Unsoo Kim

56. On December 28, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Atul Kumar Goel (MD & CEO of UCO Bank) as the MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank (PNB) with effect from February 1, 2022. Goel will serve as PNB's MD & CEO until December 31, 2024. Goel will replace Mallikarjuna Rao. Meanwhile, the ACC has appointed Soma Sankara Prasad as the MD & CEO of UCO Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Atul Kumar Goel – appointed as the MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank (succeeding - S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao)
- Soma Sankara Prasad – appointed as the MD & CEO of UCO Bank (succeeding - Atul Kumar Goel)
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Atul Kumar Goel | Tagline – “The Name You Can Bank Upon”
- HQs of UCO Bank – Kolkata, West Bengal | CEO – Soma Sankara Prasad | Tagline – “Honours your Trust”

57. On December 24, Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) announced the appointments to its board of Directors. Kamlesh Gandhi (CMD of MAS Financial Services) was appointed as Co-Chairman of FIDC in addition to Umesh Revankar, after the resignation of Sanjay Chamria. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kamlesh Gandhi – appointed as Co-Chairman of Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC)
- HQs of FIDC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman Emeritus – T. T. Srinivasaraghavan

58. In December 2021, Mohammed ben Sulayem became the first non-European to be elected as the President of the International Automobile Federation (FIA), succeeding the retiring Jean Todt. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mohammed ben Sulayem (UAE) – elected as the President of the International Automobile Federation (FIA)
- HQs of FIA – Paris, France | President – Mohammed ben Sulayem

59. On December 28, udazH, India's first portable molecular hydrogen generating machine, announced a well-known Indian Film actress and social worker, Bhagyashree as their brand ambassador. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhagyashree – appointed as brand ambassador of 'udazH'

60. On December 25, Indian origin Narandran 'Jody' Kollapen was appointed to South Africa's highest judicial bench, the Constitutional Court. President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the appointment of 64-year-old Kollapen and Rammaka Steven Mathopo as the latest additions to the Constitutional Court. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narandran 'Jody' Kollapen (Indian origin) – appointed to South Africa's highest judicial bench - 'Constitutional Court'
- South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa

61. In December 2021, Yamaha Motor India has appointed Eishin Chihana as its new Chairman. Chihana replaced Motofumi Shitara who held the position since 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Eishin Chihana – appointed as new Chairman of Yamaha Motor India
- HQs of Yamaha Motor India – Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh | Chairman – Eishin Chihana

62. On December 29, Online travel company EaseMyTrip appointed actors Vijay Raaz and Varun Sharma as its brand ambassadors. The company was co-founded by Nishant Pitti, Rikant Pitti, and Prashant Pitti in 2008. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vijay Raaz & Varun Sharma – appointed as brand ambassadors of EaseMyTrip
- HQs of EaseMyTrip – New Delhi | CEO – Nishant Pitti

63. On December 28, Equitas Small Finance Bank's board of directors approved the proposal for re-appointment of Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan as the MD & CEO for 3 years, with effect from July 23, 2022, up to July 22, 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan – re-appointed as the MD & CEO of Equitas Small Finance Bank
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan

64. On December 28, Vikram Misri, who was India's envoy to Beijing for almost 3 years, was named the next Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA). He succeeded Pankaj Saran, ex-Indian envoy to Russia and Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vikram Misri – appointed as the next Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA) | Succeeding – Pankaj Saran
- India's current & 5th National Security Advisor – Ajit Doval

65. On December 27, Radhika Jha, a 2002 Uttarakhand cadre IAS, was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in state-run Energy Efficiency Services (EESL), a joint venture among NTPC, Power Grid, Power Finance Corp and REC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Radhika Jha – appointed as the CEO of EESL
- HQs of EESL – New Delhi | CEO – Radhika Jha | Chairman – K. Sreekant

66. On December 30, Senior IAS officer Durga Shankar Mishra assumed charge as the Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh. He took over from Rajendra Kumar Tiwari, a 1985-batch IAS officer, who is due to retire in February 2023. A 1984-batch UP cadre IAS officer, Mishra was due to retire on December 31 but he was given a one-year extension in service. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Durga Shankar Mishra – assumed charge as the Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh (succeeding - Rajendra Kumar Tiwari)
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

67. On December 29, Dr. Anupam Ray (IFS:1994), presently Joint Secretary in Ministry of External Affairs, was appointed as the next Ambassador/Permanent Representative of India to the UN Conference on Disarmament (UNCD) in Geneva, Switzerland. Dr Anupam Ray replaced Dr Pankaj Sharma. While, Pankaj Sharma was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Mexico in December 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anupam Ray – appointed as the next Ambassador/PR of India to the UN Conference on Disarmament ([Geneva](#))
- Pankaj Sharma – appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Mexico

68. In December 2021, U.S. official Uzra Zeya was appointed as the US Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues. She will hold the position concurrently with her current role as Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uzra Zeya – appointed as the US Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

69. On December 30, ITBP Director General Sanjay Arora was given the additional charge as Director General of another border guarding force Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), as the SSB's DG Kumar Rajesh Chandra retired on December 31, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Arora – given additional charge as DG of Sashastra Seema Bal (succeeding - Kumar Rajesh Chandra)
- HQs of SSB – New Delhi | Director General – Sanjay Arora (addi. charge)

70. In December 2021, GoodDot, the plant-based meat company, roped in Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra as its brand ambassador, as announced by Abhishek Sinha, Co-founder & CEO of GoodDot. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neeraj Chopra – appointed as brand ambassador of GoodDot
- HQs of GoodDot – Udaipur, Rajasthan | Co-founder & CEO – Abhishek Sinha

71. On December 30, Amir Subhani, the 1987 batch IAS topper, was appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Bihar. He replaced Tripurari Sharan who retired on December 31. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amir Subhani – appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Bihar (succeeding - Tripurari Sharan)
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

72. In December 2021, Government of India approved the appointment of Praveen Kumar to the post of Director General & Chief Executive Officer (DG&CEO) of Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA). Praveen Kumar is a 1987 batch retired IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, and a former Secretary Skill Development & Entrepreneurship. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Praveen Kumar – appointed as the DG & CEO of Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)
- HQs of IICA – New Delhi | DG & CEO – Praveen Kumar

73. On December 31, the Centre appointed Virender Singh Pathania as the new Director General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). Before this appointment, he was posted as the Additional Director General at the Coast Guard Headquarters. Virender Singh Pathania replaced Krishnaswamy Natarajan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Virender Singh Pathania – appointed as the new DG of the Indian Coast Guard (succeeding - K. Natarajan)
- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | DG – Virender Singh Pathania | Founded in – 1977

74. On December 31, S. Balachandran, Ambassador of India to the Republic of Suriname, was concurrently accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to Barbados. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Balachandran – appointed as next High Commissioner of India to Barbados
- Barbados – Bridgetown – Barbados Dollar | PM – Mia Mottley | President – Dame Sandra Prunella Mason

Amount & Agreements

1. On December 3, Asian Development Bank (ADB) received a grant of nearly \$2 million (nearly Rs 15 Cr) from Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR), which will be utilised to enhance urban primary healthcare usage across India. The grant is aligned with the ADB-supported \$300 million (Rs 2,249 Cr) to strengthen the Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) system in urban areas across India under the 'Pradhan Mantri Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana (PM-ASBY)', which is recently renamed to 'Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – received a grant of nearly \$2 million (nearly Rs 15 Cr) from Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR)
- The grant is aligned with the ADB-supported \$300 million (Rs 2,249 Cr) to strengthen the CPHC system
- [HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines](#) | [President – Masatsugu Asakawa](#) | [Members – 68](#) | [Established in – 1966](#)

2. On December 2, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$500 million loan to the Government of India to help improve the quality of India'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). About 1,800 government schools will be transformed into exemplar schools in Assam, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB approved a \$500 million loan to GoI to help improve the quality of India's school education
- [HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines](#) | [President – Masatsugu Asakawa](#) | [Members – 68](#) | [Established in – 1966](#)

3. In December 2021, the Central Government released grants of Rs 169.60 Cr to Meghalaya (out of ₹678.39 Cr allocated to the state), Rs 402.24 Cr to Punjab (out of Rs 1,656.39 Cr allocated to the state), Rs 1,667 Cr to Maharashtra (out of Rs 7,064.41 Cr allocated to the state), Rs 120 Cr to Manipur (out of Rs 481 Cr allocated to the state) & Rs 604 Cr to Jammu & Kashmir (out of Rs 2,747 Cr allocated to the UT) under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The aim of JJM is to provide potable water on tap to every household by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central grant released under Jal Jeevan Mission:
 - Maharashtra – Rs 1,667 Cr (out of Rs 7,064.41 Cr allocated)
 - Meghalaya – Rs 169.60 Cr (out of ₹678.39 Cr allocated)
 - Punjab – Rs 402.24 Cr (out of Rs 1,656.39 Cr allocated)
 - Manipur – Rs 120 Cr (out of Rs 481 Cr allocated)
 - J&K – 604 Cr (out of Rs 2,747 Cr allocated)
- Aim of JJM: To provide potable water on tap to every household by – 2024

4. On December 7, the Indian government signed two loan agreements of \$275 million (Rs 2,074 Cr) with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for an affordable housing project in Tamil Nadu (\$150 million) and a water sanitation programme in Uttarakhand (\$125 million). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + ADB = \$150 million (Rs 1,132 Cr) loan agreement for an affordable housing project in Tamil Nadu
- India + ADB = \$125 million (Rs 942 Cr) loan agreement for water sanitation programme in Uttarakhand
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966

5. On December 9, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$350 million policy-based loan to improve urban services in India. The loan supports the policies established by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to accelerate universal coverage of piped water supply and improved sanitation under the recently launched national program “Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0” and provide affordable housing to all under the flagship mission “Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)”. The program will benefit the urban poor, including other disadvantaged, economically weaker section and low-income groups. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – approved a \$350 million policy-based loan to improve urban services in India
- The loan supports the policies established by – MoHUA
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966

6. On December 14, Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$112 million loan to strengthen skills education and training through the establishment of the Assam Skill University (ASU). An additional \$1 million grant from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction would also be provided. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – approved \$112 million loan to strengthen skills education & training by establishing Assam Skill University (ASU)
- Assam Skill University (ASU) – located at Mangaldai, Darrang, Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966

7. On December 13, Power Finance Corporation (PFC) signed an agreement with GreenCell Mobility to lend Rs 275 Cr for deployment of 350 electric buses across 9 cities in Uttar Pradesh. GreenCell Mobility is an e-mobility platform supported by governments of India and the UK to boost adoption of electric vehicles in India. The Centre launched FAME-II scheme with an allocation of Rs 3,500 Cr for promotion of adoption of electric buses. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PFC + GreenCell Mobility = an agreement to lend Rs 275 Cr for deployment of 350 e-buses in 9 cities of Uttar Pradesh
- HQs of PFC Ltd – New Delhi | CMD – Ravinder Singh Dhillon | Established in – 1986
- GreenCell Mobility – an e-mobility platform supported by governments of India & UK
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

8. On December 17, Meghalaya government received 700 Cr from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for promotion and development of tourism sector in the state. Out of 700 Cr, the Meghalaya government has earmarked Rs 350 Cr each for the Khasi and Garo Hills regions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Meghalaya – received 700 Cr from the JICA for promotion & development of Tourism Sector
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

9. On December 17, the Government of India and the Germany Development Bank - KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau) signed a 442.26 million Euros loan pact for Surat Metro Rail project. The total cost of the project is 1.5 billion euros, of which KfW is financing 442.26 million euros. The project is being co-financed by French Development Agency, AFD (Agence Française de Développement) for 250 million euro. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GoI + KfW = 442.26 million Euros loan pact for Surat Metro Rail project in Gujarat | Total cost – 1.5 billion Euros
- The project is being co-financed by – AFD ([France](#))
- HQs of KfW – Frankfurt, Germany | CEO – Gunther Braunig

10. On December 23, REC Ltd signed an agreement with German development bank KfW for availing ODA (official development assistance) term loan of \$169.5 million for the power finance sector and renewable energy projects under the Indo-German Bilateral Partnership. Moreover, India government and KfW signed agreements for a Euro 140 million reduced interest loan and Euro 2 million grant for an energy reform programme in Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- REC Ltd + KfW = an agreement to get \$169.5 mn for the Power Finance Sector & RE projects
- Indian Govt + KfW = Euro 140 million loan agreement for Energy sector reforms in Madhya Pradesh
- HQs of KfW – Frankfurt, Germany | CEO – Gunther Braunig
- HQs of REC Ltd – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Sanjay Malhotra | Founded in – 1969

11. On December 24, Government of India (GoI) and European Investment Bank (EIB) signed a finance contract for the first tranche loan of Euro 250 million for the Agra Metro Rail Project in Uttar Pradesh. EIB had approved a total loan of Euro 450 million to fund the Agra Metro Rail Project. The project aims to provide a safe, reliable, affordable and environment-friendly public Mass Rapid Transit System for Agra city. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GoI + EIB = a contract for the first tranche loan of Euro 250 million for the Agra Metro Rail Project (out of Euro 450 mn)
- HQs of European Investment Bank – Luxembourg | President – Werner Hoyer

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

1. On December 1, Israel's Tel Aviv is the world's most expensive city to live in as soaring inflation has pushed up living costs globally, according to the "Worldwide Cost of Living Index 2021" published by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). Paris and Singapore jointly came at second place, followed by Zurich and Hong Kong at 4th & 5th places. Damascus was ranked the world's cheapest city to live in. This year's data was collected in August and September. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Worldwide Cost of Living Index 2021" – released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- Tel Aviv ([Israel](#)) – the world's most expensive city to live in
- Damascus ([Syria](#)) – the world's cheapest city to live in

2. Global trade is expected to increase by 23% to reach about \$28 trillion in 2021 as compared to 2020, according to the "Global Trade Update" report issued by the UNCTAD. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Global Trade Update" report – issued by the UNCTAD
- Global trade is expected to increase by 23% to reach about \$28 trillion in 2021
- [HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland](#) | [Secretary-General – Rebecca Grynspar](#)

3. On December 2, According to the 11th edition of "World Migration Report 2022" released by the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM), the number of international migrants has grown from 84 million globally in 1970 to 281 million in 2020. Due to growth in Global population too, the proportion of international migrants increased from 2.3% to just 3.6% of the world's population. India has the largest Emigration population in the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 11th edition of "World Migration Report 2022" – released by the UN's IOM ([Grand-Saconnex, Switzerland](#))
- Number of international migrants increased – to 281 million in 2020 (from 84 million in 1970)
- Proportion of international migrants increased to 3.6% of the world's population (from 2.3%)

4. On December 2, the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has been ranked 'Number one Cooperative' among the top 300 cooperatives in the world, as per the 10th Annual World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) report published by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA). IFFCO has also stepped up to 60th Position in overall Turnover ranking from 65th position in 2020. Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (Amul) ranked at the 2nd position. Moreover, the world's first Nano Urea was globally introduced by the IFFCO for the farmers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 10th Annual World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) report – published by International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)
- IFFCO – ranked No. 1 Cooperative among the top 300 cooperatives in the world | 2nd – Amul
- [HQs of IFFCO – New Delhi](#) | [MD & CEO – U. S. Awasthi](#)



5. Unemployment rate for people of age 15 years and above in urban areas rose to 9.3% in January-March 2021 from 9.1% in January-March 2020, as per the 10th “Periodic Labour Force Survey” released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), under the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI). Labour force participation rate in CWS (current weekly status) in urban areas for those 15 years of age and above was 47.5% in January-March quarter of 2021, down from 48.1% in January-March 2020. NSO launched PLFS in April 2017. On the basis of PLFS, a quarterly bulletin is brought out giving estimates of labour force indicators namely UR, Worker Population Ratio (WPR), Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), etc. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 10th “Periodic Labour Force Survey” – released by the NSO under the MoSPI
- Unemployment rate for people of age 15 years and above in urban areas rose to – 9.3% in January-March 2021
- Labour force participation rate in CWS in urban areas for 15 years & above age – 47.5% in Jan-March 2021
- NSO comes under – Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoS I/C – Rao Inderjit Singh)
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy

6. The United States is the biggest contributor to global plastic waste in the world, according to the report titled “Reckoning with the U.S. Role in Global Ocean Plastic Waste”. On average, every American generates 130 kg (286 pounds) of plastic waste per year, with South Korea next on the list at 88 kg per year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US – the biggest contributor to global plastic waste in the world | 2nd – South Korea
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

7. As on December 1, Gujarat surpassed Maharashtra to emerge as the largest manufacturing hub in India, with its Gross Value Addition (GVA) in manufacturing growing 15.9% annually on average between FY12 and FY20 to reach Rs 5.11 lakh Cr, according to the data released by the RBI. India’s manufacturing GVA grew to Rs 16.9 lakh Cr in FY20 at an average growth rate of 9.7% per annum since FY12. However, Maharashtra retained its spot as the leading services provider in India, with the state’s services GVA growing at 12.6% per annum. Karnataka registered the fastest growth in services GVA at 15.1% per annum during the same period. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat – emerged as the largest Manufacturing Hub in India (2nd – Maharashtra)
- Gujarat’s manufacturing GVA growth – 15.9% annually to reach Rs 5.11 lakh Cr in FY20
- India’s manufacturing GVA growth – 9.7% annually to reach Rs 16.9 lakh Cr in FY20
- Maharashtra – emerged as the leading Services Provider in India
- Karnataka – registered the fastest growth in Services

8. On December 1, Reliance’s Goodwill Ambassador, Nita Ambani was ranked second in the list of Most Powerful Women by Fortune India. She is the founder and Chairman of Reliance Foundation. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman the list while Chief Scientist of WHO, Soumya Swaminathan ranked third. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The “List of Most Powerful Women” by Fortune India
- 1st – Nirmala Sitharaman | 2nd – Nita Ambani | 3rd – Soumya Swaminathan



9. On December 6, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) and Indian Ordnance Factories (Directorate of Ordnance) were among the “Top 100 Global arms-producing and Military Services Companies in 2020”, released by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), consisting of the Indian Ordnance Factories, is now known as Directorate of Ordnance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Top 100 Global arms-producing & Military Services Companies, 2020” – released by SIPRI
- HAL + BEL + OFB = among the top 100 global arms-producing & military services companies in 2020
- [HQs of SIPRI – Stockholm, Sweden](#) | [Chair – Jan Eliasson](#)

10. On December 6, the report, titled “Waste-Wise Cities: Best Practices in Municipal Solid Waste Management” - a comprehensive knowledge repository of how Indian cities are managing their solid waste, was released by NITI Aayog and Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). The report documents best practices from 28 cities in 15 states of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Waste-Wise Cities: Best Practices in Municipal Solid Waste Management” report = released by NITI Aayog + CSE
- [HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi](#) | [CEO – Amitabh Kant](#) | [Chairperson – Narendra Modi](#) | [VC – Rajiv Kumar](#)
- [HQs of CSE – New Delhi](#) | [DG – Sunita Narain](#)

11. On December 6, the number of new accounts opened under “Sukanya Samriddhi Account (SSA)” from April 2018 to October 2021 is 1,42,73,910, as announced by the Minister of State for Finance Shri Pankaj Chaudhary. Uttar Pradesh (29,12,632) opened the maximum Sukanya Samriddhi Accounts in this period while Lakshadweep (331) opened the lowest accounts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New accounts opened under “Sukanya Samriddhi Account (SSA)” from April 2018 to October 2021 = 1,42,73,910
- Uttar Pradesh – opened the maximum Sukanya Samriddhi Accounts (29,12,632)
- [Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman](#) | [Constituency – Karnataka](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chaowdhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad](#)

12. On December 8, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman improved her rank on the Forbes’ 18th “The World’s 100 Most Powerful Women” from 41st last year to 37th in 2021. This is the third year in a row that she made it to the list. Besides Sitharaman, other Indians to feature on the list are the HCL Corporation CEO Roshni Nadar Malhotra (52), Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (72), and Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar (88). Philanthropist Mackenzie Scott is in the number one position, followed by the US vice president Kamala Harris & European Central Bank Head Christine Lagarde. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 18th edition of “The World’s 100 Most Powerful Women” – released by the Forbes
- 1st – Mackenzie Scott | 2nd – Kamala Harris | 3rd – Christine Lagarde
- In India: Nirmala Sitharaman (37) | Roshni Nadar Malhotra (52) | Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (72)

13. On December 6, India emerged as the 4th most powerful country in Asia after the US, China & Japan respectively. It has been ranked fourth among the 26 countries and territories in Indo-Pacific for comprehensive power as per the Lowy Institute’s “Asia Power Index 2021”. India ranked 3rd in the future resources measure, behind only the United States and China. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Asia Power Index 2021” – by Lowy Institute ([Sydney](#))
- Most Powerful Countries in Asia: 1st – US, 2nd – China, 3rd – Japan, 4th – India
- In Future Resources measure: 1st – US, 2nd – China, 3rd – India

14. On December 6, India stands out as a poor and very unequal country, as per the “World Inequality Report 2022” released by Paris-based World Inequality Lab. India’s top 10% and top 1% of the population hold respectively 57% and 22% of total national income. The richest 10% of the global population currently takes 52% of global income, whereas the poorest half of the population earns 8% of it. Middle East & North Africa (MENA) is the most unequal region in the world, while Europe has the lowest inequality levels. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Inequality Report 2022” – released by World Inequality Lab ([Paris, France](#))
- India’s top 10% of the population hold 57% of total National Income | Top 1% hold 22% of total National Income
- World’s top 10% of the global population hold 52% of Global Income
- Highest inequality levels in the world – MENA | Lowest inequality levels – in Europe

15. On December 8, Shri Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj released a report on “Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Panchayati Raj Institutions”. On this occasion, two dedicated Dashboards namely (i) Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) Monitoring Dashboard and (ii) Training Management Portal were launched. “Handbook on Training Management Portal” was also released. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Minister Giriraj Singh:
 - released a report on “Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Panchayati Raj Institutions”
 - launched “GPDP Monitoring Dashboard” & “Training Management Portal”
 - released “Handbook on Training Management Portal”
- [Ministry of Rural Development: Giriraj Singh | Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj: Faggansingh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti](#)

16. On December 6, India reported reduction in the malaria burden between 2019 and 2020, according to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) latest “World Malaria Report”. The WHO report noted that India accounted for 83% of cases and 82% of all malaria deaths in 2020 in the WHO South-East Asia Region. While globally, India contributed 1.7% of malaria cases and 1.2% deaths. There were an estimated 241 million malaria cases and 6,27,000 malaria deaths worldwide in 2020, representing about 14 million more cases and 69,000 more deaths in 2020 compared to 2019. Malaria deaths increased by 12% globally in 2020 compared with 2019. On the other hand, China and El Salvador were certified by the WHO as malaria-free in 2021, and Iran attained 3 consecutive years of zero indigenous cases in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Malaria Report” – released by the WHO
- In the WHO South-East Asia Region: India accounted for 83% of all malaria cases & 82% of all malaria deaths in 2020
- Globally: India accounted for 1.7% of all malaria cases & 1.2% of all malaria deaths in 2020
- Malaria deaths increased by 12% globally in 2020 (compared with 2019)
- [HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948](#)

17. On December 10, NITI Aayog released “Report on Country-level assessment of Emergency and Injury Care” at secondary, tertiary level centres and district hospitals in India. These reports bring out and highlight the spectrum and load of emergency cases, it brings out the prevailing gaps in ambulance services, health infrastructure, human resources and equipment in the provision of optimal care. These studies were carried out by the Department of Emergency Medicine, JPNATC, AIIMS, New Delhi in collaboration with NITI Aayog. These studies have assessed the prevailing status of 100 emergency and injury care centres in government and private hospitals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog – released “Report on Country-level assessment of Emergency and Injury Care at secondary, tertiary level centres & district hospitals in India”
- These studies were carried out by = Department of Emergency Medicine + JPNATC + AIIMS + NITI Aayog
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Rajiv Kumar

18. On December 8, Maharashtra retained the top position in the list of states with the most employable talent followed by Uttar Pradesh and Kerala, according to the “India Skills Report 2022” released by Wheebox. Overall youth employability in India increased to 48.7% compared to last year. The highest employable age group was identified between 22-25 years of age. Pune topped the list of cities with the highest employability followed by Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram. Among the employable youth population, 51.44% of females were found to be employable. Gujarat topped the list of states with highest availability of employable BA and MBA graduates in India. Hubli was identified as the city with the most employable youth capital in the 22-25 age group. The report was prepared by by Wheebox in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry, Association of Indian Universities, United Nations Development Program, All India Council for Technical Education, Additional Skill Acquisition Programme, and PeopleStrong and Taggd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India Skills Report 2022” – released by Wheebox
- States with the most employable talent: 1st - Maharashtra, 2nd - Uttar Pradesh, 3rd - Kerala
- Cities with the highest employability: 1st - Pune, 2nd - Lucknow, 3rd - Thiruvananthapuram
- Gujarat – the states with highest availability of employable BA & MBA graduates in India
- Hubli ([Karnataka](#)) – the city with the most employable youth capital in the 22-25 age group
- Overall youth employability in India increased to – 48.7%
- Highest employable age group in India – 22-25 years

19. On December 9, the world’s population is set to decline for the first time ever in the next century - 2100, a new study published in the Lancet journal has revealed. Currently, there are about 7.8 billion people in the world. The study has predicted that the peak in the global population would expectedly be around 9.7 billion in 2064 and then decline to 8.79 billion in 2100. The population in India would be around 1.09 billion in 2100. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lancet Journal: the peak in the global population would be around 9.7 billion in 2064 [{Dynamic Data}](#)
- Global population would decline to 8.79 billion in 2100 | India’s population would be around 1.09 billion in 2100

20. On December 10, Indian-origin professor Neeli Bendapudi created history as the first woman and person of colour to be named as the President of America’s prestigious Pennsylvania State University. Bendapudi will succeed President Eric J Barron. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neeli Bendapudi – appointed as the 1st woman President of Pennsylvania State University (USA)

21. On December 12, US President Joe Biden elevated Indian-American political advisor Gautam Raghavan as the head of the White House Presidential Personnel Office (WH PPO). Gautam will replace Cathy Russell who was recently appointed as the next Executive Director of UNICEF. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gautam Raghavan – appointed as the head of White House Presidential Personnel Office (replacing - Cathy Russell)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

22. On December 13, Maharashtra topped the list of States with maximum number of beneficiaries under the “Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY)”, followed by Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. In Maharashtra, the beneficiaries were provided a total of ₹409.72 Cr under the scheme. Under the ABRY, the government is paying both employees' and employers' contributions of 24% of wages (12% of wages for each) in respect of establishments having 1,000 employees and employees' contribution of 12% of wages to establishments having more than 1,000 employees. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- List of States with maximum number of beneficiaries under the “Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY)”:
- 1st – Maharashtra | 2nd – Tamil Nadu | 3rd – Gujarat

23. On December 16, the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) released the report on the “State of Foundational Literacy & Numeracy in India”. As per the scorecards, Kerala with a score of 67.95 and West Bengal with a score of 58.95 are the top-scoring regions in Small and Large states, respectively. While Lakshadweep (52.69) and Mizoram (51.64) are top-scoring regions in Union Territory and Northeast state category. The report was prepared by the Institute for Competitiveness. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “State of Foundational Literacy & Numeracy in India” – released by EAC-PM | Prepared by – IFC
- Top-scoring regions in Small & Large states: Kerala (67.95) & West Bengal (58.95)
- Top-scoring regions in UT & Northeast state: Lakshadweep (52.69) & Mizoram (51.64)

24. On December 18, In the “Global Spam Report 2021” released by Truecaller, India ranked 4th on the list of top 20 countries affected by spam calls in 2021. Brazil ranks number one on the list of the most spammed country in the world (4th year in a row), followed by Peru and Ukraine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Spam Report 2021” – released by Truecaller
- India – 4th most affected country by spam calls in 2021 | 1st – Brazil, 2nd – Peru, 3rd – Ukraine

25. On December 21, India’s Kidambi Srikanth jumped 4 places to regain his place (10th) in the world’s top 10 in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) rankings. Young Lakshya Sen ranked at 17th position and B. Sai Praneeth slipped two places to the 18th spot. In Men’s Single BWF world rankings, Denmark’s Viktor Axelsen topped the list. While in women’s singles, China’s Tai Tzu-ying topped the list. Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu remained static at 7th place, while Saina Nehwal ranked 25th. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Men's Single BWF world rankings: Top – Viktor Axelsen ([Denmark](#)) | Kidambi Srikanth (10th) & Lakshya Sen (17th)
- Women's Single BWF world rankings: Top – Tai Tzu-ying ([China](#)) | PV Sindhu (7th) & Saina Nehwal (25th)

26. On December 23, India, with a total of 54 unicorns (33 unicorns newly added), ranked third in the world, according to "Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2021". According to Hurun India, India's list of unicorns is led by edtech platform BYJU's which is valued at \$21 billion. India is behind the US (487 unicorns) and China (301 unicorns) on the index. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2021": 1st – US (487 unicorns), 2nd – China (301 unicorns), 3rd – India (54 unicorns)
- India's list of unicorns is led by – BYJU's (valued at \$21 billion)

27. On December 21, In the latest report published by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), 152 (17% of the world total) Anti-doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) were reported in India in 2019, which ranked India third in the list with the maximum dope offenders coming from bodybuilding (57). India is only behind Russia (167) and Italy (157). Based on a compilation of the information received by WADA till January 31, 2021, 1,535 samples (57%) were confirmed as ADRV (sanctions). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WADA's "2019 Anti-doping Rule Violations (ADRVs)" report: 1st - Russia (167), 2nd - Italy (157), 3rd - India (152)
- Maximum number of dope offenders came from – Bodybuilding
- [HQs of WADA – Montreal, Canada](#) | [President – Witold Banka](#)

28. On December 21, Global demand for coal-fired electricity grew 6% in 2021 to 7,906 million tonnes (Mt) and generation 9% to 10,350 terawatt-hours (TWh), according to "Coal 2021 Report" released by the International Energy Agency (IEA). Generation increased 12% in India and 9% in China. The CO₂ emissions from coal in 2024 will result in 3 gigatonnes higher than its Net Zero Emissions by 2050 Scenario (NZE). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Coal 2021 Report" – released by IEA
- Global demand for coal-fired electricity in 2021 – increased by 6% to 7,906 MT
- Global coal-fired electricity generation in 2021 – increased by 9% to 10,350 TWh
- CO₂ emissions from coal in 2024 will result in 3 GT higher than its Net Zero Emissions by 2050
- [HQs of IEA – Paris, France](#) | [Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol](#) | [Member countries – 30](#)

29. On December 26, As per the "World Economic League Table 2022" released by UK-based Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), the world's economic output will exceed \$100 trillion for the first time in 2022. The report predicted that China will become the world's largest Economy in 2030 by overtaking the USA. India looks set to overtake France in 2022 and then Britain in 2023 to regain its place as the world's 6th biggest economy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "World Economic League Table 2022" – released by Centre for Economics & Business Research ([London, UK](#))
- World's economic output will exceed \$100 trillion for the first time in 2022
- China – become the world's largest Economy in 2030 by overtaking the USA
- India – to overtake France in 2022 & Britain in 2023

30. On December 25, Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah released the “Good Governance Index 2021” prepared by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) on Good Governance Day at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa top the composite rank score under Group A covering 10 sectors. Under Group B, Madhya Pradesh topped the list. While Himachal Pradesh and Delhi topped under Northeast & Hill States & Union Territories category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – released the “Good Governance Index 2021” prepared by DARPG
- Group A Composite: Gujarat
- Group B Composite: Madhya Pradesh
- Northeast & Hill States: Himachal Pradesh
- UTs: New Delhi

31. On December 25, Telangana stood first in the implementation of the “Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)” among the 34 states & UTs. Tamil Nadu and Gujarat took the second and third positions respectively. While Ryakal (Sangareddy) & Jukkal (Kamareddy) clusters in Telangana and Aibawk (Aizawl) cluster in Mizoram stood in the top three positions among the 300 clusters across India. The Mission, launched in February 2016, aims at development of 300 Rurban clusters, in the next 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rankings in the implementation of the “Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)”:
- Among 34 States/UTs: 1st – Telangana, 2nd – Tamil Nadu, 3rd – Gujarat
- Among 300 Clusters: 1st – Ryakal (Sangareddy), 2nd – Jukkal (Kamareddy), 3rd – Aibawk (Aizawl)

32. On December 27, NITI Aayog released the 4th edition of the State Health Index for 2019-20. 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. 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 Delhi & Jammu & Kashmir among the UTs. The report was developed by NITI Aayog, with technical assistance from the World Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4th State Health Index titled “Healthy States, Progressive India” for 2019-20 – developed by NITI Aayog & World Bank
- Top ranking among Larger States: Kerala and Tamil Nadu (respectively)
- Top ranking among Smaller States: Mizoram and Tripura (respectively)
- Top ranking among UTs: New Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir (respectively)

33. On December 28, India’s Green Energy industry received foreign direct investment (FDI) worth \$7.27 billion from 2014-15 till June 2021, according to Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). Of this, \$797.21 million came during 2020-21. As per “REN21 Renewables 2020 Global Status Report”, during the period 2014-2019 renewable energy programmes and projects in India attracted an investment of \$64.4 billion. India has the 4th largest wind power capacity in the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s Green Energy industry received FDI worth \$7.27 billion from 2014-15 to June 2021 (\$797.21 mn during 2020-21)
- India has the 4th largest wind power capacity in the world

34. In December 2021, UN Women along released a report titled “Women and Girls left behind: Glaring gaps in Pandemic Responses”. This was calculated using data from the “UNDP-UN Women Gender Response Tracker”. The report compiled and analysed the results of Rapid Gender Assessment surveys (RGA) from April 2020-March 2021. At least 29% of working mothers living with children lost their jobs compared to only 20% of working men living with children. Women without children (single, widowed or partnered) were also less likely to receive cash relief (8% of women versus 17% of men).

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Women and Girls left behind: Glaring gaps in Pandemic Responses” – released by UN Women
- This was calculated using data from the “UNDP-UN Women Gender Response Tracker”
- [HQs of UN Women – New York, USA](#) | [Executive Director – Ms. Sima Bahous](#)

35. On December 29, IIT Madras topped the list in promotion and support of innovation and entrepreneurship development, according to “Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)”. IIT Madras was followed by IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur and IIT Roorkee. IISc Bengaluru has bagged the 6th position. ARIIA is an initiative of the Ministry of Education (MoE). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)” – an initiative of Ministry of Education
- 1st – IIT Madras | 2nd – IIT Bombay | 3rd – IIT Delhi

36. On December 11, India has been re-elected to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council for the 2022-23 biennium. India’s election falls under the Category (b) of 10 states with the largest interest in international seaborne trade. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – re-elected to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council for the 2022-23 biennium
- [HQs of IMO – London, UK](#) | [Secretary-General – Kitack Lim](#)

Acquisitions & Mergers

1. On December 18, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) suspended its more than 2-year-old approval for Amazon's deal to acquire stake in Future Coupons Pvt Ltd and also imposed a Rs 202 Cr penalty on Amazon for certain contraventions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI suspended its approval for Amazon to acquire stake in Future Coupons & imposed Rs 202 Cr penalty on Amazon
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle, Washington, US | CEO – Andy Jassy | Incorporated in – 1994

2. On December 21, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved acquisition of up to 16.94% equity share capital of IRB Infrastructure Developers (IRB) by Bricklayers Investment (controlled by GIC Investor). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved acquisition of up to 16.94% stake of IRB Infrastructure Developers by Bricklayers Investment
- HQs of IRB Infrastructure Developers – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman & MD – Virendra D. Mhaikar
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003

3. On December 21, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) acquired 4.93% stake in Indian Gas Exchange (IGX). IGX is India's first automated national level Gas Exchange. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOCL – acquired 4.93% stake in Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya | Founded in – 1959

4. On December 21, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of the government's shareholding in Air India, Air India Express and Air India SATS Airport Services by Talace Private Limited, a wholly-acquired subsidiary of Tata Sons. The proposed combination envisages acquisition of 100% equity share capital of Air India and Air India Express (AIXL) and 50% equity share capital of Air India SATS Airport Services by Talace. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved the acquisition of Air India (100%), Air India Express (100%) & Air India SATS (50%) – by Talace (Mumbai)
- HQs of Tata Sons – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- HQs of Air India – New Delhi | CMD – Rajiv Bansal
- HQs of Air India Express – Kochi, Kerala | CEO – Alope Singh
- HQs of Air India SATS Airport Services – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & Chairman – Rajiv Bansal

5. On December 21, Natural resources conglomerate Vedanta acquired Nicomet, a leading nickel & cobalt producer in Goa, for an undisclosed amount. With the acquisition, Vedanta became India's sole producer of nickel. The acquisition is in line with Vedanta's Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) mission and is a step towards supporting India's Carbon Neutrality Goals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vedanta became India's sole producer of nickel – after acquiring 'Nicomet'
- HQs of Vedanta Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Sunil Duggal

6. On December 20, Wipro announced to acquire Texas-based Edgile for \$230 million. Edgile is the trusted cyber risk and regulatory compliance partner to the world's leading organizations. Edgile's experienced cybersecurity and risk management professionals will allow Wipro to further enhance its cybersecurity and risk consulting capabilities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Wipro – announced to acquire 'Edgile' (US) for \$230 million
- HQs of Wipro – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Thierry Delaporte | Founder Chairman – Azim Premji

7. On December 31, Reliance New Energy Solar Ltd, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), signed a definitive agreement to acquire 100% stake in Faradion Ltd for an enterprise value of £100 million. Reliance New Energy Solar will also invest £25 million in growth capital to accelerate the commercial roll-out. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance New Energy Solar – signed a definitive agreement to acquire 100% stake in Faradion Ltd for £100 million
- HQs of RNESSL – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- HQs of Reliance Industries Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani | Founded in – 1973

8. On December 30, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of 96.42% stake in Jindal Steel & Power Limited (JSPL) by Worldone Private Limited for Rs 7,401 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved the acquisition of 96.42% stake in Jindal Steel & Power – by Worldone Private Ltd
- HQs of Jindal Steel & Power – New Delhi | Chairman – Naveen Jindal

9. On December 31, Tech Mahindra announced that the company and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Tech Mahindra (Americas) Inc. approved the proposal to acquire 100% equity shares in Allyis India Pvt Ltd and Green Investments LLC for \$125 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tech Mahindra – to acquire 100% stake in Allyis India & Green Investments
- HQs of Tech Mahindra – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Chander Prakash Gurnani

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

1. On December 1, Walmart and its subsidiary Flipkart signed an MoU with the Madhya Pradesh government to create an ecosystem of capacity building for MSMEs in the state under “Walmart Vriddhi Supplier Development Programme” (Walmart Vriddhi). Launched in 2019, Walmart Vriddhi aims to train 50,000 Indian MSMEs with the business skills necessary to succeed as suppliers to Walmart, sellers on Flipkart, and other domestic and global marketplace platforms. Under the Walmart Vriddhi Programme, Walmart and Flipkart have partnered with several states across India, including Haryana and Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Walmart + Flipkart + Madhya Pradesh = an MoU to create an ecosystem of capacity building for MSMEs
- This initiative comes under “Walmart Vriddhi Supplier Development Programme”
- Walmart Vriddhi: Launched in 2019 | Aims to train 50,000 Indian MSMEs with the business skills
- HQs of Walmart – Arkansas, US | CEO – Doug McMillon
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy

2. Dassault Systemes has signed an MoU with Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) to establish The Tamil Nadu Center of Advance Manufacturing (TANCAM) - a first of its kind Center of Excellence (CoE) in India, at the TIDEL Park, in Chennai. TANCAM will provide a dedicated IT engineering ecosystem to support the MSME sector and students across the state. The TANCAM Startup Cell along with Dassault Systemes’ 3DEXPERIENCE Lab will fuel an innovation ecosystem for next-generation products and new business models. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dassault Systemes (France) + TIDCO = an MoU to establish “TANCAM” - India’s first of its kind CoE – in Chennai, TN
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

3. On December 3, the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) signed an MoU with THDC India Ltd (THDCIL) to provide techno-financial expertise in developing renewable energy projects. The IREDA signed a similar MoU with Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd (BVFCL) for the same purpose. These collaborations will contribute to reduce carbon emissions to 45% by 2030 in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IREDA + THDCIL = an MoU to provide techno-financial expertise in developing RE projects
- IREDA + BVFCL = an MoU to provide techno-financial expertise in developing RE projects
- THDCIL – a joint venture between NTPC + UP Government
- HQs of IREDA – New Delhi | CMD – Pradip Kumar Das
- HQs of THDCIL – Rishikesh, Uttarakhand | Chairman & MD – R. K. Vishnoi
- HQs of BVFCL – Namrup, Assam | CMD – Siba Prasad Mohanty

4. On December 3, RailTel and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited signed an MoU to leverage each other’s strength for increasing broadband penetration in rural and semi-urban areas. The CSC e-Governance Services India Limited is a special purpose vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. RailTel has already set up about 200 ‘RailWire Saathi’ kiosks at rural/semi urban railway stations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RailTel + CSC = an MoU to increase broadband penetration in Rural & Semi-Urban areas
- HQs of RailTel – New Delhi | CMD of RailTel – Puneet Chawla
- HQs of CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd – New Delhi | CEO – Sanjay Kumar Rakesh | MD – Dinesh Tyagi
- CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd – set up by MeitY under the “Companies Act, 1956”

5. On December 3, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC) signed an MoU with Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to collaborate and cooperate for undertaking renewable energy projects including solar, wind, solar parks, EV value chain, green hydrogen, storage, etc. The ONGC has set a target of producing a minimum of 10 GW of renewable power by 2040. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ONGC + SECI = an MoU to strengthen its footprint in RE, especially in Solar
- HQs of ONGC – New Delhi | CMD – Alka Mittal (additional charge)
- HQs of SECI – New Delhi | Chairman – Jatindra Nath Swain | MD – Suman Sharma | Founded on – Sep 9, 2011

6. On December 2, the Rajasthan government signed 145 MoUs attracting proposed investments worth around Rs 69,000 Cr. Besides, various investors submitted letters of intent (LoIs) for investments totaling worth Rs 10,099 Cr at the “Invest Rajasthan Roadshow-Exploring Investment Opportunities in Rajasthan” organised by the Rajasthan government in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Invest Rajasthan Roadshow-Exploring Investment Opportunities in Rajasthan” – organised by Rajasthan + CII
- Rajasthan – signed 145 MoUs & LoIs worth total Rs 79,099 Cr to attract proposed investments in the state
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

7. On December 3, Hyderabad-based Shirdi Sai Electricals Limited (SSEL) signed an agreement with German engineering services firm Viridis.iQ GmbH for setting up a 4 GW or 4000 MW High-efficiency Solar PV modules. The pact was signed in the presence of P Harish, the Indian Ambassador in Germany. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shirdi Sai Electricals + Viridis.iQ GmbH = an MoU to set up 4 GW or 4000 MW High-efficiency Solar PV modules
- Indian Ambassador in Germany – P. Harish

8. On December 3, Dell Technologies partnered with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to protect customer data from ransomware. It will bring Dell’s cyber recovery solution to the AWS Marketplace with the launch of “Dell EMC PowerProtect Cyber Recovery for AWS”. According to the “2021 Dell Technologies Global Data Protection Index” survey of 1,000 global IT decision makers, 66% of organizations in Asia-Pacific and Japan region lack confidence that all business-critical data can be recovered in the event of a destructive cyberattack. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dell Technologies + AWS = partnership to protect customer data from ransomware
- HQs of Dell Tech. – Texas, US | CEO – Michael S. Dell
- HQs of AWS – Seattle, Washington, US | CEO – Adam N. Selipsky

9. On December 6, the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), under the Ministry of AYUSH and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, (CSIR-CIMAP), Lucknow signed an MoU for extending joint collaborative efforts to promote the production of quality planting material (QPM) of medicinal plants. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NMPB + CSIR-CIMAP ([Lucknow](#)) = an MoU to promote the production of Quality Planting Material of medicinal plants
- NMPB – functions under Ministry of AYUSH

10. On December 6, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) signed an MoU with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India to strengthen the waste management sector in India under the overall ambit of “Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban 2.0” (SBM-U 2.0). The MoU is for the period of 5 years (2021-26). The waste processing capacity in India has gone up by nearly 4 times, from 18% in 2014, to 70% at present. Moreover, “SBM-U 2.0” launched the ‘Swachh Technology Challenge’ to harness the entrepreneurial potential of the waste management sector in India. To further incentivize the start-up ecosystem, MoHUA will also launch a ‘Swachhata Start-Up Challenge’ as an extension to the Swachh Technology Challenge in January 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA + UNDP India = an MoU to strengthen the Waste Management Sector in India under “SBM-U 2.0”
- Waste Processing Capacity in India increased to 70% (from 18% in 2014)
- MoHUA – to launch a ‘Swachhata Start-Up Challenge’ in January 2022
- Outlay of ‘SBM-U 2.0’ – Rs 1.41 lakh Cr (launched in 2014)
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965
- UNDP India’s Resident Representative – Shoko Noda

11. On December 7, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) signed an agreement with the Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco) to develop manufacturing capabilities in Saudi Arabia. Under the plan, L&T will build the region’s first “Heavy Wall Pressure Vessels Facility” at Saudi Arabia’s strategically located Jubail Industrial City. The pact is in line with the Aramco Namaat programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- L&T + Saudi Aramco = an agreement to develop manufacturing capabilities in Saudi Arabia
- L&T – to build Saudi Arabia’s first “Heavy Wall Pressure Vessels Facility” – in Jubail city
- Saudi Arab – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal | Saudi Crown Prince – Mohammed bin Salman

12. On December 7, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) formed a \$2 billion partnership with Abu Dhabi Chemicals Derivatives Company RSC Ltd (TA’ZIZ) for chemical production in Ruwais, UAE. The Ta’ziz Industrial Chemicals Zone is a joint venture between Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and ADQ. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RIL + TA’ZIZ ([UAE](#)) = \$2 billion partnership for chemical production in Ruwais, UAE
- HQs of Reliance Industries Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani | Founded in – 1973

13. On December 7, the Permanent Mission of India (PMI) to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Geneva, the Centre for Trade and Investment Law, New Delhi (CTIL) and the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration, Geneva (CTEI) signed a tripartite MoU in Geneva to collaborate towards research and capacity-building in the field of international trade law and policy. The MoU was signed by India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO, Brajendra Navnit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PMI to WTO + CTIL + CTEI = a tripartite MoU for capacity building & research in International Trade Law & Policy
- India's Ambassador & Permanent Representative to the WTO – Brajendra Navnit

14. On December 9, Karnataka Higher Education Council signed an MoU with NSE Academy to provide financial awareness for holistic well-being of college students. This will impart knowledge to students on economic policies, fin-tech, capital market and central banks, among other subjects. NSE Academy has already introduced this program in 7 states across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka Higher Education Council + NSE Academy = an MoU to provide financial awareness to college students
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

15. On December 11, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Teacher Education (IITE) Gandhinagar to facilitate training to teachers of Sainik Schools. The MoU is for the period of 5 years commencing with effect from January 2022 under which 800 plus teachers of all Sainik Schools will be trained through courses named 'Gurudiksha' and 'Pratibaddhta'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoD + IITE (Gandhinagar, Guj) = an MoU to facilitate training to teachers of Sainik Schools
- 800 plus teachers of all Sainik Schools will be trained through courses named 'Gurudiksha' & 'Pratibaddhta'
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

16. On December 11, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed an MoU with smart device brand OPPO to strengthen research and development (R&D) of the NavIC messaging service to provide a convenient and user-friendly platform. The NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) system is India's own regional navigation satellite system. While Xiaomi collaborated with ISRO for the same in 2020 and with this, it had become the world's first smartphone company to use ISRO's NavIC on its phones. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO + OPPO = an MoU to strengthen R&D of the NavIC messaging service (**Navigation with Indian Constellation**)
- Xiaomi – world's first smartphone company to use ISRO's NavIC on its phones
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed on – August 15, 1969
- HQs of Oppo – Dongguan, China | CEO – Tony Chen

17. On December 14, Odisha government, through the Mission Shakti department, signed an agreement with the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) for the launch of the "Mission Shakti Living Lab" to advance women's economic empowerment and drive gender equality. It will help 3.5 million women SHG members and low income individuals to have access to digital financial services and improved financial health. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha + UNCDF = an agreement to launch “Mission Shakti Living Lab” to advance Women’s Economic Empowerment
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of UNCDF – New York, US | Executive Secretary – Preeti Sinha

18. On December 13, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Tamil Nadu’s Health and Family Welfare Department signed a Record of Discussions (RoD) for prevention and control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Tamil Nadu project. The death rate related to NCDs accounts for 63% of all deaths and the probability of death from NCDs between the ages of 30 to 70 is 23%, according to UNICEF. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JICA + Tamil Nadu = signed a Record of Discussions (RoD) for prevention and control of NCDs
- Death rate related to NCDs out of all deaths – 63% | Death probability from NCDs between 30 to 70 years – 23%
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

19. On December 15, Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) signed the world’s largest ever Green Power purchase agreement with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to supply 4,667 MW of Green Power. Adani Group has committed \$50-\$70 billion of investment in the renewables space. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adani Green Energy + SECI = world’s largest Green Power purchase agreement to supply 4,667 MW of Green Power
- HQs of Adani Green Energy Ltd – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | MD & CEO – Vneet S. Jaain
- HQs of SECI – New Delhi | Chairman – Jatindra Nath Swain | MD – Suman Sharma | Founded on – Sep 9, 2011

20. On December 14, Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) collaborated with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) to scale up Alkaline Electrolyser 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. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BPCL + BARC = collaboration to scale up Alkaline Electrolyser technology for Green Hydrogen production
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman & MD – Arun Kumar Singh | Founded in – 1952
- HQs of BARC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Director – Ajit Kumar Mohanty

21. On December 12, Rays Power Infra signed an MoU with the Rajasthan government to construct an Avant-Garde PV Photovoltaic (PV) Power Station (Solar Power Plant or Solar Park) and generate 500 MW of Green electricity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rays Power Infra + Rajasthan = an MoU to construct a 500 MW Avant-Garde PV Photovoltaic Power Station (Solar Park)
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra
- HQs of Rays Power Infra – Jaipur, Rajasthan | CEO & MD – Ketan Mehta

22. On December 14, Andhra Pradesh government signed an MoU with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on the Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) for strengthening the capacities to support the farmers for adopting the sustainable Agri-food systems. They will train the farmers in good farm management practices and sustainable agricultural methods. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh + FAO + ICAR = a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) to support the farmers
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16th October, 1945
- HQs of ICAR – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra | Established in – 1929

23. On December 15, An MoU was signed between the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-India) for data exchange between the two organizations. FIU-India is in the process of upgrading existing 'FINnet 1.0' project to 'FINnet 2.0' project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MCA + FIU-India = an MoU for Data Exchange
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Corporate Affairs: Rao Inderjit Singh

24. On December 17, Tata Motors signed an MoU with Maharashtra government to establish a Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF) in the state. The proposed scrappage centre will have the capacity of recycling up to 35,000 vehicles a year. Tata Motors had earlier signed a similar pact with the Gujarat government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Motors + Maharashtra = an MoU to establish a Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF)
- HQs of Tata Motors – Mumbai, MH | Non-Executive Director & Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

25. On December 17, Food and tech platform, Innoterra signed an MoU with NABFOUNDATION, the subsidiary of NABARD, to develop farmer clusters through its products and services. Both entities aim to engage with over 5,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) targeting to serve about one lakh smallholder farmer over the next 2 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Innoterra + NABFOUNDATION = an MoU to develop farmer clusters through its products & services
- HQs of Innoterra – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ron Pal

26. On December 20, Prasar Bharati signed an MoU with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) to promote Indian culture. It was planned to telecast on the national and international channels of Doordarshan. The MoU will be in operation for 3 years from December 2021 to December 2024. Previously, Prasar Bharati signed an MoU with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to bring quality educational programmes to every household, including those in rural and remote areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prasar Bharati + ICCR = an MoU to promote Indian Culture by telecasting on National & Int. Doordarshan channels
- Prasar Bharati + MeitY = an MoU to bring Quality Educational Programmes to every household
- HQs of Prasar Bharati – New Delhi | CEO – Shashi Shekhar Vempati
- HQs of ICCR – New Delhi | DG – Kumar Tuhin | President – Vinay Sahasrabuddhe | Founded in – 1950

27. On December 17, the Central Government and Maharashtra government signed a pact to set up 5 more multi-modal logistics parks (MMLPs) at 5 strategic locations in Maharashtra: Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Pune, Aurangabad, Nashik and Dighi Port Industrial Estate. The government proposes to set up as many as 35 MMLPs at strategic locations at a total cost of ₹50,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gol + Maharashtra = an MoU to set up 5 more multi-modal logistics parks (MMLPs) in the state
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

28. On December 19, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) signed an MoU with IIT Madras and digital tech company MapmyIndia for driver and road safety technologies in India. The three parties jointly launched a Free-to-use-Navigation app for citizens that provides road safety alerts about upcoming accident hazards while on road. The navigation service app developed by MapmyIndia, called “MOVE” has won the government’s “Aatmanirbhar App Innovation Challenge in 2020”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoRTH + IIT Madras + MapmyIndia = launched Free-to-use-Navigation app for citizens that provides Road Safety alerts
- HQs of MapmyIndia – New Delhi | CEO – Rohan Verma | CMD – Rakesh Verma
- Director of IIT Madras – Bhaskar Ramamurthi

29. On December 17, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed an MoU with the National Cadet Corps (NCC) to reuse plastic waste collected by the cadets, for construction of roads across India. NCC started a month-long “Puneet Sagar Abhiyan” on December 1 to clean the beaches. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHAI + NCC = an MoU to reuse plastic waste collected by the cadets for construction of roads across India
- NCC – started a month-long “Puneet Sagar Abhiyan” to clean the beaches
- HQs of NCC – New Delhi | DG – Lt. Gen. Gurbirpal Singh | Founded on – 16 April, 1948 | Motto – ‘Unity & Discipline’
- HQs of NHAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Alka Upadhyaya | Founded in – 1988

30. On December 21, An MoU was signed between the Jammu & Kashmir government and University College Birmingham (UCB) at the “India Global Forum” held in Dubai to provide better opportunities for students. For the first time, the UCB will set up an office in Jammu & Kashmir to tie up with the local educational institutions, facilitating academic exchange programmes while enabling students to secure admissions at reduced fees. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K + University College Birmingham (England) = an MoU to provide better opportunities for students
- The first “India Global Forum 2021” – held in Dubai, UAE
- For the first time, the UCB will set up an office in J & K to tie up with the local Educational institutions
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

31. On December 21, NITI Aayog signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) with United Nations World Food Program (WFP) to address issues related to inclusion of millets in government programmes. The focus will be on mainstreaming millets and strengthening of climate resilient agriculture for enhanced food and nutrition security in India. The Indian government had observed 2018 as a Year of Millets to encourage and promote millet production in India and declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog + UNWFP = a Statement of Intent (Sol) to address issues related to Millet & promote its production in India
- 2023 – “International Year of Millet” by UN
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of UNWFP – Rome, Italy | ED – David Muldrow Beasley | Countries – 36

32. On December 18, GAIL (India) Ltd signed an MoU with Gujarat Alkalies & Chemicals Ltd for setting up a 500 litre per day Bioethanol plant at an estimated investment of Rs 1,000 Cr in Gujarat. It is expected to generate annual revenue of approximately Rs 1500 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GAIL + Gujarat Alkalies & Chemicals = an MoU to set up a 500 litre/day Bioethanol plant in Gujarat | Cost: Rs 1,000 Cr
- HQs of GAIL – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – Manoj Jain
- HQs of Gujarat Alkalies & Chemicals – Vadodara, Gujarat | Chairman – Pankaj Kumar

33. The Union Cabinet approved the signing of two MoUs. The first MoU was signed between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Polish Chamber of Statutory Auditors (PIBR) to establish mutual co-operation. The second MoU was signed between Competition Commission of India (CCI) and Competition Commission of Mauritius (CCM) for promotion and strengthening of co-operation in competition law and policy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICAI + Polish Chamber of Statutory Auditors ([Poland](#)) = an MoU approved by Cabinet to establish Mutual Co-operation
- CCI + Competition Commission of Mauritius = an MoU approved by Cabinet for competition law & policy
- HQs of ICAI – New Delhi | President – Nihar N. Jambusaria | Established in – 1949
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003

34. On December 24, the SEBI signed the enhanced multilateral MoU (EMMoU) of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO). SEBI is already a signatory to MMoU since 2003. The EMMoU was introduced by IOSCO to expand the range of enforcement powers that signatories may use to safeguard the integrity and stability of markets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI signed the enhanced EMMoU of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)
- SEBI is already a signatory to MMoU – since 2003
- HQs of IOSCO – Madrid, Spain | Secretary General – Paul P. Andrews
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

35. On December 23, An MoU signed between the customs of India and Maldives to launch a pilot project on Pre-arrival Cargo Data Exchange. This marked the beginning of the electronic exchange of customs data between two countries for swifter EXIM clearances. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- An MoU signed between the customs of “India & Maldives” to launch a pilot project on Pre-arrival Cargo Data Exchange
- [Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa](#) | [President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih](#)

36. On December 24, UNICEF and TRIFED joined hands to launch the “Tribal Samvaad network” - a Tribal network for Social and Behaviour Change. It is a people-to-people ‘prosperity’ platform built on the emergent digital, social, alternate and mobile revolution. The mantra of the campaign is “Samvad se Sambandh”. Besides, Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda announced the creation of 14 Honey Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), with TRIFED as the Implementing Agency. He also released a report titled “Tribal Livelihoods: From Sustenance to Sustainability” to highlight the creative capabilities of tribal groups. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNICEF + TRIFED = launched the “Tribal Samvaad network” - a Tribal network for Social & Behaviour Change
- Arjun Munda – announced the creation of 14 Honey FPOs | Implementing Agency – TRIFED
- Arjun Munda – released a report titled “Tribal Livelihoods: From Sustenance to Sustainability”
- [HQs of UNICEF – New York, US](#) | [Executive Director – Catherine Russell](#) | [Established in – 1946](#)
- [HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi](#) | [MD – Pravir Krishna](#) | [Chairman – Ramesh Chand Meena](#) | [Founded in – 1987](#)

37. On December 24, NTPC Ltd signed an agreement with Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) for sourcing combustible parts of municipal solid waste also referred to as ‘Refused Derived Fuel’. The GNIDA will be supplying 20 tonnes per day of Refused Derived Fuel to NTPC for a period of 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NTPC Ltd + Greater Noida IDA = to source combustible parts of ‘Municipal Solid Waste’ or ‘Refused Derived Fuel’
- [HQs of NTPC – New Delhi](#) | [CMD – Gurdeep Singh](#) | [Founded in – 1975](#)

38. On December 30, ITC Ltd collaborated with Invest India to crowdsource innovative ideas for single-use plastic substitution and automate waste segregation. Under the collaboration, ITC Paperboards and Specialty Papers Division (PSPD) launched the “ITC Sustainability Innovation Challenge”, which would support innovative start-up ideas on sustainable packaging and smart waste management solutions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ITC Ltd + Invest India = partnership to crowdsource innovative ideas for single-use plastic substitution
- [HQs of ITC Ltd – Kolkata, West Bengal](#) | [MD & Chairman – Sanjiv Puri](#)
- [HQs of Invest India – New Delhi](#) | [MD & CEO – Deepak Bagla](#) | [Established in – 2009](#) (under ministry of C&I)

39. On December 30, Premier city-based B-school, Indian School of Business (ISB) partnered with the government of Jharkhand to empower the state’s forest Economy. This initiative will focus on partnership between local communities, industry leaders, who would be using the products of that forest, and government agencies facilitating and regulating the creation of jobs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- B-school, ISB + Jharkhand = partnership to empower the state’s forest Economy & create jobs
- [Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi](#) | [CM – Hemant Soren](#) | [Governor – Ramesh Bais](#)

40. On December 30, Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) signed an MoU with Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini-Nation First Policy Research Centre (RMP-NFPRC) to leverage knowledge, expertise & institutional strengths. The MoU aims to review government schemes like Van Dhan Yojana which is being implemented by TRIFED. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini = an MoU to leverage knowledge, expertise & institutional strengths
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | Chairman – Ramsinh Rathwa | Founded in – 1987
- HQs of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – Devendra Fadnavis



Books & Authors

1. A book titled “Seven Heroes of 1971: Stories of Courage and Sacrifice”, authored by Man Aman Singh Chinna, an assistant editor with The Indian Express, was released in December, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Seven Heroes of 1971: Stories of Courage and Sacrifice” book – authored by Man Aman Singh Chinna

2. A new book titled “1971: Charge of the Gorkhas and Other Stories”, written by author Rachna Bisht Rawat, unearths true stories of the ‘1971 Indo-Pak War’ showcasing the exemplary courage and fortitude of Indian soldiers at the warfront. The book was published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI) in December 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “1971: Charge of the Gorkhas and Other Stories” – authored by Rachna Bisht Rawat
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India

3. Sharat Pradhan’s latest book titled “Yogi Adityanath: Religion, Politics, and Power: The untold story” was co-authored by Atul Chandra. The book was published by Penguin Books. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Yogi Adityanath: Religion, Politics, and Power: The untold Story” – authored by Sharat Pradhan & Atul Chandra
- Publisher – Penguin Books

4. On December 4, the Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu released a book titled “The Midway Battle: Modi’s Roller-coaster Second Term” authored by Gautam Chintamani. The Vice President also released a book titled “Public Service Ethics - A Quest for Naitik Bharat” authored by Prabhat Kumar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Midway Battle: Modi’s Roller-coaster Second Term” book – authored by Gautam Chintamani
- “Public Service Ethics - A Quest for Naitik Bharat” book – authored by Prabhat Kumar
- The books were released by – M. Venkaiah Naidu

5. On December 6, IAS (Rtd) R. C. Sinha, advisor to Union Ministry of Road Development, released an autobiography titled “At Home In The Universe” authored by Bala Krishna Madhur, in Mumbai. The book chronicles a poor boy’s journey from a village in South India to the pinnacle of corporate success and personal spiritual growth spanning over 6 decades. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “At Home In The Universe” – an autobiography of Bala Krishna Madhur

6. In December 2021, A new book titled “Watershed: How We Destroyed India’s Water and How We Can Save It” is authored by Mridula Ramesh. The book has two main parts of ‘understanding’ and ‘action’ describing the facets, faultlines, and stressors of India’s water resources. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Watershed: How We Destroyed India’s Water and How We Can Save It” – authored by Mridula Ramesh

7. On December 15, Synchronizing with the commemoration of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' on the occasion of 75 years of India's independence, Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi released a book "Principles and Practice of Oncology". Director of Dr. B Borooah Cancer Institute (BBCI), Dr Amal Kataki published the book. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jagdish Mukhi – released a book "Principles and Practice of Oncology"
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

8. On December 14, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu released a memoir on the legendary filmmaker and actor Raj Kapoor titled "Raj Kapoor: The Master At Work" in Delhi. The book is authored by filmmaker Rahul Rawail, who served as an assistant director to Raj Kapoor. The book launched coincided with Raj Kapoor's 97th birth anniversary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. Venkaiah Naidu – released a memoir "Raj Kapoor: The Master At Work" – authored by Rahul Rawail

9. On December 15, the Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu released the book "Gandhitopi Governor", authored by the Chairman of Official Language Commission, Andhra Pradesh, Shri Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. Venkaiah Naidu – released the book "Gandhitopi Governor" – authored by Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad

10. On December 15, Ajay Prakash Sawhney unveiled a book titled "Rewinding of First 25 years of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology" authored by S. S. Oberoi, the former adviser at the MeitY. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Rewinding of First 25 years of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology" book – authored by S. S. Oberoi

11. A book titled "Furrows in a Field: The Unexplored Life of H. D. Deve Gowda" was authored by Sugata Srinivasaraju and published by Penguin Random House India. The book's narrative is instructed by Gowda's rich parliamentary record, archival material and interviews conducted with people associated with him at various stages of his life. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Furrows in a Field: The Unexplored Life of H. D. Deve Gowda" book – authored by Sugata Srinivasaraju
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India

12. 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. "The Monk Who Transformed Uttar Pradesh: How Yogi Adityanath Changed UP Waala Bhaiya' abuse to a Badge of Honour" is written by author Shantanu Gupta and published by Garuda Prakashan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "The Monk Who Transformed Uttar Pradesh" book – written by Shantanu Gupta

13. On December 15, Dr. Rekha Chaudhari's book "India's Ancient Legacy of Wellness" was launched in presence of Honorable Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and Smita Thackeray. The book reveals to us that how important it is for us human beings to be close to nature which helps us to revive and recharge us to do productive work. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "India's Ancient Legacy of Wellness" book – authored by Dr. Rekha Chaudhari

14. On December 20, “Sahakar Sandarbha” - a book was released by Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the convocation ceremony of Vaikuntha Mehta National Cooperative Management Institute in Pune, Maharashtra. In the event, he also stated that the government has decided to amend the “Multi State Cooperative Societies Act 2002” to establish an effective regulatory mechanism for multi-state cooperative societies and remove the loopholes in the existing act. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – released a book titled “Sahakar Sandarbha”
- Vaikuntha Mehta National Cooperative Management Institute – located in Pune, Maharashtra

15. On December 19, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik released the book titled, “Gajapati: A king without A Kingdom” written by Ashok Bal. The book highlights a unique facet of ritual association between Gajapati kings with Lord Jagannath. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Naveen Patnaik released “Gajapati: A king without A Kingdom” book – written by Ashok Bal
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

16. On December 22, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar released the book titled “Spices Statistics at a Glance 2021”. The book is published by the Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD). The book highlights the growth achieved in spices sector during the last 7 years from 2014-15 to 2020-21 in India. Spices production in India grew from 67.64 lakh tonnes in 2014-15 to 106.79 lakh tonnes in 2020-21 with an annual growth rate 7.9%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar released the book titled “Spices Statistics at a Glance 2021”
- Published by – Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD)
- Spices production in India grew to 106.79 lakh tonnes in 2020-21 (from 67.64 lakh tonnes in 2014-15)

17. Vice-President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu 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. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Turnover Wizard - Saviour Of Thousands” – an autobiography of Arup Roy Choudhury
- The book was released by – M. Venkaiah Naidu

18. In December 2021, A number of books were published to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the ‘1971 Indo-Pak war’. Penguin Random House published Ian Cardozo’s “1971: Stories of Grit and Glory from the Indo-Pak War” and “The Burning Chaffees, A Soldier’s First-Hand Account of the 1971 War” by Balram Singh Mehta. While Speaking Tiger published Major General Vijay Singh’s book on his father Hamir Singh’s experience - “POW 1971: A Soldier’s Account of the Heroic Battle of Daruchchian”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “1971: Stories of Grit and Glory from the Indo-Pak War” book – authored by Ian Cardozo
- “The Burning Chaffees, A Soldier’s First-Hand Account of the 1971 War” – authored by Balram Singh Mehta
- “POW 1971: A Soldier’s Account of the Heroic Battle of Daruchchian” – authored by Vijay Singh

19. “The Modi Gambit: Decoding Modi 2.0” is authored by economist and BJP national spokesperson Sanju Verma. It is a massive book on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his outstanding body of work. The book is divided into three parts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Modi Gambit: Decoding Modi 2.0” – authored by Sanju Verma

20. A new book titled “The Kashmir Conundrum: The Quest for Peace in a Troubled Land” is authored by India’s former Chief of Army Staff Gen. Nirmal Chander Vij (retd). It is published by HarperCollins India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Kashmir Conundrum: The Quest for Peace in a Troubled Land” book – authored by Nirmal Chander Vij

21. On December 27, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu released the book “Dr. V. L. Dutt - Glimpses of a Pioneer’s Life Journey”, written by V. L. Indira Dutt, the Chairperson and MD of KCP Group. The book highlights the life of Late Velagapudi Lakshmana Dutt (V.L. Dutt), the former Chairman of KCP Group. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. Venkaiah Naidu released – “Dr. V. L. Dutt - Glimpses of a Pioneer’s Life Journey” book – written by V. L. Indira Dutt

22. On December 29, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog released two digital books - the 2nd edition of “Innovations for You” and “The Ingenious Tinkerers”. The 2nd edition of “Innovations for You” focuses on the startups and innovations in field of Agriculture and Allied services. While the 1st edition of this book was focused on innovations in Health Care, which was launched in October, 2021. While “The Ingenious Tinkerers” - a compendium on the innovations on technology featuring 41 innovations from Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM (NITI Aayog) – released two digital books - the 2nd edition of “Innovations for You” & “The Ingenious Tinkerers”
- 1st edition of “Innovations for You” focuses on Health Care
- 2nd edition of “Innovations for You” focuses on Agriculture & Allied services
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav)

Obituaries

1. Noted Tollywood/Telugu lyricist Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry passed away. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2019 for his contribution and excellence in the field of arts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry – Noted Tollywood/Telugu lyricist – passed away
- Awards: Padma Shri (2019) in the field of Arts

2. Martin J. Sherwin, a leading scholar of Atomic Weapons, passed away at the age of 84. He was best known for “American Prometheus” published in 2005 and winner of the 2006 Pulitzer Prize in Biography.

Key Points:

- Martin J. Sherwin (USA) – a Historian & Scholar of Atomic Weapons – passed away
- Awards: “2006 Pulitzer Prize in Biography” for his “American Prometheus” book

3. Former Chief Minister of Undivided Andhra Pradesh, Konijeti Rosaiah passed away at the age of 88 in Hyderabad. He had also served as the Governor of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Konijeti Rosaiah – a Politician – passed away
- He served as: CM of Andhra Pradesh and Governor of Tamil Nadu & Karnataka

4. On December 5, Eileen Ash, the oldest living Test Cricketer, died at the age of 110. Ash played seven Tests for England. She debuted against Australia in 1937. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Eileen Ash (England) – the oldest living Test Cricketer – passed away

5. On December 6, Dr. Mamballaikalathil Sarada Menon, the longest-serving head of the Institute of Mental Health, died in Chennai. She was 98. She is India's first woman psychiatrist and was honoured with Padma Bhushan in 1992. She founded the Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF India) in 1984 along with psychiatrist R. Thara. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. Sarada Menon – India's first woman Psychiatrist – passed away
- Founder of SCARF India (1984) | Winner of Padma Bhushan (1992)

6. On December 4, Veteran journalist Vinod Dua passed away. He was 67. He received ‘Padma Shri’ for Journalism in 2008. In 1996, he became the first electronic media journalist to be bestowed with the esteemed “Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vinod Dua – Veteran Journalist – passed away
- Awards: ‘Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award’ (1996) | ‘Padma Shri’ for Journalism (2008)

7. On December 7, Padma Shri awardee and centenarian teacher from Odisha, Nanda Kishore Prusty (fondly called Nanda Sir) passed away at the age of 104. He was conferred with the Padma Shri award for his contributions in the field of Education in November 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nanda Kishore Prusty (Nanda Sir) – a Renowned Teacher – passed away ('Padma Shri 2021' in Education)

8. On December 9, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat died in a chopper crash in Tamil Nadu. The 'IAF Mi-17V5' helicopter, in which he was travelling, crashed in a forested area of Niligiris district. He was a four-star General of the Indian Army and India's first chief of defence staff, an office set up in 2019 to improve coordination between the Army, Navy and Air Force. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CDS General Bipin Rawat – died in 'IAF Mi-17V5' helicopter crash in Niligiris, Tamil Nadu (CDS since 2019)
- [Retirement age for India's Chief of Defence Staff \(CDS\) – 65 years](#)

9. On December 12, Gothic novel Author from the USA, Anne Rice passed away at the age of 80. She was widely known for her bestselling novel "Interview with the Vampire" published in 1976. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anne Rice ([USA](#)) – a Gothic novel Author – passed away

10. On December 12, A beloved Mexican singer Vicente Fernandez passed away at the age of 81. He was awarded three Grammys and nine Latin Grammys. Nicknamed "Chente", he was singer as well as Actor and Film producer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vicente Fernandez ([Mexico](#)) – a Singer – passed away (3 Grammys & 9 Latin Grammys)

11. On December 17, Veteran Congress leader and former Union Minister R. L. Jalappa passed away in Kolar, Karnataka following age-related issues. He was 96. Mr. Jalappa was elected to the Lok Sabha from Chickballapur constituency on the Janata Dal ticket in 1996 and became the Union Minister for Textiles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R. L. Jalappa – a Politician – passed away (Party – INC | Constituency – Chickballapur, Karnataka)
- He served as the Minister for Textiles

12. On December 20, British architect Richard Rogers passed away at the age of 88. He designed a series of landmark buildings around the world, including London's "Cheesegrater" and the famous multi-coloured, pipe-covered Pompidou arts centre in Paris. He was also the architect of the new World Trade Center in New York, US & the Millennium Dome in London, UK. He was an Italian immigrant and winner of the prestigious Pritzker prize in 2007. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Richard Rogers – Italian-British Architect – passed away (Pritzker Architecture Prize - 2007)

13. On December 24, Malayalam film director K. S. Sethumadhavan passed away at the age of 90. Sethumadhavan won 10 National Awards and 8 State Awards including 'J C Daniel Award' for lifetime contributions in 2009. He had directed 64 movies in 6 languages. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. S. Sethumadhavan – Malayalam Film Director – passed away

14. On December 26, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for his opposition to racial discrimination in South Africa, passed away. He was 90. He received Nobel Prize in 1984. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Desmond Tutu ([South Africa](#)) – a Theologian & Human Rights Activist – passed away (Nobel Peace Prize in 1984)

15. On December 27, Rajya Sabha MP from the Janata Dal (United) and industrialist Mahendra Prasad died at the age of 81. He was the founder of Aristo Pharmaceuticals and was a seven-term Rajya Sabha MP from Bihar and was also elected to the Lok Sabha once. His name was often prefixed with “King”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mahendra Prasad – a Politician & Industrialist – passed away
- 7-time Rajya Sabha MP from – Bihar | Party – Janata Dal (U) | Founder of – Aristo Pharmaceuticals

16. In December 2021, Former India goalkeeper Sanath Sett passed away after prolonged illness. He was part of the 1954 Asian Games squad. In his career, he played for Eastern Railway FC, Aryan FC, East Bengal FC & Mohun Bagan FC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanath Sett – a Football Player – passed away

17. On December 27, American Scientist Edward. O. Wilson, dubbed as ‘Modern-day Darwin’, passed away at age 92. He was the trailblazing U.S. biologist, professor and author whose study of insects and clarion call to protect Earth earned him the nickname “Darwin’s natural heir”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Edward. O. Wilson (Modern-day Darwin) – American Scientist (Biologist), Professor & Author – passed away

Person in News

1. On December 8, Billionaire Yusaku Maezawa became the first Japanese tourist to visit the International Space Station (ISS). He lifted off in a Soyuz spacecraft from the Russia-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. He has also planned a trip around the moon with Elon Musk's SpaceX in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yusaku Maezawa – became the first Japanese tourist to visit the International Space Station (ISS)
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida

2. On December 28, IPS officer Violet Baruah became the first-ever woman to get promoted to the rank of Inspector General (IG) of Assam Police. Baruah received the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IPS officer Violet Baruah – became the first-ever woman to get promoted to the rank of IG of Assam Police
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



Science & Technology

1. NASSCOM, in partnership with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and government of Andhra Pradesh, launched a Centre of Excellence (CoE) focused on internet of things (IoT) and artificial intelligence (AI) at Andhra University Campus, Visakhapatnam, aimed at promoting innovation in emerging technology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASSCOM + MeitY = launched a Centre of Excellence (CoE) focused on IoT & AI – in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- HQs of NASSCOM – New Delhi | President – Debjani Ghosh
- Chairman – Rekha M. Menon | Vice-Chairman – Krishnan Ramanujam
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

2. A technology to produce bio-jet fuel, developed by the CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP) Dehradun, has been formally approved for use on military aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A technology to produce bio-jet fuel – formally approved for use on military aircraft of IAF
- It is developed by – CSIR-IIP, Dehradun
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh

3. The European Space Agency (ESA) approved “Matosinhos Manifesto” to accelerate the use of space in Europe to tackle the urgent and unprecedented societal, economic and security challenges faced by Europe and its citizens. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ESA – approved “Matosinhos Manifesto” to accelerate the use of space in Europe
- HQs of ESA – Paris, France | Administrator – Josef Aschbacher

4. On December 3 Minister of State for Electronics & IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar launched the first indigenous server called “Rudra”, developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) under the “National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)”. The minister also released the “National Strategy on Blockchain”. Besides, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) felicitated the top 10 winners of the “Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge”. First prize winner - Team VEGA FCS FT (AI drone) won Rs 35 lakh cheque for their drone application. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajeev Chandrasekhar – launched the first indigenous server called “Rudra” (developed by – C-DAC)
- Rajeev Chandrasekhar – released the “National Strategy on Blockchain”
- MeitY – felicitated the top 10 winners of the “Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge”
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar
- National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) – being implemented by C-DAC | Launched in – 2015

5. The new species of butterfly, named “Chocolate-bordered Flitter” (scientific name - Zographetus dzonguensis) was recently discovered in Dzongu village of Sikkim. The details were published in a paper in Zootaxa on December 1. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Chocolate-bordered Flitter” a new species of butterfly – discovered in Dzongu village, Sikkim
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad

6. On December 7, the NASA launched Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD) and the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory Ultraviolet Spectro-Coronagraph Pathfinder (UVSC Pathfinder) through ‘United Launch Alliance Atlas V’ rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida as part of the U.S. Space Force's Space Test Program 3 mission. Moreover, Indian-origin Anil Menon has been chosen as one of the 10 members of NASA's 2021 Astronaut Class. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA launched: (through ‘United Launch Alliance Atlas V’ rocket)
 - Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD) &
 - U.S. Naval Research Laboratory Ultraviolet Spectro-Coronagraph Pathfinder (UVSC Pathfinder)
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded on – July 29, 1958

7. On December 9, India successfully test fired the Air launched version of “BrahMos” supersonic cruise missile from the supersonic fighter aircraft ‘Sukhoi 30 MK-I’ from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. Besides, India also test-fired the “Vertically Launched Short Range Surface to Air Missile” (VL-SRSAM) from Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. The VL-SRSAM is indigenously designed and developed for Indian Navy by the DRDO. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – test fired the Air launched version of “BrahMos” supersonic cruise missile – from Chandipur, Odisha
- India – test fired the “VL-SRSAM” – from Chandipur, Odisha | Developed for Indian Navy by – DRDO
- The missiles was launched from – ‘Sukhoi 30 MK-I’ fighter aircraft

8. On December 6, Tata Power and IIT Madras signed an MoU to collaborate on R&D, Consultancy, Advocacy, Training and Technology Solutions. The MoU is signed to facilitate pursuit of advanced research to future technological projects and campus recruitment opportunities to IIT-M postgraduate students. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Power + IIT Madras = an MoU to collaborate on R&D, Consultancy, Advocacy, Training & Technology Solutions
- HQs of Tata Power – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Praveer Sinha | Established – 1915
- Director of IIT Madras – Bhaskar Ramamurthi

9. On December 9, the NASA launched a new mission named “Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE)” onboard SpaceX's ‘Falcon 9’ rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, US. IXPE observatory is a joint effort of NASA and the Italian Space Agency. The mission will study the most extreme and mysterious objects in the universe. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA – launched a new mission “Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE)” onboard ‘Falcon 9’ rocket of SpaceX
- “IXPE” is a joint effort of = NASA + Italian Space Agency (ASI)

10. In December 2021, South Korea’s Agency for Defense Development (ADD) publicly unveiled a model hypersonic cruise missile. The missile, known as the “Hycore”, is equipped with a two-stage rocket booster. It is scheduled for flight testing in 2022. Shaan Shaikh is a program manager and research associate with the ‘CSIS Missile Defense Project’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Agency for Defense Development ([South Korea](#)) – unveiled a model hypersonic cruise missile “Hycore”
- [South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won](#) | [President – Moon Jae-in](#)

11. On December 9, Google partnered with the World Health Organization (WHO) to build an open source software developer kit (SDK) to help Android developers everywhere build secure digital health solutions using the Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) framework. Created by Health Level Seven, Inc. (HL7), FHIR is a global standard framework for healthcare data. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google + WHO = partnership to build an open source ‘Software Developer Kit (SDK)’ using FHIR
- HL7 – created **Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR)** framework
- [HQs of Google – California, US](#) | [CEO – Sundar Pichai](#) | [Founded in – 1998](#)
- [HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland](#) | [DG – Tedros Adhanom](#) | [Member Countries – 194](#) | [Founded in – 1948](#)

12. On December 11, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested extended range Pinaka (Pinaka-ER) Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher System at Rajasthan’s Pokhran Range. The DRDO Laboratory Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) along with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune have designed the system. The Pinaka-ER can destroy targets at distances up to 70km, over the 45 km existing range of the missile. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO tested extended range ‘Pinaka’ (Pinaka-ER) Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher System at Pokhran Range, Rajasthan
- Range of ‘Pinaka-ER’ – 70km | ‘Pinaka-ER’ is designed by = ARDE + HEMRL ([DRDO’s labs in Pune](#))
- [HQs of DRDO – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy](#) | [Established in – 1958](#)

13. On December 12, Union space minister Jitendra Singh announced that the final crewed “Gaganyaan” mission will be launched in 2023. The minister also announced that the “Venus” mission is planned for launch in 2023, “L-1 Aditya” solar and Chandrayaan-3 missions in 2022-23 and India’s first Space Station is likely to come up by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Gaganyaan” mission will be launched in 2023
- “Venus” mission in 2023 | “L-1 Aditya” solar & Chandrayaan-3 missions in 2022-23 | India’s 1st Space Station by 2030



14. On December 13, India successfully test fired a long-range “Supersonic Missile Assisted Torpedo (SMART)” off Balasore coast in Odisha. This is a next-generation missile-based standoff torpedo delivery system. For example, a torpedo which has a range of around 50 km can be taken to a distance of 1000 km by the missile system. The weapon system was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Navy. Before this, India successfully flight-tested indigenously developed helicopter-launched “Stand-off Anti-Tank (SANT)” missile in Rajasthan’s Pokhran firing ranges. ‘SANT’ missile was developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI) and in coordination with the DRDO. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India successfully test fired a long-range “Supersonic Missile Assisted Torpedo (SMART)” off Balasore coast, Odisha
- ‘SMART’ was developed for Indian Navy – by DRDO
- India successfully flight-tested “Stand-off Anti-Tank (SANT)” missile in Pokhran, Rajasthan
- ‘SANT’ missile was developed by = RCI + DRDO

15. On December 13, China launched the “Shijian-6 (05)” group of satellites by ‘Long March 4B’ rocket marking the 400th launch of China’s Long March series of launch vehicles. The satellites will be used for space environment exploration and technology verification tests. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – launched the “Shijian-6 (05)” group of satellites by ‘Long March 4B’ rocket
- [China](#) – [Beijing](#) – [Renminbi](#) | [President](#) – [Xi Jinping](#)

16. On December 13, IIT Kanpur developed a portable testing device that can detect soil health in just 90 seconds through a mobile application named “Bhu Parikshak” using merely 5 grams of soil as a sample. This first-of-its-kind invention is based on near Infrared spectroscopy technology that provides real-time soil analysis reports on smartphones. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Kanpur – developed a portable testing device named “Bhu Parikshak” for testing soil health in just 90 seconds
- [Director of IIT Kanpur](#) – [Abhay Karandikar](#)

17. On December 14, Scientists at the University of Cambridge began a clinical trial of a Needle-free Air-powered COVID-19 vaccine. It is developed by Professor Jonathan Heeney. The new ‘DIOSvax’ technology is dubbed a next generation coronavirus vaccine administered through a blast of air that delivers the dose into the skin. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Scientists at the University of Cambridge ([UK](#)) – began a clinical trial of a Needle-free Air-powered COVID-19 vaccine
- This vaccine uses ‘DIOSvax’ technology

18. On December 16, “Parker Solar Probe”, a spacecraft launched by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), has officially touched the corona of the Sun. For the first time in history, the spacecraft made its way through an extreme environment which is roughly 2 million degrees Fahrenheit (11,11,093 Celsius). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA’s “Parker Solar Probe” spacecraft – touched the corona of the Sun for the first time in history
- [HQs of NASA](#) – [Washington D.C., USA](#) | [Administrator](#) – [Bill Nelson](#) | [Founded on](#) – [July 29, 1958](#)

19. On December 15, the researchers at Aarhus University in Denmark developed a new molecule that attaches to the surface of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and prevents it from entering human cells and spreading the COVID-19 infection. The research was released in the journal PNAS. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aarhus University ([Denmark](#)) – developed a new molecule that attaches to the surface of the SARS-CoV-2 virus & prevents it from entering human cells

20. On December 18, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested a new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile “Agni-P” (Agni Prime missile) from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha. Agni-P is a two-stage canisterised solid propellant missile with dual redundant navigation and guidance system and has a range of up to 2000 km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO – successfully tested a new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile “Agni-P” from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam island
- Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam island – located in Odisha | Range of “Agni-P” missile – up to 2000 km
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar](#) | [CM – Naveen Patnaik](#) | [Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

21. On December 18, IIT Madras developed a class of fast and efficient ‘motion planning’ algorithms which can think like human beings and enable autonomous aerial, ground or surface vehicles to navigate obstacle-cluttered environments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Madras – developed a class of fast & efficient ‘Motion Planning’ algorithms which can think like human beings
- [Director of IIT Madras – Bhaskar Ramamurthi](#)

22. On December 22, Kochi-based Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) was chosen to join a research project backed by the Space Application Centre (SAC) of the ISRO under a NASA-ISRO collaborative programme. NASA and ISRO are jointly developing a space-borne synthetic aperture radar (NISAR) to be launched in January 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KUFOS – was chosen to join a research project backed by the Space Application Centre (SAC) of the ISRO
- NASA + ISRO = jointly developing “NISAR” (**N**ASA-**I**SRO **S**ynthetic **A**perture **R**adar) | To be launched in – Jan 2023
- [HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA](#) | [Administrator – Bill Nelson](#) | [Founded on – July 29, 1958](#)
- [HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka](#) | [Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan](#) | [Formed on – August 15, 1969](#)

23. On December 21, Pakistan successfully test-fired an enhanced range version of the indigenously-built surface-to-surface Babur cruise missile called “Babur Cruise Missile 1B”. The missile can strike targets up to 900 km from 450 km of earlier missile. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pakistan – successfully test-fired an enhanced range version of Babur cruise missile called “Babur Cruise Missile 1B”
- Missile range of new version – 900 km (from 450 km)
- [Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee](#) | [PM – Imran Khan](#) | [President – Arif Alvi](#)

24. On December 22, India successfully testfired “Pralay”, surface-to-surface quasi ballistic missile from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. The indigenously developed missile can strike targets at a range from 150 to 500 kms and it has a payload capacity of 500-1,000 kg. The ballistic missile developed by DRDO is a solid-fuel, battlefield missile that is based on ‘Prithvi Defence Vehicle’ from the Indian ballistic missile programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO successfully test-fired surface-to-surface quasi ballistic missile “Pralay” | Strike range – from 150 to 500 km
- The missile was test-fired from – APJ Abdul Kalam Island ([Odisha](#))
- [HQs of DRDO – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy](#) | [Established in – 1958](#)

25. On December 24, the Indian Army launched a contemporary messaging application named, “ASIGMA” (Army Secure IndiGeneous Messaging Application). It is a new generation, state of the art, web based application developed entirely in-house by team of officers of the Corps of Signals of the Army. This new application was deployed on the Army’s internal network as a replacement of “AWAN” (Army Wide Area Network) messaging application which had been in service for past 15 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army – launched a messaging app - “ASIGMA” (**A**rm**y** **S**ecure **I**ndi**G**eneous **M**essaging **A**pplication)
- This new app replaced “AWAN” (**A**rm**y** **W**ide **A**rea **N**etwork) messaging app which was in service for past 15 years
- [HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi](#) | [Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane](#) | [Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty](#)

26. In December 2021, the British Council approved ‘Going Global Partnerships Exploratory Grants’ for Digital University Kerala (Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation & Technology) for promoting disaster preparedness in partnership with the University of Southampton in the UK. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- British Council approved ‘Going Global Partnerships Exploratory Grants’ for Digital University Kerala
- Digital University Kerala – located in Veiloor, Thiruvananthapuram
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram](#) | [CM – Pinarayi Vijayan](#) | [Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

27. On December 25, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) approved “Apretude”, the world’s first-ever injectable medication capable of reducing the risk of acquiring HIV. It has been developed by GlaxoSmithKline’s ViiV Healthcare. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US FDA – approved “Apretude”, the world’s first-ever injectable medication for HIV pre-exposure prevention
- It has been developed by – ViiV Healthcare ([US](#))

28. On December 25, NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope was launched with Arianespace’s ‘Ariane 5’ rocket from the European Space Agency’s (ESA) launch base in French Guiana. The space telescope reached its final destination which is 1 million miles (1.5 million km) away from Earth. This powerful \$9 billion infrared telescope is an international collaboration led by NASA in partnership with the European Space Agencies (ESA) and Canadian Space Agencies (CSA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA’s “James Webb Space Telescope” – launched with Arianespace’s ‘Ariane 5’ rocket
- Telescope’s final destination – 1.5 million km away from Earth | Cost of the telescope – \$9 billion
- Telescope is an international collaboration between = NASA + ESA + CSA



29. On December 26, China launched a new satellite called “Ziyuan-1 02E” or “Five-meter Optical Satellite 02” with a camera that can take pictures of the ground with a resolution of five meters, as announced by the China National Space Administration (CNSA). The satellite was launched by a ‘Long March-4C’ rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in north China's Shanxi province. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – launched a new satellite called “Ziyuan-1 02E” or “Five-meter Optical Satellite 02”
- The satellite was launched by – ‘Long March-4C’ rocket
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi](#) | [President – Xi Jinping](#)

30. On December 26, Japan launched a huge & highly advanced communications satellite called “Inmarsat-6 F1” into orbit. The satellite was launched atop a Mitsubishi Heavy Industries H-2A rocket from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan – launched a huge & highly advanced communications satellite called “Inmarsat-6 F1” into orbit
- [Japan – Tokyo – Yen](#) | [PM – Fumio Kishida](#)

31. On December 30, Iran launched a new Space Launch Vehicle (SLV) named “Simorgh”, in a move likely to irk Western powers amid tough talks on reviving a 2015 nuclear deal. In February 2021, Iran announced a successful test of its most powerful solid fuel satellite launcher “Zoljanah”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Iran – launched a new Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV) named “Simorgh”
- “Zoljanah” – most powerful solid fuel Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV) of Iran
- [Iran – Tehran – Rial](#) | [President – Ali Khamenei](#)

32. On December 29, Russia launched a ‘Project 22220’ nuclear powered icebreaker named “Sibir” that will contribute to the rapidly growing fleet of lethal icebreakers to keep the Northern Sea Route open for year-round shipping through the Arctic enabling wider presence of India in the region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – launched a ‘Project 22220’ nuclear powered icebreaker named “Sibir”
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)

33. On December 28, PM Narendra Modi launched a system to award Blockchain-based Educational degrees in digital form to students. The technology has been developed by IIT Kanpur under the “National Blockchain Project”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – launched a system to award Blockchain-based Educational degrees in digital form to students
- The technology has been developed by IIT Kanpur under “National Blockchain Project”

34. On December 28, Russia conducted the 3rd & final launch of its new heavy-class “Angara-A5” rocket. It was the third launch of the new rocket after its maiden voyage in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – conducted the 3rd & final launch of its new heavy-class “Angara-A5” rocket
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)

Ordinance, Bills and Acts

1. On December 9, the Rajya Sabha passed the “Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill 2021” to regulate assisted reproductive technology (ART) services such as in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) centres, sperm or egg banks and curb unethical practices related to issues such as sex selection. The Upper House also approved the “Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2020” to regulate the booming surrogacy practice in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajya Sabha approved the “ART (Regulation) Bill 2021” & “Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2020”
- ART – Assisted Reproductive Technology

2. On December 10, the Parliament passed the “National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2021” to accord the status of ‘Institute of National Importance’ to 6 more institutes of pharmaceutical education and research. Besides, the Bill rationalised the Board of Governors of each NIPER from its existing strength of 23 to 12 members. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Parliament passed “NIPER (Amendment) Bill, 2021” to accord the status of ‘Institute of National Importance’ to 6 more institutes of pharmaceutical Education & Research

3. On December 16, for improvement in Nutritional levels and related issues, the Union Cabinet passed a proposal to increase the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years, the same as men. This clearance is based on recommendations submitted to NITI Aayog in December 2020 by the Centre’s task force headed by Jaya Jaitly. Government will introduce an amendment to the “Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006”, and consequently bring amendments to the Special Marriage Act & Personal Laws such as the “Hindu Marriage Act, 1955”. According to data from ‘NFHS 5’ (National Family Health Survey), India attained a Total Fertility Rate of 2.0 for the first time. The data also revealed that child marriage came down marginally from 27% in 2015-16 to 23% in 2019-21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved a proposal to increase the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years (the same as men)
- India attained a Total Fertility Rate of 2.0 for the first time | Child Marriages – 23% in 2019-21
- The approval to increase age criteria was based on the recommendations of a task force headed – Jaya Jaitly

4. On December 23, Maharashtra Assembly passed the “Shakti Criminal Laws (Maharashtra Amendment) Act” unanimously. With the passage of the Bill, it became the second state in India after Andhra Pradesh to approve death penalty for heinous offences of rape and gangrape. In cases of grievous hurt caused due to acid attacks, the punishment has been enhanced to a minimum of 15 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – passed the “Shakti Criminal Laws (Maharashtra Amendment) Act”
- Maharashtra – became the second state in India to approve death penalty for offences of rape (1st - Andhra Pradesh)
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

5. On December 24, In a bid to cool down the domestic prices of Soya Meal, Government notified an order under the Essential Commodities Act to declare “Soya Meal” as an Essential Commodities up to 30th June, 2022 by amending the Schedule of the “Essential Commodities Act, 1955”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government notified an order to declare “Soya Meal” as an Essential Commodities up to 30th June, 2022



Arts & Cultural Affairs

1. The Bihar pavilion won Gold medal by showcasing the state's art and cultural richness through handicrafts, handlooms and other indigenous products of state at the "India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2021". This is the 6th Gold medal for the Bihar pavilion for its outstanding implementations of the theme - 'Aatamnirbhar Bharat' at the trade fair held at New Delhi's Pragati Maidan. Bihar has been adjudged as the 'First for Excellence' in display at the 40th IITF in the category of 'State or UT pavilions'. Bihar was the partner state in IITF this year while Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand were the states in focus of fair. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bihar pavilion – won Gold medal at the "40th India International Trade Fair 2021" held in New Delhi (6th Gold medal)
- Bihar – adjudged as the 'First for Excellence' in display in the 'State or UT pavilions' category at the 40th IITF
- Partner state of 40th IITF – Bihar | Focus states of 40th IITF – Uttar Pradesh & Jharkhand
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

2. The 94th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan, a Marathi literary festival, was held in Nashik, Maharashtra between December 3 and 5, 2021. Dr. Jayant Narlikar was the President of the Sammelan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 94th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan (Marathi literary festival) – held in Nashik, Maharashtra
- President of the Sammelan – Dr. Jayant Narlikar
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

3. "Lord Krishna Balram Jagannath Rath Yatra" would be celebrated as a 'State Festival' every year by the Punjab government from 2022 onwards. Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi also announced a sum of Rs 2.50 Cr for ISKCON temple in Ludhiana. The Rath Yatra is organised by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). It is considered the 2nd largest congregation of Lord Jagannath devotees in India after the historic Jagannath Yatra of Puri in Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Lord Krishna Balram Jagannath Rath Yatra" – to be celebrated as a 'State Festival' every year by Punjab
- This Rath Yatra is organised by – ISKCON (2nd largest congregation of Lord Jagannath devotees in India)
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Charanjit Singh Channi | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

4. "Nadi Utsav 2021" (River Festival) was celebrated in India from December 16 to 23. It is a pan India celebration which was jointly organized by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism. Nadi Utsav was organized under 4 themes - Cleanliness, Patriotism, Nature & Ecology and Devotion & Spirituality. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Nadi Utsav" (River Festival) was organized by = NMCG + Mini. of Jal Shakti + Mini. of Culture + Mini. of Tourism
- 4 themes of Nadi Utsav: Cleanliness + Patriotism + Nature & Ecology + Devotion & Spirituality



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